



**WINNERS:** Front row, from left: Kerry Byers, ACTION, best individual contribution to health and safety; Anne Huard, Amaro Primary School, best health and safety design solution; Eric Janssen OHS Commission; Katy Gallagher, MLA; Lyndal Ryan, Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union, most successful promotion of OH&S in workplace; Paul Bartholemew, Respite Care ACT, best OH&S management systems; Dean Hall, Building Trades Group, best community and safety initiative. Back row, from left: Barbara Phi and Michael Whittaker, FuturePace Solutions, best community health and safety initiative; Phillip Allen, Department of Education; Christine Wagland, LHMU, most successful promotion of OH&S in workplaces, and a representative of Urban Contractors receiving best health and safety design solution award. Picture: BEN MACMAHON

## Awards to champions of healthier, safer workplaces

By **BEN DOHERTY**

A joint entry from the ACT branch of the Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union and the Building Service Contractors Association of Australia has won the ACT Workcover Occupational Health and Safety Excellence Award for 2004.

Presented by Industrial Relations Minister Katy Gallagher at a ceremony last night, the award recognises businesses and individuals for their achievements in finding solutions to workplace safety is-

suers. The LHMU, which represents cleaners, and the BSCAA, the major cleaning industry employer group collaborated on a cleaning industry code to protect cleaners in the ACT. Signed in October 2003, the code's stated aims are to provide a practical means of ensuring compliance to OH&S regulations, to end illegal sub contracting and to provide workers with the highest standard of occupational health and safety in their workplaces.

As well, copies of the agreement are supplied to workers in various languages and site visits conducted

by the union are arranged with bilingual staff to assist in educating the workforce about the code.

The OH&S award judges said the initiative was a great example of employer and union cooperation to raise safety standards.

"[The code is] an excellent initiative which has improved safety and working conditions in an industry with a reputation for high injury rates," they said.

Ms Gallagher said that the importance of complying with OH&S regulations could not be underestimated.

"Working together, sharing knowledge, and finding solutions to health and safety risks, clearly makes a difference and helps prevent workplace deaths, illnesses and injuries."

ACT Workcover Commissioner Eric Janssen said the standard of entries for this year's awards had been very high.

"Regardless of whether they have received an award, all of this year's entries contribute to making workplaces healthier and safer."

Other OH&S category award winners last night were: Kerry

Byers from ACTION authority, best individual contribution to health and safety; Amaro Primary School and Urban Contractors, joint winners best health and safety design solution; Respite Care ACT, best OH&S management system.

FuturePace solutions and the Building Trades Group were both awarded certificates of commendation in the best community health and safety initiative award. LHMU and BSCAA also took out the award for most successful promotion of OH&S in workplaces.