



STATE GOVERNMENT AWARD CASH DONATED TO CHARITY BY WINNER

Melville resident **Atul Kumar Garg** was among the outstanding individuals and organisations to be recognised by WA State Government on 27 November 2006 for making a difference in the lives of Western Australians. Mr Garg beat three other finalists to take out the Outstanding Commitment by an Individual category of the state-wide Department for Community Development's *2006 Community Services Industry Awards*.

The Minister for Community Development David Templeman said in his media release that Mr Garg had a strong commitment to community service to the Indian and Hindu communities, as well as to the people of Melville.

In his role as President of the Indian Society of WA, Atul Garg assists new Indian migrants in his own time, leads a team of volunteers to organise activities including the cultural carnival, and is undertaking the challenge to create a model Indian Australians' Cultural Centre. As President of Hindu Association Mr Garg led the development of the new Perth Hindu Temple at the Hindu Centre in WA, now accredited as an *attraction for sightseeing* by Tourism WA. He is founder and coordinator of a new initiative, the Hindu Association School of Arts, Culture, Languages and Music. Mr Garg participates in various multifaith activities and lectures on the principles of Hinduism. He is also a Justice of the Peace and the suburb manager for Winthrop in the City of Melville's Neighbourhood Watch program. Since migrating to Australia 14 years ago, his commitment and passion has been directly making a positive difference in the lives of many.

Mr Garg in his acceptance speech said that the award really belonged to his teams of volunteers from Hindu Association, Indian Society and the City of Melville who had worked tirelessly with him without asking for anything in return. In this spirit he instantly pledged to donate the \$5,000 cash component of the award to the charitable organisations Carers WA, Hindu Association of WA and Indian Society of WA.