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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Queensland Firebirds 2009 Awards Announced at Netball Queensland Gala Dinner

The Queensland Firebirds star shooter Romelda Aiken has again been recognised for her exceptional ability and skill on the court being awarded the Firebirds Player of the Year for the second consecutive year.

Aiken was announced the 2009 Player of the Year at the Netball Queensland Gala Dinner held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre on Saturday October 3 and accepted her award with a message from Jamaica.

"Thank-you to my team mates and coach who really helped me to play to my full potential this year," she said.

"I think I worked very hard on and off the court. I am very happy that I was a part of the Firebirds this year and hope to be again next year. Thanks a million!"

Firebirds defender Demelza McCloud, known for her energy and commitment on and off the court, received the 2009 Queensland Firebirds Spirit Award.

"I guess one of my personality traits is my passion and loyalty for my team and I truly believe this is exactly what successful teams, clubs and cultures are built on," McCloud said.

"This year the Firebirds were a side with the potential to take home the trophy and although we fell short, I still believe we could've done it."

"I look forward to continuing to passionately support the Firebirds in 2010 and hope that my spirit lives on in the girls!"

The Firebirds Player's Player Award went to Clare McMeniman and Lauren Nourse who received equal votes from their peers.

The Player of the Year and Spirit Award are both voted for by the coaching and management staff while the Player's Player Award is voted by the Firebirds themselves based on on-court performance and leadership skills on and off the court.

About 200 people attended the Netball Queensland Annual Gala which also recognised athletes, coaches, umpires and volunteers from all levels of the sport.

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