

## Media release

For immediate release: 9 November 2016

### Volunteering Victoria announces State Awards finalists

Volunteering Victoria has announced 19 finalists shortlisted across six categories for its annual State Awards.

'This is the second year of our State Awards and the response has been amazing. The nominations were of a high calibre and covered a diverse breadth of volunteering programs and volunteer involving organisations across the state, as well as highlighting some really remarkable managers of volunteers. It is great to get this snapshot of excellence in Victoria's volunteering sector and we are proud to share this list of finalists' said Sue Noble, CEO of Volunteering Victoria.

Volunteering Victoria's State Awards showcase the commitment, diversity and impact of Victoria's volunteer programs, managers of volunteers and volunteer involving organisations. These Awards were developed in consultation with the volunteering sector, and in response to the need for inclusive awards that reflect the ways volunteering is evolving in new and innovative ways.

The Awards cover six categories: Innovation, Excellence, Inclusion, Impact, Thought Leadership, and Employee Volunteering. A panel of judges drawn from the volunteering sector considered nominations and shortlisted the finalists.

The ceremony to announce the winners will be held at Victoria's Parliament House, Queen's Hall on Thursday 17 November 2016.

#### **Innovation Award:**

*Awarded to a volunteer manager, volunteer delivered program or volunteer involving organisation for an innovative, unique volunteering program or model that engages volunteers and makes a significant contribution to the work of the organisation; improving its ability to achieve its purpose and objectives, and to deliver positive outcomes for its stakeholders.*

#### **Finalists are:**

Ardoch Youth Foundation - Literacy and Numeracy Buddies (**St Kilda**)

Country Fire Authority - Brigade Support Team (**Burwood**)

Gambler's Help North and North Western, Banyule Community Health - The Peer Connection Program (**Heidelberg West**)

RSPCA Victoria - Regional Volunteer Support Model (**Burwood East**)

**Excellence Award:**

*Awarded to a volunteer manager, volunteer delivered program or volunteer involving organisation for demonstrating and championing best practice volunteer management. This should include consideration of The National Standards for Volunteer Involvement.*

**Finalists are:**

Ardoch Youth Foundation - Education Volunteers Program (**Melbourne**)  
World Mission Society Church of God (**Doncaster East**)

**Inclusion Award:**

*Awarded to a volunteer manager, volunteer delivered program or volunteer involving organisation that engages with and includes individuals or groups who are often excluded from mainstream or traditional volunteering. This might include any groups that routinely experience social isolation or discrimination, such as CALD community members, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with a disability, senior Victorians, LGBTI people, and recently arrived migrants and refugees.*

**Finalists are:**

Bayside Glen Eira Kingston Local Learning Employment Network - Hands Up! Beyond the School Gates Student Volunteer Program (**Cheltenham**)  
Community Living & Respite Services Inc – Recyclability (**Echuca**)  
Country Fire Authority - CFA Pride (**Walhalla**)

**Impact Award:**

*Awarded to a volunteer manager, volunteer delivered program or volunteer involving organisation that has made a positive, measurable and sustainable social, environmental and/or economic impact on the community, individuals or cause supported by the program.*

**Finalists are:**

Centre for Multicultural Youth (**Carlton**)  
Foodbank Victoria (**Yarraville**)  
Gambler's Help North and North Western, Banyule Community Health - The Peer Connection Program (**Heidelberg West**)  
Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (**Horsham**)

**Thought Leadership Award:**

*Awarded to an individual or team who made a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge and/or research regarding volunteering practice or theory.*

**Finalists are:**

Associate Professor Leonie Lockstone-Binney & Associate Professor Kirsten Holmes - William Angliss Institute & Curtin University (**Melbourne**)  
Dr Christopher Baker - Centre for Social Impact - Swinburne University of Technology (**Hawthorn**)  
Pam Kappelides – La Trobe University (**Bundoora**)  
Sharon Walsh - Bendigo Health (**Bendigo**)

**Employee Volunteering Award:**

*Awarded to an organisation that delivers a specific, significant and sustained benefit to one or more volunteer-involving organisations through its employee volunteering program. The volunteering contribution may include general (team) or skilled volunteering, including pro bono work.*

Kindly sponsored by SEEK Volunteer.

**Finalists are:**

**ANZ (Melbourne)**

**Penguin Random House (Melbourne)**

The Volunteering Victoria State Awards are proudly sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**ENDS**

**If media would like to attend the Awards ceremony, please contact Chrissy Paterson on details below.**

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