

MEDIA RELEASE

4 DECEMBER 2015



Victoria's diversity heroes recognised in multicultural awards

Victorians who strive to support cultural diversity were honoured for their outstanding achievements in Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence last night in a special ceremony at Government House.

Coordinated by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), the 2015 awards recognised 75 recipients representing 23 different nationalities and faiths who have demonstrated passion and commitment to serving our state's multicultural community.

VMC Chairperson Helen Kapalos said the dedicated recipients set an example for all Victorians to follow.

"The Victorian Multicultural Commission thanks and congratulates all 2015 award recipients for their inspirational and tireless contributions. As the voice of Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse communities, we look to them as role models who champion and embrace cultural diversity," she said.

Ms. Kapalos joined the Governor of Victoria, the Hon. Linda Dessau AM, Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Robin Scott, to present the awards.

Now in their 14th year, the awards are presented across 10 categories including media, local government, service to the community, education and police service.

Among this year's recipients were two extraordinary women who make a difference in the lives of culturally diverse Victorians.

Carmel Guerra, founder of the Centre for Multicultural Youth, was presented with the highly prestigious Premier's Award for Community Harmony for her achievements working with disadvantaged young refugees and migrants.

"I am honoured to be awarded the Premier's Community Harmony Award, and am proud to be leading an organisation committed to empowering young people. We set young people up for success through our diverse set of programs which foster leadership, confidence and social unity to help build stronger communities in Victoria," said Ms Guerra.

Roshan Bhandary, program manager at InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence, was inducted to the Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll for developing community engagement programs that aim to break the silence around family violence.

The 2015 recipients include 56 individuals and 13 organisations. Over the past 14 years, 1775 individuals and 459 organisations have been recognised in the awards.

A complete list of recipients is included overleaf.

For more information about the recipients please visit multicultural.vic.gov.au

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VICTORIA'S MULTICULTURAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE - 2015 RECIPIENTS

Award for Meritorious Service to the Community – Individuals:

Dr Raju Adhikari	Christos Kalavritinos	Jadwiga Piotrowski
Mohsen Afkari	Demetre Kalodimos	Angelos Porfiris
Manuel Asuncion	Vijayawickrama Karunasena	Monica Sharma Raizada
Josephine Cessario	Stepan Kichakov	Caterina Revrenna
Joseph Chiang	Vasilios Koutras	Rita Ripani
Lubov Cowall	John Mckinnin	Luis Rodriguez
Marcello D'Amico	Rev Deacon George Piech Meat	Raju Shakya
Prakash Devatha	Manzoor Ahmad Mian	Sujatha Surendran
Robin Dzedins JP	Giuseppe Morizzi	Carla Taylor
Dan Hong Feng	Dr SRV Chary Mudumbi	Deepak Vinayak JP
Father Igor Filianovsky	Jeanette Mustafa	Farah M. Warsame
John Haddad	Pandit Patil	Erika Watts

Award for Meritorious Service to the Community – Organisations:

Australian Afghan Philanthropic Association
Ladies Auxillary (Philiptochos) of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish
Multicultural Association of Russian Speaking Women and their Families Ogonyok
Serbian Choral Society Inc

Award for Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria – Individuals:

Nail Aykan	Danny Ong	Dr Yali Shao
Judy Blyton	Con Pagonis	John Tatoulis
Amelia Crafter	Lydia Kyungja Park	Ramalingam Wickramasingham
Danielle Hartridge		

Award for Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria – Organisation:

Connections UnitingCare

Victoria Police Multicultural Awards:

Sgt Ali Gurdag APM - Police Annual Multicultural Award
Sen Constable Matt Walker - Police Multicultural Media Award
Sen PSO M Alam - Protective Service Officer Multicultural Award
Victoria Police Muslim Association - Police Community Exemplary Award

Education and Early Childhood Award:

Jewish Holocaust Centre Pembroke Primary School

Media Award – Individuals:

Walter Adamson	Wilfred Siriwardhana
Ismail Kayhan	Karen Wang
Karen Yuting Poh	

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Media Award – Organisations:

Channel 31 Melbourne & Geelong Latrobe Valley Express
Indian Link Media Group PBS 106.7FM

Ambassador Award – Individuals:

Abhishek Awasthi Khurram Jahangir Khan

Ambassador Award - Young person:

Hanisha Sharma-Luitai Celia Tran

Victorian Multicultural Business Awards:

Bestway Supermarket - Corporate Innovation Award
eBook Dynasty - Victorian Multicultural Marketing Award
Wyndham City Council - Local Government Award

Premier's Award for Community Harmony:

Carmel Guerra

Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll:

Roshan Bhandary

To find out more about each of the recipients, visit multicultural.vic.gov.au