

2021 VICTORIAN PROTECTING CHILDREN AWARDS

Celebrating excellence
in protecting children,
young people and families

Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Victoria and pay respect and recognise the contribution from their Elders past and present. We proudly acknowledge the strength and resilience of First Nation peoples as the world's oldest living culture and the contribution of generations of Aboriginal leaders who have fought tirelessly for the rights of their people and communities. We recognise the intergenerational consequences of colonisation, dispossession, child removal and other discriminatory government policies and acknowledge that the impacts and structures of colonisation still exist today. Our departments are committed to addressing these impacts by embedding cultural safety and self-determination in all that we do so that Aboriginal Victorians have decision making power and control to determine what is best for them. Aboriginal self-determination is a human right as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We are committed to developing strong and enduring self-determined partnerships with Aboriginal communities that will contribute to growing a prosperous, healthy and strong Victorian Aboriginal community.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recognition statement

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing pay respect and recognise the contribution of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living and working in Victoria. Throughout this document the term 'Aboriginal' is used to refer to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Message from the Minister

Welcome to the 2021 Victorian Protecting Children Awards. It is an absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our child and family services sector, but more importantly the impact you are having in helping young people across Victoria be safe, happy and healthy.

You are the frontline heroes who work tirelessly in our community to improve the lives of children and young people. Without you and your passion, many children would be exposed to harm that no young person deserves to experience. All it takes is one person to be in a child's corner, advocating for the life and support they deserve to make a difference. That one person is you.

For that, I say thank you. It is not easy on the best of days, without throwing the added layers of complexity a global pandemic brings.

The two most prestigious award categories honour the memory of visionary Robin Dennis Clark (1936 - 2001), who worked in child protection and greatly influenced child and family-related policy and practice in Victoria. It is important we celebrate our leaders as well as the contribution we all make together in protecting children and supporting families.

This year I was thrilled to hear a record-breaking number of nominations were submitted for the Victorian Protecting Children Awards. More than 194 people or teams were put forward for their tireless dedication and efforts. This comes as no surprise, as every day I hear about the innovative and life-changing work the child and family services sector continue to deliver.

On behalf of the Victorian community, I want to congratulate all our nominees and finalists, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours in this very important work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal line with a stylized, looped flourish above it.

Hon Luke Donnellan MP

Minister for Child Protection



Message from the Secretary

It is an honour to work with the child and family services sector to deliver programs which help improve outcomes for children and families experiencing vulnerability.

Nothing is more important than giving our most vulnerable children the stability, care and support they need. You have worked tirelessly during the pandemic, finding innovative ways to deliver care and engage with clients in trying circumstances.

The work that you carry out truly does matter. The workforce should hold itself proud as you have delivered so many vital services and supports to children and their families. I have seen that for many this work is a vocation and a passion.

The Victorian Protecting Children Awards raise awareness of the important work being done to protect, prevent and reduce harm to children and young people, and to celebrate the people who work tirelessly to achieve this. It is an opportunity to celebrate the professionalism, attributes and dedication of practitioners, workers, carers and community members.

The work we are doing together is helping change the trajectories of children's lives.

Congratulations to all our nominees and finalists – your dedication to children and families is immense and very much appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Pitcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandy Pitcher
Secretary

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Robin Clark's legacy

Robin Dennis Clark (1936–2001) was a widely respected and inspirational leader in the field of child protection and out-of-home care throughout the 1980s and 90s in Australia.

Robin worked extensively evaluating, reviewing and designing child protection and out-of-home care systems in Victoria, Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales.

Robin was driven by her commitment to social justice and her belief in a fair and equitable society.

She had a sincere interest in people's lives, and in helping child protection practitioners understand their role and achieve best practice.

Her vision of delivering excellent practice among those who work with children and families continues to live on today.

Her insight, practicality and wisdom have influenced a generation of workers in these fields.

Two awards – Leadership and Making a Difference – honour the memory of Robin and the significant role she played in influencing contemporary child and family related policy and practice in Victoria.



Winner of the Education Initiative Award – Education First Youth Foyer

Introduction

The coronavirus pandemic has had an impact on people and communities across Victoria. Despite so many unknowns, you have worked together as colleagues in the child and family services sector to focus on children and families. The workforce has been agile and responsive, quickly adapting and enacting policy and procedures to focus our work during this time.

You continued out-reach activities for high-risk clients with compassion, provided young people with much-needed resources and encouragement to continue their education remotely, kept families together by connecting them through technology and found creative ways to teach children how to stay COVID safe.

You have demonstrated outstanding courage and collaboration to keep both the community and each other safe throughout this challenging period – thank you.

The Victorian Protecting Children Awards honour the memory of Robin Clark, a respected and inspirational leader in child, youth and family welfare. In 2020 and 2021, every worker had to live Robin's legacy – going above and beyond to keep children and young people supported and safe.

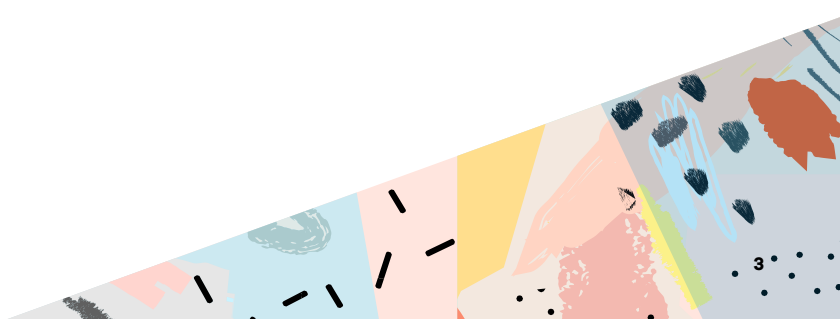
Through this adversity, we saw truly remarkable work and commitment across the sector from individuals and teams. It is with pride that we now celebrate this work in Robin's spirit through the Victorian Protecting Children Awards.

So much of this work is invisible to the greater public but vital to the wellbeing of children. This means it is even more important for us to celebrate and acknowledge those staff and volunteers who work tirelessly across all areas of child protection and family support service programs in Victoria. Your commitment and dedication to excellence and leadership is truly inspiring.

We also take this opportunity to celebrate carers – the unsung heroes – who play a vital role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people by opening their hearts and homes to provide the best possible start to so many young Victorians.

We thank you for your kindness, your grit, your dedication, your innovation and your contributions to policy and practice.

This showcase booklet celebrates our 2021 nominees, finalists and winners.



Winners and finalists

Robin Clark Leadership Award

This award recognises an individual at any level of leadership who inspires others to act wisely and care deeply about achieving the best outcomes for children, young people and their families. They may mentor, support, encourage or educate others. Nominees in this category are leaders or emerging leaders, demonstrating vision and innovation in their approach to practice, policy or research and education.

This award winner will have respect and show inspirational leadership in the field of child, youth and family services.

Examples of work may include:

- Demonstrating outstanding leadership of a campaign or initiative to support sustained improvement in the lives of children, young people and their families.
- Influencing the practice of others, through leadership and advocacy, to increase the inclusion of children and young people experiencing vulnerability in the community.



Winner

Beth Allen, PSM – Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Beth's leadership has been truly transformational and inspirational for the children and families sector in Victoria. Throughout her 38-year career, she has championed system-wide reforms, ensured the voice of the client is at the centre of decision-making, and used evidence-based models to deliver earlier help for families – all with the goal of keeping children safe and connected. She is an agile leader with excellent communication, leadership and stakeholder management skills. She has significant experience in the development of legislation, policies and programs concerning vulnerable children and families. She is committed to continuous improvement, informed by evidence and the client voice.

Beth was instrumental in the early design and implementation of Victoria's process of deinstitutionalisation. She has also overseen Victoria's permanency reforms, which introduced significant legislative changes to promote permanency for children. She remains a passionate advocate for reforms to transition the care of Aboriginal children to Aboriginal organisations, including the landmark initiative that authorises Aboriginal organisations to assume full responsibility for Aboriginal children. She is a compelling and empathetic advocate for child protection workers, whose day-to-day work is often confronting and traumatising. She has overseen significant improvements in the quality and quantity of our child protection workforce while working hard to create conditions that will encourage our very best workers to remain in the field.



Highly Commended

Aileen Ashford – Kids First Australia

Aileen Ashford is the Chief Executive Officer of Kids First, an independent child and family services provider, and she is an early education specialist. Previously, she worked as Chief Executive Officer of Bethany Community Support Geelong and as Children's Commissioner in Tasmania, a role that required advocacy and strategic leadership on issues affecting the wellbeing, care and protection of young people across the state. Aileen's 30-year career is characterised by a commitment to social justice and ensuring children thrive, no matter their starting point in life. She is an inspiring leader, with a skill for finding the best people, programs and partnerships to drive better outcomes for children and families.



Finalists

Tom Bowerman – Berry Street

As Berry Street's Director of Innovation, Tom Bowerman leads innovative, evidence-based programs, applying great practice expertise and industry knowledge. In particular, his work enabled Berry Street to become the first accredited Teaching Family Model provider in Australia in March 2020. He brings colleagues and stakeholders on a journey, inspiring others to get behind the big-picture vision and purpose for the change. Tom is a generous and highly respected leader, sharing his knowledge with colleagues. He underpins his work with a strong duty of advocacy for children, young people and families, championing evidence-based programs and the benefits of early intervention.



Finalists

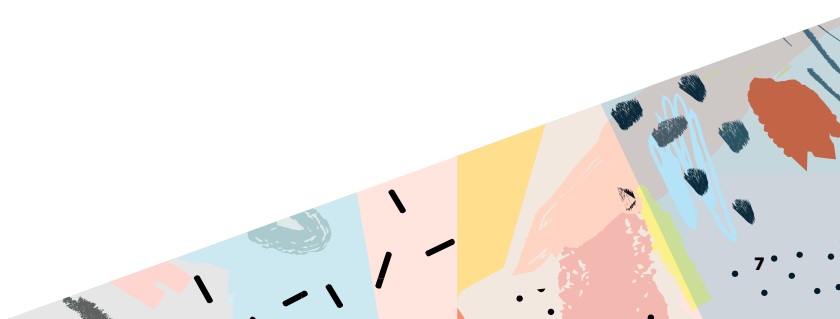
Leeanne Miller – Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Leeanne's leadership ensures strong and inclusive governance that builds a culture of cooperation and 'connecting the dots' to create better outcomes for children.

She was appointed Senior Executive Director of the newly formed Statewide Services Group in March 2020,

just as the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

She led this group of 1,000 staff who had come together for the first time, steering them through the adoption of a new vision, new governance and management arrangements, as well as maintaining frontline operational imperatives for children at risk in the face of a global pandemic and state emergency. Leeanne is a visible leader and a pioneer for change.



Robin Clark

Making a Difference Award

This award recognises an individual, team, or group within the child and family service sector, who has made an exceptional contribution to directly improve the lives of children, young people and families in Victoria. This can be in partnership or collaboration with government and non-government agencies.

Winners in this award will strive to achieve excellent practice among those who work with children and families. Their work will show insight, practicality and wisdom. Examples of work may include:

- Working across a variety of roles within the sector, as a leader, manager, influential thought leader or researcher, advocate and/or frontline worker, and who has an exemplary track record of improving outcomes for children, young people, carers and families.
- Providing expert, strategic advice to improve support and decision making for children and young people in care.
- Championing the rights of carers, children and young people through the development and delivery of training, financial support, or new innovative models of care.



Winner

Staughton Road – MacKillop Family Services

The team of carers lead by Jacqueline Anile at the Staughton Road house have done remarkable work to improve the school attendance of the four young women living in the home. The team uses the sanctuary model of care, and they have created a strong expectation for the four young people to attend school. All four young people have had a marked improvement in their engagement with school, with some going from no school attendance at all to now consistently attending every day.

The team has also worked hard to ensure the young people have respectful communication and conversations with one another, which has led to a largely harmonious home despite the individual trauma and other needs of the residents. Improved and sustained school attendance benefits these young people in every area of their lives. The thoughtful intervention of the team has improved the quality of care received by the young people. It has led to a marked improvement in their outcomes. They now have a safe and consistent base from which to reengage with their families and their community. This house stands out as an impressive example of high-quality care for young people in residential care.



Highly Commended

HEALing Matters – Monash University

HEALing Matters is a Victorian Government-funded online training package and knowledge exchange platform for residential out-of-home care workers. It uses a trauma-informed philosophy to guide carers' understanding of the link between healthy lifestyle behaviours and improved physical, cognitive, social and emotional outcomes. It provides a one-stop shop for health and wellbeing information. More than 1,200 staff at 18 community service organisations have registered to complete the training. The HEALing Matters team's commitment to embedding the program across the out-of-home care sector has made a difference to the health and wellbeing of young people in care at a scale never before seen in Victoria.



Finalists

Treatment Foster Care Oregon – OzChild

The Treatment Foster Care Oregon team has shown tenacity, creativity, skilfulness and courage to make a significant difference to the lives of children with some of the most complex behaviours in Victoria. Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCO) is an alternative to residential care for children and young people with severe emotional and behavioural concerns. It helps children and young people live successfully in a family setting, and assists parents and other long-term carers to provide effective parenting. The team's strong partnerships with carers, child protection, placements services, the sector and schools have helped them achieve amazing outcomes for the children in the program.



Finalists

Erin Theofelos – Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Erin's work with a 15-year-old Aboriginal boy has made a huge difference in this child's life. In late 2019, he had been in residential care for several years and had not engaged in education for four years. When a decision to pursue family reunification was made, Erin ensured the child and his family's voices were heard in care team and case plan meetings and in informal discussions at home visits. She modelled therapeutic engagement and culturally sensitive practice. The child now relies on both his parents for support, affection and appropriate boundaries, and his physical health has significantly improved.

VACCA's Research and Evaluation Team – Victorian Aboriginal and Child Care Agency

The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency's (VACCA) internal Research and Evaluation Team has developed a wide evidence base for working with Aboriginal families and young people, which informs all VACCA's programs and practice. This includes documenting Aboriginal ways of working, identifying the outcomes that are important to Aboriginal people and measuring what VACCA does, in order to provide the best services possible for the Aboriginal community. This work supports Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) in the Victorian child and family services sector to document practice their using Cultural Practice Elements, and to evaluate programs and practice to showcase outcomes.



Finalists

Michelle Van Doorn – OzChild

Michelle's clear vision to reduce the significant overrepresentation of children under 12 years old in residential care drove OzChild's introduction of the innovative Treatment Foster Care Oregon program in Victoria in 2017 – a first for Australia. She overcame significant obstacles to adapting this US model for the Victorian context. Four years on, this new model of care has trained and accredited seven full-time specialised carers and six respite carers. Most importantly, 13 children have successfully graduated from the program, and have been reunified with family or placed into long-term care. Seven children are currently in the program.

Minister's Award for Innovation in Protecting Children

This award recognises an individual, team or group demonstrating innovative approaches and creative intervention to achieve the best possible outcomes for children, young people and their families. This innovation can be demonstrated across the child, youth and family services sector through case management, education, prevention and early intervention, or the provision of care to children and young people in out-of-home care (including secure welfare services). Examples of work may include:

- Developing new and innovative programs, or strengthening existing programs to improve outcomes for children and young people experiencing vulnerability.
- Working in different ways to achieve outcomes for high-risk youth.
- Embedding sustainable change within organisational practices to create more opportunities for children and young people experiencing vulnerability.



Winner

Caring Dads – Kids First Australia

Caring Dads is an Australian-first, 17-week early intervention program that engages fathers who have used family violence. It helps them develop child-centred fathering skills and to take responsibility for the effect of their violence on their children and their children's mother. A 2020 University of Melbourne evaluation demonstrated the program was associated with an overall reduction in violence, and an increase in men's ability to reflect on harmful fathering practices.

The Caring Dads team has shown incredible skill and insight, undertaking complex and potentially high-risk work that requires comprehensive knowledge of family violence, interagency relationships and child development. The project is the result of an innovative funding model that brings together the Victorian Government, the community sector (Kids First) and philanthropy (Gandel). This tripartite relationship is a model for unpacking complex issues in a sophisticated and joined-up way. A new partnership with Odyssey House Victoria, the University of Melbourne and others will enable Caring Dads to make the crucial link between men's use of violence and misuse of alcohol and other substances. Caring Dads' impact means that children and families feel safer, and fathers can begin to take action to improve their relationships with their children and children's mother. It represents a major advance in addressing family violence.



Highly Commended

Power to Kids: Respecting Sexual Safety – MacKillop Family Services

Power to Kids: Respecting Sexual Safety is an action-learning project to co-design, implement and evaluate an innovative approach that prevents and intervenes early in harmful sexual behaviour, child sexual exploitation and dating violence in residential care. It was piloted over a three-year period in four MacKillop residential care homes. The voices of young people shaped and refined the program. MacKillop carers also influenced the program design through regular feedback sessions with the project team. An evaluation showed there were positive shifts on each outcome measure. Children and young people demonstrated improved sexual health and safety, and had better relationships with carers.



Finalists

HealthWatch Project Control Group – Banyule Community Health, Berry Street, Uniting Kildonan, CREATE Foundation, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

The HealthWatch model addresses the complex health concerns of children in the out-of-home care system. It provides early identification of health concerns, timely access to health assessments and coordinated healthcare provision. It gives priority access to a paediatrician, comprehensive health assessments, health management plans and health reviews at a local community health service. An evaluation in June 2020 found that this early intervention and coordinated care approach improved health and safety outcomes for children. The project control group has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the health of children.



Finalists

Hope to Home – Program Team Hope Street Youth & Family Services

Hope Street's Hope to Home program team protects young children and their families from entering homelessness and empowers their future independence. The team uses an innovative methodology to deliver win-win outcomes while keeping the interests of vulnerable young people at the heart of their practice. The program helps participants acquire a positive rental history, and to develop knowledge and skills to secure and maintain leases. The program was independently evaluated by Victoria University, which found it had led to improved outcomes for clients. The team goes above and beyond, playing a leading role to place families into the most appropriate housing available.

Y-Change – Berry Street

Y-Change is a social and systemic change platform for young people aged 18 to 30 with lived experiences of socioeconomic disadvantage. Y-Change challenges the thinking and practices of social systems through advocacy and leadership. It aims to alter society's perception of young people experiencing disadvantage by giving these young people a seat at the decision-making table. In addition, the team provides bespoke training and workshop facilitation, public speaking and keynote presentations consultancy. Y-Change seeks improved outcomes across the sector through their key partnerships with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, the Commission for Children and Young People and Monash University.

Carer Award

This award recognises past and present accredited foster or kinship carers who have made a significant contribution to the lives of children and young people where child protection has been involved in formal foster care.

Examples of work may include:

- Going above and beyond to provide exceptional care, support and stability to a child or young person.
- Overcoming challenges to advocate for children and young people's needs and creating a positive effect on young lives.
- Demonstrating an understanding of the importance of connection to culture and kin for children and young people in care and working with agencies and child protection to prioritise this connection.



Winner

Kristine and Rick Foord – OzChild

Kris and Rick care for four children, three of whom have significant disabilities. When they agreed to care for the second-youngest child, they did so knowing she was not expected to live past her first birthday. They put aside their own emotions about this and have committed to making every day special for her. Days turned into weeks, appointments turned into therapies, and every little snuffle, gargle and seizure was attended to with around-the-clock love, care and precision. Kris and Rick were stretched beyond their physical and emotional limits and they never left her side through countless hospital admissions, one of them would be with her.

With their persistence, focus and ability to identify and action the slightest deterioration in her, she has recently celebrated her ninth birthday. They have also committed to providing ongoing care for their eldest foster child, who recently turned 18. He has a severe intellectual disability that prevents him from doing many things. Every outing needs to be carefully planned around his medical needs meaning the family is limited in where they can go because few places provide appropriate changing rooms or power sources for equipment. Despite all this, they would not change anything for the experience of caring for these beautiful children.



Finalists

Jenna Davey-Burns

Without any warning Jenna became a full-time carer overnight in 2019. Since that time she has been focused and determined to support the three children she cares for to have access to services and therapeutic supports that provide best practice. Jenna has navigated the service system on their behalf with fierce advocacy and care. Importantly Jenna has created a strong, unwavering connection to Aboriginal culture for the children and fostered pride, knowing and belonging for the children within their culture. Jenna's strength, determination and sacrifice to fight for the rights of the children in her care is commendable – she works to improve outcomes for children, young people and families at both the individual level as well as structural level.

Jenny and Peter Nolan – Mallee Family Care

Jenny and Peter Nolan have been caring for children in out-of-home care for 25 years. They have cared for so many children in this time. A sibling group of six children came to Jenny and Peter in January 2018. The children all presented with complex trauma-related behaviours and developmental delay. With the Nolans' support the children have made significant improvements in their development and education. The children have been able to stay together and are supported to have regular contact with their mother. The Nolans are now caring for five of the children with one of the six children recently moving to a kinship placement. The Nolans have cared for the children, worked to support their development and know the importance of connection with family.



Finalists

Di and John Ritchie – Anglicare Victoria

Di and John Ritchie have a strong and proud history as foster carers for approximately 22 years. They cared for an Aboriginal sibling group for ten years before the children were successfully reunified with their family. They were planning to retire when they heard about a three-year-old Samoan child in desperate need of a placement. They have extended themselves and provided exceptional care, support and stability for this child, who had complex medical and behavioural challenges. Their unwavering support ensured her complex needs were attended to and she is so much more settled with a dramatic change in her behaviour. She is engaged in therapy that helps her, is settled in primary school and recently received her school's 'Little Legend' award. She is achieving each day with care and support from Di and John.



Rhiannon Green and Michael Pease

Rhiannon and Michael care for a young person with extremely complex needs who recently reached the age of 18 years. He is of Iranian descent and arrived in Australia by boat as refugee with his family. His parents relinquished care of him and he has needed much support because he has an intellectual disability, is not able to hear or speak. He requires 24/7 care. Rhiannon and Michael have changed almost every aspect of their lives to provide care for him. They continue to advocate fiercely for him to ensure his needs are met. They do not take no for an answer, and their dedication to achieving positive outcomes for this young person is truly admirable.

Chief Practitioner's Award

The Chief Practitioner's Award recognises an individual, team or group working in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing child protection program who embodies best practice, commitment and leadership.




Message from the Chief Practitioner

I am always delighted to present the Chief Practitioner's Award. It provides the opportunity to acknowledge and respect practitioners within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing who exemplify best practice, commitment and leadership when working with children, their families and colleagues across the child and families sector.

Definitions of best practice are continually evolving yet there are key attributes our practitioners demonstrate across the children and family services sector that are essential to positive outcomes. We know best practice occurs when practitioners are reflective, hold hope for children and families, work in true collaboration and understand the importance of integrity, empathy and regard for others.

This year's nominees have demonstrated a commitment to the overall experience of children and young people. They have worked tirelessly and have led by example to motivate others whilst maintaining the best interests of children as central to their practice.



The challenges of working in an online environment while still providing frontline services has meant that practitioners have found new and innovative ways of working. You have taken this in your stride and continued to work to protect children.

Thank you for your professionalism, commitment and dedication to children and families across Victoria.



Tracy Beaton
Chief Practitioner



Winner

Sinead Grene

Sinead is an outstanding senior practitioner in the North East Melbourne Area, supporting and challenging care teams to continually work above and beyond to achieve the seemingly impossible. She works tirelessly and purposefully, and her respectful persistence makes a difference to every family and young person she works with. She leads by example and is an exceptional team member, role model and mentor. These qualities are demonstrated daily and are well recognised throughout the sector and among external stakeholders. She regularly receives accolades from these partners, citing her collaboration, kindness, ability to listen and to work together with a focus on the needs of young people and their families.

One of many outstanding examples of Sinead's practice is her work with a young person estranged from her family in New Zealand. A violent relationship compounded the young person's vulnerabilities and complex trauma. Sinead's persistence to build a genuine relationship with the young person empowered her to refuse violence as the norm in her relationships, to be the key member of her own care team and to take control of her future. Sinead, together with the care team, successfully assisted this young person to transition to independence. She is now thriving – safe, stable and planning for her future.



Finalists

Olivia Barba

Olivia is the sexual exploitation practice leader for the Inner and Outer Melbourne Area child protection. She is a highly skilled and knowledgeable practitioner who is a leader in her field. She is a powerful advocate for the young people she works with and consistently promotes the rights of children and young people to be safe and to be heard. She recognised early on during COVID-19 restrictions that children and young people were at increased risk of online sexual exploitation. She developed and delivered an awareness strategy and capacity building program across the sector that continues to be used.



Cultural Engagement Program

The Cultural Engagement Program is a small, dynamic team that works with asylum-seeking, refugee, newly arrived and culturally diverse families known to child protection. The team does home visits, critical assessments, consultations and brokers services. In particular, they liaise with federal departments regarding child protection clients from culturally diverse backgrounds who are at risk of visa cancellation, detention, deportation and other complex migration matters. They show courage, determination, innovation, strategic thinking and a willingness to advocate for children in out-of-home care as if they were their own. Despite the barriers they face, the team demonstrates they will do whatever it takes to ensure the best outcomes for the children and young people the department cares for.



Finalists

Jenny Jones

As a Principal Practitioner in Outer Gippsland Area, Jenny worked with a sibling group of three children in 2019. These children were living in out-of-home care in a therapeutic residential unit after significant emotional, sexual, physical abuse. When they began showing problematic trauma behaviours, Jenny made the bold decision to reunite them with their mother. After more than six months of hard work with the care team and the Aboriginal agency in area, the children were reunited with their mother and have remained there since. To support this outcome, Jenny showed courage, determination and an ability to work within the broader system using a trauma-informed and therapeutic approach.



Emily Reid

Emily is a senior practitioner in the Barwon Area who strives to achieve the best outcomes for clients while demonstrating genuine care and compassion for the children and young people she works with. A fantastic example of her dedication was her tireless work with the system to support a complex young person with disability, keeping all aspects of his care and case planning in train. This vulnerable young person faced potential deportation as a refugee and had no support after being relinquished by his family. As a result of Emily's determination, he has left the department's care with dedicated carers, quality supports wrapped around him and permanent residency – no small feat.

CREATE Award

This award gives non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children and young people aged 8–25 years the opportunity to nominate someone such as a carer, support worker or agency who has made a positive difference to their lives, particularly through assisting them to have a voice within the out-of-home care system.

Note: The award process is managed separately through CREATE Foundation and further information can be found on the CREATE Foundation website <www.create.org.au>.





Winner

Murray Geddes

Murray has worked in education for more than 35 years and has seen the positive impact connection with education and all that it involves can have on a young person. As the South East Victoria Region LOOKOUT Centre principal, Murray has had the privilege of working with an incredible team to improve the educational outcomes and life choices available to young people in statutory care. Along the way, he has had the opportunity to meet and work with some exceptional young people, carers and other professionals working in this space.

Murray believes that every kid deserves to be given the support they need to thrive. He is committed to creating opportunities for young people to have their voices heard, including supporting young people who use LOOKOUT services to speak to over 600 education professionals, including their teachers and principals, at the *LOOKOUT Annual Conference*.



Finalist

Julie Bognar

Julie has been a foster carer for almost ten years and is passionate about helping young people with any of the daily struggles they may face. In her spare time Julie enjoys gardening, taking her dog Mac for a walk and cooking with home-grown produce. Julie was nominated for the CREATE Award by a young person who lived with her while she was in care. The impact Julie has had on this young person's life, and why she is a worthy recipient of the CREATE Award, is highlighted by the young person below:

"Even though I have now left Julie's care, she still makes me feel like I am valued, and worthy of support and love. She is always willing to help me in any way she can, constantly finds fun ways to make me smile when I am sad, and has equipped me with the support I need to achieve my goals."

Education Initiative Award

This award recognises an individual, team or group that has demonstrated success improving educational outcomes for children and young people in child protection. This may include:

- Mentoring or supporting children in care to engage with and/or make progress within education settings.
- Developing education resources.
- Implementing an innovative approach to bringing the education and child protection systems together.
- Supporting participation in early years and pre-school activities, or facilitating access to mainstream education, vocational education (VET), job training or skill building programs.
- Supporting at-risk young people to actively engage in their education.



Winner

Education First Youth Foyer, Shepparton – Berry Street

The Shepparton Education First Youth Foyer in Yorta Yorta country places young people aged 16–24 years firmly at the heart of its model, helping them overcome barriers to education and attainment. The Youth Foyer provides young people with up to two years of safe, stable accommodation while they work towards independent living. In return, young people must engage in ongoing education and training and regularly meet with their youth development worker. Foyer has built a reputation as a safe, supportive space for young people in the Goulburn region, with well-established networks to other agencies and links with the broader community.

Most importantly, Foyer alumni share many stories of the Foyer team going above and beyond their job descriptions to improve their lives. The meaningful relationships Foyer team members have forged with the young people they support have had transformative effects. The team's efforts have encouraged many young people to thrive, and they have gone on to achieve higher levels of education, engage with full-time employment, get their licence and purchase cars, move into their own homes, start their own businesses and – in some cases – return to Foyer as ambassadors and mentors for other young people.



Finalists

Nicola McCaul - Department of Education and Training

Nicola McCaul leads Department of Education and Training reforms across Bayside Peninsula Area to increase participation in three-year-old kinder and to support children’s readiness for primary school. She has an unwavering commitment to ensuring vulnerable children involved with child protection or living in out-of-home care can have every opportunity to engage in early educational opportunities. Nicola’s innovative approach has resulted in a ‘therapeutic’ transition program for children in out-of-home care who need extra support to move from kinder to primary school. She is an advocate for the best possible early educational opportunities for children in this cohort, and she has built strong partnerships with child protection staff.

Carer KaFE, Learning and Development for Carers – Foster Care Association of Victoria

Carer KaFE (Kinship and Foster Care Education) provides learning and development for home-based carers across regional and metropolitan Victoria. Carer KaFE offers centralised training for carers, supporting them in their multifaceted role and boosting their resilience so they can continue providing placements in a complex system. Training includes the principles of therapeutic care, trauma, healing and connection to culture. All training is provided free to accredited foster carers, permanent carers and statutory kinship carers. When COVID-19 forced a halt to face-to-face training, Carer KaFE adopted new ways to conduct training, ensuring that carers could adapt to new online technology and providing extra guidance.



Finalists

Jayneen Sanders – Educate2Empower Publishing

Jayneen Sanders has written and published more than 20 children's picture books and many resources for parents, carers and educators to help teach children about body safety and consent, social and emotional intelligence and gender equality via her publishing company Educate2Empower. Her aim is to educate and empower children, as well as the adults who care for them, through engaging, informative and beautifully illustrated texts. Her work fills an important niche that other publishers find too 'confronting'. In 2020, Jayneen donated hundreds of her books to people living in public housing in Flemington when they were ordered into hard lockdown with little notice.

Leaving a Legacy Award

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, Victoria's peak body for child and family services, is proud to be launching the inaugural 'Leaving a Legacy' award at this year's Victorian Protecting Children Awards, presented by Centre CEO Deb Tsorbaris.

The award recognises the people who have made a significant contribution to the child, youth, and family services sector throughout their career as well as making an impact on their local community. 'Leaving a Legacy' acknowledges those who have positively contributed to the sector and whose remarkable achievements should be highlighted.





Winner

Luke Rumbold

Luke Rumbold has devoted his life to the care of children and young people in rural Victoria during his 40-year career.

Graduating as a Social Worker from the University of Melbourne in 1980, Luke was first employed as a Community Based Case Worker by Mallee Family Care in Kerang. In 1984, Luke moved to Wodonga to take up the role of Director of Upper Murray Family Care (UMFC). With 37 years at the helm, it is rare for an individual to leave such an enduring and remarkable footprint on an organisation and their local community.

As well as expanding its reach to become a cross-border organisation, UMFC also extended its services from legal and family law to disability care and child and family services.

The sector has benefitted from Luke's involvement serving on Boards with the state (CFECFW) and federal (FRSA) peak bodies.

As Luke contemplates retirement, the child and services sector acknowledge his lasting legacy not only on UMFC, his local community, and throughout regional Victoria.

Modelling a Generous Community Award, Commission for Children and Young People

This award recognises someone who has made a significant contribution to enhancing the safety and wellbeing of Victorian children experiencing vulnerability; through demonstrating the highest level of sustained personal commitment to meaningfully connecting children to their local community.



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Winner

Morgan Cataldo

Morgan is currently the Senior Manager Youth Engagement at Berry Street, one of Australia's largest independent family service organisations. Her work here includes supporting and developing Y-Change, which engages, trains, and employs young people to use their lived experience expertise to drive social, organisational and systemic change.

Morgan is someone with lived experience of being a 'service user' herself over many years and sees her work as giving back to the community in the hope that the next generation of young people have a clearer path to follow.

Morgan has over 10 years' experience working within the for-purpose sector and has worked in a range of organisations supporting those with lived experience to have influence including Melbourne City Mission, Launch Housing, and YLab Global. In the past five years Morgan has worked with a number of organisations, in a consultative capacity, who are seeking to partner with people with a lived experience relevant to their purpose.

Morgan is recognised for being fiercely committed to supporting and empowering young people. She consistently mentors young lived experience advocates, in and outside of her professional roles, connecting them with consultative work, offering coaching and reflective practice, and referring young people to support services across her network when they need them.

Morgan goes above and beyond, and this award recognises her hard work, passion, significant contribution and personal commitment towards elevating the voice and views of children and young people in Victoria.

Walda Blow Award, Commission for Children and Young People

This Award recognises contributions of an Aboriginal person in Victoria to the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people.



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Winner

Kristen Munro

Kristen has made a significant contribution to Aboriginal families in and around West Heidelberg as the lead facilitator of two Aboriginal-specific playgroups. The groups provide a trauma-sensitive, culturally-safe space and care pathway for vulnerable Aboriginal families and their children.

Her dual role as an early year's worker and supported playgroup facilitator means she can walk beside families to access crucial maternal and child health, medical and allied health professionals.

She has worked hard to develop these extended networks to ensure families feel safe and supported. She has worked with services to ensure continuity of care for families from pregnancy through to school age and beyond, forging trusting relationships with the most vulnerable families.

She was pivotal in the development of the Djiak-Djirri ABC book and poster. The playgroup families worked with Banyule Community Health's We Love Stories Initiative to develop their own early literacy resources. These resources increase support for children's pre-literacy development, celebrate local Aboriginal families and culture and help engage vulnerable families in playgroups.

Her dedication and deep care for the families she works with means families can stay together, connected to community and culture. She promotes families' self-determination and self-empowerment, enabling families to take control of their children's health.



Finalist

Megan Van Den Berg

Megan has devoted her career to working within the Aboriginal child and family welfare sector including building cultural capacity of non-Aboriginal child protection and CSO workforce, leading major projects and training. She has held many leadership roles and currently manages a portfolio of over 150 staff.

Megan has played an essential role in the service delivery of Aboriginal family violence, homelessness, education, emergency relief, family services, OOHC and innovative and culturally strong programs including Victoria's first Koorie parenting program.

During the pandemic Megan supported the development of over 50 online videos and establishment of an online cultural hub. She was involved in leading the online NAIDOC Week celebrations and online Koorie Christmas carols.

Supporting Young People in Care

This award recognises an individual, team or group that goes above and beyond to support young people experiencing vulnerability. The winner of this award prioritises empowering young people in the decision-making process and assists them to achieve their goals.

Examples of work may include:

An individual, team or group that goes above and beyond the expectations of their role to assist young people experiencing vulnerability gain access to the support they need. This may be for important life skills, independent living, employment pathways, education-based support, culturally appropriate care, mental health and substance abuse.

- Implementation of programs that improve outcomes for young people experiencing vulnerability.



Winner

Bonnie O'Leary – Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Bonnie is the Aboriginal Liaison Officer for secure care. She is a Gamilaraay Aboriginal woman from Tamworth who is strongly connected to her own culture, and she is passionate about supporting young people in secure care to have this same opportunity. Together with the Aboriginal community, including Aboriginal artists and young people, she designed and implemented a Gathering Space at the young men's unit. It is made up of a circle of stones, with a number of animal totems between them. Native plants and stunning artwork surround the area. It is clear that young people feel safer in this space, because they use it often and show respect when in it.

Bonnie is in the process of completing a Healing Garden at the young women's unit. In addition to this work, she has been instrumental to fundamental changes within secure care, including changes in infrastructure. She brings her life experiences, her work in the community with Aboriginal young people and her extensive knowledge of the department to her role in secure care. Her vital contribution ensures young people have culturally safe places, and that her colleagues in secure care and Child Protection are supported to better understand what it means to be culturally sensitive.



Highly Commended

Youth Services – Child and Family Services Ballarat

This team worked to ensure a young person in care who became pregnant could keep their baby, improve their wellbeing, change the trajectory of their life and future goals, and have their baby placed in the same placement as them. Prior to the birth, the young person became motivated to keep the baby, despite opposition from many within the system. The team, guided by best practice principles, located a local placement that was willing to have the young person and baby. Their unconditional and unwavering support allowed the young person to be placed with their baby and to initially break the cycle of child removal within their family.

Nicholas Varcoe and Kade Rzepecki

When a 14-year-old young woman in care tested positive with COVID-19, Nick Varcoe from Berry Street's Hume region immediately agreed to self-isolate with her for 14 days. Wearing full PPE and responding to ever-changing requirements, he focused on her wellbeing, meeting her needs and ensuring she remained engaged and isolated. Meanwhile, Kade Rzepecki supported three young people in the residential care unit who were now close contacts. He stayed in the unit 24/7 for 16 days. While other staff provided respite, he was a constant support for the young people – all while wearing full PPE and maintaining infection control.



Finalists

Kalun Atkinson – Berry Street

Yorta Yorta man Kalun Atkinson works with some of the most-high risk Aboriginal children and young people in the state. He has a unique ability to engage with these children individually, but also with the systems around them to encourage creative, contextual and culturally sensitive planning. With utter humility, he exercises both soft and hard skills to achieve outcomes for young people and their families that defy the expectations of other professionals involved. He worked with several high-risk young men on release from youth detention to successfully mitigate their risk of recidivism, linking them to employment and ensuring they had the resources they needed to sustain a job.

Matthew Telgenkamp – Berry Street

Matt Telgenkamp of Berry Street helped two brothers find permanent care in an LGBTIQ+ family. The boys had had many case workers since entering care, and had many placement breakdowns due to matters beyond their control. They were initially apprehensive about being placed with an LGBTIQ+ couple, but Matt worked with them over a period of time to help them understand this family was no different to any other. He prioritised their continuity of care, and empowered them to undertake the transition. The two boys now have permanent care orders granted, and the stability of a loving home that they both desired.

Nominees

Robin Clark Leadership Award



Belinda Callea



Mark Haynes



Deanne Carson



Prabhu Maligapogu



Phillip Doorgachurn (He/Him)



Clare McCrumlish



Alethea Harding



**North East Support
and Action for Youth**

Robin Clark Making a Difference Award



BCYF's play-based approach at Northern Bay Family Centre



Championing children with disability during COVID



BPA ENA Project



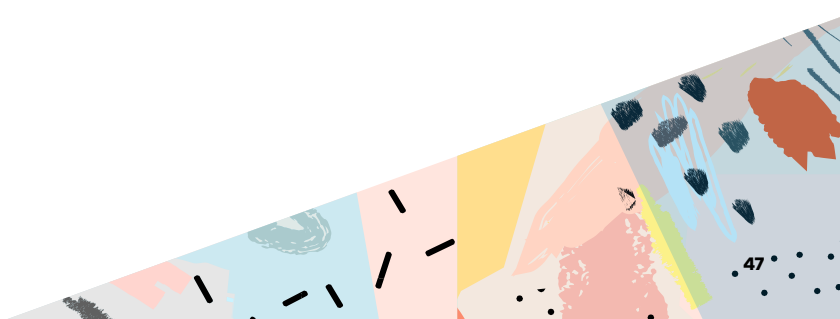
NEMA Care Team



Consumer-Led Service Enhancement – Creating a Truly Wonderful Family Experience



Kerryn Cua





Andrea Dunbar



North-East Melbourne Area Case Management (Child Protection Team)



Frances Head



Dr Lyndal Peake



NESAY Alpine Youth Support Services Team



Quantum Support Services Children, Better Futures Team



Niki Pillios



SMA Care Team



Nicola Watt



Victoria Police Frankston Mornington Peninsula Pro-Active Policing Team



Stephanie Wilkie

Minister's Award for Innovation in Protecting Children



Laura Baxter
Western Port Community Support



John Cheshire
Department of Families,
Fairness and Housing



BCYF's Extended Foster Family Model of Care
Barwon Child, Youth & Family





Emma van Daal
Emerge Womens and
Children Support Network



Peer Support Worker Changing Lives
Tweddle Child and
Family Health Service



HomeBase Mildura
Sunraysia Community Health Services



**The Aboriginal Family Preservation and
Reunification Response teams in Inner
East, Outer East and Ovens Murray**
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency



VACCA Cradle to Kinder Team
Queen Elizabeth Centre



Y Safeguarding

Carer Award



Julie Baird
OzChild



Chrissy Gordon
OzChild



Joseph and Eveline Fombason
MacKillop Family Services



Moiya Longin
Berry Street



Lisa and Ian Fothergill
OzChild



Cathryn McEwan
OzChild



Leonie Patterson
OzChild



Maureen Ryan
Key Assets



Sandra Rowe
Oz Child



Jim and Debbie Sheedy
Barwon Child, Youth & Family

Education Initiative Award



Berwick College



Paw Pals – Animal Assisted Education
MacKillop Family Services

Supporting Young People in Care



Contracted Case Management,
Team 2 – Adolescent



Jacinta Lucas



Benjamin Dunn



Malenie MacKay and Alex Alagona



Elgar Road Team



MacKillop Family Services



JH staffing group



Alison White

Judges

Judges

This year we had 13 judges, making up three panels, who completed the important task of assessing the nominations and recommending the nominees as finalists or winners to the Minister for Child Protection. We thank the judges who generously gave their time.

Georgette Antonas

Manager, Child and Family Reforms Unit – Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

Chris Asquini, PSM

Deputy Secretary, Community Services Operations Division, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Professor Muriel Bamblett AO

Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

Gill Callister, PSM

Chief Executive Officer, MIND

Jackie Cammell

Foster Carer, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

Dr Lisa Griffiths

Chief Executive Officer, OzChild

Tessa Hughes

Team Manager, Carer Information and Support Service, Foster Care Association of Victoria

Paul McDonald

Chief Executive Officer, Anglicare Victoria

Sam Patterson

Community Engagement Director, MacKillop Family Services

Michael Perusco

Chief Executive Officer, Berry Street

Teresa Scott

Board Director, National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Deb Tsorbaris

Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

Pam White

Retired

The integrity of the Awards requires that judges make every effort to avoid conflicts of interest or the perception of conflicts of interest. Where a relationship existed between a judge and a nominated organisation or individual that would prevent a judge from offering an unbiased evaluation or reaching an unbiased decision on the merits of the nomination, the judge has abstained from judging that nomination.

Partners



CREATE

CREATE Foundation would like to acknowledge the carers, workers, and agencies that play a huge role in supporting children and young people to have their voices heard within the out-of-home care sector. When these children and young people speak up they facilitate change not only for themselves but also for the system as a whole. Thanks for being the backbone for this change, your support has not gone unnoticed.



Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc.

As the peak body for Victoria's child and family services, the Centre is proud to celebrate the 2021 Victorian Protecting Children Awards. The Awards honour the hard work of our member organisations in supporting families, and working with government, to keep children safe.



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Commission for Children and Young People

The Commission for Children and Young People is committed to celebrating good practice in child protection and child and family services. Our partnership in these awards provides the opportunity to acknowledge services and individuals who are putting in extra effort to protect and support the rights of Victorian children and young people.

Previous winners of Robin Clark Awards

Robin Clark Memorial Award for Changing the definition of family*

WINNER	HIGHLY COMMENDED
2011	
Margaret Pawsey	Nathan Joyce
	Stephanie Ferguson
2012	
Cindy Lehmann, Carer of the Year	Sandra Walshe, Carer of the Year
Dorothy Bamblett, Aboriginal Carer of the Year	Raelene and Stephen Healy, Carer of the Year
2013	
Bev Briety, Carer of the Year	Vince Attard and Kym Phillips, Carer of the Year
Debbie Yarnold, Aboriginal Carer of the Year	Janet Stanton, Aboriginal Carer of the Year
2014	
Stephen Thomas and Rachel Kent, Carer of the Year	Vince Barker, Carer of the Year
Wendy Henry, Aboriginal Carer of the Year	Robert and Brigitte Baker, Care of the Year

* This award was discontinued in 2014 with the introduction of the Carer Award in 2015

Robin Clark Memorial Carer Award

WINNER	HIGHLY COMMENDED
2015	
Crystal Sheehan, Kinship Carer	
Natalie Borg, MacKillop Family Services	
2016	
Lowana Searle, Berry Street Gippsland	Mary Edwards, Kinship Carer
Helen Fox, OzChild Frankston North	Jenny Morgan, Somerville
2017	
Kerryn and Stephen Longmuir, Berry Street	
2018	
Leonie and Doug Tate	

Robin Clark Memorial Award for Making a difference with children, young people and families

WINNER	HIGHLY COMMENDED
2002	
Sofie Serafingos, Department of Human Services	
Vonda Coyne, Department of Health and Human Services	

WINNER

HIGHLY COMMENDED

2003

Yvonne Luke, Victorian Aboriginal
Community Services Association Ltd

Jenny Cummings, Berry Street,
Victoria

Cath Powell,
Department of Human Services

2004

Christine Connors,
Department of Human Services

Dianne Noyce, Lisa Lodge

Rob Ball, CREATE Foundation

2005

Veronica Hunt,
Department of Human Services

Pat Clinton, Berry Street, Victoria

Peter Locke,
Department of Human Services

Kylie Lonergan,
Department of Human Services

Mark Watt, Whitelion Inc.

2006

Faye Stanesby, City of Yarra

John Woolcock,
Peninsula Youth and Family Services

Carol Taylor, Ramayhuck District
Aboriginal Corporation

2007

Lisa Abbott,
Department of Human Services

Walda Blow,
Margaret Tucker Hostel for Girls

Joy Stewart,
Department of Human Services

WINNER

HIGHLY COMMENDED

2008

Dr Peter Eastaugh, Consultant,
General and Community Paediatrics

Michelle Shipperlee,
Department of Human Services

Mara Long,
Department of Human Services

Carolyn Worth, South Eastern Centre
Against Sexual Assault

2009

Veronica Martin, Department
of Human Services

Jeanette Webb,
Department of Human Services

Robyn Di Virgillo, CARA Inc.

Brigitte Boulet, Anglicare Victoria

2010

Ruth Dorman,
Mackillop Family Services

Lisa Sunderland,
Department of Human Services

Sebastian LaSpina,
Department of Human Services

2011

Maureen Smythe,
Melbourne City Mission

George Habib,
Department of Human Services

Sarah Covill, Jesuit Social Services

**WINNER****HIGHLY COMMENDED****2012**

Jim Allen, Anglicare Victoria

Shane Murphy, Barwon Youth

Helen Landau and Rosemary Paterson,
Anglicare Victoria

Marea Franes,
Department of Human Services

2013

Maree Corbo, Kildonan Uniting Care

Monica Tulloch,
Department of Human Services

Youth and Family Services Team,
UnityCare ReGen

2014

Supporting Kids and Youth,
Victorian Association for the Care
and Resettlement of Offenders

Barbara McIvor, Lighthouse Foundation

Peter Toohey,
Department of Human Services

2015

Bobby Cunningham,
Gunditjmara Aboriginal Coop

Garyth Hampson,
Concern Australia Dandenong

Mallee Care Team,
Mallee Family Care Mildura

WINNER**HIGHLY COMMENDED****2016**

CREATE Foundation – Victoria Team

Wendy Lovett,
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

Rhiannon Walker,
MacKillop Family Services Footscray

Wayne Clarke,
Jesuit Social Services Dandenong

2017

Anita Pell, Berry Street

2018

Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal
Care Pilot, Bendigo and District
Aboriginal Cooperative

2019

The Family Drug Treatment Court

Family Focus MST Program,
MacKillop Family Services

Robin Clark Memorial Award for inspirational leadership in the field**WINNER****HIGHLY COMMENDED****2002**

Sherrie Coote, Consultant

Dr Leanne Rowe,
In the area of Youth health

Jo Cavanagh,
South Family Life Service Association



WINNER

HIGHLY COMMENDED

2003

Muriel Cadd,
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

Glenys Bristow,
Salvation Army Westcare

2004

Heather Ploeger,
City of Greater Geelong

Dr Lynda Campbell,
University of Melbourne

2005

Margaret Chipperfield,
Anglicare Victoria

2006

Nola Ganly,
Department of Human Services

Karen Widars,
Department of Human Services

2007

Paul Linossier,
MacKillop Family Services

Michael Nauthton,
Department of Human Services

WINNER

HIGHLY COMMENDED

2008

Sandie de Wolf, AM, Berry Street

John Bonnice, St Luke's Anglicare

Sue Medson,
ex Goulburn Valley Family Care

2010

Robyn Miller,
Department of Human Services

Joanne Badke, Bendigo and District
Aboriginal Co-operative

John Avent, Salvation Army Westcare

2011

Joanna Eccleston,
Department of Human Services

Michael O'Kelly, Wesley Mission Victoria

2012

Connie Salamone, VACCA

Kevin Zibell,
Child and Family Services Ballarat

Marg Hamley,
Berry Street Childhood Institute

2013

Noel McNamara,
Australian Childhood Foundation

Val Ayres-Wearne,
Kildonan UnitingCare



WINNER

2014

Micaela Cronin,
MacKillop Family Services

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Susan Barton, Lighthouse Foundation

Angela Forbes,
Connections UnitingCare

2015

Denise Harrison, Department of
Health and Human Services

2016

Jenny Glare,
MacKillop Family Services

Stella Avramopoulos,
Kildonan UnitingCare Collingwood

2017

Paul McDonald, Anglicare Victoria

2018

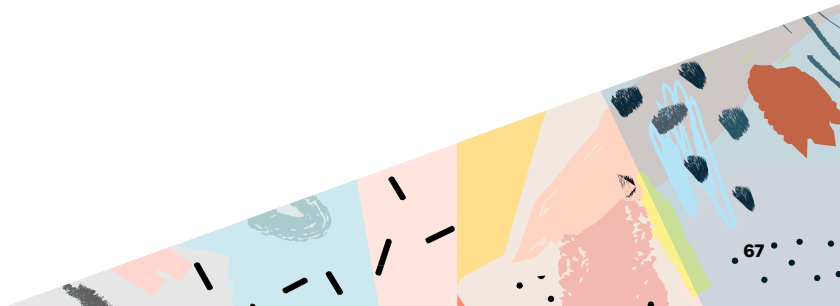
Building the Resilience of Children and
Young People Living in Residential Out
of Home Care, Soula Kontomichalos
and Richard Watkins

2019

Karen Hogan,
The Gatehouse Centre,
Royal Children's Hospital

Sue Anne Hunter,
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

Gerard Jones,
MacKillop Family Services





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This publication may contain images of deceased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In this document, 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 'Indigenous' or 'Koori/Koorie' is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

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