

Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Workplace Safety

Minister for Early Childhood



Tuesday, 7 September 2021

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR VICTORIAN EARLY YEARS AWARDS

Outstanding contributions from our early childhood organisations and professionals are being celebrated at the Victorian Early Years Awards (VEYA), with finalists short-listed for their dedication to early education.

Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt today announced 19 VEYA finalists across seven award categories – recognising the outstanding achievements of both individuals and organisations in the early childhood sector by creating positive opportunities and educational outcomes for children.

The awards celebrate educators and organisations who have done incredible work improving engagement in learning, supporting parents, building collaborative community partnerships, improving child health and wellbeing, exemplary practice in early childhood education, leadership, and significant service improvement.

Winners in each category will receive a grant of up to \$15,000 for professional development or to support their nominated initiative in kindergartens, schools, local councils, maternal child and health services and other early years organisations across the state.

Finalists in each category are also eligible to win the prestigious Minister's Award, selected by the Minister for Early Childhood.

Now in its 16th year, the Victorian Early Years Awards celebrate the commitment, resilience and flexibility demonstrated by the entire sector – helping give our young children the best start to life.

Winners will be announced on Wednesday, 10 November in accordance with any pandemic restrictions.

For the full list of finalists, visit: education.vic.gov.au/veya.

In an Australian first, the Victorian Government is investing almost \$5 billion this decade to provide three-year-old children with access to an additional year of funded kindergarten programs.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt

"Congratulations to the Victorian Early Years Awards finalists, the teams who support them, and the strength of the sector for their continued passion and commitment to improving the educational outcomes of our children."

"These awards reflect the unwavering dedication and hard work in the early childhood sector to ensure our children have the best start to life, irrespective of the ongoing pandemic pressures."