

# Media Release

**The Hon Anthony Carbines MP**  
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers  
Minister for Child Protection and Family Services



Monday, 11 April 2022

## CELEBRATING OUR UNSUNG HEROES WHO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

Victorians are encouraged to celebrate the dedicated people who protect children by nominating them for the Victorian Protecting Children Awards.

This year's awards will include 11 categories, including the Minister's Award for Innovation in Protecting Children, the Robin Clark Making a Difference and Leadership Awards, the Engaging Kids in School Award and the Walda Blow Aboriginal Children and Young People Award.

The awards recognise achievements in both the child and family services sector and child protection. Nominations are open for child protection practitioners, carers, academics, policy advisors, community sector staff, education programs and people working in child and family services.

Last year's awards recognised Beth Allen for her career championing evidence-based, system-wide reforms and placing the voices of clients at the centre of child protection. Her pioneering work was pivotal to the Victorian Government's transformation of the child and family system through its *Roadmap for Reform*.

In 2021, the Caring Dads program at Kids First Australia took home the Minister's Award for Innovation in Protecting Children, for their Australian-first violence early intervention program that engages fathers and develops parenting skills.

Nominations for this year's Victorian Protecting Children Awards close on Friday 20 May. Winners will be announced at a special event held during Child Protection Week from 4-10 September.

To find out more and to nominate someone, visit [dffh.vic.gov.au/victorian-protecting-children-awards](https://dffh.vic.gov.au/victorian-protecting-children-awards).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Child Protection and Family Services Anthony Carbines

*"If you know someone doing outstanding work helping at-risk children and families, I encourage you to nominate them."*

*"These awards celebrate the exceptional workers, carers and community members who go above and beyond to help those in need and make real change."*

*"It's been extraordinary to see how the children and families sector came together during the pandemic to support families in new and innovative ways."*