

Media Release

The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples



Sunday, 3 July 2022

CELEBRATING ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE IN NAIDOC WEEK

The Andrews Labor Government is celebrating the outstanding contributions, achievements and excellence of Aboriginal Victorians at events across Melbourne this NAIDOC Week.

For the first time in 10 years, Melbourne is the focus city for National NAIDOC Week.

Events kicked off on Saturday with the National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony to celebrate the hard work and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to improving the lives of those in their communities and beyond.

Later this week, the NAIDOC State Reception and the Victorian NAIDOC Ball will honour and pay tribute to Aboriginal culture, history and achievements.

This year's theme of *'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!'* encourages everyone to champion institutional, structural and collaborative change, while celebrating those who have already driven and led change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities over generations.

Victoria is leading the nation with Treaty and Truth, including the truth-telling Yoorrook Justice Commission that continues to hold hearings across Victoria. Victoria's work towards treaty and truth embodies this theme.

The *Victorian Budget 2022/23* includes an investment of nearly \$1 million to support Aboriginal Community cultural events.

The Government is an official sponsor of National NAIDOC Week and the National Awards Ceremony, as well as funding the Victorian NAIDOC Committee to deliver events and activities across the state to mark the week.

For more information on NAIDOC Week events this year, visit vicnaidoc.com.au and naidoc.org.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Gabrielle Williams

"NAIDOC events celebrate the rich histories and cultures of First Peoples who have championed change, creating a better and fairer future for all Victorians and the many generations to come."

"NAIDOC Week reinforces the importance of honouring the oldest living culture in history and the historic steps taken on our shared journey towards treaty and truth-telling, after decades of tireless advocacy."

Winners of the 2022 Victorian NAIDOC Awards

Ms NAIDOC	Naomi Bamblett
Mr NAIDOC	Yemurrki Egan
NAIDOC Patron	Henry Atkinson
NAIDOC Sports person	Nikita Rotumah
NAIDOC Care for Country	Stevie-Lee Ryan

The recipient of the NAIDOC LGBTQIA+ Pride Award will be announced at the 2022 Victorian NAIDOC LGBTQIA+ Pride Night on 6 July 2022.