

Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Monday, 21 July 2025

AWARDS OPEN FOR VICTORIAN MULTICULTURAL CHAMPIONS

The Allan Labor Government and Victorian Multicultural Commission are inviting Victorians to shine a spotlight on individuals and organisations who strengthen Victoria through leadership and commitment to diversity.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt today opened nominations for the 2025 Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence, now in their 24th year.

The annual awards celebrate outstanding contributions that promote inclusion, build community connections and support a fair and welcoming Victoria for everyone.

Nominees can be recognised for both paid and voluntary work, with winners to be celebrated at a special ceremony later this year.

There are 14 award categories in 2025, including the Arts, Business and Employment, Emergency Services, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Sport, Youth Leadership, the Multicultural Honour Roll and the Premier's Award for Community Harmony.

Among last year's recipients were:

- Rasha Abbas, who was recognised in the Refugee Leadership Award category for her work in championing the rights and wellbeing of Palestinian and vulnerable migrant communities
- Sotiris Hatzimanolis, who received the Media Award for championing Greek Australian journalism and leading Neos Kosmos through a successful bilingual transition
- Ali Agha Wali Zada, who earned the Youth Leadership Award for his advocacy on mental health awareness and cultural inclusion among young people.

Nominations will close at 11.59pm on 27 August 2025. For more information and to submit a nomination, visit multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/multicultural-awards-for-excellence.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt

"Victoria's diversity is one of our greatest strengths – and these awards are about recognising the people and organisations who work every day to make our communities stronger, fairer and more connected."

"Whether they're mentoring young people, creating cultural spaces or breaking down barriers, I look forward to celebrating the incredible work of our multicultural champions."

Quotes attributable to Victorian Multicultural Commission Chairperson Vivienne Nguyen AM

"These awards highlight the remarkable people who are helping to shape a more inclusive Victoria — their efforts are often quiet, but their impact is profound."

"If you know someone making a difference in their community, I encourage you to nominate them and help us tell their story."

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