

APPENDIX V.

Multicultural Awards for Excellence Recipients 2019

Premier's Award for Community Harmony

Nyadol Nyuon

Outside her work as a commercial litigator, Nyadol is an advocate for human rights, multiculturalism, the settlement of refugees and people seeking asylum and has volunteered extensively in these areas for more than 10 years.

In 2019, Nyadol was also recognised as one of the Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence for her contribution to diversity and inclusion, and has twice been nominated as one of the hundred most influential African Australians.

Emerging Leadership in Multiculturalism Award

Christian Bashimbe

Since arriving in Australia in 2017, Christian has supported young refugees and migrants from the Democratic Republic of Congo to build their capabilities and

showcase their skills, culture and traditions to broader Victoria. Christian led a committee to organise the 2019 Afro Beat Festival, and has been pivotal in raising awareness of major issues facing young refugees and migrants as a member of the Multicultural Youth Network and when attending the 2019 FUSE Youth Summit National Conference.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Eh Su

Community Innovation Award

Cooking: The Art of Belonging by Wellsprings for Women

Cooking: The Art of Belonging, aimed to use the medium of cooking and sharing food as an avenue for reducing social isolation and generating intercultural connection in women of diverse cultural backgrounds. A series of community events hosted by women in the group, showcased

dishes from their cultures, as well as supporting participants to complete food handling accreditation. Some of the women in the program have gone on to start their own catering businesses, and the events have become a safe and joyous space for these women to share their voices and actively bring their diverse communities together.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Kulturbrille

Youth Award

Selin-Deniz Arpacı

Selin's love of football motivated her to become a Community Champion for Hume's Centre for Multicultural Youth. In 2018, Selin assisted with 12 in-school football sessions for primary and secondary students, the Welcome Football Cup in Hume and a school holiday program. Selin was actively involved in developing strategies to engage young girls who were unaccustomed to participating in sport. Her commitment to encouraging these girls and share her own experiences was reflected in participants and their families sharing that Selin made them feel more confident and connected to community.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Yasac Abdullahi

Media Award

SBS Somali and SBS Italian

After the tragic events of Melbourne's Bourke Street attack in 2017, SBS Somali and SBS Italian



Emerging Leadership in Multiculturalism Award recipient Christian Bashime with Vivienne Nguyen, VMC Chairperson at the Multicultural Awards for Excellence at Government House in November 2019.

coverage helped to defy negative stereotypes of Victoria's Somali and Muslim communities, and reinforced compassion and mutual understanding. By covering the story in both mainstream and in-language media, communities were able to hear about the events in their own language. SBS's coverage conveyed that the tragic events that occurred were inflicted by one man and do not reflect the values and beliefs of Victoria's Somali and Muslim communities. SBS reached out to beloved representatives of the Italian, Somali and Muslim communities and enabled each community to share their messages of healing, unity and condolences to Sisto Malaspina's family and the wider Victoria community.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Yin Wu

Multicultural Business Award

Preston Chassis Industries

Founded in the late 1970s by two Italian migrants, the company has grown to be a leader in their industry and an employer of choice. With a strong belief in the benefits of diversity and a commitment to maximising opportunities for people from multicultural backgrounds, the company employs staff from more than 20 cultures and faiths. A long-time employer of skilled migrants under the Australian Government's 457 skilled visa program, the company has supported several staff to apply for permanent residency. Their dedication to this program has made for a rich and dynamic workplace, with a welcoming and generous culture.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Thrive Refugee Enterprise

Government and Civic Leadership Award

City of Greater Bendigo

The City of Greater Bendigo has shown leadership and a commitment to developing a community that fosters culturally inclusive attitudes and practice and welcomes increased diversity. The Greater Bendigo Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2016-2019 was an ambitious, community-wide, strategic program of 146 initiatives to advance cultural inclusion. The City of Greater Bendigo worked proactively with local schools, Victoria Police and community organisations to deliver the initiatives, which have assisted the effective settlement of new migrants and refugees, raised community awareness about human rights issues, celebrated different cultures, promoted religious and cultural awareness and supported community participation.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Greater Shepparton City Council

Education and Early Childhood Award

SCHOOL EDUCATION Melton Secondary College

Melton Secondary College responded to the steady increase in enrolment of students of South Sudanese heritage with a range of programs focused on mentoring and community engagement, to build a culturally rich and supportive college community. The approach has been highly effective in improving outcomes for students of African heritage, including reducing the number and severity of adverse incidents,

increasing participation of African families at student progress and careers sessions, increasing student participation and improving overall students' perceptions of diversity. The college has earned praise for the quality and impact of its programs and continues to share their work with other schools through forums and programs, working to ensure that all schools are not just culturally safe and inclusive places for learning, but embedded in communities enriched by cultural diversity.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Merrilyn Gaulke, Crusoe College and White Hills Primary School

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION VICSEG New Futures

VICSEG New Future's Learning Together program addresses barriers to learning English for over 300 parents and 500 young Victorian children each year. Delivered with support from local primary schools and settlement services, the program provides a supported learning environment, combining a pre-accredited English literacy course for parents, on-site child care and playgroup activities for parents and children to enjoy together. Parents are encouraged to connect with their child's home culture and 'mother tongue', while learning more English language words and concepts alongside their child. Learning Together has been found to have overwhelming positive outcomes for both parents and children, and the program has successfully engaged parents from a range of cultural and language backgrounds and has proved equally valuable across participating communities.

Police Awards

POLICE MULTICULTURAL AWARD

- ▶ Leading Senior Constable Dean Lloyd
- ▶ Ela Tankir
- ▶ Leading Senior Constable Gordon Exner
- ▶ Senior Constable Paul Guy
- ▶ Inspector Jackie Poida
- ▶ Senior Constable Shanice Vilone
- ▶ Leading Senior Constable Elizabeth Sidiropoulos

POLICE MULTICULTURAL MEDIA AWARD

- ▶ Cathy Le

POLICE COMMUNITY EXEMPLARY AWARD

- ▶ Victoria Police Applicant Attraction Team
- ▶ Greater Dandenong Youth and Emerging Community Leaders Program
- ▶ Victorian Fisheries Authority
- ▶ Dr Hussein Haraco
- ▶ Williamstown Police Station Diversity & Inclusion Room
- ▶ Wyndham Citizens' Academy

Award for Meritorious Service to the Community

INDIVIDUALS – VOLUNTARY WORK

- ▶ Aanchal Meshram
- ▶ Abdu Hamid Abdullahi Mohamed
- ▶ Abhishek Awasthi
- ▶ Adem Osman Malekin
- ▶ Barry Berih
- ▶ Bhakta Bhattarai
- ▶ Fathi Abdulkadir
- ▶ Gurpreet (Gary) Verma
- ▶ Gulghotai Bezhan
- ▶ Kapil Thakkar
- ▶ Kaushal Srivastava
- ▶ Maria Ibrahim
- ▶ Mohammed Shabbir Alam
- ▶ Dr Raju Adhikari
- ▶ Robert Aduer Ring
- ▶ Satya Ramadugu
- ▶ Selba Gondoza Luka
- ▶ Shoheli Sunjida
- ▶ Sohail Yamin
- ▶ Tania de Jong AM
- ▶ Vahid Goga
- ▶ Xiao Yue Wang

INDIVIDUALS – PAID WORK

- ▶ David Rothstadt
- ▶ Major Karen Elkington
- ▶ Xavier Moloney

ORGANISATIONS

- ▶ Australian Integrated Fijian Association of Victoria
- ▶ Bachar Houli Foundation
- ▶ St Paul's Catholic Social Club's Mirboo North Italian Festa Committee
- ▶ Tesselaar Tulip Festival
- ▶ The Boite
- ▶ Victorian Cultural Association



VMC Director Hakan Akyol with a guest at the Multicultural Awards for Excellence at Government House in November 2019.