

# Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence

2026

VICTORIAN  
multicultural  
commission  
strengthening our community



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## About the Awards

Established in 2002 and now in its 25th year, the Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence (MAEs) are coordinated by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC). The MAEs honour individuals and organisations who made outstanding contributions to strengthen Victoria's diverse communities and enhance intercultural and interfaith understanding.

The MAEs promote the Victorian Government's commitment to multiculturalism and highlight the goodwill and remarkable efforts of people who help attain and recognise access, equity and community harmony.

Alongside the MAEs, the Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll recognises the efforts of individuals who have made exceptional and lasting contributions to multiculturalism in Victoria.

*There are several changes to the MAEs this year. Please review this document thoroughly.*

## Key stages and dates

Milestone	Date
Nominations open	Monday 4 May 2026
Nominations close	Monday 13 July 2026 (by 11:59pm)
Judging period	August – Mid September 2026
Recipients advised	Late September 2026
Awards ceremony	Wednesday 14 October 2026

# Award categories

The 2026 Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence recognise outstanding individuals and organisations across 13 categories.

VICTORIA'S HIGHEST MULTICULTURAL HONOUR

## Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll

SELECTED BY THE PREMIER

## Premier's Award for Intercultural Connection

Arts and Culture

Business and Employment

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Media

Prevention of Family Violence

Public Sector Diversity and Inclusion

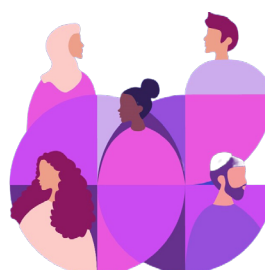
Refugee Leadership

Refugee Youth Leadership

Sport and Recreation

Police

Youth Leadership



## Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll

### Award description

The Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll recognises the efforts of individuals who have made exceptional and lasting contributions to multiculturalism in Victoria.

### Eligibility

Self-nominations are accepted. Nominees must:

- reside in Victoria
- be an Australian resident (temporary or permanent)
- have a culturally or linguistically diverse background
- have 10 or more years of experience working with, or for the benefit of, multicultural and/or multifaith communities

Please note organisations are ineligible for the Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll.

### Assessment criteria

- Has made a lasting contribution to multiculturalism in Victoria.
- Demonstrates an impact on the multicultural community in Victoria.
- Demonstrates commitment to the Victorian multicultural community.

### Submission questions

- How have the nominee's activities and achievements made an exceptional and lasting contribution to multiculturalism in Victoria? (400 words)  
*Describe why the nominee deserves this recognition and highlight the significance, quality and impact of their actions, leadership and achievements.*
- How will the nominee's achievements impact future generations? (350 words)  
*Identify lasting contributions that have widespread or long-term benefits to the multicultural community in Victoria, Australia or internationally.*
- Which multicultural communities has the nominee supported, and how has this support made a positive difference in their lives? (250 words)  
*Explain how the nominee's involvement has led to meaningful, transformational or lasting contribution in the lives of Victorian multicultural individuals or communities.*

Maximum word limits are provided as a guide only, you are not required to use the full word count.

## Other categories

### Important information for all categories

Across all MAE categories\*:

- there will be one organisation and one individual recipient
- self-nominations are accepted
- nominees must reside in Victoria or be a Victorian-based organisation operating or delivering services in Victoria
- either be from a multicultural background or dedicate their work to multiculturalism in Victoria
- the nomination activity must be specific to Victoria
- individuals and organisations can be nominated for paid or voluntary work
- nominators must inform the individual/organisation they are nominating and seek their permission to do so
- multiple organisations or teams working together are eligible

\*The Police Award category follows a different process, see page 13.

### Receiving multiple nominations for the same category

Across all MAE categories, only 1 nomination will be scored, per nominee.

If an individual or organisation has been nominated more than once, the nominee will be asked to select 1 primary application within a set timeframe. All other applications will be provided to judges as supporting documentation.

Please note, receiving multiple nominations does not increase the chance of winning an award.

### Nomination Questions

- How does the nominee meet the assessment criteria? (400 words)  
*Explain how the nominee's actions, leadership and achievements align with the assessment criteria. Use specific examples or case studies to demonstrate why the nominee deserves this recognition and highlight the significance, quality and impact of their contribution.*
- What impact and outcomes did the nominee's project or activity have on multicultural communities? (350 words)  
*Describe the overall impact of the nominee's work, including key outcomes, measurable results or transformational change. Explain how these outcomes have contributed to sustained or long-term benefits for Victorian multicultural communities.*
- Which multicultural communities benefit from the nominee's project or activity, and how so? (250 words)  
*Identify the multicultural individuals or communities engaged by the nominee and describe how their project or activity has positively affected these communities. Focus on the nature and depth of benefit, including any meaningful or lasting change.*

Please provide a 50-word statement about the nominee that can be used for marketing purposes. (50 words) NOTE: This question will not be judged and does not contribute to the nominee's score.

Maximum word limits are provided as a guide only, you are not required to use the full word count.

## Premier's Award for Intercultural Connection

### Award description

Recognising an individual or an organisation that has made a significant contribution to increasing understanding, acceptance and cooperation between different faith and cultural groups.

The Premier of Victoria will select two recipients of this award (one individual and one organisation), following assessment of eligible nominations. The eligible nominations shortlist will be pulled from submissions provided for this category or any nomination shortlist by the judging panel in any other Award category.

### Eligibility

- Individuals, community groups, organisations, businesses, corporations and local governments

### Assessment criteria

- Undertakes initiatives with multiple organisations, individuals or groups seeking to increase understanding and acceptance between cultural or religious groups.
- Leads initiatives that promote acceptance of other cultures and religions.
- Initiates community activities involving more than one cultural or faith group working together on a community project that demonstrates or promotes harmony.

## Arts and Culture

### Award description

Recognising artists, performers and organisations that develop and implement arts or cultural programs or initiatives that improve intercultural learning or social cohesion through participation and performance.

### Eligibility

- Individuals, community groups, organisations that develop and implement arts or cultural programs or initiatives.
- For example, artists and arts centres, filmmakers, authors, dance companies, cooking classes or cultural classes.

### Assessment criteria

- Promotes, supports and preserves cultural expression through the arts or other programs.
- Cultivates the talents of culturally and religiously diverse artists through participation and performance.
- Builds social cohesion and fosters intercultural understanding by creating opportunities for collaboration and performance.

## Business and Employment

### Award description

Recognising businesses and employment pathways that provide outstanding service to Victorian multicultural communities and lead the way in building a culturally and religiously diverse and culturally safe workplace.

Businesses who support the employment, contribution and/or participation of those who arrived as refugees or asylum seekers are encouraged to apply. For newly arrived Victorians, workforce participation and easy access to culturally appropriate services are crucial to developing a sense of belonging and purpose.

### Eligibility

- Individuals, businesses and organisations whose focus is the inclusion of cultural diversity in their workforce, products and/or services.
- For example, the nominee may have driven change through advocacy, training or programs that support people who arrived as refugees or asylum seekers.

### Assessment criteria

- Develops innovative internal practices that demonstrate the benefits of multiculturalism.
- Implements effective business practices to increase employment for people with multicultural backgrounds.
- Uses innovative marketing and communications strategies to engage multicultural audiences with their service or product.
- Uses a multilingual workforce to engage the community.

## Media

### Award description

Recognising reporting, coverage or content:

- of issues of importance to culturally and religiously diverse communities
- that contributes to improved cross-cultural understanding among Victorians
- that promotes multiculturalism, harmony and inclusion through traditional or new media.

### Eligibility

- Individual journalists or a media communicator, team or organisation, for work published/broadcast between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.
- Both traditional media (television, radio, newspapers, magazines) and new media (blogs, social media, podcasts).
- Proof of original work is required (submitted as supporting documentation).
- For example, radio stations or podcasters that reported on current affairs relevant to culturally diverse Victorians.

## Assessment criteria

- Increases awareness and understanding of multicultural affairs in Victoria.
- Shows sensitive understanding of a relevant issue affecting or involving multicultural or multifaith communities.
- Has a constructive impact on Victorians and builds or supports social cohesion.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

### Award description

Recognising mental health practitioners, researchers, volunteers and organisations that address the needs of people with culturally diverse backgrounds and/or provide outstanding mental health and wellbeing care, support or services to multicultural communities.

### Eligibility

- Individuals, businesses and organisations who focus on delivering mental health awareness, mental health training, research and/or mental health initiatives that support and address the mental health needs of multicultural communities.
- For example, a service provider or community organisation that focuses on improving mental health outcomes for multicultural Victorians.

### Assessment criteria

- Addresses the mental health and wellbeing needs of culturally diverse Victorians through culturally appropriate services or research.
- Fosters cultural diversity and inclusion in the mental health and wellbeing healthcare system and increases cultural awareness within the workforce.
- Promotes or supports effective mental health and wellbeing messaging for culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse Victorians.

## Prevention of Family Violence

### Award description

Recognising family violence practitioners, researchers, volunteers and organisations that address the needs of people with culturally and religiously diverse backgrounds and/or provide outstanding family violence services to multicultural communities.

### Eligibility

- Individuals, businesses and organisations who focus on delivering prevention of family violence awareness, training, research and/or family violence initiatives that support and address the challenges of multicultural communities.
- For example, a community organisation that aims to prevent family violence through campaigns and awareness raising activities.

## Assessment criteria

- Addresses the family violence needs of culturally and religiously diverse Victorians through culturally appropriate services or research.
- Fosters cultural diversity and inclusion in the family violence system and increases cultural awareness within the workforce.
- Promotes or supports effective awareness about family violence for culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse Victorians.

## Public Sector Diversity and Inclusion

### Award description

Recognising:

- **Victorian public sector:** A Victorian Government department, agency, statutory authority or entity that has demonstrated outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion by improving outcomes for multicultural communities.
- **Local councils:** Local government authorities (councils) for major initiatives that meet the needs of their culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse communities.
- **Emergency services:** Individuals, units, clubs or stations, working or volunteering for Victoria's emergency services who promote and champion cultural diversity and address the specific needs of multicultural communities.

### Eligibility

Individuals, organisations, business units/teams, or multiple departments/agencies working together, from:

- Victorian Public Service (Victorian government departments, statutory authorities, and agencies).
- Victorian Public entities (bodies established by an Act or Minister, for example, AMES Australia, Development Victoria, Geelong Cemeteries Trust).
- Victorian local government authorities / municipal councils.
- Emergency services sector, including:
  - Ambulance Victoria
  - Australian Red Cross
  - Country Fire Authority
  - Fire Rescue Victoria
  - Forest Fire Management Victoria
  - Life Saving Victoria
  - Marine Search and Rescue
  - State Emergency Service
  - Triple Zero Victoria

Initiatives may relate to internal workforce diversity and inclusion or external service delivery.

Please note elected officials at any level of government, including councillors, are ineligible for any Awards.

## Assessment criteria

- Addresses and responds to specific needs of multicultural and multifaith communities through service delivery, communications, community engagement, programs or policy, while demonstrating measurable outcomes or impact for multicultural communities (e.g. increased access, participation, satisfaction, or representation).
- Fosters cultural diversity and inclusion, or builds capability and cultural awareness in the public sector through innovative internal practices (e.g. through training, partnerships, co-design or workforce initiatives).
- Promotes greater communication and access between culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse communities and the public sector.
- Promotes the benefits of cultural diversity and builds social cohesion within communities through engagement and awareness activities.

## Refugee Leadership

### Award description

Recognising individuals and organisations that demonstrate outstanding leadership in supporting newly arrived refugees and people seeking asylum through advocacy, education, employment, business, entrepreneurship or volunteering.

Nominees may have advocated for the rights and needs of newly arrived refugees and people seeking asylum, improved access to settlement services and expanded employment pathways, or created opportunities for participation, contribution and belonging.

### Eligibility

- Community groups and organisations that support or advocate for the rights and needs of refugees and people seeking asylum, including refugee-led organisations.
- Individuals from asylum seeker or refugee backgrounds, or born to parents of migrant and refugee backgrounds, who demonstrate outstanding leadership and achievement in the community.

### Assessment criteria

- Effectively supports or advocates for the rights and needs of newly arrived refugees and people seeking asylum.
- Improves access for refugees and people seeking asylum to settlement services and/or employment pathways and opportunities.
- Creates opportunities for refugees and people seeking asylum to participate, contribute and belong.

## Refugee Youth Leadership

### Award description

Recognising young individuals and organisations that demonstrate outstanding leadership in supporting newly arrived refugees and people seeking asylum through advocacy, education, employment, business, entrepreneurship or volunteering.

Young nominees may have advocated for the rights and needs of newly arrived refugees and people seeking asylum, improved access to settlement services and expanded employment pathways, or created opportunities for participation, contribution and belonging.

## Eligibility

- Community groups and organisations, run by people aged 25 years old and under, that support or advocate for the rights and needs of refugees and people seeking asylum, including refugee-led organisations.
- Individuals aged 25 years old and under, from a refugee or asylum seeker background, or born to parents of a refugee or asylum seeker background, who demonstrate outstanding leadership and achievement in the community.

## Assessment criteria

- Effectively supports or advocates for the rights and needs of newly arrived refugees and people seeking asylum.
- Improves access for refugees and people seeking asylum to settlement services and/or employment pathways and opportunities.
- Creates opportunities for refugees and people seeking asylum to participate, contribute and belong.

## Sport and Recreation

### Award description

Recognising individuals and organisations that develop and implement sporting and recreation programs that aim to build social cohesion and harmony across or within multicultural communities.

### Eligibility

- Individuals, community groups and organisations who develop and implement sporting and recreation programs or activities or who promote multicultural understanding.
- For example, individual and organisations working across sports clubs, and traditional or cultural recreation activities like tai chi or yoga.

### Assessment criteria

- Develops innovative internal practices that demonstrate the benefits of multiculturalism.
- Promotes cultural diversity within sport or recreation and fosters intercultural understanding and inclusion.
- Increases participation of Victorians from culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse backgrounds in sport or recreation.

## Youth Leadership

### Award description

Recognising the outstanding contributions of a young person, group or organisation that provides leadership, empowerment and support to young Victorians from culturally diverse backgrounds.

### Eligibility

- Individuals aged 25 years old and under, or community groups or organisations run by people aged 25 years old and under, who provide leadership and support to young multicultural Victorians.

### Assessment criteria

- Supports young people from culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse communities to participate and contribute to society.
- Successfully implements a program or initiative designed to resolve, or aim to resolve, an issue affecting culturally diverse youth in their community.
- Actively promotes and builds community understanding and engagement through volunteering or paid work.

## Police

### Award description

Recognising outstanding contributions to multicultural harmony in the field of policing. Police categories include:

- Police Annual Multicultural Award
- Police Community Exemplary Award
- Police Multicultural Media Award
- Police Annual Protective Service Officer Multicultural Award

#### Police Annual Multicultural Award

Recognises a police employee who has established relationships with multicultural communities by developing innovative strategies.

**Eligibility:** Victoria Police employees.

#### Police Multicultural Media Award

Recognises a police employee who communicates police/multicultural issues via ethnic and/or mainstream media outlets.

**Eligibility:** Victoria Police employees.

#### Protective Service Officer Multicultural Award

Recognises a Protective Service Officer who has established relationships with multicultural communities by developing innovative strategies.

**Eligibility:** Victoria Police Protective Service Officers.

#### Police Community Exemplary Award

This award is open to police, a community group/provider or a community person/s. This award recognises the development of innovative strategies and initiatives that promote positive relations between Police and multicultural communities.

**Eligibility:** Members of Victoria Police, community groups/providers and/or the community.

#### NOTE:

- Victoria Police independently assess the police award category.
- All nominations for this category are still required to undergo screening as per other categories.

For all information about how to make a nomination for the Victoria Police Multicultural Awards, please contact: Bruce Colcott, Priority and Safer Communities Division, Victoria Police by email at [bruce.colcott@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:bruce.colcott@police.vic.gov.au)

# How to nominate

## Step one

Read this nomination guide, including the terms and conditions below, and review the submission requirements of entry for the awards.

## Step two

Determine who to nominate – an individual or organisation/team. Nominators must ensure that they have gained consent and have notified the nominee of the submission.

## Step three

Register with [Award Force](https://vmc.awardsplatform.com/) (the online nomination platform) <<https://vmc.awardsplatform.com/>>.

## Step four

Log in to Award Force and fill out the nomination form by typing directly into the electronic form, making sure you keep within the allowed word count.

Include the name and contact details of two referees who can confirm the accuracy of the submission and verify the nominee or the nominated team's eligibility for an award.

The referees must be independent from the nominator or nominee and not be from a family member or someone whom the nominee is related to.

Include any supporting documentation (refer to page 16).

## Step five

Complete and submit your online nomination(s) by the deadline via Award Force.

## Step six (if shortlisted)

If shortlisted, each individual nominee will be required to complete a National Police Check within the required timeframe. Instructions on how to complete a Police Check will be provided by the VMC at a later stage.

Teams or organisations are not required to complete National Police Checks.

# Information required to submit a nomination

## Nominee details

- Name
- Email
- Mobile
- Date of birth (for Refugee Youth Leadership Award and Youth Leadership Award)
- Gender
- Nominee's suburb
- Social media profiles or account names (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn)
- Cultural background

## A photo of the nominee

For individual nominees, please provide a high-resolution professional head shot.

For organisation nominees, please provide a high-resolution logo (png or jpg file minimum 1 meg).

## Response to nomination questions

A response to all nomination questions is required. Judges will assess responses to all questions.

## Referee details and support letters

### Referees

A referee is an individual who can, when requested, provide an independent assessment of a person's character, abilities, performance or suitability to receive an Award. Referees should be able speak credibly about the applicant based on direct experience. Referees should know the nominee well be able to confirm their achievements and information about the project or activity for which they are being nominated.

All nominations must include the contact details of two (2) referees. The VMC may contact referees to verify information in a nomination.

Referees should be informed about the nomination.

Referees may be the same individual or organisation that provides a support letter, but this is not required. Referees provide independent verification: they confirm claims, assess performance, and respond to specific questions from the assessing body. Support letters are typically advocacy-based: they actively endorse the applicant or project.

Referees cannot be:

- An immediate family member
- A current VMC employee or Commissioner
- The nominator on the same nomination

## Support letters and supporting documentation

All nominations must include a minimum of 2, and maximum of 5, support letters or supporting documents. See the below descriptions of support letters and types of supporting documentation.

**A support letter** is a written statement that formally endorses or advocates for an individual or organisation to receive an Award. Support letters should:

- explain why the person or proposal is worthy of consideration and highlights relevant strengths, achievements or alignment with the purpose of the application
- be from credible and independent organisations or individuals
- present a clear and compelling case for the nominee, including specific examples that demonstrate their impact and contributions
- represent different cohorts (for example, an employer, Member of Parliament, mentor, or client), to ensure breadth of endorsement
- not be pro-forma or template letters of support from multiple individuals or organisations
- not be from a family member or someone whom the nominee is related to

**Supporting documentation** refers to additional materials provided to verify information such as qualifications, experience or eligibility, or substantiate or evidence claims made in a nomination. They are an effective way to provide evidence, showcase and add depth to a nomination. Supporting documentation should:

- be highly relevant to the nomination, with the nomination clearly describing why the link or supporting documentation is included
- be short and easy to read (please provide summaries of any longer reports, rather than attaching these in their entirety)
- be easily accessible, including in English or with subtitles for videos, if possible

This can include links to videos, media articles, evaluations, performance metrics, evidence or outcomes statements.

# Tips on a good nomination

## Keep it clear and aligned

- Refer to the criteria: Ensure your nomination directly addresses the relevant award criteria. This helps the judging panel assess alignment and impact.
- Write clearly and concisely: Avoid jargon, acronyms or complex language.
- Review and refine: Take time to edit your nomination. A well-structured, polished submission is easier to assess and more likely to stand out. Consider asking a colleague to review your draft for clarity and completeness.

## Focus on impact

- Highlight outcomes: Go beyond describing activities and focus on what was achieved and the difference it made. Include metrics, survey results, financial data or improvements to processes, services or culture.
- Demonstrate excellence: Show how the nominee's contribution went above and beyond expectations, delivering lasting value to Victoria's multicultural community.
- Showcase achievements: Demonstrate how the nominee's work created meaningful change. Provide clear, compelling and multiple examples of exceptional contribution to multiculturalism in Victoria.

## Tell a story and use evidence

- Tell a story: The best nominations tell the judges a story in simple words and show the nominee's journey. Highlight the unique qualities of the nominee, and the challenges they have overcome.
- Include tangible proof: Include supporting materials such as project outcomes, data, testimonials, media coverage, case studies or stakeholder feedback.

## Reach out for support

If you require any support to submit your application, please don't hesitate to contact [awards@vmc.vic.gov.au](mailto:awards@vmc.vic.gov.au).

# Terms and conditions

Please ensure that you understand the terms and conditions before completing a nomination.

Definitions:

- A person who nominates (**nominator**) or a person who is nominated as an individual or as part of a team or organisation (**nominee**) for the Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence (awards) and submits or accepts a nomination is deemed to have accepted these terms.
- The State of Victoria acting through the Department of Premier and Cabinet (**the department**) is the promoter of the awards.

## Eligibility

A nominee is eligible if they:

- Reside in Victoria, or are a Victorian-based organisation operating or delivering services in Victoria
- Are an Australian residents (temporary or permanent)
- Are from a culturally or linguistically diverse background, or dedicate their work to multiculturalism in Victoria
- Have contributed to the realisation of positive change and inclusion for multicultural Victorians
- Provide the nomination activity specific to Victoria.

A nominee is ineligible if they:

- Have been a previous winner or highly commended nominee of the MAEs or Victorian Refugee Awards, either in an individual capacity or as part of a team (where applicable), for work of the same nature within the last five (5) years. However, previous winners or highly commended nominees may still be considered for the Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll or the Premier's Award for Intercultural Connection if they meet the criteria
- Are a current VMC employee or Commissioner, or were one in the 12 months before nominations opened
- Are an employee or contractor of the Department of Premier and Cabinet directly involved in conducting the awards, or an immediate family member of such a person
- Are a current elected official at any level of government.

## Nomination process

- Nominations received after the official closing date may not be considered. The department does not accept responsibility for nominations that are late, lost, incomplete, or submitted incorrectly. If you need assistance with submitting your nomination by the deadline, please reach out to the Awards Team on [awards@vmc.vic.gov.au](mailto:awards@vmc.vic.gov.au).
- A separate online nomination form must be completed in Award Force for each nominee (or each nominated team).
- Online nominations will be acknowledged with a confirmation email once your nomination form is submitted.
- When nominating an individual, team or organisation for an award, please ensure they agree to be nominated.
- Nominations must include a minimum of two, and maximum of five, support letters or supporting documentation.

- Nominations must also include the names and contact details of two referees who can confirm the accuracy of the submission and verify the eligibility of the nominee or the nominated teams for an award. Referees must not be the nominator, or related to the nominator, nominee or a member of a nominated team. At least one referee must be from a different organisation to the nominee or nominated team.
- All nominations and materials submitted to the department in connection with the awards will become the property of the department and will not be returned.
- Nominators can confirm the eligibility of a nominee by contacting the Awards Team via email to [awards@vmc.vic.gov.au](mailto:awards@vmc.vic.gov.au) prior to submitting a nomination.

#### **Nominators cannot:**

- be a current VMC employee or Commissioner, or have been one in the 12 months before nominations opened
- nominate the same nominee in more than two award categories
- submit more than three nominations in total across all categories in the same award program
- be a referee on the same nomination.

Please note that a nominee can only win one award per award program.

## **Screening**

- All nominees (including each member of a nominated team) and inductees to the Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll (inductee), will be required to:
  - confirm their acceptance of these terms and conditions by following the instructions set out in Award Force; and
  - if shortlisted, complete a National Police Check (individual nominees only).
- In the event that a nominee or inductee does not accept the terms and conditions, the nominee or inductee will be ineligible to be considered for the awards or the Victorian Honour Roll.
- Should a nominee's police check not be completed within the timeframe or disclose any adverse findings, they will be considered ineligible and their nomination will not proceed further.
- All shortlisted nominations will be subject to a thorough vetting and screening process conducted by the department.

## **Judging and selection**

- The department reserves the right to verify the validity of nominations, allocate nominations into an alternative category or disqualify a nomination. A nomination may be disqualified if, in the department's opinion, it is objectionable, insulting, inflammatory, or likely to harm the reputation or goodwill of the awards, the department, or the Minister for Multicultural and Multifaith Victoria. Nominations that do not comply with these terms and conditions may also be disqualified.
- The department may request further information or clarification from the nominator, nominee(s) or referees regarding any nomination.
- A judging panel will consider all eligible nominations and rate each against the criteria for the selected award category. The judges will review the nominations and select an organisational and individual recipient in each category (except Police and the Multicultural Honour Roll).
- For all categories, except the Police and Premier's Award for Intercultural Connection categories, the judging panels will recommend award recipients to the VMC Chairperson/representative.

The VMC Chairperson/representative will work collaboratively with the judges to finalise the recipient lists. The Chairperson/representative will make the final decision on award recipients.

- Announcement of award recipients will be at the awards ceremony.
- The department reserves the right to disqualify a nominee in the event that the results of their police check are deemed unsatisfactory by the department, with no right of review.

## Awards and recognition

- Each awardee will be invited to attend the awards ceremony at Government House on 14 October 2026 where the award recipients will be announced and presented with their award.
- Nominators of awardees will be invited to attend the awards ceremony.
- Awardees and nominators under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to attend the awards ceremony.
- All travel costs associated with an awardee, their nominator and parent or legal guardian (if applicable) attending the awards ceremony and other ancillary costs are the responsibility of the awardee and their nominator.
- Attendees are expected to adhere to the venue's conditions of entry. Read information here: <https://www.governor.vic.gov.au/attending-event-government-house> >
- You may be denied entry into, or removed from, an event or have your ticketed refunded prior to entry where VMC has reasonable grounds to do so, including if you breach these Terms and Conditions, or you are intoxicated, under the influence of illicit drugs, inappropriately attired or adversely affecting the enjoyment of the event by others.

## Nominators consent

1. By submitting a nomination, including personal information (as defined in the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic)) or where applicable, any health information (as defined in the *Health Records Act 2001* (Vic)) provided as part of that nomination, each nominator confirms that he or she consents, and has the consent of any person whose personal information is contained in a nomination, including but not limited to:
  - a) the nominee(s) (or if under the age of 18, the nominee's parent or legal guardian); and
  - b) referees,
 to provide that information to the department, and for the department to disclose that personal information to other parties including, but not limited to, judges and the office of the Minister for Multicultural and Multifaith Victoria for the purposes of conducting the awards.
2. If the nominator does not agree or have the requisite consent, the nominator must not provide their personal information or the personal information of anyone else and may be unable to submit a nomination for the awards.
3. Each nominator consents to the department using the nominator's nomination statements, name, likeness, image, social media profiles or account names, voice and/or participation in the awards (including photograph, film and/or recording of the same) in any media for an unlimited period of time without further notification, remuneration or compensation for the purpose of promoting, publicising or marketing the awards (including any outcome). Nominators consent to the department using contact information (name, role, organisation, email address) for the purpose of departmental engagement and communications, including, but not limited to, the promotion of other relevant events or programs or distributing information and updates.
4. If the nominator does not agree, the nominator must not provide their personal information or the personal information of anyone else and may be unable to submit a nomination for the awards.

## Nominees consent

1. By accepting their nomination, the nominee/s (or if under the age of 18, the nominee's parent or legal guardian) consents to the department using their nomination statements, name, social media profiles or account names, likeness, image, voice and/or participation in the awards (including photograph, film and/or recording of the same). This information may be used in any media, for an unlimited period of time, without further notification, remuneration or compensation for the purpose of promoting, publicising or marketing the awards (including any outcomes).
  - a. You can modify or withdraw your consent in writing at any time by emailing [awards@vmc.vic.gov.au](mailto:awards@vmc.vic.gov.au). However, any changes to the use of the name, image, social media profiles or account names, testimonial, video or sound recording will only apply from the date the department receives your withdrawal or modification of the consent. Any existing material in which you, your child's or an individual for whom you have authorised decision making responsibility's name, image, social media profiles or account names, testimonial, video or sound recording is used will not be withdrawn from use and publication.
2. Nominees consent to the department using their personal information, and for the department to disclose their personal information to other parties including, but not limited to, the award judges and the Office of the Minister for Multicultural and Multifaith Victoria, for the purposes of conducting the awards. Nominees consent to the department using contact information (name, role, organisation, email address) for the purpose of departmental engagement and communications, including, but not limited to, the promotion of other relevant events or programs or distributing information and updates. If the nominee does not agree, the nominee must not accept their nomination and will be ineligible for the awards.
3. By submitting a National Police Check, the nominee consents to the department being provided with the results of their police check for the purposes of conducting the awards.

## Privacy statement

Consistent with Victorian Government policy and legislation, the department endorses fair information handling practices. Personal, health and sensitive information supplied will be used by the department, the judging panel, the office of the Minister for Minister for Multicultural and Multifaith Victoria and the award ceremony venue for the purposes of considering nominations, selecting award recipients and providing the award ceremony. Information will not be disclosed or used for any other purpose without the express consent of the person to whom the information relates, unless otherwise required or permitted by law.

## Privacy policy

The [Department of Premier and Cabinet Privacy Policy](https://www.vic.gov.au/department-premier-and-cabinet-privacy-policy) <<https://www.vic.gov.au/department-premier-and-cabinet-privacy-policy>> sets out information about how the nominator or nominee(s) may access and seek correction of their personal information or complain about a breach of their privacy, and how the department will deal with that complaint.

## Liability

It is intended and agreed that the conduct of the awards shall not give rise to any legal obligations, liabilities or duties, valid or enforceable in any way against the department, the Minister for Multicultural and Multifaith Victoria or the State of Victoria.

# Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

## Eligibility and criteria

### Can I nominate myself?

Self-nominations are accepted for all categories (except the Police category).

### Can I nominate a person or organisation outside of Victoria?

No, nominees and businesses must be residing, and operating, in Victoria and the nomination activity must be specific to Victoria.

### Can I nominate an organisation, business or community group?

Yes, for all categories of the MAEs. However, the business, organisation, sole trader or corporation must be established or run by a person or people with a multicultural background or their work must be dedicated to multiculturalism in Victoria.

Only individuals can be nominated for the Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll.

### Can I nominate an organisation, business, community group or individual who is not from a multicultural background or supporting the multicultural sector?

No, the awards are only open to Victorians who are from a multicultural background or dedicate their work to multiculturalism and multifaith matters in Victoria.

### Can a business make a nomination?

Yes. A business can submit a nomination, but we require the name of an individual who will represent the nomination.

### If I am the contact for a nomination made by a business, can I nominate others as an individual?

Yes, however you can still only submit three (3) nominations – as either the business's contact person or individual nominator.

### Can I nominate someone for more than one category?

Yes. An individual can be nominated for up to two (2) award categories. An organisation can be nominated for (1) category.

However, an individual or organisation can only win one (1) award.

### Can I nominate a relative?

Yes, you can nominate someone to whom you are related. However, referees cannot be relatives.

## Do I have to tell the person or business that I am nominating them?

Yes, it is your responsibility as the nominator to inform the nominee, whether individual or team/organisation, that you have nominated them. You must gain consent to share their details.

## Are social media accounts/content creators eligible for the Media Award?

Yes, if they meet the Media Award eligibility criteria.

## Can I make a video or audio nominations?

We are unable to accept video or audio nominations. However, you can provide video or audio materials as supporting documents.

If you have accessibility requirements or other considerations that may impact your ability to make a submission, contact [awards@vmc.vic.gov.au](mailto:awards@vmc.vic.gov.au).

## Is there an entry fee?

No.

## Referees

### What is a referee?

A referee is a person who knows the nominee well and can confirm their achievements and information about the project or activity for which they are being nominated. They should know about this nomination and may be called by VMC staff to verify information.

### Can I be a referee for a relative being nominated?

No. You cannot be a referee for someone to whom you are related.

### Can I put myself down as a referee for someone I'm nominating?

No. The process is designed so that there are three (3) individuals who support the nomination – one (1) individual who nominates them (you), and two (2) other individuals who support the nomination by acting as referees.

### Do I have to provide two referees or can I just provide one?

Two (2) referees are required for each nomination. Contact details must be provided so that VMC staff can verify the information in your nomination.

### Do I have to submit support letters from the two referees?

No. You must provide at least two (2) support letters or supporting documents, however, support letters do not have to be from the referees.

## What's the difference between a support letter and a referee?

Referees provide independent verification: they confirm claims, assess performance, and respond to specific questions from the assessing body. The VMC may contact referees to verify information in a nomination.

Support letters are typically advocacy-based: they actively endorse the applicant or project.

Referees may be the same individual or organisation that provides a support letter, but this is not required.

## About nominations

### Do I have to answer all three (3) questions in the nomination form?

Yes. You must answer all three (3) questions to complete the nomination. The answers provide important information about the nominee and their achievements which enables the assessment panel to consider them for the award.

### How many recipients will win awards in each category?

There will be between two (2) recipients for each category (except Police), one organisational recipient and one individual recipient. There will be up to 20-25 individuals inducted into the Multicultural Honour Roll.

## After you've submitted your nomination

### How do I know my application was submitted?

You will receive a confirmation email from Award Force.

### Can I amend my application once I have submitted?

Yes. You can edit your nomination even after submitting it until the awards closing date. Once awards are closed you cannot edit your nomination.

### Who assesses the nominations?

Nominations are assessed by a panel consisting of representatives from the VMC and relevant government and/or sector organisations with expertise in multicultural affairs.

### How are nominations assessed and award recipients selected?

Each nomination is reviewed by VMC staff to confirm it is eligible.

A panel will meet to review and discuss each eligible nomination. They consider all information submitted by the nominator and give each nomination a score based on the nominator's answers to the three questions and any supporting information they attached. Nominations are ranked by their score and the panel make a shortlist.

As part of this process, referees may be contacted to verify or clarify information before recipients are recommended to the VMC Chairperson/representative.

## When will I be notified of the outcome?

In late September 2026. All nominators will receive notification of the outcome by email. All nominees will also be notified.

## When will the awards be presented?

Awards will be presented at an official ceremony in October 2026 in Melbourne's CBD. Full details will be shared with relevant nominators and recipients when advised on the outcome.

## I have been nominated for/won an award, but I am unable to attend the ceremony. Can I still receive the award?

Yes. If you cannot attend the awards ceremony, your award can either be accepted by a representative on your behalf or sent to you by mail.

## Can I provide feedback or make a complaint?

The VMC is committed to enabling members of the public to raise concerns or make complaints when they have a problem with the services, actions or decisions provided or taken by VMC employees. We aim to resolve complaints as quickly as possible and to learn from complaints to improve our work.

In administering the MAEs, the VMC follows robust governance and internal processes to ensure the Awards are fair, equitable and administered with integrity.

If you wish to provide feedback or make a complaint about the MAEs, please refer to the VMC complaints process [here](https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/external-complaints-procedure) <<https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/external-complaints-procedure>>.

## How will the establishment of the new entity, Multicultural Victoria, impact the Awards?

The Victorian Government committed to establishing Multicultural Victoria in response to Victoria's Multicultural Review. Multicultural Victoria will bring together the functions of the VMC and the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Multicultural Affairs branch to better meet the needs of our diverse communities.

The 2026 MAEs will continue under Multicultural Victoria.

To receive this document in another format, email [awards@vmc.vic.gov.au](mailto:awards@vmc.vic.gov.au)

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In this document, 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

'Indigenous' or 'Koori/Koorie' is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation.