

MULTICULTURAL AWARDS PAST WINNERS

2021 WA MULTICULTURAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Local Government Award

Shire of Katanning

The Shire of Katanning has shown a fundamental and sustained commitment to inclusivity and participation, which has been recognised at the national level.

The shire undertook extensive consultation for its Strategic Community Plan in 2017 and, based on feedback, established a Cultural Collaboration Officer in 2019. The officer works on projects and initiatives that enhance services for, and engagement with, the CaLD community.

Additionally, Katanning has worked to support its community during challenging times, demonstrating an empathic approach to bringing the community together.

The shire also hosts the highly popular annual Katanning Harmony Festival in partnership with the community. This festival has become one of the most popular in the South West and celebrates the cultural diversity of the area.

Multicultural Youth Award

Asung Rathin

Asung is passionate about helping young people from CaLD backgrounds achieve academic success and feel at home in the community.

Asung undertakes extensive volunteer work at a number of organisations and co-leads the WA Chin University Student Organisation homework club, which provides opportunities for children to receive free tutoring and homework assistance. She studies midwifery and volunteers her time to assist young Burmese women during pregnancy and after birth.

Having demonstrated a remarkable commitment to her community, Asung is working to resolve practical issues facing young people from CaLD backgrounds.

Communications Award

West Australasian Media Network

West Australasian Media Network is an independently owned and managed news and media company that reports news with a focus on local youth matters, cultural diversity and related issues. The network creates videography and mini-documentary projects. It also provides opportunities for talented young people by offering practical, hands-on journalism work experience.

West Australasian Media Network has been on the front foot of reporting many local and national issues, most recently that of racism faced by the WA Chinese communities as a result of misinformation regarding the pandemic. West Australasian Media Network owner and news editor Ivan Leung is committed to providing an independent and credible alternative news source for Western Australians.

Business Award

illumiance Solutions

illumiance Solutions is leading the way in creating a workplace that thrives on its cultural diversity and ensures a space for people of all backgrounds to progress in their careers.

Driven by the leadership styles of Karmic Management and Servant Leadership, illumiance Solutions has built a community-like approach to active collaboration within the team, with their clients and with other stakeholders.

illumiance Solutions 'lead by example', and their ethos resonates beyond the office and into the community, providing opportunities for people from CaLD backgrounds to flourish professionally.

Community Organisation Award

MercyCare

MercyCare started more than 170 years ago with the vision of creating a better, more equal, caring and compassionate outlook for all Western Australians.

The organisation has shown leadership in supporting cultural diversity through programs designed to foster discussion, improve employment opportunities, remove barriers and develop capacity. MercyCare is a strong advocate for equality for asylum seekers and refugees and has driven a range of programs that have been significant in creating a more inclusive community. The organisation is committed to further embedding the diversity principles outlined in its 2020–2030 strategy. It boasts a culturally diverse workforce that reflects the community in which it operates.

CaLD Community Organisation

Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services

As the only women's health centre specifically addressing the needs of women from CaLD backgrounds, Ishar assists approximately 1800 women each year.

For 28 years, Ishar has demonstrated leadership in the sector by developing innovative programs that respond to the unique needs of the multicultural community. Ishar operates from the position that women are the centre of the family and, if women are empowered, this has a positive systemic effect on the family and community.

Judges' Choice Award

Salem Askari

Salem Askari arrived in WA in 2013 as a refugee from Afghanistan. Since arriving he has been a passionate advocate for refugees and people seeking asylum in WA, taking every opportunity to speak at public events, meet with government officials and raise awareness in agencies and community groups.

Salem plays a leadership role in an advocacy network that works to secure greater access and supports for asylum seekers and people holding temporary visas in WA. For example, he has been instrumental in the introduction of concession fares for asylum seekers. His role includes ensuring others with similar experiences can participate in the decision-making process.

Outstanding Individual Achievement Award

Dr Abdullah Khan

Abdullah has spent many years working with government and the private and community sectors to improve employment and education opportunities for CaLD community members by removing barriers and fostering engagement and understanding.

Over the past two decades, as a prominent leader, Abdullah has also worked to combat Islamophobia and eliminate hate-related crimes against Muslims. His work has made a significant and sustained impact on CaLD communities in WA from grassroots to State policy level. Abdullah currently also serves on Minister Papalia's Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Council.

Abdullah's commitment to WA's CaLD communities, and the breadth and depth of his work, make him an outstanding recipient of this award.

Minister's Award for Distinguished Service

Russell Raymond OAM

Russell was a pioneer of multicultural services in Perth. Born in Sri Lanka, he was a role model for many migrants and refugees through his immense contributions in promoting community harmony and social cohesion, as well as his advocacy on many social issues of concern to all Australians.

He was known for his selfless commitment to improving the lives of others, for example through his work as President of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA and the Deputy Chairperson representing WA on the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia. Russell also served as the Chair of Multicultural Services Centre WA and on the boards of many organisations, including the Australia Day Council, AdvoCare, the WA Sri Lankan Association, Umbrella Community Services and the OZ Concert committee. Russell passed away in August 2019.

Minister's Award for Distinguished Service

Olga Ramasamy OAM

Olga's service to the community began when she migrated from Sri Lanka and took her first job here as Secretary of what is now Girl Guides Australia.

She was best known for her work as Chief Executive Officer with the Australian Asian Association of WA, an association that she helped set up in 1956 and which assists countless migrants to settle successfully in WA.

Olga's commitment to sharing her knowledge, foresight and extraordinary energy with the CaLD and wider communities over many decades brought strength and resilience to all who worked with her or knew her. She was a trusted and reliable advocate for WA's CaLD communities and was a strong voice on critical issues such as aged care and women's services. Olga passed away in April 2020.

Laksiri Jayasuriya Lifetime Community Service Award

Ramdas Sankaran OAM

Ramdas is a strong advocate for Multiculturalism and has been a significant figure in the community sector for decades. His work in the multicultural sector began in 1978 with the Perth Asian Community Centre. He started work with the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia in 1980 and has served six terms as President since 1995. During this

time, Ramdas has been active across a number of issues including women in leadership, refugee and asylum seeker needs, Aboriginal reconciliation, disability advocacy, and mental health within CaLD communities.

In his role as President of the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia, Ramdas successfully advocated for the 21 March, the International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination, to be reserved as a day of reflection and commemoration, leading to the Western Australian State Government changing Harmony Day to Harmony Week—a change that was also adopted federally in 2019.

Ramdas has demonstrated continued and sustained leadership over an extensive period; has been a forceful advocate of the WA Charter of Multiculturalism Substantive Equality and Anti-Racism Strategy at a State level, and a social policy entrepreneur.

2016 WA MULTICULTURAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Outstanding individual achievement award (two winners)

Eva Mwachiko, City of Stirling Multicultural Project Officer

Eva's role involves identifying and implementing strategies to engage with CaLD community members. She encourages whole-of-community participation in a number of events and initiatives that she organises, and works to remove cultural barriers through communications and activities. Going above and beyond the scope of her role. Eva commits herself to the different cultural groups to understand and respond to their needs. She spends weekends attending celebrations, events and workshops and is often invited to speak at community events. The breadth and depth of Eva's work, and her focused commitment to CaLD groups, has resonated across the CaLD and wider communities.

Zainon (Zen) Mohamad Kassim, WA Police Multicultural Engagement Officer

Zen, a police officer, has worked tirelessly in an often difficult environment to build positive relationships between the WA Police and migrant communities. She has advocated strongly on behalf of CaLD communities and is particularly focused on the issue of domestic violence and providing advice and help to migrant women. In addition to her regular policing duties, Zen is a regular contributor to events that promote multiculturalism and celebrate WA's diverse community. She uses these events to build rapport with the CaLD community in an informal setting. The first woman in the WA Police to wear a hijab, Zen actively encourages those from a CaLD background to consider a career in the police force. Her work has had a positive and lasting impact on both the WA Police and CaLD communities.

Outstanding service to multiculturalism award

Maria Bunn, President of the Western Australian Multicultural Association Inc. (WAMA)

Maria Bunn has been committed to working with CaLD communities for more than 30 years, in both a paid and voluntary capacities, across a number of organisations. Maria has applied her rich experience in the multicultural aged care sector to make a significant and sustainable positive impact on the sector. Some of Maria's achievements include developing partnerships between aged care providers and CaLD communities; writing the Multicultural Aged Care Handbook to support care providers, which has now sold more than 800 copies; and co-ordinating the 'Let me speak' project initiative of the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre and Headwest to support CaLD people with disability and acquired brain injury. As the current president of the WAMA, Maria continues to support new and emerging communities to build capacity by providing information and education programs.

Outstanding volunteer award

Materno Biwot, community leader

Since arriving in Australia as a refugee from Sudan, Materno Biwot has volunteered for a number of initiatives that have supported issues around child protection and community capacity building. He also delivers training on how to work more effectively with refugee families. Following the tragic drowning of his son, he has dedicated himself to educating CaLD children (predominately from landlocked African countries) about water safety. Through working with challenging issues faced by the CaLD community, as well as using a personal tragedy to improve the lives of others, Materno's commitment to the Western Australian community is outstanding.

Arts and Culture award for outstanding contribution to multiculturalism

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah and Abdul Abdullah - WA Focus Project

'WA Focus', by artists Abdul-Rahman Abdullah and Abdul Abdullah, was exhibited at the Art Gallery of Western Australia in April and July 2015. It highlighted the experience of young Muslims growing up in Perth and addressed the generational shift in perspective that occurred in Australian Muslim identities with regard to pre-9/11 and post-9/11 sense of identity. The project consisted of a series of sculptures, prints, photographs, drawings and paintings that explored the politicising of identity. This extremely high-quality project generated important discussion and provided an invaluable insight into Australian Muslim culture.

Marketing award for outstanding contribution to multiculturalism

Curtin University - Humans of Curtin campaign

Curtin University's Humans of Curtin campaign highlights the diversity of the Curtin community and promotes positive dialogue around issues of diversity and inclusion. The campaign has been successful on social media with more than 800 likes/discussions/comments. Since June 2015, the digital content has attracted more than one million instances of engagement - with paid advertising on Spotify and Outbrain attracting click-through to Tumblr at twice the industry average. This innovative and insightful application of inclusive principles resonates positively with the target audience.

Private sector award for outstanding contribution to multiculturalism

Fortis Consulting

Fortis Consulting focuses on encouraging people from CaLD backgrounds to seek and obtain employment. For more than four years, Fortis has focused on enhancing the capacity of CaLD communities. They provide tailored cultural diversity training and have worked consultatively with groups across the CaLD sector to build and deliver cultural training. The work of Fortis Consulting has led to significant and sustainable improvements in cultural understanding and employment across a range of sectors.

Local government award for outstanding contribution to multiculturalism

City of Greater Geraldton

The city provides a wide range of support and mentoring to the Midwest Multicultural Association - the umbrella group that supports many of Geraldton's CaLD communities. The city is committed to involving the CaLD community in its consultation processes and ensuring services are accessible for those with basic English language skills. Through this work, the City of Greater Geraldton has demonstrated a broad and sustained commitment to promoting multiculturalism and improving the experiences of the CaLD community.

Community organisation award for outstanding contribution to multiculturalism

Financial, Administrative and Professional Services Training Council Incorporated (FAPSTC)

FAPSTC has championed the training needs of the translating and interpreting workforce since 2014. They conducted a comprehensive analysis of the workforce and have been fundamental in ensuring the profession is recognised on the State Priority Occupation List at a level of priority reserved for those occupations considered critical to the Western Australian economy. Their work has raised the profile of this vital service to promote high-quality translating and interpreting for the CaLD community.

2013 WA MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Individual Excellence Awards

- Imam Yahya Ibrahim
- Mr Sergio De Guzman
- Mr Mukesh Mani
- Ms Pamela Devenish
- Dr Susan Lee

Engaging the Community Innovation Award

Winner: BreastScreen WA

Highly Commended: North Metropolitan Youth Justice Services, Department of Agriculture and Food.

Community Service Excellence Award

Winner: Kulcha

Highly Commended: Muslim Women's Support Centre

Implementing Multiculturalism Locally Award

Winner: Shire of Dalwallinu

Business Migrant of the Year

- Ms Alma Farrell, Nando's Jindalee
- Ms Ella Davies, WA Interpreters Pty Ltd

2012 MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Individual Excellence Awards

- Ms Shahzadi Samar Rukh
- Mrs Caroline Speirs
- Dr Casta Tungaraza
- Ms Mandy Whitton
- Mr Salim Youssef

Engaging the Community Innovation Award

- Winner: Department of Sport and Recreation
- Highly Commended: Communicare Incorporated

Community Service Excellence Award

- Winner: Pilbara Multicultural Association
- Highly Commended: MercyCare

Implementing Multiculturalism Locally Award

- Winner: City of Rockingham
- Highly Commended: City of Stirling

Business Migrant of the Year Award

- Winner: Mr Shahyar Gorjy and Mr Faryar Gorjy of Yaran Pty Ltd
- Highly Commended: Ms Zaneta Onasz, La Decor Pty Ltd and Tony Sadler, Cannington

2011 MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Implementing Multiculturalism Locally Award

The Shire of Katanning for conducting programs that advanced multicultural principles and ensured its services met the needs of all community members.

Business Migrant Award

Lijun Gu, a restaurant owner who assisted business migrants settle into their new environment.

Organisational Category

The Chung Wah Association in recognition of its provision of services to Asian communities of Western Australia.

Engaging the Community Innovation Award

The Public Transport Authority (Transperth) for efforts in reducing language barriers for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities.

Individual Awards

- Dr Anne Aly for efforts in combating racism and discrimination
- Cathy Bickell for outstanding work establishing the Mandurah Migrant Centre.
- Christine l'Anson in recognition for work in early childhood and community services
- Tommy Adebayo for extensive commitment to Perth African communities
- The late Sushma Paul was recognised posthumously for her contributions to the Indian community of Western Australia and the key role she played in developing cultural and trade relations between WA and India.

2010 ETHNIC BUSINESS AWARDS

Small Business

Jonathon Skerratt, who operates Silver Trowel Training, teaching trade skills at four WA campuses.

Indigenous in Business Category

WA's Carey Mining, which employs a significant indigenous workforce, with emphasis on training schemes for high-risk students.

2009 MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Organisational Awards

- Albany and Katanning Migrant Resource Centres for their provision of settlement services to migrants and refugees.
- Reel Connections, which addressed youth social issues in Mirrabooka, Balga and Girrawheen
- State Security Investigation group, set up to encourage social inclusion and interaction of culturally and linguistically diverse communities with police.

The Business Migrant Award

Vietnamese-born fashion designer Hue Le, who established Hue Le Designs, a thriving fashion design business that employs staff from Chinese, Vietnamese and Filipino backgrounds.

Individual Awards

- Robyn Sterrett, a community nurse working with newly-arrived refugee clients
- Brother Geoff Seaman, who established the highly successful Adopt A Refugee program in Western Australian schools.
- Mulugeta Reda, an active member of the Ethiopian community in Perth and who has provided support, advocacy and mentoring to newly arrived refugees
- Liz Gunther, who has been instrumental in establishing English classes for Sudanese refugees and migrants within the City of Rockingham
- Paul Kyaw, an advocate for the plight of the Karen people and other Burmese refugees in WA.

2007 MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Organisation Awards

- Association for Services to Trauma and Torture Survivors (ASeTTS)
- Ishar Multicultural Centre for Women's Health (Mirrabooka)

Individual Awards

- Ezzard Flowers (Katanning)
- Marinus Potter (Koondoola)
- Albert Da Cruz (Nedlands)

- Maria Osman (Mt Lawley)
- Atul Garg (Winthrop)

Highly Commended Certificates

- Organisation - The Film and Television Institute of WA (Fremantle)
- Individual - Suresh Rajan (North Perth)

2006 MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Individual Awards

- Nick Agoos, of Dianella - founding chair of the Multicultural Community Safety Committee, secretary and former president of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA, former management committee member of the North Perth Migrant Resource Centre.
- Ms Ruth Sims of Yokine - founder and chairperson of the West African Women's Group Inc and founding member of the Liberian Community in WA.

Organisation Awards

City of Melville

"The City of Melville is a model for other local government authorities. It considers the needs of its many cultural and language groups at all levels of the organisation and this is reflected in services provided to the community. The City of Melville displays a strong commitment to multiculturalism and human rights and combats racism through the development of plans and programs that break down barriers and encourage harmonious relationships within the community," Ms Quirk said.

Organisation Category highly commended:

The Italo-Australian Welfare and Cultural Centre, North Perth

"The Italo-Australian Welfare and Cultural Centre Inc. is a peak State organisation for the Italian Community in WA. Since its inception in 1956, the centre has helped many thousands of people through its charitable fundraising events and many educational, welfare and cultural programs," Ms Quirk said.

2004 MULTICULTURAL AWARD WINNERS

Multicultural Ambassador Award (youth category)

Mr Sasanka Thilakasiri, (22), in recognition of his seven years' work devoted to educating young people on human right issues, particularly through his commitment to the United Nations Youth Association of Australia and the Riverton Youth Foundation.

Multicultural Ambassador Award (adult category)

Mr Gerald W Searle, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to multiculturalism, migrants and refugees, first as a director of the Catholic Migrant Centre for 17 years and, since retirement, for his work alongside Aboriginal communities in Broome.

Multicultural Community Service Awards

The late **Mrs Sophie Jasinski**, in recognition of her life-long dedication to safeguard the social rights of people with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Sadly, Mrs Jasinski passed away in March 2004 and the award was accepted by her daughter, Julie Rynski.

Mr David Sims, Albany, in recognition of his courageous dedication to helping the Hazara refugees from Afghanistan to settle in Albany and fully participate in the city's community life.

Mrs Dijana Skorsur, in recognition of her sustained effort to ensure accessible, culturally responsive and equitable childcare is available for newly arrived refugees and the CALD community of WA.

Mrs Josey Hansen, Anglicare's Aboriginal Services Manager, who has worked tirelessly to empower the Nyoongar people and for the advancement of Aboriginal culture in the wider community through reconciliation.

Sr Phyllis Robertson, Lockridge, a Presentation Sister and co-ordinator of the Community Refugee Settlement program in Lockridge, in recognition of her life-long dedication to assist disadvantaged people, particularly migrants and newly arrived refugees.

1999 CULTURAL DIVERSITY AWARDS

Small Business Award

- Temptations Bakehouse

Enterprise Award

- Curtin University of Technology

Individual Award

- Dr John Hans Bollig of the Bollig Design Group Pty Ltd