

# Residential Care Awards 2021

## Application information

The Residential Care Learning and Development Strategy (RCLDS) RESI Carer Award is given in recognition of the exceptional work carried out in the field by residential care workers.

This information package helps you to complete the nomination form. Information on the award criteria is contained in the package, and these are the points the judging panel will be looking for when making their decision. Please make sure you read the information package carefully or your nomination may regretfully be declined.

## Aim of the awards

The aim of these awards is to recognise, celebrate and encourage work of the highest standard in the provision of residential care provided in Victoria that contributes to positive outcomes for children and young people living in residential care.

## Award categories

Awards will be offered in three categories:

Residential Worker	Residential Team	Leadership
A person who has achieved significant, positive outcomes for children and young people living in residential care and demonstrated a commitment to learning and development.	A team within a residential house who have worked collaboratively in order to achieve significant, positive outcomes for children and young people living in residential care.	A person who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and innovation in their leadership role which has had a significant impact on residential care systems and outcomes for children and young people.

## General information

These Awards are open to any individual or group working in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) Out of Home Care funded residential care units in Victoria, who contribute to positive and professional residential care of children and young people.

Applicants need specify clearly the Award being applied for and complete all relevant sections on the nomination form. If submitting supporting documents, they must be referred to in your written nomination and be relevant to the criteria questions.

Supporting documents may include photographs, videos, support letters etc. All submissions and supporting documents become the property of RCLDS. They cannot be returned and may be used to promote the RCLDS Forum and Awards. Please be mindful of what you send in and ask for permission of those featured.

The eligibility time period is for any work undertaken in 2020/2021.

## Award criteria

The criteria the judging panel will use to make decisions are:

### Residential Worker Award

For a residential care worker who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to their role which has led to positive changes to the lives of children and young people in residential care. Such a worker demonstrates:

1. A high standard of residential work that has achieved significant positive outcomes for children and young people in residential care.
2. Significant contribution to keeping children and young people in residential care engaged in learning and improving their educational outcomes.
3. Significant contribution to developing and maintaining a safe, supportive and nurturing living environment for children and young people.
4. Ability to work collaboratively and engage other staff and sector and community members to bring about significant practice change.
5. Outstanding innovation and practice change in a COVID-19 recovery environment.

### Leadership Award

For a residential care worker/manager who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities in bringing about better outcomes for children and young people living in residential care and for staff. Such a leader demonstrates:

1. Outstanding achievement in their leadership role with positive outcomes for staff, children, young people and families.
2. Ability to lead a significant practice or systems innovation and gain 'buy-in' from others.
3. Ability to create a strong learning and development culture for staff, children and young people in residential care.
4. Ability to build and sustain highly effective collaborative partnerships with sector and community that have led to positive change for children and young people in residential care.
5. Outstanding innovation and practice change in a COVID-19 recovery environment.

### Residential Team Award

For a residential team, that has worked collaboratively to achieve significant and positive outcomes for children and young people while living in residential care. Such a team demonstrates:

1. Cohesive and collaborative team culture focused on achieving positive outcomes for staff, children, young people and families.
2. Cohesive and collaborative approaches that have led to significant improvement in learning and development and have shared this knowledge to model best practice.
3. Cohesive and collaborative approaches that have led to the development of a safe, supportive and nurturing living environment.
4. Outstanding collaboration with sector and community members that have achieved positive outcomes for staff, children, young people and families.
5. Outstanding innovation and practice change in a COVID-19 recovery environment.

Applications must address all of the above criteria in their category to be eligible.

Applications must address all fields relevant to each category.

## Referees

A minimum of two referees must be provided for each nomination. At least one referee should be external to the nominee's workplace. References for short listed nominees will be checked.

Endorsement of the Chief Executive Officer must be obtained in order for nominations to be accepted.

## The judging panel

The Judging Panel will comprise members of the RCLDS Committee, representatives of the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, DFFH, and the Commission for Children and Young People. No member of the judging panel may have a nomination from their Agency in consideration.

## Finalist notification

Finalists will be notified at the RCLDS Resi ROCKS Forum on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2021 and all nominees should therefore attend. Unsuccessful nominees will not be notified.

## The awards

The three major Award Category Winners will each receive:

- An engraved award.
- A shield for display in the winner's Community Service Organisation office.
- A plaque added to the Honours Board displayed at The Centre for Excellence.

All finalists in the Residential Worker and Leadership categories will receive a framed certificate of nomination.

All finalists in the Residential Team category will receive a laminated certificate which lists all nominated members from the team unit, and one framed certificate.

## The decision

The RCLDS Awards Judging Panel will consider the information provided on the nomination form and supporting documentation and may request additional information to assist in the decision-making.

The decision of the Judging Panel is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

## Privacy Statement

Consistent with Victorian Government policy and legislation and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare in Child Privacy Policy, the RCLDS Reference Group endorses fair information handling practice.

Private and personal information supplied will be used by the Judging Panel to assist their decision making only. 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 by law.

By applying, nominees agree to be photographed and give permission for the images to be published in relation to RCLDS.

Please refer to the DFFH complete Privacy Policy at <https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/privacy-statement> for further information.

Please refer to the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Privacy Policy at [www.cfecfw.asn.au](http://www.cfecfw.asn.au) for further information.

## To apply

All nominations must be received by August 18th 2021

Please send by email to: [oliver.tsorbaris@cfecfw.asn.au](mailto:oliver.tsorbaris@cfecfw.asn.au) citing 'RCLDS Awards' in the email subject line.

The nomination form can be downloaded from our [website](#).