

Residential Care Awards 2023

Application information

The Residential Care learning and Development Strategy (RCLDS) Residential Care Awards is given in recognition of the exceptional work carried out in the field by residential carers.

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 5 categories:

Residential Carer

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.

Residential Team

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.

Leadership

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.

RCLDS Learning Award

Celebrate true dedication to learning and development with the our RCLDS Learning Award, recognising someone who have demonstrated commitment through regular attendance at training including but not limited to RCLDS training.

Lifetime Achievement award

Celebrate a journey of dedication and impact in the Residential Care sector with the RCLDs Lifetime Achievement Award, honouring over 7 years of service and unwavering commitment.

General information

These Awards are open to any individual or group working in 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 to 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.

Eligibility time period is any work undertaken in 2022/2023.

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 which has had a positive impact on the quality of life of children, young people and families.
2. A direct contribution to maintaining a safe, supportive and nurturing living environment for children and young people in their care.
3. An outstanding contribution to supporting their team and peers.
4. Commitment to learning and development and uses this to model best practice and/or innovation.

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. Significant commitment towards a culture that embraces learning and skills development for staff

3. Collaborative sector and community partnerships

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. A commitment to learning and development.
3. Maintains a safe, supportive and nurturing living environment for children and young people in their care.
4. Innovative collaborative practice with the wider community and sector to achieve improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.

RCLDS Learning Award

The successful candidate must have demonstrated a commitment to ongoing learning and development through active participation in a range of learning opportunities including RCLDS training over the last 12 mths. Further to this the applicant must;

1. Actively share new learning with team members and colleagues
2. Promote learning opportunities within the organisation as avenues to improve practice and act as a learning 'champion'.

Lifetime Achievement award

For a person who has worked within residential care for a period of 7 years or longer. Such a person demonstrates;

- A true commitment to the work of residential care
- Acts as a mentor/buddy to other residential care staff including new recruits.
- An ability to form strong meaningful relationships with young people and often acts as an advocate for young people
- A reliable and adaptive approach to the residential care model
- A willingness to change styles/approaches/systems to meet the ever-changing needs of residential care and the young people.

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

Referees

A maximum 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, Department of Health & Human Services, 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 3 weeks prior to Resi ROCKS Forum and must attend on the day (Tuesday October 10th 2023). Team nominations can only send a maximum of 2 representative from the nominated team. Unsuccessful nominees will not be notified.

The awards

The 5 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 above 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 Department of Health & Human Services 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 for further information.

To apply

All nominations must be received by 31 August 2023

Please send by email to: rlds@cfecfw.asn.au citing 'RCLDS Awards' in Email subject line.

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