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| 2022 Victorian Disability Awards |
| Stakeholder toolkit – key messages |
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# Key messages

## General

* Do you know someone who’s making an outstanding contribution to the lives of people with disability?
* Nominations are now open for the Victorian Disability Awards.
* The Victorian Disability Awards have a strong focus on recognising and honouring the achievements and contributions of individuals, teams and organisations that promote the rights and inclusion of people with disability.
* We want to celebrate the achievements of people that lead the way in creating a fairer, more inclusive Victoria. Victorians are encouraged to help recognise these achievements over the past 12 months in this year’s awards.
* Take the time to nominate someone you know that’s making an exceptional difference.
* Simple, creative things can make a big difference, such as:
	+ making it easier and accessible for everyone to enjoy everyday activities
	+ standing up for the rights of people with disability
	+ building more inclusive workplaces and communities
	+ increasing disability pride.
* Nominations are open to individuals and groups – including people with disability, family members, volunteers and people working in the sector.
* To find out more or nominate, visit <https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/victorian-disability-awards>
* Nominations close on 3 May 2022.

## Background text

* The Victorian Disability Awards recognise the contributions of individuals, teams and organisations that provide support, leadership, advocacy, service and education to increase the social, economic and civic participation of Victorians with disability.

## Award categories

* There are 9 award categories including the Lifetime achievement honour roll.
* The Lifetime achievement honour roll recognises exceptional individuals who have made a significant contribution to the lives of people with disability for more than 20 years.
* The Minister’s award for outstanding leadership will also be awarded to one of the finalists.
* The finalists are selected by a judging panel made up of representatives from Victoria’s disability and community services sectors.

## Nominations

* You can go online to complete your nomination and find out more at <https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/victorian-disability-awards>
* Before you begin, it’s a good idea to read the nomination guide and allow up to two weeks to collect the information you will need.
* If you have any questions about completing a nomination, you can contact the awards secretariat on 8850 6164 or email awards@dffh.vic.gov.au.
* Nominations close on 3 May 2022.

## People with Disability

* Victorians are encouraged to nominate outstanding individuals and groups who have increased the rights and participation of people with disability.
* Despite the challenges of 2021, the year also highlighted many outstanding examples of inclusion and leadership by Victorians with disability, community groups and the disability sector in response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

## Sport

* Sport is a big part of life in Victoria. Participating in sport and recreation promotes good health and wellbeing, and a sense of belonging.
* Whether it’s at the grassroots or elite level - you can help recognise the people or clubs that stand out for making sport something everyone can enjoy and benefit from.

## Local government

* Councils play an important role in promoting the inclusion of people with disability in their local communities.
* Help highlight the great work that is happening in your area to create more inclusive communities.

## Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety

* Self-determination is critical in achieving the best health, wellbeing and safety for Aboriginal Victorians with disability.
* You can help recognise those that lead the way in creating culturally safe supports, policies and programs to support the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people with disability.

## Education

* In every community there are students, parents, teachers and volunteers who work hard to make lifelong learning and education a reality for all.
* You can recognise the people or groups that are making education fully inclusive across all of our schools, TAFEs, universities or early childhood services.

## Business

* Being accessible and inclusive is good for business.
* You can help recognise businesses that go above and beyond to meet the needs of customers and employees with disability as part of their everyday practice.