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| 2025 Victorian Protecting Children Awards Finalists |

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# Robin Clark Leadership Award – finalists

* Anne Henderson, MacKillop Family Services
* Dallas Widdicombe, Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative
* Dr Trish McCluskey, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
* Elvis Martin, Kids Under Cover

# Robin Clark Making a Difference Award – finalists

* Aboriginal Children’s Healing Team – Yinga Healing Group, Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency
* Function Family Therapy – Child Welfare, OzChild
* The Family Violence Advisor Team, Berry Street Yooralla

# Minister's Award for Excellence in Protecting Children – finalists

* Cleona Feuerring, Westjustice, Western Community Legal Centre
* Corey Harrison, Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency
* Cultural Mentoring Program, MacKillop Family Services
* The Out of Home Care Team, Community Living & Respite Services

# Foster Carer Award – finalists

* Lesley Brechin, Anglicare Victoria
* Mathew and Cristy Oxley, Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency
* Rose and David Foulkes, Anglicare Victoria
* Sue and Lee Wakeman, MacKillop Family Services

# Kinship Carer Award – finalists

* Allyson Walker, Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency
* Lose Samasoni, Baptcare Family and Community Services
* Patricia Barton
* Sasha Naboulsi, Anglicare Victoria

# Engaging Kids in School Award – finalists

* MacKillop Education Senior Leadership Team Geelong, MacKillop Family Services
* Project REAL, Banksia Gardens Community Services
* The Paw Pals Program, MacKillop Family Services
* Travis Tuck, Berwick Secondary College

# Keeping At Risk Young People Safe Award – finalists

* Lisa Cappola, Anglicare Victoria
* Sergeant Tem Hawkes and the Youth Tasking Team, Victoria Police
* Two Bed Emergency Response Program, MacKillop Family Services
* Youth Services Team, Les Twentyman Foundation

# CREATE Positive Impacts Award – finalists

* Gabby Knight, Pyjama Foundation
* Narelle Rosbergen, Anglicare Victoria
* Zoe Stamatopoulos, MacKillop Family Services

# Child and Youth Empowerment Award, Commission for Children and Young People – finalists

* Chelsea Russell, Uniting Vic.Tas
* Child Safety Committee, Salesian College Chadstone
* Kelly Danaher, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

# The Walda Blow Aboriginal Children and Young People Award – finalists

* Goolum Goolum’s Njerna Gap Gap Dyir Program, Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative
* Secure Care Services Senior Aboriginal Liaison Officers, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
* Zee Pepper, Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency

# Leaving a Legacy Award

To be announced at the awards ceremony.

# Chief Practitioner’s Award – finalists

* Carley White, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
* Charlotte Nicholls, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
* Emma Pallister, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
* Nicole Sobey, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
* Rae Matejka, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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| To receive this document in another format, phone (03) 9067 0498, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email the Victorian Protecting Children Awards on <protectingchildren.awards@dffh.vic.gov.au>.Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, July 2025.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.Available at <https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/victorian-protecting-children-awards> |