**Media release**

Tuesday, 29 July, 2025

**HONOURING ACHIEVEMENTS IN KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE**

The outstanding work of individuals and teams is being recognised as the finalists for the 2025 Victorian Protecting Children Awards are announced.

The annual awards honour excellence in working with children, young people and families, and those who help ensure they are safe and supported.

Now in their 22nd year, the awards received nominations for individuals and teams from child protection workers, foster, permanent and kinship carers, the child and family services sector, the community, as well as government and academic organisations.

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Community Operations Practice Leadership Acting Deputy Secretary Kelly Stanton congratulated all the finalists on their exceptional efforts towards making a positive difference in the lives of children, young people and their families.

The awards attracted a record-breaking number of nominations for the fourth year in a row across its 12 categories, including the Foster Carer Award and Kinship Awards. Other categories include the Minster’s Award for Excellence in Protecting Children, the Engaging Kids in School Award and the Walda Blow Aboriginal Children and Young People Award.

Winners for the 2025 Victorian Protecting Children Awards will be announced at a special awards ceremony held in the lead up to Child Protection Week on Tuesday 2 September 2025.

To view the 2025 finalists visit: [dffh.vic.gov.au/victorian-protecting-children-awards](https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/victorian-protecting-children-awards)

**Quotes attributable to Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Community Operations Practice Leadership Acting Deputy Secretary Kelly Stanton**

*“Congratulations to all finalists for this year’s awards. I extend thanks to everyone who nominated individuals and teams doing extraordinary work for some of our most at-risk Victorians.”*

*“We’re looking forward to celebrating our finalists and winners who all work extremely hard to make positive differences to children, young people and families..”*