



Media Release

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Tasmanians continue to showcase their unwavering commitment to human rights

Winners of the annual Tasmanian Human Rights Awards were announced at an event held at Parliament House today.

The Awards recognise the many and varied contributions Tasmanian individuals and organisations have made to the promotion and protection of human rights in Tasmania. The ceremony marked the start of Human Rights Week 2017.

Awards were presented across the following categories for outstanding contributions by Tasmanians including School, Print Journalism, Individual, Youth, Organisation, Multicultural, Sport, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer cultural awareness.

All nominees are outstanding, committed people. It is always difficult for the Awards Panel to make its decisions across the award categories, but also rewarding seeing the outstanding contributions people are making in promoting human rights in Tasmania.

Co-sponsor of Human Rights Week activities in Tasmania, Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Ms Sarah Bolt, encourages all Tasmanians to recognise the work being undertaken by award nominees. 'More than 30 nominations for individuals and organisations were received again this year. Each and every one of them has made a significant contribution to the promotion of diversity and the recognition of human rights.'

Human Rights Week culminates in the celebration of International Human Rights Day on 10 December, which marks the anniversary of the signing of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in 1948.

Details of award winners are attached.

Media contact: Louise Adams – Human Rights Week Committee

Phone: 0418 394 091

Human Rights Awards 2017

Organisation Award

Sponsored by City of Hobart

Awarded to: Speak Out Association Tasmania

For their commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of people with intellectual disability, and in particular, the development of a dual governance structure that ensures people with a disability are active in the organisation and build the skills they need to effectively advocate for their own rights and those of others.

High Commendation: Water for a Village

For their significant contribution to community-owned well-building projects to ensure reliable access to clean water in remote areas of Ethiopia, and in particular, the positive effects this has for access to health and education, especially for women and girls.

A Fairer World School Award

Sponsored by A Fairer World

Awarded to: MacKillop Catholic College

For their commitment to a long-term, supportive relationship with students and communities in Timor-Leste and, in particular, the MacKillop school community's integration of human rights and social justice themes through curriculum and fundraising activities, as well as immersion visits to Timor-Leste.

Youth Award

Sponsored by Newport and Wildman

Awarded to: Galia Bastoni

For her dedication to providing practical support and a sense of connection for culturally and linguistically diverse individuals, and in recognition of the training and education she is undertaking to build her capacity for effective rights-based advocacy and activism.

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) Award

Sponsored by Rainbow Communities Tasmania

Awarded to: Annie Whitehead

For her advocacy and support of LGBTIQ individuals and groups, building community, resilience, and encouraging greater acceptance and inclusion in Tasmania's North West.

Angus Downie Print Journalism Award

Sponsored by Robin Banks and Michael Small

Awarded to: Piia Wirsu

For her illuminating work on the experiences of migration and seeking asylum in Tasmania, which encourages informed discussions of diversity, and what we can do to provide welcome and connection in our communities.

Multicultural Award

Sponsored by Migrant Resource Centre Southern Tasmania

Awarded to: Intercultural Sports League

For providing an inclusive structure with minimal barriers to participation, so that culturally and linguistically diverse individuals can come together to play cricket, with positive outcomes for personal and community development.

High Commendation: Hina and Waqas Durrani

For their extraordinary energy and investment in organisations, programs and events that promote multiculturalism and provide practical support to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Robin Hood AM Sport Award

Sponsored by Communities, Sport and Recreation

Awarded to: North Esk Rowing Club in association with Dragons Abreast Northern Tasmania and the North Esk Dragon Boat Club

For their commitment to providing an inclusive environment for all athletes, no matter their personal circumstances or physical abilities, adapting practices and facilities to ensure every member can fully participate in all sporting and administrative activities.

Individual Award

Sponsored by The Human Rights Institute

Awarded to: Tracey Wing

For her friendship and leadership of LGBTIQ individuals and groups, and for her significant contribution to the promotion, protection and advancement of LGBTIQ rights in the Tasmanian community.

High Commendation: Emily Briffa

For her role in creating Hamlet Café, a true social enterprise that demonstrates how breaking down barriers to employment can empower individuals, and help to build more inclusive communities.

High Commendation: Terry Whitebeach

For her own writing, and for her teaching, facilitation and collaborative work with other writers, which ensures diverse voices are more widely represented, heard and understood, and in turn, encourages non-discriminatory attitudes and practice in the community.