



Governor's Multicultural Awards 2018

Award Winners

Outstanding Individual Achievement Award

Dr Hamoudi Aldyni

Dr Aldyni escaped from Iraq in 1996 eventually arriving in Australia as a refugee in 1999. He spent two years in immigration detention before taking up work as a medical practitioner. Now practicing in Mannum, he provides comprehensive general practice and emergency care to rural and regional South Australians.

In addition to fostering understanding of the health system and how to seek specialist services, Dr Aldyni provides community support to new migrants and refugees to assist in their integration into the South Australian community, helping them to overcome the initial cultural shock of their settlement process by engaging them with the broader community to establish friendships and understand Australian customs and culture.

His role as a key community leader involves educating others about the significance of respecting and embracing cultural diversity, and assisting the broader community to understand the issues and trauma encountered by migrants and refugees. In particular, he has provided a fresh narrative to counter the negative stereotyping of Middle Eastern new arrivals.

Dr Aldyni provides a living example of how much migrants and refugees can contribute to Australian society.

Arts and Culture Award

Sanaa: A better world through creativity

Newcomers to South Australia's multicultural arts scene, Sanaa has burst into view as a vibrant, engaging and inclusive celebration of diversity. Using street art, music, performance and storytelling, it has harnessed the talents of a wide range of artists from Australia and internationally as cultural advocates who encourage greater social cohesion through creative expression.

Mr Abdullah Teia

With seemingly boundless enthusiasm, Abdullah Teia impressed the judges with his many activities, from inspiring Charles Sturt Council with creative ideas to celebrate Harmony Day, to organising children's workshops at WOMAD, and working with media students to produce a documentary on the importance of cultural preservation. A member of DFAT's diaspora learning network he also champions human rights at conferences here and abroad.

Community Sector Award

Kilburn Peace and Welcome Garden

The ancient and simple idea of a community garden has brought people of all cultures together at the Kilburn Peace and Welcome Garden. A Vietnamese woman and her children can be seen alongside people from Sri Lanka, Mexico and third-generation Australians. They ply their green thumbs, eat lunch together and take home the edible results of their labour. The gardeners have invested more than 3500 hours of volunteer time and produced more than \$60,000 worth of services and produce since the garden launched three years ago.

Media Award

Ms Sowaibah Hanifie

Sowaibah is the first woman of Muslim background to be employed by the ABC in South Australia as a cadet journalist. She spent 12 months at the Collinswood ABC studios and then joined the ABC regional team reporting on a range of issues affecting South Australia. She has reported on Aboriginal medicines, women on temporary visas experiencing domestic violence and the perception of police within migrant communities. Her stories are well researched and provide a balanced view on multiculturalism, generating a healthy debate in the community both locally and nationally. The judges congratulate her achievements, professionalism and commitment to journalism.

Private Sector Award

Neni's Dental Group

From humble beginnings, Neni's Dental Group has become the biggest provider of Dental Health services in South Australia, servicing more than 50,000 patients from diverse cultural and social backgrounds

The group has thus far created more than 100 jobs in regional SA, and employed migrants from 14 different nationalities who speak 12 different languages. It has sponsored overseas children's education and conducted free camps for multicultural groups, helping to build respect among individuals with different ethnic backgrounds.

Public Sector Award

City of Adelaide – Participation and Inclusion Team

The City of Adelaide has displayed genuine leadership in encouraging cultural diversity and multicultural participation, both through its committed *Participation and Inclusion* team, and through the personal support of the Lord Mayor and councillors.

The City has undertaken numerous initiatives to assist people from diverse communities to feel welcome, including organising and encouraging multicultural and culturally inclusive events.

In 2014 the City of Adelaide became the first Refugee Welcome Zone in South Australia and in 2017 it was the first capital city in Australia to become part of the Welcoming Cities Initiative.

Volunteer Award

Ms Monica Chiappe

Monica Chiappe worked in the women's health sector for decades providing services to CALD women and their children. She has remained a strong and tireless advocate for marginalised CALD women since her retirement three years ago. Among the many supports she has offered, Monica developed and organised a Hair Aid Day, bringing together qualified hairdressers in a community centre to provide free hair cuts for low or no income families. Her passion for social justice is demonstrated in a multitude of ways, including specific efforts in areas of family violence.

Mrs Saru Rana

Through resilience, positivity and dedication, Saru Rana has used her experience as a survivor of family violence to raise awareness about issues such as inequality, violence and abuse. Her organisation SHAMSHIR seeks to break the social stigma around difficult topics through sensitive discussion. Saru Rana has also been integral in recruiting girls to become an equal part of the in2cricket initiative at Klemzig, launched a project to educate children about bullying and abuse, and is now part of an international campaign aimed at bringing greater safety and beauty to multicultural communities.

Senior Volunteer Award

Mrs Anna Blazeka

Anna Blazeka has supported the Croatian Community for more than thirty-five years. The Croatian Club's Kitchen, which is open to all communities, has been hugely successful due to her dedication and commitment. Her voluntary work includes supporting the Community's soccer teams, its church choir, organising afternoon tea for the elderly and hosting the women's auxiliary group at their monthly meeting - and youth groups frequently seek her support for their fundraising and event organisation. Her dedication means Anna is highly respected by all who know her.

Youth Award

Mr Gabriel Akon

Gabriel Akon has applied his talent for music and poetry to inspire young people from refugee backgrounds to form positive social connections. Whether he's appearing at local schools, festivals or on national television, he uses his own refugee journey to send a message of hope to those who follow. Gabriel continues to support his homeland as an ambassador for Timpir, a South Sudanese NGO that has built two schools, and in fundraising to build a recording studio in the Kakuma refugee camp.

Miss Vinuri Gange

An energetic young law student, Vinuri Gange has displayed determination and selflessness in her contribution to communities. From first venturing into public speaking in 2014, she has swiftly risen to prominence as the secretary of the Australian Sri Lankan Association, representative for Sri Lanka at the AIESEC annual general summit, and most recently as South Australian Parliamentary intern to the Hon. Jing Lee. An accomplished dancer who has choreographed Bollywood dancing, Vinuri also transforms into an Arabian Princess for the charity "Once Upon a Princess", an initiative to brighten the lives of children in hospital.