



2019 Governor's Multicultural Awards

Award Winners

Outstanding Individual Achievement Award

For the first time in the history of the annual Governor's Multicultural Awards, joint winners have been selected for the individual achievement award, equally deserving of this prestigious honour.

Mrs Chye Yah Catherine Chong

Affectionately known as 'Aunty Cathy' across South Australia's multicultural communities, Cathy Chong's devotion and energetic contribution to the sector shows no sign of slowing, even at 70 years of age.

Reflective of the selflessness that marked her long standing nursing career, Cathy generously shares her considerable experience to mentor new generations of multicultural advocates.

Her activities are legion, from ...

- founding and leading the Sukeenang SA Hainan Association
- her roles as both President and Treasurer of Chinese Welfare Services – where she launched training programs, culturally appropriate visitation programs and initiated support for international students
- Presidency of the Chinatown Association where she drove Lunar New Year Celebrations
- and her Presidency of the Rotary Club of Adelaide west – which sees her coordinate fortnightly Central Market food collections for the homeless.

...to her many board memberships including

- the Multicultural Communities Council
- the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation
- the Women's Advisory Committee to the SA Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission
- BreastScreen SA
- and a ministerial advisory task force assisting the Minister for Small Business.

Her leadership across decades has seen her honoured in 2004 as a *Woman of Distinction* by the Asia Pacific Business Council for Women, and in 2009 with her inclusion on South Australia's Women's Honour Roll.

Ms Carmen Garcia

For the past quarter of a century Carmen Garcia has been a dynamic, passionate and innovative advocate for multicultural communities, particularly Filipinos.

The youngest and first Australian-born president of the national Filipino Communities Council of Australia, her trailblazing contributions began at age 16 when she became an inaugural member of the Multicultural Youth Network – an organisation she would go on to lead as Chair and later CEO, overseeing its incorporation as Multicultural Youth SA.

Active across a range of charities supporting Filipino communities, African children and the ‘Bread and Butter’ project, to create jobs in bakeries for newly arrived refugees, Carmen has gone on to establish her own social enterprise called Community Corporate. It has become one of Australia’s leading diversity and inclusion firms, each year helping hundreds of refugees and migrants to access employment.

Her work with the UN at the frontline of the Syrian crisis inspired her to launch a campaign called DiversityWorks, which counts amongst its clients Woolworths, Calvary Care and the OTR chain. Her subsequent co-designing and delivery of Woolworths’ Refugee Employment Program has supported more than 100 refugees find their first jobs.

Carmen has also designed and delivered South Australia’s first refugee-specific hospitality training and employment project, which is a finalist in this year’s state training awards.

Carmen has also been recognised and celebrated with other awards including being named Young Achiever of the year in 2004, South Australian Filipino Achiever of the year on multiple occasions, a 40 under 40 business leader in 2018, and bestowed with a Top 100 Most Influential Global Filipina Women award in 2016.

Arts and Culture Award

Adelaide Festival Centre’s OzAsia Festival

The OzAsia Festival has established itself as an inclusive celebration of cultural diversity, encouraging participation and attendance by the wider South Australian community.

For more than a decade it has showcased the finest arts and culture from across the Asian region – and the fact it is not limited to any one distinct community group has earned it a well-deserved reputation as a premier, family friendly, culturally inclusive event.

Over the three weeks of the 2018 festival, tens of thousands attended world class performances, plus free programs at the Lucky Dumpling Market, Moon Lantern parade and the inaugural JLF Jaipur Literature Festival.

Community Sector Award

The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre

For more than 20 years the University of South Australia’s Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre has delivered a diverse program of free events and exhibitions that reflect the themes of Strengthening our Democracy, Valuing Diversity and Building our Future.

Activities include the Australia and Refugee Association Oration, which gave voice to young African and Muslim Australian women; the Amnesty International Oration presented by General Kumi Naidoo, on human rights as pathway to a more inclusive world; and former refugee now international surgeon, Dr Munjed Al Muderis who spoke about his return to Iraq to change the lives of injured soldiers and civilians.

By providing a platform for experts, communities and artists to engage with South Australian and global audiences and challenge thinking, the Centre is demonstrably committed to building compassionate, harmonious and confident communities.

Mrs Constance Jones

Constance is formidable in her quest to ensure the empowerment of African women, in particular women from Sierra Leone, her country of birth. She has designed and developed many programs to support African women, to reduce their isolation both within their own community and the greater community.

Supporting and guiding the Sierra Leonean youth community has been a top priority for Constance. This has led her to establish, in collaboration with SA YOUTH's 2018 National Youth Week, the three day multicultural event known as the STEP-UP and STEP-OUT. This program was designed to develop young people's employability skills and knowledge.

An impressive role model and a mentor for the African community, Constance works tirelessly to advance multiculturalism.

Media Award

Radio Italiana 531

Broadcasting for more 44 years, Radio Italiana 531 has played a vital role informing, supporting and entertaining the Italian speaking community throughout South Australia.

Its diverse programming bridges generational differences - raising awareness and promoting the benefits of cultural diversity in the community. Over the past 12 months they have supported older community members to actively connect by utilising new technology and social media channels, such as Facebook.

It has courageously addressed topics such as domestic violence, Women's Suffrage and provided up to date information on a range of issues, particularly for those who are house bound.

Private Sector Award

South Australian National Football League

The South Australian National Football League (SANFL) has contributed over many years in the promotion of multiculturalism and social harmony.

Its "Welcome to Australian Rules Football" program aims to teach immigrant students about Australian football and the Australian way of life. Participants can transition to Auskick with a view for some to further their talents in more senior football. Not only does the program advance the skills of participants, but it also provides multi-lingual football education. The SANFL dedicates one round as a multicultural round, designed to encourage support for the game by people from a variety of backgrounds who are introduced to the game.

Its multicultural coaching academy, and similar umpiring academy, provides opportunities for participants to become accredited coaches and more involved in the wider community.

Public Sector Award

The History Trust of SA's Migration Museum

The world's first migration themed museum, the Migration Museum has for 33 years told the stories of tens of thousands of South Australians and celebrated cultural diversity.

Receiving some 200,000 visitors each year, the forum community gallery has presented 118 exhibitions and hosted education programmes benefiting 10,000 students annually.

Major 2019 partnership highlights have included celebrations of Harmony Day and Nowruz, Persian New Year, together with the Australian Migrant Resource Centre, and the hosting of Multicultural Communities Council of SA Celebrates 45 years.

Highly Commended Finalist

Interpreting and Translating Centre

The Interpreting and Translating centre (ITC) came a very close second in a strong field of candidates and received the judges' High Commendation.

Now entering its 45th year of operation, ITC is a key facilitator of interpreters and translators for many South Australian Government Departments and is recognised for service quality, its progressiveness and long term contribution to diversity in South Australia.

Volunteer Award

Mr Giuseppe Geracitano

With an extraordinary 45 years of selfless community service – especially in the fields of education, welfare and heritage – Giuseppe Geracitano has enriched the Italian community and the multicultural sector more broadly. In founding a range of community organisations, Giuseppe has been instrumental in the elevation and preservation of important heritage.

His role in the establishment of both the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission and the Migration Museum represents a particularly significant contribution to the state's cultural fabric.

Senior Volunteer Award

Mrs Dora Abbas

Dora Abbas has been a pillar of the Muslim community for the past 20 years, often sacrificing time with family and friends to promote the cause of Muslim women.

As chairperson of the Muslim Women's Association of SA since 2009, Dora has worked tirelessly to advance Muslim women in every aspect of their lives.

She has dedicated herself to removing the negative stereotypes associated with Muslim women, establishing a cross-cultural consultancy service, which includes mosque tours for service providers and schools...and working tirelessly to establish programs like English, legal and financial education classes for Muslim women.

Youth Award

Miss Nibir Chowdhury

Locally focused and globally engaged, Nibir Chowdhury epitomises commitment, energy and positivity.

From her efforts to engage her school peers in activities that increase awareness of the value of multiculturalism, to her involvement in community organisations and fundraising for disaster relief, her actions display leadership in harmony, acceptance, charity and advocacy across diverse communities, providing inspiration to young and old alike.