

## Award Winners

### Outstanding Individual Achievement Award

#### Mr Volodymyr 'Wally' Tkachuk

Born in Berestechko, Ukraine in January 1930 and arriving in Australia as a young man after the second world war in 1949, Wally Tkachuk wasted no time in becoming an active contributor to his new home. In his first year he joined the Ukrainian choir; in his second he became part of the Ukrainian orthodox community, helping to purchase land, build St Michael Church at Croydon and eventually become its chair, and later, administrator for the Australian Orthodox Kiev Patriarchy.

His commitment to the church is matched by his love of football – it was in his third year in Australia that he helped establish the USC Lion soccer club, serving more than 25 years as a committee member, chair and secretary. He chaired the South Australian Soccer Federation, was the Federation's state representative at national level and was instrumental in managing state teams, supporting the world youth soccer championships and hosting international teams.

Incredibly, Wally's contribution to community didn't end there. He spent a decade with the Ukrainian Credit Union Hoverla including seven years as chair, was a committee member of the Ukrainian Association of South Australia, chaired the SA Chapter of the Friends of the Olympic Committee of Ukraine and in his spare time, devoted himself to the Ukrainian program on 5EBI FM – for which he continues fortnightly broadcasts to this day, aged 93.

For his steadfast service to the Ukrainian community of South Australia, sport and broadcasting, please congratulate Volodymyr 'Wally' Tkachuk, the winner of the 2022 Governor's Multicultural Award for outstanding individual achievement.

### Arts and Culture Award

#### Mr Elyas Alavi

Fleeing his homeland of Afghanistan to start a new life in Australia in 2007, Elyas Alavi has established a national reputation for great storytelling about human possibility.

He has collaborated with a diverse range of art and cultural groups across Australia, and his poetry, art practice and curatorial advocacy enables audiences to engage with universal themes of memory, loss and grief. Elyas is the Art Director of the Persian/Farsi-speaking community organisation ARTA Cultural Centre and is a valued member of the Nexus Arts Artist Advisory Committee where he continues to influence contemporary intercultural arts practices.

## Community Sector Award

### **Royal Life Saving Society of South Australia Multicultural Program Swimming Instructors**

Royal Life Saving Society of South Australia is applauded for developing a Multicultural Program for culturally and linguistically diverse communities who are at a higher risk of drowning. On average, 288 people drown in Australia each year, with around one in four born overseas.

The inaugural eight-week course in 2021 provided free water safety lessons for more than 50 participants. The tailored water safety strategies used clear messaging that was both culturally sensitive and educational. Judges were especially impressed by efforts to encourage greater cultural diversity among those working in the aquatic industry in Australia, to better engage multicultural populations in water safety.

### ***Highly Commended Finalist***

#### **Sonder**

Against a backdrop of 22 per cent of migrants remaining unemployed 10 years after arrival, Sonder was highly commended by the judges for supporting migrants and refugees to overcome barriers to employment through culturally appropriate employment support.

Sonder's skilled team offers guidance and mental health support along the entire journey towards employment, including job searching, writing resumes and preparing for interviews.

## Media Award

### **ABC Radio Adelaide Afternoons Show Production Team**

In one of the strongest fields of media nominations in many years, the judges agreed ABC Radio Adelaide Afternoons Show was the standout, with a body of work spanning dozens of interviews, and a demonstrable commitment to showcasing culturally and linguistically diverse voices.

With topics ranging from sport participation rates, Covid vaccinations, menopause, the Indigenous Voice to parliament, multicultural quiet achievers and individual refugee stories, the Afternoon Program's Production Team has made a concerted effort to go beyond the easy and obvious - consistently producing thought-provoking journalism that sheds light on issues often missed by mainstream media.

### ***Highly Commended Finalist***

#### **COCKTAIL REVOLUTION**

Judges highly commended COCKTAIL REVOLUTION, Australia's only national street-style digital magazine, created by Stacey Pallaras in 2012 in response to a lack of diversity in the mainstream media.

Focused on fashion, COCKTAIL REVOLUTION has deftly fostered inclusion by presenting images of diverse and stylish young people photographed in city streets going about their daily lives – and even helped launched international modelling careers.

## Private Sector Award

### **Ms Madeeha Usman**

Madeeha Usman won judges praise for her concerted efforts to transform disability support for migrant communities. An active member of the Adelaide Pakistani Women Association, Madeeha is also the Director of NDIS Disability Housing provider Care Assure, Group CEO of Care Plan Management and Managing Director of accountancy firm The Calculators.

Madeeha entered the disability sector in 2019, after experiencing first-hand the challenges of finding a provider suitable for her now three-year-old daughter. She has since opened 25 specialised disability houses in South Australia, each delivering exceptional 24/7 support.

## Public Sector Award

### Mr Merv Yazarloo

In extending the focus of his anti-terrorism remit to community engagement and relationship building, Detective Sergeant Merv Yazarloo is setting an example of the best of prevention.

Clearly valued by community, Detective Sergeant Yazarloo has displayed empathy and worked hard over 15 years to build trust with diverse communities from countries where there may have been negative experiences with police. This is especially evident in his work with children and youth, for which he is particularly commended.

## Volunteer Award

### Mr Jon Thurlow

For more than 15 years Jon Thurlow has tirelessly supported the integration of multicultural youth into South Australia's southeast community through his voluntary work with the Naracoorte United Soccer Club as a coach and a committee member.

He recently initiated girls and women's soccer teams for migrant women who culturally aren't permitted to play with boys and men, leading negotiations with families and supporting the young women to develop confidence through sport.

Jon's efforts have helped the Naracoorte United Soccer Club grow, with more than 70 per cent of players currently from culturally diverse backgrounds, making it a social hub for families and a safe, accepting place for migrant women.

## Senior Volunteer Award

### Dr Devendra K Kulshrestha

For more than 40 years Dr Devendra K Kulshrestha has been an enthusiastic advocate of multiculturalism. A scientist and mathematician by profession, he is equally passionate about the arts and has helped introduce Australian communities to the cultures of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan through broadcast, poetry and song.

A long-standing cultural secretary of the Indian Australian Association of South Australia, he has been active in Indian Community Radio for decades, producing programs in Punjabi, Tamil, Kannada, Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu and Gharwali – a worthy recipient of the Senior Volunteer Award.

## Youth Award

### Mr Ackim Mulumba

Forced from Congo by war and persecution following the loss of his parents, Ackim Mulumba arrived as a humanitarian entrant, determined to make a life for himself, in order to help others. This is reflected in his pursuit of a Bachelor of Laws degree and his commitment to upholding human rights.

As a "Cultural Ambassador" for his community and the Australian Migrant Resource Centre, Ackim promotes community harmony and intercultural understanding across South Australia at various multicultural events such as SA Refugee Week and youth forums.

His strong and engaging leadership resulted in his recent re-election as President of the Congolese Youth of South Australia.