

2023 FINALISTS



HUMAN RIGHTS MEDAL

presented by AHRC + Paul Ramsay Foundation



Mechelle Turvey (WA)

for working towards long-term, systemic change for victims of crime following the tragic death of her son Cassius in late 2022.



Juliana Nkrumah AM (NSW)

for providing more than 30 years of service to advancing human rights in Australia's multicultural communities, especially in relation to gender equity and women's safety.



Dr Daniel Nour (NSW)

for founding and leading Side Street Medics, a volunteer-operated mobile medical service specifically created to provide care and support for people experiencing homelessness.



Dr Helen Watchirs OAM (ACT)

for more than 40 years of service as one of Australia's strongest advocates for human rights, leading to significant law reform in the areas of anti-terrorism, discrimination, mental health, guardianship, tenancy, and criminal legislation.

LAW AWARD

presented by AHRC + LexisNexis



Economic Justice Australia (National)

for defending the social security rights of people across Australia for more than 30 years – including in relation to the recent Robodebt scandal – and advocating for a more effective, equitable and accessible social security system for Australia.



David Barnden (NSW)

for leading the approach of his firm Equity Generation Lawyers to combatting climate change through innovative, first-of-their-kind legal actions which develop Australia's common law and create novel paths for addressing climate-related risks and damage.



Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (WA)

for over 50 years of service to First Nations people and communities in WA by providing legal expertise, community empowerment, advocacy for systemic change, and a culturally sensitive approach. ALSWA's recent work in relation to youth justice has been particularly impactful.



Human Rights for All (NSW)

for outstanding work in relation to obtaining liberty for asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons held in onshore Australian detention – especially those from marginalised communities – by promoting and protecting human rights through legal action, advocacy and education.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD

presented by AHRC + Delegation of the European Union to Australia



Gabriel Osborne (WA)

for exceptional and courageous advocacy for LGBTIQA+ survivors of institutional abuse and conversion practices.



Sarah Williams (NSW)

for outstanding advocacy and support for victims and survivors of sexual assault, especially as the founder of the What Were You Wearing project.



Zahra Al Hilaly (WA)

for exceptional advocacy in relation to the human rights and gender equity of young people in Australia and across the Asia Pacific, especially young people from refugee backgrounds.



Maggie Blanden & Keshi Moore (VIC)

for their outstanding work through Naarm Law Students on Voice to framing First Nations social justice issues using a human rights perspective and for addressing misinformation and disinformation about the Voice referendum across multiple youth-oriented platforms.







Insight | SBS TV (National)

for consistently delivering sensitive, empathetic and inclusive discussions across a broad range of often challenging topics.



Northern Pictures (NSW)

for producing powerful and inspirational stories and screen content (eg: Love On The Spectrum, Employable Me) which spotlight and humanise under-represented people and communities.



Common Ground (VIC)

for an outstanding approach and commitment to producing innovative and unique content which centres First Nations storytellers and communities in the digital space.



Anne Connolly (NSW)

for her work as an impactful, change making investigative journalist who shines a light on human rights issues that are often unacknowledged or underreported.

COMMUNITY AWARD

presented by AHRC + Federation of Ethnic Communities Council Australia



Square Peg Round Whole (National)

for outstanding volunteer-led work in relation to providing information about and advocating for inclusive education for neurodivergent children.



Advocacy Tasmania (TAS)

for more than 30 years of working to improve and restore human rights for Tasmanians and the broader community by providing individual advocacy, pursuing systemic change and providing education.



Equality Australia and Sydney WorldPride (NSW)

for supercharging the knowledge, skills and networks of 3200 LGBTIQA+ activists from around the world by delivering the 3-day Sydney WorldPride Human Rights Conference in March 2023, one of largest international LGBTQIA+ human rights conferences ever held.



Sisters Inside (QLD)

for outstanding work in relation to advocating for the rights of women and girls who are currently or have previously been in prison in Queensland, as well as supporting them to live safely and violence-free in prison and in the community when they leave prison.

