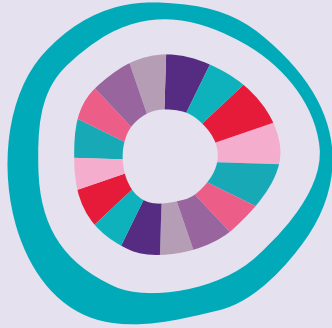
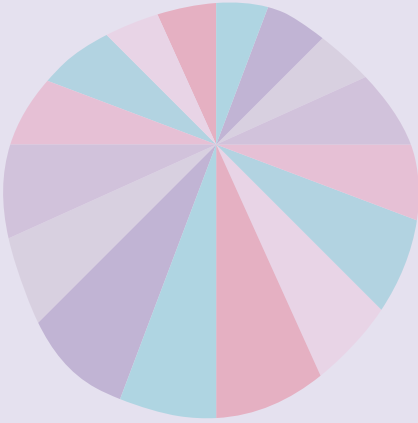




# 2019

## MINISTER FOR HEALTH VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Showcase





## Message from the Minister

From bringing a cup of tea to running a support group, Victoria's volunteers help other people every single day, using their gifts of creativity, enthusiasm and compassion to make our world a better place.

This year's Minister for Health Volunteer Awards recognise the inspiring work done by individuals and teams across the state. Our fantastic volunteers help make Victoria's world-leading public healthcare system even better.

Our army of volunteers encompasses a wide range of people – professionals visiting the elderly after work, retirees running support groups, young people using their own illness experiences to raise awareness and first-aiders running response teams just to name a few. Their generous work, carried out in environments where people are often at their most vulnerable, shows us the best of human kindness in action.

Congratulations to all of this year's finalists on your well-deserved recognition and thank you to every single one of Victoria's healthcare volunteers. You're a treasured part of Victoria's health community.

**Jenny Mikakos MP**  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Ambulance Services



DPV Health Peer Exercise Leaders during a group water exercise session.

## Introduction

Every day, in communities across the state, Victorians devote themselves to helping improve the lives of others. Within the public healthcare system, volunteers provide invaluable services to improve community health and wellbeing.

The Minister for Health Volunteer Awards provide an opportunity for us to recognise and honour the work done by our volunteers and its impacts. From groups sharing their experiences with mental health issues to help others navigate the health system, to those delivering exercise and strength training classes for older Victorians. From one volunteer giving up her lunch breaks to help transform radiation treatment into an empowering experience for children, to the many others who find creative ways to inform and inspire. From the knitters to the gardeners and therapy dogs, our volunteers represent the generosity and community spirit on display every day across Victoria's healthcare system.

This showcase booklet acknowledges all our 2019 nominee volunteers who, through their efforts, have helped improve the quality of our health services and patients' experiences, supported diversity and demonstrated innovative approaches to volunteering. We celebrate our young volunteers and those who have spent a lifetime supporting others.

As always, we honour the lifelong dedication of special volunteers who have spent more than 50 years contributing to their communities through the annual Honour Roll.

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## Judges

This year, Anthony Carbines MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, chaired our three judging panels who completed the important task of assessing the nominations and recommending the nominees for Outstanding Achievement Awards to the Minister for Health.

We thank the judges who generously gave their time.

**Ms Susan Biggar**

National Engagement Manager, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

**Mr Richard Dent**

Executive Director, Leadership Victoria

**Mr Andrew Greaves**

Consumer Advisory Committee Member, Better Care Victoria

**Ms Annie McPherson**

Consumer Volunteer and President, Ankylosing Spondylitis Victoria Inc.

**Mr Scott Miller**

Chief Executive Officer, Volunteering Victoria

**Dr Bronwyn Morkham**

National Director, Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance

**Mr Phillip Ripper**

Chief Executive Officer, Sunbury Community Health Service

**Ms Jeanette Ryan**

Volunteer Coordinator, Western District Health Service

**Mr Steven Taylor**

HEPReady AOD Workforce Training Project Officer

**Ms Sharon Walsh**

Manager, Volunteer Services, Bendigo Health

**Mr Dan Weeks**

Chief Executive Officer, West Gippsland Healthcare Group

**Ms Janet Wood**

Council on the Ageing



## Message from the Chair of Judges

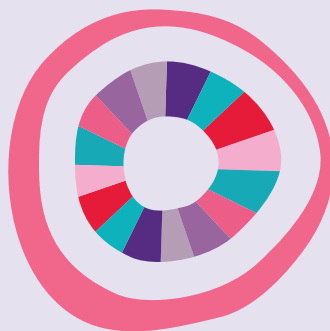
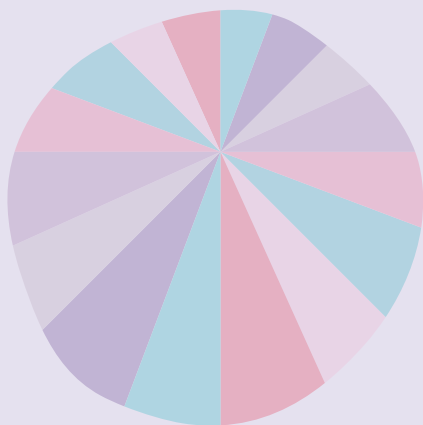
Victorians have a proud history of volunteering. This year's Minister for Health Volunteer Awards celebrate outstanding examples of the vital work done by volunteers within communities across the state.

It is a great privilege to judge these awards and to learn more about the invaluable contributions made, often without expectation of reward or recognition, by so many people across Victoria. On behalf of all the judges involved in reviewing this year's nominations, thank you to all nominees for your outstanding efforts and for the difference you make in people's lives every single day.

**Anthony Carbines MP**

Parliamentary Secretary for Health

# Awardees and finalists







## Outstanding Achievement by a Young Volunteer

Awardee

**Jamilla McCoy**

**Very Special Kids**

Very Special Kids (VSK) supports families caring for a child with a life-threatening condition. As a volunteer, Jamilla McCoy has been an incredible advocate for VSK through events and fundraising. She has made a significant impact in her work in the VSK Sibling Program, creating the Seeds for Siblings initiative. As part of the VSK Remembrance Day event in October 2018, Jamilla gave every family a handmade sunflower bag. Each bag contained sunflower seeds, a painted sunflower garden marker and planting instructions.

Families worked together to decorate pots and plant the seeds, taking them home to watch the flowers grow. When the flowers die off, the families can harvest the seeds and plant them again, creating a perpetual reminder of their lost sibling.

Jamilla's commitment to supporting families after the death of their child is unique, particularly from someone so young. She has found a way to highlight sibling bereavement while encouraging children to connect with nature.

Jamilla supplies these gifts to nine hospitals and has so far provided more than 1,500 bags to bereaved children. Jamilla brings a sense of enthusiasm, joy and excitement to her work, balanced with thoughtfulness, empathy and an emotional intelligence well beyond her years.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Young Volunteer

### Finalist

**Kaitlyn O'Kane**

**Cancer Council of Victoria**

Kaitlyn O'Kane is a brain cancer survivor, having been diagnosed as a teenager.

Not yet 30, Kaitlyn has shared her own cancer story many times to raise awareness for Cancer Council's fundraising campaigns and other life-saving work. She has taken part in a promotional video, a media campaign, a brand campaign and a video for the Cancer Council's wig service.

Kaitlyn is normalising the experience of hair loss for young people affected by cancer and demonstrating how the challenges of a diagnosis can be supported and improved.

While still experiencing treatment-related hair loss herself, Kaitlyn appeared in a national advertisement without her wig, demonstrating her commitment and bravery.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Young Volunteer

### Finalist

**Danny Diep**

**Western Health**

Danny Diep has been volunteering at Western Health for eight years, joining at the age of 12. He works in the op shop and regularly takes charge of the library trolley. He volunteers at fundraising events and for ad hoc tasks.

Danny has spent his adolescence in service to Western Health. He regularly attends training sessions and shows great commitment to ensuring he is well informed about the organisation and the health issues affecting the local community. He also mentors young volunteers.

Danny says he is grateful for his contact with patients, who help him appreciate the diversity of the community.



## Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

### Awardee

**Emma Finch**

**Link Health and Community**

Emma Finch channels her own experiences of mental illness into supporting others on similar journeys. She has volunteered countless hours running art therapy sessions with people who would be unable to afford sessions at private or commercial rates. A talented artist in her own right, Emma has always been driven by a passion for nurturing the skills and talents of those around her.

Emma's 30 years as a volunteer have included roles with Wesley Do Care, Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre, Link Health and Community and Bethlehem Hospital. Her students have included public housing tenants, children with intellectual disabilities, palliative care clients and local residents, supporting them to foster their creativity and explore what it means to live with anxiety and depression.

In 2015, after graduating from the Opening Doors community leadership program, Emma established The Black Dog Community Art Project, a series of art exhibitions that not only empower people living with mental illness to share their stories, but to create a broader, community-wide conversation about mental health.

Most recently, Emma has fostered partnerships with other community initiatives such as Grow and Kingston Creative Studios, lifting up even more people through art, as well as passing on her skills as an art therapist to future generations.



## Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

### Finalist

**Evelyn Frangeskakis**

**St George's Health Service  
& Caritas Christi Hospice**

Evelyn 'Frankie' Frangeskakis has been a volunteer with St Vincent's Hospital for 22 years.

She speaks five languages and volunteers at Caritas Christi Hospice and St George's Health Service running craft groups and visiting patients on dialysis. She has also volunteered in the gift shop.

Frankie has dedicated herself to helping culturally diverse patients have a better healthcare experience. She is truly an inspirational woman who represents all that is good in our multicultural society.

Now 88 years young, Frankie catches a bus and a tram twice a week to volunteer in rain, hail or shine.



## Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

### Finalist

**Cindy Furby**

**Red Nose**

Cindy Furby has volunteered for Red Nose (formerly SIDS and Kids) for 17 years, coordinating the Treasured Babies Program (TBP). TBP provides gift packs to families whose baby has died from miscarriage or stillbirth. The packs include tiny handmade clothing, wraps, teddys, naming certificates and coffins.

Cindy spends 60–70 hours per week at the TBP centre managing up to 50 volunteers and also makes items at home. She dispatches packs to hospitals all around Australia and manages the TBP Facebook page.

Cindy does all this with a smile on her face, knowing the work will help families who have to live with saying goodbye to their baby.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Better Care Victoria innovation award

### Awardee

### Peter Mac Radiation Therapy Mask Art

### Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Koala Kids

Radiation therapist Renae Thorson initiated the Peter Mac Radiation Therapy Mask Painting team to transform kids' radiation therapy masks into keepsake works of art. Radiotherapy masks are used to keep patients still during treatment. Once the kids have finished their course of treatment, Renae and volunteer artists from charity Koala Kids design and paint the masks according to the kids' requests. Barry Hay from Peter Mac's engineering department takes it a step further, designing and printing 3D objects to bring the masks to life, including unicorn horns and even elements that glow in the dark.

With funding from Koala Kids, there's yet to be a request too difficult for the volunteers to turn their talents to. They've created some incredible works of art from super heroes to storybook characters. Renae works on the masks in her lunch break and after work, and Barry creates the 3D designs at home.

Photos of the masks are shared among patients and on social media, opening up the conversation about radiotherapy. Renae and her team are humble about their achievements, but it's evident from the kids' reactions that it's these small things that make a huge difference to their treatment and recovery.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Better Care Victoria innovation award

### Finalist

**Lorna Chandler**

**Goulburn Valley Health**

At 77, Lorna Chandler has been volunteering at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Goulburn Valley Health in Shepperton for 23 years. Lorna uses her creative skills, her own funds and expertise to create personal hygiene and comfort patient packs for patients.

With the proceeds donated to the health service, Lorna also makes ‘happiness cards’ adorned with beautiful and inspiring words.

Lorna always presents with a happy demeanor despite often undertaking an exhausting daily routine as sole carer for her ailing husband and her brother-in-law.

Staff salute Lorna’s longevity as a volunteer, her quiet leadership style and her continual devotion.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Better Care Victoria innovation award

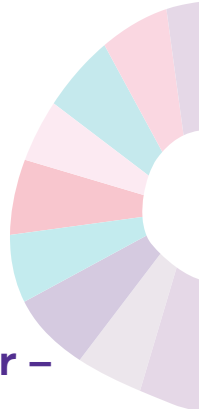
### Finalist

**Advance Care Planning  
Ambassadors**

**Austin Health**

The Advance Care Planning Volunteer Community Ambassador team operates a helpline to support community members and healthcare workers in Victoria and across the country to better understand advance care planning, have conversations about advance care planning, and complete an advance care directive.

Since 2012 the volunteer team has helped more than 4,500 Australians navigate the complex and, at times, emotionally challenging process of advance care planning. The team of 13 are professionals from across law, health care and social work who share a genuine passion for community health and wellbeing and who generously share their skills and time.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Improving the patient experience

### Awardee

**Chon Witherden**

**Barwon Health**

For more than 10 years Chon Witherden has been supporting patients at the end of their lives, spending the past three years as a volunteer in the Barwon Health Palliative Care Unit.

Drawing on her own experiences, Chon personalises every interaction she has with patients. She intuitively taps into their needs, helping them to connect with the things they love – sitting quietly outside in a garden, listening to music or going on an outing of their choosing.

The palliative care team has come to rely on Chon and the amazing way she approaches her volunteer role. Although based in an inpatient setting, Chon regularly visits patients at home to meet special requests. These requests have included hand and foot massages, respite, gentle conversations about funeral planning and even haircuts.

Chon allows people to live and die with dignity. She has a way with words and a unique, honest way of changing a patient's way of thinking about death from 'end of life' to 'quality of life'.

She has a genuine warmth and empathetic soul that draws people in. Her ability to bring calm to what is often an anxious time inspires those around her.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Improving the patient experience

Finalist

**Michelle Brindley**

**Eating Disorders Victoria**

Michelle Brindley is an esteemed Eating Disorders Victoria team member who is well respected for her expertise in eating disorders and her passionate approach to supporting our community.

As a helpline volunteer for 14 years, Michelle offers the perspective of lived experience, which can instantly melt the shame and stigma felt by many. Michelle is generous in offering parts of her personal story to ease some of the isolation that a complex mental illness can yield.

Michelle also mentors less experienced volunteers and uses her experience to demystify treatment spaces and types of treatment for worried patients.

## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Improving the patient experience

Finalist

**Barbara Haynes**

**Melbourne Health**

Barbara Haynes has made a sustained contribution to patients at the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) over 20 years, establishing the RMH Volunteer Guide service in 2006.

Barbara has contributed as a member of the Friends of RMH and as a volunteer in the RMH Foundation. She is a continued presence on improvement committees and is heavily involved in the hospital's annual Posy Day, helping to ensure that hundreds of patients each year receive a posy to celebrate the first day of spring.

As a weekly guide, Barbara takes on the challenging 5.30 am shift to ensure there's a reassuring presence for patients arriving for early surgery.





## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Improving public healthcare

### Awardee

**Alan White**

**Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre**

Alan White strives to improve the experience of men living with prostate cancer. As a prostate cancer survivor himself, Alan empathises with and empowers men living with the condition.

At Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Alan is actively involved in a National Health and Medical Research Council funded trial of an online treatment decision aid called NAVIGATE for men diagnosed with low-risk prostate cancer. As a named consumer-investigator on the grant, Alan has played a crucial role in this trial from its inception.

Alan also facilitates a support group for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and is a Men's Health Peer Educator for the Department of Veterans' Affairs. He is an active consumer advocate, presents at scientific conferences and consumer health forums, writes scholarly papers, prepares grant applications, has authored a book and writes a blog.

Alan combines the personal experiences of men with prostate cancer with his knowledge of the health system to improve outcomes for the men he works with. He helps them to process their diagnosis and to cope with the side effects of treatment. He is genuine, personable and, in his own words, 'comfortable talking about the uncomfortable'.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Improving public healthcare

Finalist

**Corryong Health  
Volunteer Drivers**

**Corryong Health**

For 20 years, the Corryong Health community transport volunteer drivers have driven patients to medical appointments 130 km away in Albury-Wodonga and even to Wangaratta 190 km away.

The eight drivers are a committed group that allow community members access to specialists, cancer treatment and other appointments that are not available within the local area.

The drivers often have very long days, waiting for clients to finish cancer treatments and day surgery procedures. Some clients are wheelchair-bound, and drivers are happy to oblige extra requests such as stopping to fill scripts or taking clients for a coffee.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Improving public healthcare

Finalist

**Jacqui Gibson and  
Rebekah Kaberry**

**Dental Health Services Victoria**

Jacqui Gibson and Rebekah Kaberry are consumer representatives with Dental Health Services Victoria. The pair were recently appointed to the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement working group to refine the standardised set of questions asked during treatment.

Following this, they helped develop the global standard set of oral health outcome measures, which has been distributed to oral health professionals across Australia.

Their work in amplifying the voice of the consumer has had a significant impact on improving decision making between health providers and vulnerable clients.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Supporting diversity

**Awardee**

**Listening to Voices Theatre**

**Gateway Health**

Listening to Voices Theatre is an innovative Gateway Health project that is shifting community conversations about mental health towards optimism, hope and understanding.

Under the guidance of community development theatre director Catherine Simmonds, volunteer performers Ben, Kelly, Sarah, Jain and Chloe share their stories to help shift people’s mindsets from ‘what’s wrong with you’ to a greater understanding of ‘what’s happened to you’.

Since early 2016 the group, who have all had their own experiences with mental health issues, has presented more than 20 community, health and education specific performances across metropolitan and regional Victoria and New South Wales. More than 1,500 people have heard their stories live and many more through a short film they created about their work.

Despite the personal impact of this work on their own mental health at times, the troupe manage to balance tough topics with humour and energy. They are constantly shattering the stigma around mental illness, particularly psychosis and schizophrenia, and highlighting the impact of childhood trauma through raw and honest accounts that are at the same time hopeful and emphasise recovery.

They have presented to health services, professionals, community groups and students, and continue to impact people’s perceptions of mental health care.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Supporting diversity

Finalist

### Volunteer Doula Team

**Birth for Humankind**

Birth for Humankind provides birth support for women experiencing financial hardship, especially those from a new migrant or refugee background. The birth support workers include midwives (active, retired and students) and professionally trained doulas. These volunteers are matched with pregnant women experiencing social disadvantage including experiences of family violence, abuse or trauma, and women at increased risk of perinatal depression and anxiety.

In the past 12 months, the volunteers have provided more than 3,000 hours of one-to-one practical, emotional and personal support to approximately 100 clients. Much of this is labour support but often continues into early parenting, creating a lifetime of difference for families.



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Supporting diversity

Finalist

### Dr Janet Bodycomb

**Asylum Seeker Resource Centre**

Every week for more than 10 years Dr Janet Bodycomb has volunteered her time as a GP at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

Bringing wisdom and compassion to the role, Janet has provided around 1,600 hours of pro bono client care for people seeking asylum who cannot access primary care in their community.

Hundreds of people seeking asylum have had their general health and wellness greatly improved because of Janet's care. She always maintains her calm and understanding demeanour amid the challenges of a resource-poor clinic.

With many clients presenting with histories of trauma, Janet is an unfailingly patient, kind and extremely thorough clinician.

# Honour roll

Recognising and celebrating volunteers with 50 years or more of volunteering



**John Crennan**  
St John Ambulance Victoria



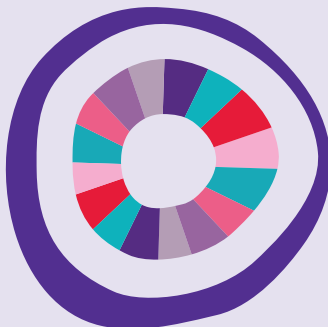
**Rod Patton**  
Cowes Ambulance Auxiliary



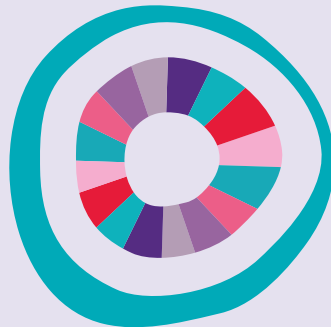
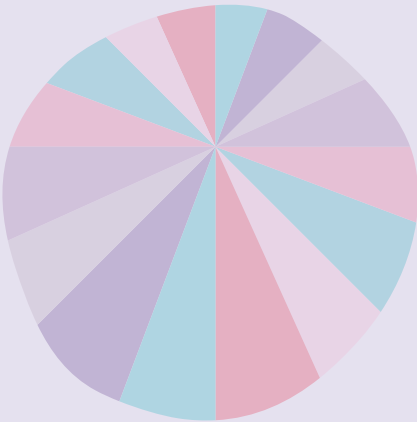
**Yvonne Josephine Henderson OAM**  
Robinvale Ambulance Auxiliary



**Norman Wynne**  
Maffra Ambulance Auxiliary



# Nominees



## Outstanding Achievement by a Young Volunteer



**Ben Page**  
Vision Australia



**Lyllie Bloomer**  
St George's Health Service



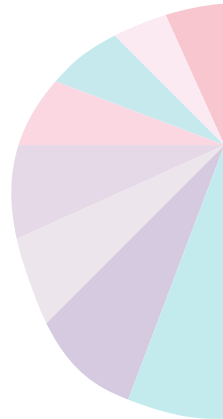
**Jack Boessler**  
St John Ambulance Victoria



**Spark Program**  
West Wimmera Health Service



**Joshua Stephens**  
Western District Health Service





## Outstanding Lifetime Achievement



**Beth Benbow**  
Bendigo Health



**Diane Steward**  
The Royal Melbourne Hospital



**Candy Pile**  
Bass Coast Health



**Faye Noble**  
Western Health



**Charles Martin**  
Ambulance Victoria



**John Hood**  
mecwacare



**David McKenzie**  
Banyule Community Health



**Margot Search**  
Eastern Health





**William Scott**  
Pharmacy Guild of Australia  
(Victorian Branch)



**Roma Tully**  
Western District Health Service



**Pamela Wood**  
Hepatitis Victoria



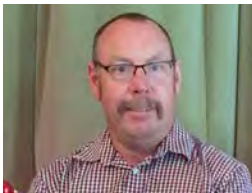
**Valma Woodhouse**  
Bairnsdale Regional Health Service



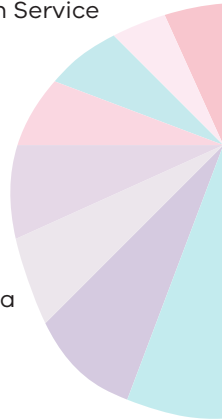
**Pat Morrow**  
The Compassionate Friends Victoria Inc



**Virginia Murphy**  
St John Ambulance Victoria



**Paul Lovell**  
Ballarat Health Services





## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Better Care Victoria innovation award



**Alan and Elaine Overall**  
Boort District Health



**San Remo Opportunity Shop**  
Bass Coast Health



**Hester Dunbar**  
West Wimmera Health Service



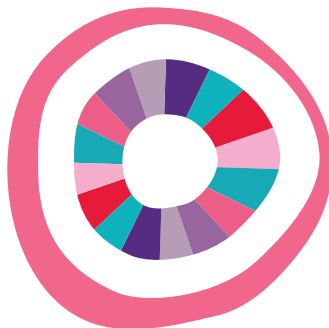
**The Paediatric Outpatient Services**  
Western Health



**Rob Lang**  
Australian Pain Management  
Association Ltd



**WDHS Hospital Op Shop**  
Western District Health Service



## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Improving the patient experience



**Active LiFE Falls Program Volunteers**  
Star Health



**Anne Coutts**  
Northeast Health Wangaratta



**Anne Johnson**  
The Kilmore and District Hospital



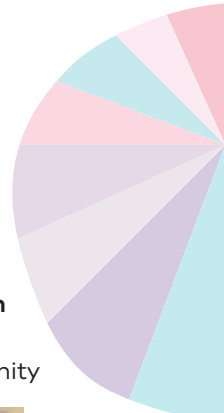
**Auxiliary – Connect Health  
& Community**  
Connect Health & Community



**Beechworth Health Service  
Community Advisory Committee**  
Beechworth Health Service



**Bendigo Health ICU Volunteers**  
Bendigo Health





**Cameron Colley**  
Ambulance Victoria



**Gwen Hurley and Yvonne Kane**  
Northern Health



**Colleen Byrne**  
Australian Pain Management  
Association Ltd



**Jenny Werner**  
St Vincent's Hospital



**Eileen Roberts**  
Anam Cara Geelong



**Jan Dihood**  
Albury Wodonga Health



**Gail Shadbolt**  
healthAbility



**Jane Richardson**  
East Grampians Health Service



**John Carter**  
Heywood Rural Health



**Judy Hiscock**  
Bellarine Community Health



**Justices of the Peace**  
Austin Health



**Karen Budden**  
Peninsula Health



**Keith Cozens**  
Epworth Healthcare



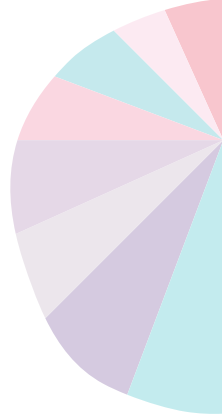
**Kooweerup Ladies Auxilliary**  
Kooweerup Regional Health Service



**Margaret Alley**  
Benalla Health



**Margaret Jenner**  
Your Community Health





**Mercy Place Volunteers**  
Mercy Place Warrnambool



**Patient Experience Survey Team**  
Alfred Health



**Monash Children's Hospital Operating Theatre Volunteer team**  
Monash Health



**Rama Appuswamy**  
The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital



**Natasha Orel**  
Sacred Heart Mission



**Robyn Youl**  
Djerriwarrh Health Services



**Olive Karam**  
Stawell Regional Health



**Rosalie Vlek and Aurora**  
EACH



**Templestowe Valley  
Probus Club Craft Group**  
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre



**Volunteer Rehabilitation  
Activity Program**  
Western Health



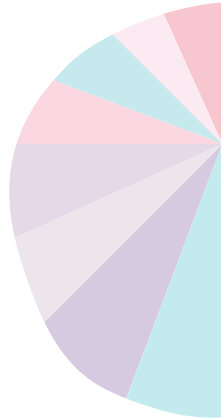
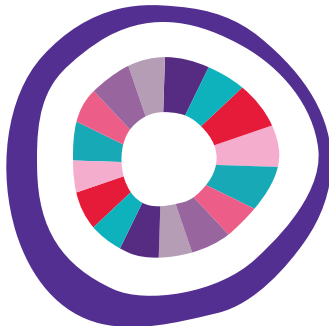
**Wendy Down**  
Royal Women's Hospital



**West Gippsland Healthcare Group  
Book Trolley Tam**  
West Gippsland Healthcare Group



**Western District Health Service  
Ward Volunteers**  
Western District Health Service





## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Improving public healthcare



**Ageing Well Ambassadors**  
Melton City Council



**DPV Health Peer Exercise Leaders**  
DPV Health



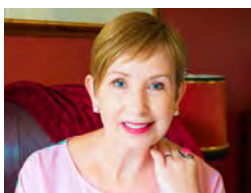
**Bendigo Health Vol Express**  
Bendigo Health



**Helen Allen**  
West Gippsland Healthcare Group



**Carol Anderson**  
Sandringham Hospital



**Jane Power**  
Mercy Health



**Comfort Care Pilates Program**  
Western Health



**Koori Cuddler Program**  
The Northern Hospital





**Lyn Russell**  
Eastern Health



**Sue Gilbert**  
Peninsula Health



**Ray Kelly**  
North Eastern Melbourne  
Integrated Cancer Service



**Sue Viney**  
BreastScreen Victoria



**Sally Potter**  
Sacred Heart Mission



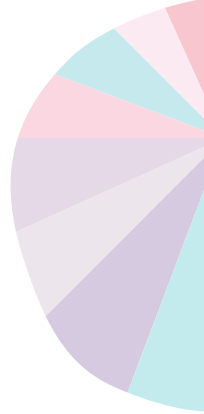
**Vicki Grealy**  
Latrobe Community Health Service



**Sharon Gunn**  
Merri Health



**Volunteer Transport Service**  
Barwon Health





## Outstanding Achievement by a Volunteer – Supporting diversity



**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knitted beanies**  
Western Health



**Brimbank Community Register**  
Brimbank City Council



**Antonia Camilleri**  
Maltese Community Council of Victoria



**Jodie Belyea**  
Variety of NGO and government funded projects



**Brenda Schroeders**  
Parks Victoria



**Lynette Bolton**  
Colac Area Health –  
Neighbourhood House



**Maria Nelis**  
Northern Health



**Thorne Harbour Health's Medical Transport Team**  
Thorne Harbour Health



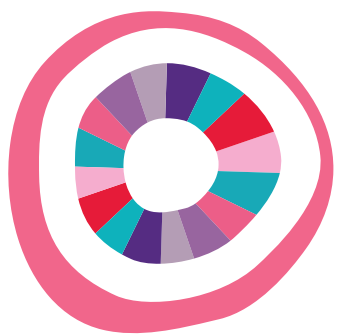
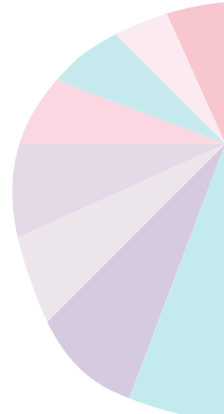
**Susia Hartigan**  
Australian Pain Management Association Ltd



**Valentin Corchado**  
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre



**The Fawkner Friendship Group**  
Merri Health





# Vale

## Rod Patton

### Cowes Ambulance Auxiliary

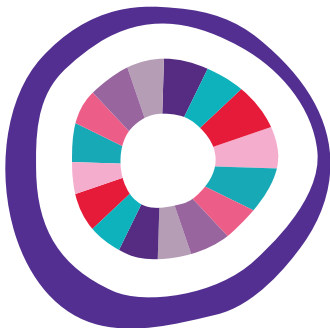
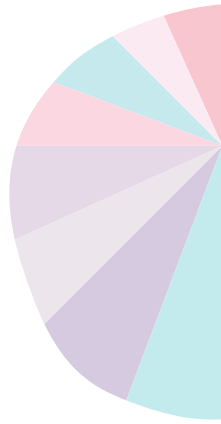
Rod Patton was a Cowes Ambulance Auxiliary member for 50 years, holding executive positions through several terms as president and vice president. He was also an active member of the CFA for more than 50 years, with multiple periods as captain and other brigade officer roles as well as being a group officer for many years. While volunteering he ran his own heavy equipment business as well as a sheep and beef farm.


Like all members of the auxiliary, the role called Rod away from his work and family at a moment's notice to provide emergency medical response to the local community. Rod and his family are owed a great deal of gratitude for all they have done for Ambulance Victoria and the communities of Phillip Island and San Remo.

As part of the auxiliary, Rod helped raise funds for various items of equipment to support branch staff. Over the past two decades, auxiliary funds purchased \$250,000 of equipment and training for the branch and local paramedics. The auxiliary also contributed \$45,000 to better equip a CSO vehicle in the South Coast District.

Rod was nominated to be inducted onto the Honour Roll this year, sadly he passed away in the lead up to these awards. He showed true dedication and loyalty, not only to Ambulance Victoria, but to the entire community in Cowes and its surrounds.

We recognise his dedicated volunteering, he will be truly missed.





The Victorian Government proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we live, work and play. We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches our society more broadly. We embrace the spirit of self-determination and reconciliation, working towards equality of outcomes and ensuring an equitable voice.

Victorian Aboriginal communities and peoples are culturally diverse, with rich and varied heritages and histories both pre and post-invasion. The impacts of colonisation – while having devastating effects on the traditional life of Aboriginal Nations – have not diminished Aboriginal people's connection to country, culture or community. Aboriginal Nations continue to strengthen and grow with the resurgence of language, lore and cultural knowledge. These rich and varied histories need to be understood and acknowledged by all Victorians, to truly understand the resilience and strength of previous generations, as well as the history of the fight for survival, justice and country that has taken place across Victoria and around Australia.

As we work together to ensure Victorian Aboriginal communities continue to thrive, the government acknowledges the invaluable contributions of generations of Aboriginal warriors that have come before us, who have fought tirelessly for the rights of their people and communities towards Aboriginal self-determination. We are now honoured to be part of that vision.

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 03 9096 2305 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email [volunteer.awards@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:volunteer.awards@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

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This publication may contain images of deceased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Where the term 'Aboriginal' is used it refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Indigenous is retained when it is part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

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