

# Media Release

**The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP**  
Minister for Veterans  
Minister for Small Business  
Minister for Youth



Thursday, 26 September 2024

## CELEBRATING VICTORIA'S RURAL AND REGIONAL YOUTH

The Allan Labor Government is celebrating young people and youth workers who have made a difference in rural and regional Victoria.

Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman today presented seven awards at the 2024 Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) Rural Youth Awards, recognising young people from across rural and regional Victoria who have helped to shape their communities.

The YACVic Rural Youth Awards are held once every two years and recognise young people and youth workers for their achievements and contributions in creating positive change in rural and regional Victoria.

Recipients of the 2024 YACVic Rural Youth Awards are:

- Young person leading change: Lana Pagram and Layla Sheedy, Ocean Mind Inc., Greater Geelong
- Youth Worker making a difference: Adam Walsh, Junction Support Services
- Outstanding youth project promoting diversity and inclusion: The Hangout Swifts Creek and Omeo District
- Outstanding youth participation in mental health and wellbeing: Isabella Gilliam, headspace Geelong
- Outstanding youth participation in community-based disaster resilience: The Resilient Alpine Youth Squad, Bright
- Young people producing outstanding content: Gippsland Youth Advisory Group, Centre for Multicultural Youth
- Young peer worker of the year: Zoe Tizard, headspace and Geelong Head to Health

The Labor Government has a long history of working with YACVic, to support its mission to elevate the voices of young people and build the capacity of the Victorian youth sector.

For more information and a list of the 2024 award recipients, visit [yacvic.org.au/rural](https://yacvic.org.au/rural).

### Quote attributable to Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman

*"I'm so pleased to celebrate the contributions these young people and youth workers have made in rural and regional Victoria. Congratulations to the winners, finalists and nominees for their contributions to their communities and our state."*

### Quote attributable to YACVic Chief Executive Officer Mary Nega

*"The Rural Youth Awards are more than just a celebration – they are a testament to the strength and innovation of our rural and regional young people and youth workers. We are proud to acknowledge their contributions and showcase how their initiatives are shaping the future of their communities."*

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