



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
VICTORIA

**VICTORIAN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2022**  
**VIDEO MESSAGE**  
**Wednesday 10 November 2021**

First, I want to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which I am standing as I send this message to you, and I want to pay my respects to their Elders past and present, as well as to Elders from other communities who are watching.

As the Governor of Victoria, it is a great pleasure for me to be able to recognise and celebrate some outstanding Victorians, as part of the 2022 Victorian Australian of the Year Awards.

Amidst the challenging times that we have been enduring, an occasion that showcases some of our finest Australians brings us just the celebration that we need.

We see a wide variety of individuals amongst our nominees, and can marvel at the diverse contributions made by them.

May I say to each of you that you truly help to make our State and our nation stronger.

I have a strong belief that governments, public officeholders and institutions can only do so much. The ultimate health and strength of our community will always rest on its people.

And that's why these Awards are so important.

First and foremost, they enable us to acknowledge your individual and collective contributions to Victoria, and to thank you for all that you have done.

But, in addition, we know that, in celebrating you and your contributions, others will be inspired to follow the example you've set.

And we can be reminded to be grateful for all the clever, resourceful, good and caring people who, like you, strive to make our community a better place.

Given recent logistical challenges, a special thank you is due to everyone who has worked hard to ensure that these Awards have been able to proceed successfully this year, with a particular mention to the hard-working committee volunteers.

Finally, to those who will go on to represent Victoria in Canberra in January next year, you will, of course, carry our very best wishes with you.

But to all our nominees, I send the warmest congratulations. Whether or not you become the title-holder in your category shortly, you can be very proud of this recognition.

Victorians too are proud of you, and we are grateful for all your work in maintaining – in the words of Victoria's State motto – our *Peace and Prosperity*.