Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

RCLDS Residential Care Awards 2025

Information Pack

June 2025

50 Market Street,
Melbourne, VIC 3000
(03) 9614 1577
cfecfw.org.au

The Residential Care Learning and Development Strategy (RCLDS) Residential Care Awards recognise exceptional work carried out by Residential Carers.

Presented at the annual Resi ROCKS celebration event on Thursday 4 September 2025, these awards celebrate and encourage work of the highest standard in the provision of therapeutic residential care provided in Victoria that contributes to positive outcomes for children and young people living in residential care.

Nominating an individual or team is an easy way to publicly spotlight their outstanding achievements in working with children and young people in care.

The Awards are open to any individual or group working in DFFH Out of Home Care funded residential care units in Victoria who contribute to positive and professional residential care of children and young people.



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Award categories and criteria

Awards will be offered in seven categories:

Residential Carer Award

A person who has worked to achieve outstanding outcomes for children and young people living in residential care and demonstrates an ongoing commitment to learning and development.

For a Residential Care Worker who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to their role, which has led to positive changes to the lives of children and young people in residential care.

Such a Carer demonstrates:

1. A high standard of therapeutic residential work, which has had a positive impact on the quality of life of children, young people and families.
2. A direct contribution to maintaining a safe, supportive and nurturing living environment for children and young people in their care.
3. An outstanding contribution to supporting their team and peers.
4. Commitment to learning and development and using this to model best practice and/or innovation.

Download nomination form

Residential Team Award

A team within a residential house who have worked collaboratively to achieve significant, positive outcomes for children and young people living in residential care.

For a residential team that has worked collaboratively and therapeutically to achieve significant and positive outcomes for children and young people whilst living in residential care.

Such a team demonstrates:

1. Cohesive and collaborative team culture focused on achieving positive outcomes for staff, children, young people, and families.
2. A commitment to learning and development.
3. Maintains a safe, supportive and nurturing living environment for children and young people in their care.
4. Innovative, collaborative practice with the wider community and sector to achieve improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.
5. Considers young peoples' voices in the delivery of individualised care.

Download nomination form

Leadership Award

A person who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and innovation in their leadership role, significantly impacting residential care systems and outcomes for children and young people.

For a Residential Care Supervisor/Manager who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities in bringing about better outcomes for children and young people living in residential care and for staff.

Such a leader demonstrates:

1. Outstanding achievement in their leadership role with positive outcomes for staff, children, young people, and families
2. Significant commitment towards a culture that embraces learning and skills development for staff
3. Collaborative sector and community partnerships

Download nomination form

RCLDS Learner Award

Recognising a carer who has demonstrated commitment to learning and development, through regular attendance at training, including but not limited to RCLDS training.

The successful candidate must have demonstrated a commitment to ongoing learning and development through active participation in a range of learning opportunities, including RCLDS training over the last 12 months.

Further to this, the applicant must:

1. Actively share new learning with team members and colleagues
2. Promote learning opportunities within the organisation as avenues to improve practice and act as a learning 'champion'.

Download nomination form

Hall of Fame Award

Honouring an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to the Residential Care sector with over 10 years of service.

For a person who has worked in residential care for a period of 7 years or longer. Such a person demonstrates:

1. A true commitment to the work of therapeutic residential care
2. Acts as a mentor/buddy to other residential care staff including new recruits.
3. An ability to form strong meaningful relationships with young people and often acts as an advocate for young people
4. A reliable and adaptive approach to a therapeutic residential care model
5. A willingness to change styles/approaches/systems to meet the ever-changing needs of residential care and young people.

Download nomination form

Education Award

A person or team that has used innovative approaches in supporting educational success for children and young people living in residential care.

A team or individual that demonstrates the use of creative responses and approaches in supporting educational success for children and young people living in residential care.

1. Advocates for the young people in their care, throughout their education journey.
2. Seeks to provide opportunities for learning outside of the traditional structures of education.
3. Champions the children and young people, ensuring their voice is heard in decision-making.
4. Actively seeks opportunities for collaboration in the young peoples' best interests.

Download nomination form

Cultural Engagement Award

An individual or a team that demonstrates a commitment to providing best practice and culturally appropriate care to young people.

1. Responding and providing culturally appropriate care to children and young people within the residential home.
2. Actively seeking opportunities for young people to explore and learn about their culture and participate in cultural activities
3. Consultation and guidance with cultural services to ensure appropriate responses and best practice care.
4. Actively collaborates with community elders and organisations to ensure best practice care.
5. Role models a continual learning journey of building cultural awareness and competency within the home and/or team

Download nomination form

Applications must address all the above criteria in their category to be eligible.



Application Information

Supporting Documents

Tell us the story in your nominations!

All applications must include at least two supporting documents, at least one of which must come from an external organisation or person.

This might include a letter from a young person, photos of the home or videos of Carers sharing about their work help to enrich your nomination.

Please refer to your supporting documents in your written nomination and ensure they are relevant to the criteria questions.

All submissions and supporting documents become the property of RCLDS; they cannot be returned and may be used to promote the RCLDS event and awards. Please be mindful of what you send in and ask for permission from those who are featured.

Referees

Two referees must be provided for each nomination. At least one referee should be external to the nominee's workplace. References for short-listed nominees will be checked.

Endorsement of the Chief Executive Officer must be obtained for nominations to be accepted.

The Judging Panel

The Judging Panel will comprise a senior representative of the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, a senior staff member from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and a senior member from an ACCO. No member of the judging panel may have a nomination from their Agency in consideration.

The Decision

The RCLDS Awards Judging Panel will consider the information provided on the nomination form and supporting documentation and may request additional information to assist in the decision-making.

The decision of the Judging Panel is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Finalist Notifications

Finalists will be notified prior to ResiROCKS via the Centre's communications channels. Finalists must attend on the day (Thursday, 4 September 2025) and teams that are finalists in the Residential Team Award will be provided with tickets for two representatives.

The Awards

The seven Award Category Winners will receive:

- An engraved award trophy
- A framed certificate for the winner's Community Service Organisation office

Privacy Statement

Consistent with Victorian Government policy and legislation and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare in Child Privacy Policy, the RCLDS Reference Group endorses fair information handling practice.

Private and personal information supplied will be used by the Judging Panel to assist their decision making only. Information will not be disclosed or used for any other purpose without the express consent of the person to whom the information relates, unless otherwise required by law.

By applying, nominees agree to be photographed and give permission for the images to be published in relation to RCLDS.

Please refer to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Privacy Policy here and the CFECFW Privacy Policy here for further information.



How to apply

Nomination forms can be downloaded from our website or using the links above.

Forms are to be completed in full and emailed, with supporting documents to rclds@cfecfw.org.au

Use the subject line: **RCLDS Awards Nomination - <category>**

All nominations must be received by midnight on **Friday 25 July 2025.**

For more information and updates about ResiROCKS and the Residential Care Awards visit www.cfecfw.org.au/resirocks/

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