

Mollie Dyer

AWARDS

About VACCA

The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) is the largest Aboriginal community-controlled child and family organisation in Australia. It was co-founded in 1977 by Aunty Mollie Dyer, a tireless advocate for Aboriginal children, young people and families.

Strong Aboriginal families and communities mean strong Aboriginal children. VACCA provides services to support Aboriginal children, young people and families across Victoria. Standing for self-determination and cultural respect, VACCA advocates strongly for the Aboriginal community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, VACCA has continued to deliver services and meet critical needs.

Our Vision is for Aboriginal self-determination
- Live, Experience, Be.

www.vacca.org



"To my mother, and to all those children and families who taught me so much about their very struggle for survival and their heartache at having their children removed."

– Aunty Mollie Dyer

Mollie Dyer Awards 2021



VACCA
Connected by culture

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE AGENCY

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Leadership Through Crisis –
Celebrating Extraordinary People in Extraordinary Times

About the Molly Dyer Awards

The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) is proud to announce this year's Mollie Dyer Awards, in honour of its extraordinary co-founder, Aunty Mollie Dyer. The Awards will celebrate Victorian Aboriginal people who have shown great leadership, gone beyond, and everyday heroes who overcame the challenges to support Aboriginal children, young people and families during the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Mollie Dyer

"Our kids are the most viable enterprise we can be engaged in." – Aunty Mollie Dyer

Aunty Mollie Dyer, a proud Yorta Yorta woman, is remembered as a courageous advocate for the rights of Aboriginal children and families, with an unwavering belief in the strength of Country, Community and Culture.

The mother of six would foster many children and young people. Big-hearted and strong-willed, she advocated tirelessly for the Aboriginal community, especially for Aboriginal children in care to be placed with Aboriginal families whenever possible. Mollie co-founded VACCA and played a key role in establishing other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, including the national peak body for Aboriginal child welfare SNAICC.

In her lifetime, Aunty Mollie Dyer received many important awards for her dedicated service, including the Order of Australia, International Year of the Child Award and the Advance Australia Award. She created an enduring legacy and remains an inspiration to many people today.

Award Categories



Emerging Leaders (18-24 years): Celebrating an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young person living in Victoria, who has shown innovation and leadership in support of community during the crisis of this past year. Our young people are the next generation of change-makers. We celebrate how deadly they are!



Community Leaders: Recognising an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person living in Victoria, who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in the community. Nominees may have shown innovation in adapting to challenges, been an effective advocate, or provided care to the community during the crisis of the past 12 months.



ACCO Leaders: Recognising an exceptional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person living in Victoria who has shown strong leadership during the trials of the past 12 months. This could be by improved practice and service excellence, raising awareness, effective advocacy, or overcoming challenges to provide services and care to the community.

Winners will be announced in a virtual ceremony at the VACCA AGM on Friday 26 November 2021. Winners from each category will receive a commemorative plaque and a \$3000 cash prize.

Nominations are open for six weeks: Monday 30 August - Friday 8 October 2021.

NOMINATE online at awards.vacca.org, by email to awards@vacca.org, or by phone via 0439 921 589 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri)

Nominate now!

If you know an emerging leader, community leader, or ACCO leader who has gone beyond, and been an everyday hero during the COVID-19 pandemic, you can submit nominations until **5pm on Friday 8 October 2021.**