

Media Release

22 June, 2022

Cultural Diversity in Ageing Excellence Awards Acknowledges Outstanding Efforts in Culturally Inclusive Practices

The Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing recently hosted the [Cultural Diversity in Ageing Excellence Awards 2021](#). The event initially planned for 2021 was rescheduled due to COVID-19.

A vibrant night was attended by approximately 100 industry leaders working amongst the aged care and multicultural sectors. The Excellence Awards recognises and showcases initiatives that promote excellence in the provision of culturally inclusive aged care services across Australia.

The Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing was delighted to have John Kennedy MP representing the Hon. Anthony Carbines, Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers and the Hon. Ros Spence Minister for Multicultural Affairs addressing the participants. The awards themselves were presented by Robert Day, Assistant Secretary, Dementia, Diversity and Design Branch, Department of Health, Mohammed Yassin, from Spectrum, also a Board member of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria and former Victorian Multicultural Commission Commissioner, and Dr Olga Kanitsaki AM, former Head of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery at RMIT University, and the first Professor of Transcultural Nursing.

The Cultural Diversity in Ageing Excellence Awards 2021 consisted of three categories:

1. Excellence in Organisational Leadership

The Award Finalists for this category were Bolton Clarke, Northern Health, and the Australian Multicultural Community Services. The winner for this category was Northern Health for its in-house Transcultural & Language Services (TALS) Department.

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2. Excellence in Service Delivery

The finalists were Uniting SA – Ethnic Link Services, Australian Multicultural Community Services and Multicultural Aged Care Services Geelong. Multicultural Aged Care Services Geelong (MACS) won the award for an extensive on-site and local program of individual and group activities responsive to the cultural preferences, worship choices and general interests of MACS residents and consumers.

3. Award for Individual Excellence

Awarded to an individual who demonstrates exceptional commitment and initiative in the delivery of services to older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in aged care. The finalists were Soula Athanasia Houndalas, Positive Ageing Project Office for COTA Tas, Professor Bianca Brijnath, and Alexander Abramoff Aged Care Manager at the Russian Ethnic Representative Council.

Professor Bianca Brijnath won the award for her work to improve the quality of life for older culturally and linguistically diverse Australians. Working both nationally and internationally, Bianca has been leading four national projects to increase awareness of dementia prevention, improve interpreter training for cognitive assessment for dementia, increase awareness of timely dementia diagnosis and care in CALD communities and improve dementia care in CALD families.

The Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing thanks all the nominees, finalists, winners and the judges Tania Siggers-Clarke, Mary Ann Geronimo, John McCallum, Mohammed Yassin for their outstanding work in promoting a more culturally inclusive aged care system.

A variety of artistic and musical performance of poet John Englezos, the Tarab Ensemble and the Melbourne School of Tarantella contributed to a positive ambience of the night.

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Quote Sandra Hill OAM, CEO, Benetas:

‘Congratulations to all the award winners and to Lisa and her team at the Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing. Benetas is very proud to be supporting the work of the Centre.’

Quote Lisa Tribuzio, Manager, Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing:

‘It was a pleasure to share such a positive night with industry leaders who are working every day to support human rights and the needs of seniors from diverse backgrounds. One of the Centre’s goals is to promote good practice and stories to inspire and these awards achieved that goal!’

Quote Yue Hu, Director of Transcultural & Language Service and Narrun Wilip-giin Aboriginal Support Unit at Northern Health:

‘I was excited to see language service being valued in caring older culturally and linguistically diverse Australians. It is all about respect and dignity when we listen to what older people have to say and make decisions about their own care. Interpreting service provides a voice for everyone to do so regardless of what language they speak.’

Quote Joy Leggo, Chief Executive Officer, Cultura (Diversitat and MACS):

The awards evening was a wonderful, happy evening with like-minded people in attendance who care passionately for our multicultural communities. We were thrilled to win the Excellence in Service Delivery award and will proudly display the plaque for all to see. This award is a testament to our hard working staff and volunteers who have not lost focus about providing the best cultural and linguistic care for our multicultural community. We also acknowledge the work of the Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing and the support they give to the aged care community.’

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Quote Professor Bianca Brijnath, Divisional Director of Social Gerontology, National Ageing Research Institute:

'I am honoured to receive this recognition of my work for and from the CALD aged care sector. My work is possible only because of the strong partnerships and support from agencies such as the Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing.'

Professor Bianca Brijnath, For more information and media comments, please contact, Lisa Tribuzio, Manager, Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing, on email info@culturaldiversity.com.au and phone 0427 229 958.



Photo caption (L-R): Soula Athanasia Houndalas, COTA Tasmania; Alexander Abramoff, Russian Ethnic Representative Council; Professor Bianca Brijnath, National Ageing Research Institute; Luba Pyrslak, Cultura; Yue Hu, Northern Health; Deidre McGill, Bolton Clarke; Elizabeth Drozd, Australian Multicultural Community Services (AMCS); Dr Medha Gunawardana, AMCS; Russell Howard, AMCS.