
ANTI-POVERTY AWARDS RECOGNISE YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUNG VICTORIAN AND TASMANIANS HAVE CHANCE TO SHOWCASE THEIR ACTIVITIES TO REDUCE POVERTY

Applications are now open for the Connections UnitingCare Anti-Poverty Awards. The Awards recognise young Victorians and Tasmanians between the ages of 16 and 30 who are making a contribution to the eradication of poverty, locally, nationally or internationally and are branching-out into Tasmania for this first time this year.

'The Awards are a great way for Connections to bring young people to prominence. We want to un-earth young people who are making a difference in their community and we are very excited to have these Awards extended into Tasmania for the first time this year,' said Adrian Pyle, Chairperson of Connections and Founder of the Awards.

Established in 2004, the Awards aim to recognise, encourage and link young Victorian and Tasmanians who are working towards eradicating poverty by providing one recipient with a grant of up to \$4000 to continue their work. Encouragement Awards up to the value of \$1000 are also available.

'This is a great opportunity for young people to come forward and highlight their work to eradicate poverty – we know there's a lot of people out there doing inspirational work in this area, we just need to hear from them,' Adrian said.

The 2008 Anti-Poverty Award was presented to a Somali refugee Abdulkadir Osman Muse, who came to Australia after the Civil War and gained permanent status under the refugee humanitarian program. With his Award, Abdul has spent the last twelve months furthering his skills and training by enrolling in a number of Human Rights courses and bringing this new found knowledge back to his community.

'Abdul's story was one of inspiration as it epitomises the determination and strength of individuals in the community who truly want to make a difference - we hope to find more talented and inspiration young people this year, so we can provide some recognition and share their work with others,' said Adrian.

Connections like so many other community welfare agencies support vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community. Every day we provide services like intense family support for families (often with children) who are in crisis due to difficulties including drug and alcohol addiction, mental illness, experience of family violence and poverty. We aim to support our clients to overcome social isolation and gain self-confidence and a sense of worth, we work in partnership with clients to achieve positive outcomes and more broadly we work within the community to raise awareness about the issues associated with disadvantage and poverty.

More information on the Anti-Poverty Awards: www.connections.org.au/anti-poverty

Media: Chairperson of Connections, Adrian Pyle is available for interview. Contact Connections Communications and Fundraising Manager, Matt Clear on 03 9271 0800 or 0403 229 094 or matt.clear@connections.org.au

Connections is a community welfare agency of the Uniting Church's UnitingCare network in Australia providing a range of innovative and early intervention programs that support vulnerable children, young people and their families giving them a better chance in life now and in the future.