

Here is a snapshot of the 2008 Award recipients:

The overall award recipient was:

- Abdulkadir Osman Muse: Abdul came to Australia from Somalia with his mother and siblings after the civil war and gained permanent status as a refugee under the humanitarian category. After a lot of hard work, Abdul completed his VCE and an undergraduate degree at Victoria University.

Abdul has been active in the planning and delivery of innovative programs that target young African people in the areas of education and social engagement. Since 2004, Abdul has been a member of the Footscray Youth Housing Group, a community based organisation that supports young people between the ages of 15-25 who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness and in 2007 was elected chair of the organisation for his work particularly, with the culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

In 2005, Abdul attended the Family Law and Children's Right Conference in Cape Town with the support of the United Nations where he was advocating for Somalia to sign the United Nation Convention of the Right of the Child, as it is one of only two countries that to date has not signed.

With his Award, Abdul is hoping to further his skills and training by enrolling in a number of Human Rights courses and bringing this new found knowledge back to his community.

Finalists who received encouragement awards were:

- Fiona Stenning. Fiona completed her International Baccalaureate at Methodist Ladies College in 2008 and to complete her service requirements organised and ran the Uthando Project at the Glen Iris Road Uniting Church. The Uthando project sees dolls made out of brown felt and given to the children of Kwa Zulu Natal whose parents are affected by HIV AIDS. Altogether 30 dolls were made by the group of volunteers that each had their own African name. Fiona has been invited to return to her school to continue this project working with the Social Justice Prefect.
- Emil Kogan: Emil from a very young age has done a lot of work within the Not for Profit Sector. His greatest achievement to date has been founding Embrace Education. Embrace provides one-on-one tutoring and mentoring, holiday programs and material aids for culturally and linguistically diverse students. Embrace now also has a sister organisation STEW (Students Teaching English to Women) which in partnership with AMES, teaches local migrants and refugees across south east Victoria. Emil has also worked with St Vincent de Paul as a coordinator of one of their soup vans and has also sat on the board of a local organisation called SEEAC (Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council).