

# Governor's Multicultural Awards

The Governor's Multicultural Awards for 2008 were presented at Government House by His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce A.C. C.S.C. R.A.N.R, Governor of South Australia.

More than 100 people attended the ceremony, which included presentation of Certificates to 29 finalists and stunning handblown glass trophies to the six Award winners.

On Australia Day 2009, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P., also presented one of the winners, Katherine Goode, with the first *Minister for Multicultural Affairs Award*.

## WINNERS

### VOLUNTEER AWARD

#### Mr Houssam Abiad

Houssam is 32 years old. He was born in Adelaide and from the age of four to 19 lived in war-torn Lebanon.

Since returning to Australia in 1995 he has dedicated his time to working on a wide range of projects that promote tolerance between different religious and ethnic groups, and bridging gaps within the Australian community, particularly between the

Islamic and Arabic communities and the wider Australian community.

He has worked with agencies such as South Australia Police, Multicultural SA, the Office of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, the Festival of Ideas and Relationships Australia SA.

In 2005 he co-founded the University of Adelaide Edward Said Memorial Lecture; in 2006 he founded the United for Peace youth group; and in 2007 won first prize in the Peace category of the Pride of Australia Medal.

The judges said they were impressed by the "breadth of influence" of Houssam's community work, how it was truly cross-cultural, how he is able to combine a busy professional life with his volunteering, and how he has achieved so much for such a young person.



Governor's Multicultural Awards 2008 winners with the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce A.C. C.S.C. R.A.N.R. (fourth from left) and the Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, and Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, Hieu Van Le (right) are (from left) Nikki Marcel from Radio Adelaide (Media Award), Houssam Abiad (Volunteer), Dan Haller, Manager of the Migrant Health Service (Public Sector), Thuy Nguyen, Team Leader of the Vietnamese Community in Australia, South Australian Chapter, Youth Team (Youth), Katherine Goode (Community Sector), and Vilmos (Vili) Milisits (Private Sector).

**PUBLIC SECTOR AWARD****The Migrant Health Service**

The Migrant Health Service has provided a long and sustained focus on promoting the health and wellbeing of migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants in South Australia.

The judges said they were impressed by the breadth of the Service's program, providing capacity building activities for new arrivals, settlement services providers and mainstream public health services.

The judges said The Migrant Health Service's reach "knows no boundaries when it comes to cultural difference", covers the whole State, and is to be commended for its wholistic approach to primary health care and specialist services.

**PRIVATE SECTOR AWARD****Mr Vilmos (Vili) Milisits OAM KSJ**

Vili owns his own business, Vili's Cakes, and employs people from almost every migrant background in South Australia, including many, like him, who fled Europe in the 1950s, as well as recently arrived migrants and refugees.

He has given back to the South Australian community at every opportunity, particularly through helping newly arrived migrants – starting with the second boatload of Vietnamese people in 1977 – with settlement advice, job offers, housing and interest-free loans.

A philanthropist, student mentor, motivator, passionate supporter of multiculturalism and the concept of a "fair go", Vili clearly practises what he preaches in his business, social and cultural lives.

The judges felt he truly lives by his motto: "Hungarian by birth, Australian

by choice" and were impressed by the wide range of people from different backgrounds, ages and circumstances that he helps by giving so generously of his time.

**COMMUNITY SECTOR AWARD****Mrs Katherine Goode**

Katherine came up with the idea of Project Abraham, which promotes and develops understanding between Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities.

In the past four years, Katherine has taken the project from a largely Adelaide-based program involving only Muslims and Jews, to a national, touring program and exhibition also involving Christians, and recently, the university sector.

The judges were impressed by how innovative this unique Project has been from the outset, and recognised that its success is largely due to Katherine's passion, dedication and hard work as an ambassador for cross-cultural education.

**YOUTH AWARD****The Youth Team of the Vietnamese Community in Australia****South Australian Chapter**

The Youth Team of the Vietnamese Community in Australia South Australian Chapter is an outstanding example of a group of young people – they are all well under 30 years of age – working both with and for their fellow Vietnamese youth, but also working cross-culturally by introducing Vietnamese youth to other cultures to reduce the risk of discrimination and marginalisation.

The judges were impressed with the Youth Team's innovative approach

to the complexities of dual concerns – general youth issues and cultural identity issues. They were particularly pleased to see a concerted effort being made to help Vietnamese youth understand other cultures and be more involved in the wider community.

**MEDIA AWARD****Radio Adelaide**

Radio Adelaide is Australia's first community radio station, starting life in 1972 as Adelaide University's 5UV.

In the past 10 years the station has gone through, to quote the nomination: "the active and thoughtful transformation of station culture from a relative monoculture to a vibrant multicultural and multilingual station".

With paid staff and more than 500 volunteers aged between 16 and 85 years reflecting the cultural diversity of South Australia, Radio Adelaide now broadcasts in 11 different languages, including several new-arrival languages.

Radio Adelaide has won awards for its innovative and inspiring *Neo Voices* program, produced by young people from new and emerging communities, and runs a comprehensive education and training program. The nomination claims: "If democracy in a multicultural society is best expressed through people's ability to participate in the public sphere, Radio Adelaide provides an unparalleled opportunity."

The judges said they were impressed with Radio Adelaide's forward-thinking approach, its vibrancy, freshness and energy and commented that "many mainstream commercial radio stations could learn a lot from Radio Adelaide".