

Minister for Communities, Disability Services, ATSI, Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth
The Honourable Lindy Nelson-Carr
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Outstanding young volunteers rewarded for achievements

Sixteen young volunteers were rewarded for their hard work and dedication to helping others at an awards ceremony held in Brisbane tonight.

Communities and Youth Minister Lindy Nelson-Carr presented seven individuals and one team of nine people with a Queensland Young Volunteer Award certificate and \$2000 in prize money.

Ms Nelson-Carr said the Queensland Young Volunteer Awards give due recognition to young people for their outstanding voluntary work and the positive contribution they make to our state.

"The awards provide an ideal opportunity to give something back to these young people who have invested so much of their own personal time and effort to make a difference to the lives of other people," Ms Nelson-Carr said.

"The Queensland Young Volunteer Awards also aim to raise community awareness of the breadth of contribution that young people make to their communities.

"The 2008 winners have all made their own unique contribution in areas including reducing school yard bullying, addressing youth violence, reducing poverty and raising awareness about spinal injury prevention," Ms Nelson-Carr said.

The award recipients were drawn from a pool of more than 70 nominations, received from teachers, community leaders and community organisations. To be eligible, nominees must have been involved in volunteering activity during the past 12 months and be aged 12 to 25.

Queensland Young Volunteer Awards 2008 Winners

Alyce Dickson, Nadia Kirby, Aleesha Rodriguez, Ian Roe, Hannah Bremner, Dez Harding, Chris Seamans, Alex Falzon and Andrew Nimmo
Mitchelton State High School Safe School Committee

The committee aims to make the school a bullyfree zone - a place where any sort of bullying is not tolerated and, if it happens, is dealt with. The committee members are from grades 10 and 11. They have written a Safe School Policy, and raised awareness about bullying via workshops and the school newsletter. Additionally, they have run drama workshops and other presentations on the topic, as well as created a parent information brochure.

Bec Ringma - Capalaba

Matthew Stanley Foundation

Bec, aged 16, has volunteered her time, energy, creativity and passion to the Matthew Stanley Foundation, raising the profile of the effects of youth violence and educating

the local community. She has worked tirelessly delivering anti-violence presentations to schools, handing out brochures at shopping centres, working on stalls to promote a message of non-violence and has been actively involved in the One Punch Can Kill community advertising campaign. Bec also organised a dance party for Redlands young people to provide alcohol-free entertainment in the area and address some of the causes of youth violence.

Pat Mullins - Fortitude Valley

Oaktree Foundation's Make Poverty History campaign

Pat has volunteered with the Oaktree Foundation's Make Poverty History campaign. His role involved managing a team of active volunteers, and speaking to students and young people at universities and high schools about how they can help eradicate extreme poverty and empower communities around the world. He has also assisted young people to run events and raise money to support overseas education initiatives. Pat also tutors refugees through St Vincent de Paul and established a social justice group at St James Church, Coorparoo. Pat is 22 years old.

Wesley Stubbings - Townsville

International Indigenous Flame's "Hand to the Community" strategy

Aged 22, Wesley has given his time and energy to be part of the International Indigenous Flame's "Hand to the Community" strategy, which helps to establish programs and activities with Indigenous young people in the Townsville region. Wesley has been active in mentoring, providing support to young Indigenous men on a one-to-one basis, supporting Indigenous Elders in the community to develop good relationships with young people as well as promoting a major youth conference targeting Indigenous young people in North Queensland.

Samantha Natoli - Northgate

Drug Arm

Drug Arm volunteer Samantha, aged 21, is currently the youngest full-time volunteer with the organisation. She has been volunteering with Drug Arm's SOS and MOSHPIT services, as well as Brisbane's Big City BBQ and Homeless Connect. Samantha has become an integral part of their services always going above and beyond to provide the best possible service to her clients.

Fiona Saxby - Townsville

Youth Street

Fiona has helped pioneer a key method of connecting with young people called Youth Street. This uses peer-based mentoring to reach out to 12 to 17 year olds. She has also started a not-for-profit design company, Moses StreetWare, where she has used her artistic talent to create a line of t-shirts. The profits are given to charity. Fiona is 24.

Tim Felhaber - Taigum

Spinal Injuries Association's Spinal Education Awareness Team

Tim is a volunteer presenter with the Spinal Injuries Association's Spinal Education Awareness Team (SEAT). Aged 22 years, he shares his story with children, encouraging and inspiring safe and responsible behaviour, as well as providing important messages about keeping safe on roads, in the water, on the sports field, in the great outdoors, and even in the classroom. Tim believes that if he can save just one person from sustaining a spinal cord injury then it's worth every moment.

Sarah Moran - Kangaroo Point
ReachOut!

Sarah has been actively involved with ReachOut!, a web-based mental health service, where she is a member of the Youth Advisory Board and is a Youth Ambassador. Sarah, 23, is also a producer of Are You*th Being Served, and a co-founder and 2007 Vice President of Brisnet - a support network for students from rural and regional areas moving to Brisbane for study. In addition, she has presented at the Queensland Youth Conference and worked with her peers to develop a strategy and framework to support and encourage students to pursue personal and professional development opportunities outside their academic programs, through QUT SIFE and QUT Initiate programs.

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