

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2025 EVA Award Recipients



The EVA (Excellence, Vision and Advocacy) awards are the first of their kind to recognise and celebrate the positive impact, dedication and courage of individuals and organisations across the entire NSW social service sector and are named in honour of former NCROSS Director and social justice icon, Eva Cox.



Amir Bodenstein Lived/Living Experience Individual

Recipient: Anna Nagel

Anna's nomination highlighted her profound impact on individuals and communities experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges, which Anna has overcome herself before becoming an advocate and policy influencer.

Image: Recipient Anna Nagel (centre) pictured with NCROSS Lived Experience Advisory Panellists, Makeeta Stubbings and Emma Warren



Excellence and Impact – Organisation

Recipient: MacKillop Family Services

MacKillop's initiatives to raise practice standards and initiate similar improvements across the foster care sector were recognised for their commitment to continuous improvement, for clear and measurable outcomes already influencing practice and for its collaborative approach ensuring people with lived experience were at the centre of the initiative.

Image: From left Jude Ekerick and Jasmine Perry from MacKillop Family Services and Cara Varian (NCROSS CEO)



Excellence and Impact – Leadership

Recipient: Edward Morris, Physical Disability Council of NSW

Edward's application impressed the judging panel with his demonstration of prioritising the voices of people with lived experience in all aspects of the organisation's work. Since joining the PDCN as CEO in 2023, Edward has helped elevate their commitment to advocating across the spectrum of issues, which has been impactful from a systemic level right through to the individual level.

Image: Recipient Edward Morris (centre) with Cara Varian and NSW Premier Chris Minns.



Excellence and Impact – Frontline Worker

Recipient: Meher Banu, CatholicCare

CatholicCare supports individuals and families across the wider Sydney community for a range of services. Meher's commitment to walking alongside the community, being patient, flexible and empathetic while also being a determined and fierce advocate for human rights has been demonstrated at both community level and systematically.

Image: Recipient Meher Banu (centre) with Cara Varian and NSW Premier Chris Minns.