

5.2 SIR JOHN MONASH AWARDS

Responsible senior officer: Andi Diamond, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses a ninth category in the Sir John Monash Awards, recognising the contribution of a community member for their leadership as part of or for the LGBTIQ+ community.

INTRODUCTION

The annual Sir John Monash Awards (comprising eight categories), recognise and celebrate the achievements of members of the Monash community for their community service. The awards are presented at a ceremony held each year.

It is proposed to include another category in the awards to recognise the contribution of a community member for their leadership as part of or for the Monash lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex, queer and asexual communities (LGBTIQ+).

BACKGROUND

The Sir John Monash Awards recognise the contribution of community members in eight categories including:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Inspirational Women's Leadership
- Youth Leadership
- Positive Ageing Leadership
- Sustainability Leadership
- Active Monash
- Outstanding Advocate of People with Disabilities.
- Multicultural Champion.

An overall winner of the Sir John Monash Award for Outstanding Leadership is drawn from the winners of these categories.

The process for the awards is that, following a public call for nominations, a two part judging process takes place to determine the category winners and high commendations:

- Nominations are sent to the respective judging panels to determine their shortlist for each category
- Judges' recommendations are then sent to the Monash Awards Committee, who meet to determine the category winner and

high commendations, and the overall winner for Outstanding Leadership.

DISCUSSION

Council endorsed the new LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee at the 15 December 2020 Council meeting as part of its ongoing commitment to better recognising, representing and connecting with members of Monash's lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex, queer and asexual communities (LGBTIQ+).

With the creation of this new committee, it therefore seems pertinent that the categories that make up the Sir John Monash Awards, reflect Council's commitment to recognising, representing and connecting with Monash's LGBTIQ+ Community.

The new category of **LGBTIQ+ Community Leadership**, would recognise individuals who:

- Have made a substantial or ongoing contribution towards strengthening the representation and inclusion of the Monash LGBTIQ+ community.
- Have demonstrated leadership and advocacy as part of or for the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Implemented policies and/or programs which take into account the needs of Monash's LGBTIQ+ community.
- Is a local champion who has positively impacted others in the community and/or their organisation.

It is with this intention in mind, that the recommendation to create the new category for **LGBTIQ+ Community Leadership** as a part of the Sir John Monash Awards, is being put forward.

CONSULTATION

The new Award category will be reviewed by Council's newly established LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee annually to ensure the award reflects the focus of the committee and Council and meets any changes regarding appropriate language for this community.

IMPLEMENTATION

Once the category has been adopted by Council, a community focused campaign will be launched to announce the new category and encourage the community to nominate individuals for the award.

Exposure would include on the Monash Council website, the monthly Monash bulletin, social media, within community newsletters and publications.

Committee members of the newly established LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee will also promote it through their networks.

CONCLUSION

The new LGBTIQ+ Community Leadership Award category will recognise the contribution of a community member for their leadership as part of or for the Monash LGBTIQ+ communities.