



ZEST AWARDS 2023

ZEST AWARDS – CELEBRATING GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY'S COMMUNITY HEROES

Over 13 years, the ZEST Awards have established themselves as Western Sydney's premier platform for recognising and celebrating their achievements. The ZEST Awards, led by Western Sydney Community Forum, are about people and stories – shining a light on the amazing individuals and organisations we work with who make a profound impact in their communities.

On 23 June 2023, over 500 members of the Western Sydney community – including Deputy Premier of NSW Prue Car and City of Parramatta Lord Mayor

Sameer Pandey attended the 2023 ZEST Awards Ceremony at Accor Stadium. The event provided an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of ZEST nominees and winners across 10 different categories, representing the diversity work being done across the community of Western Sydney.

The continued growth of the ZEST Awards was particularly noticeable this year through the record number of nominations that were received, increasing the recognition for those working with communities.

Western Sydney is home to

over 2.5 million people. We are a growing community with ever expanding needs and aspirations. Our community sector has never been more crucial to ensuring the people of Western Sydney are supported and championed. This work is embodied in the effort and dedication of the volunteers, leaders and community groups who are nominated for ZEST Awards. Western Sydney Community Forum would once more like to take this opportunity to congratulate our 2023 ZEST Award winners.

We would also like to express our special thanks to our ZEST

Ambassadors who represent ZEST through their everyday work in the community.

Finally, it is important that we acknowledge our event partners for the 2023 ZEST Awards, National Australia Bank, Western Sydney University, City of Parramatta and Link Wentworth, and our media partners Parra News and The Western Weekender.

It is only with their support and the support of our other ZEST partners that the ZEST Awards continues to be able to champion our region's community heroes.

2023 WINNERS/INDUCTEES

INDIVIDUAL/ORGANISATION	CATEGORY
Elfa Moraitakis from SydWest Multicultural Services	Hall of Fame
Maria Losurdo from Women's Cottage	Hall of Fame
Julia Reserve Youth and Community Centre Co-Located	Outstanding Community Partnership
Harinder Kaur from Harman Foundation	Outstanding Community Sector Leader
Link-Up NSW Aboriginal Corporation	Outstanding First Nations Community Initiative
Living Stories Western Sydney Writing Prize	Outstanding Project – Community Arts & Culture
Dr Kim Loo's Healthcare in relation to climate change and education of the health sector and the community	Outstanding Project – Climate Change Resilience
Building Stronger Inclusive Communities - Community Minded Kids	Outstanding Project - Building Stronger Inclusive Communities
Sara Mansour from Bankstown Poetry Slam	Outstanding Voluntary Leader
Haneen Zreika from Greater Western Sydney Giants	Outstanding Youth Leader
Bhabish Shrestha	Western Sydney University Unsung Hero

Proudly led by:



Event Partners:



Media Partners:



the western weekender



The Western Weekender is the proud media partner of the ZEST Awards, and wishes to congratulate all winners for their awards, and tireless efforts in the community!

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Camden Council

Outstanding
Community Partnership

What did winning mean to you?

We are absolutely thrilled to be awarded the Zest Award for Outstanding Community Partnership. Developing strong community partnerships is essential when looking to create strong community outcomes within the community development sector. We hope this award will encourage more services to look to outreach in the Camden Community and also encourage all levels of Government to invest in place-based initiatives that utilise collective impact approaches to support our local communities.

Why do you love the Zest Awards?

The Zest awards are a celebration of Western Sydney and all the unique and wonderful community initiatives that happen across the region. As a Council and as the Julia Reserve Youth & Community Centre we see so many unique and inspiring programs and initiatives and the Zest awards are a real celebration of the community sector here in Western Sydney.

What is your message to your customers/the community?

Thank you for your commitment to the Julia Reserve Youth & Community Centre and for opening yourself up to all the different staff and services who operate from the centre. Know that we will continue to work to ensure this is a fun, inclusive and supportive hub for all young people and we encourage you to come down and learn more about what we do and get involved in the programs, services and initiatives that take place at Julia Reserve.

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ZEST
Awards
2023



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ELFA MORAITAKIS, 2023 ZEST HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Elfa Moraitakis, CEO of SydWest Multicultural Services, is a **2023 ZEST Hall of Fame Inductee** in recognition of her extraordinary achievements and dedication to the community sector.

Elfa is a Director of NCOSS, COTA and the Wash House, and sits on a number of advisory committees across the sector. She has worked in the community sector for more than 30 years with an extensive background in developing services for linguistically diverse communities, with a focus on engaging community and stakeholder participation.

SydWest Multicultural Services, a community organisation in Western Sydney, provides a wide variety of support services to migrants and refugees and we are very proud of our flagship aged care support services.

SydWest
MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

sydwestms.org.au | (02) 9621 6633



AGED CARE SERVICES

At SydWest Multicultural Services, we provide gold star approved Aged Care Services. We assist people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to live independently - at home and within the community.



Home Care Packages

We support you to live independently with a wide range of support services tailored to your individual needs.



Social Support groups

Our regular support groups help break isolation through outings, information sessions and group sharing.



We speak your language

Our Care Workers are fully qualified and trained, bilingual and bi-cultural. They speak your language and understand your culture.



SYDWEST OFFERS QUALITY COMMUNITY SERVICES ACROSS WESTERN SYDNEY

Live a better life

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