

Nomination guide

14th Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll

About the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll

The Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll (Honour Roll) was established in 2011 to formally and publicly acknowledge the exceptional and notable contributions of First Nations people in Victoria.

The Honour Roll is a prestigious honour that recognises the substantial achievements and lasting impact of First Nations people in Victoria.

The Honour Roll also provides an opportunity for non-First Nations people to strengthen their understanding of First Nations history and culture in Victoria, fostering greater awareness and respect among all Victorians.

Nominees are reviewed and assessed by the Honour Roll selection panel (panel), which provides its recommendations to the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples (Minister) for consideration. The First Peoples – State Relations (FPSR) group within the Department of Premier and Cabinet (the Department) administers the Honour Roll program.

Eligibility

To be eligible, nominees must:

- be a First Nations person of Australia
- be currently living or have lived in Victoria.

Key dates

- Nominations open: 7 August 2025
- Nominations close: 11:59 pm 3 October 2025
- Panel review period: 4 October 2025 – 5 November 2025
- Inductees notified: December 2025
- Inductee interviews for biographies: December 2025 – March 2025
- Ceremony: May 2025

Program information

The below documents are available on the FPSR [website](#). Please read them carefully before starting a nomination.

- [Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Collection notice](#)
- [Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll policy](#)

How to nominate

Nominees must be nominated by someone other than themselves. Nominators may include family members, friends, employers, a representative from organisations, community groups and schools.

Please follow the steps below to complete the nomination.

Step one

Read this nomination guide and prepare any information and documentation that you will need to complete the nomination. You will need:

- To check that the nominee meets the eligibility criteria.
- The full name of the nominee and any contact information you have for them (note: they will not be contacted by the Department unless their nomination is successful).
- The consent of the nominee to provide their personal information to the Department. Please read the [Collection Notice](#) for more information.
- A high-resolution picture of the nominee. The file should be 1MB or larger.
- Information to explain how the nominee and their work meet the selection criteria.
- Letters of support or reference from people that know the nominee. These are not compulsory but can be included to help support your answers to the nomination questions.

Step two

Register a free account with [Award Force](#) (the online nomination platform).

Please note: Submissions can be accepted in other formats. If you would prefer to complete a hand-written or [hard copy nomination form](#), you can download and print the form to complete it. Nominations can also be completed over the phone. To discuss this further, please contact the FPSR Events team at fpsr.events@dpc.vic.gov.au or call 03 9922 7160.

Step three

Log in to Award Force (the online nomination platform) and fill out the nomination form by typing directly into the electronic form, making sure you keep within the word count.

If you need any support or advice when completing the form, please contact fpsr.events@dpc.vic.gov.au or call 03 9922 7160.

Step four

Complete and submit your nomination by 11:59 pm 3 October 2025.

Assessment process

Each nomination is reviewed by FPSR staff to confirm its eligibility.

An independent panel of First Nations community members will independently review and assess all eligible nominations. The panel will align their assessments with the selection criteria to create a shortlist based on scores. The panel will meet to discuss shortlisted nominations and determine their recommended nominees for induction.

The panel will provide its recommendations to the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples (the Minister) for consideration.

Following the Minister's decision, FPSR will engage an independent First Nations researcher to prepare the inductee biographies in consultation with the inductees, their next of kin and/or family members.

All successful inductees will receive notification of the outcome by email. Unsuccessful nominees will not be notified unless specifically requested by their nominator.

The Minister's decision is final and binding. No correspondence or appeals will be considered regarding the merits of the decision-making process.

Selection criteria

The Honour Roll is a prestigious honour intended to recognise significant and lasting contributions of First Nations people in Victoria.

1. **Inspirational role model:** demonstrates qualities that inspire both First Nations and non-First Nations people in Victoria
2. **Commitment to First Nations culture in Victoria:** shows dedication to preserving and promoting First Nations traditions, culture and values
3. **Community Impact:** shows commitment to achieving practical outcomes for First Nations people in Victoria, or about First Nations issues for the wider community in Victoria
4. **Leadership:** demonstrates leadership that achieves positive change and outcomes for: First Nations people in Victoria; on First Nations issues in the wider community; or specifically in government, enterprise or the not-for-profit sector.

Nomination questions

(response word count: minimum 200, maximum 1500 per question)

Optional questions

- What community, mob, First Nation or language group does the nominee belong to?
- Please write a short biography to introduce the nominee.
 - Guide text: *This can help the selection panel understand more about the life and achievements of the nominee.*
- Please outline or provide Community endorsement.* This could include but is not limited to a letter or statement of support from:
 - a First Nations organisation
 - the nominee's employer or employee(s)
 - people who have been impacted by the nominee's efforts and/or work.

*Please note these can be attached to the end of the application and be sure to note if they support or provide evidence to support answers to the compulsory questions in the nomination.

Compulsory questions

1. Why is this person a role model for First Nations people in Victoria and the wider Victorian community? What makes them inspiring?

Please include examples that can help the panel understand how the nominee is an important role model in the community. Examples might include:

- when the nominee has built strong relationships between people or organisations
- when the nominee has brought people together to achieve a goal
- if the nominee has overcome challenging circumstances personally, or helped other people through tough times

- public speaking or sharing their story through art, film or storytelling
- making time to teach young people
- sharing their culture and knowledge.

2. How have their actions helped preserve and uphold First Nations Country, traditions, cultures and values?

Please include examples that can help the panel understand how the nominee has worked to support and uphold First Nations culture and values in Victoria.

Examples might include:

- language or cultural programs that help young people connect and learn about their culture
- governance or cultural advice provided to organisations.

3. How has this person made a positive difference in the community? What has changed because of their contribution?

Please include examples of impact that can help the panel understand how the nominee has achieved practical impact in Victoria:

Examples might include:

- a change in how a service is delivered for First Nations people or communities
- increasing First Nations employment rates in an organisation
- enabled connection to or participation in community events.

4. Tell us about a project, activity or cause that this person has been involved in that has made a positive difference for First Nations people and/or the wider Victorian community.

Please include a practical example that can help the panel understand how the nominee has achieved a positive change. Examples might include:

- Securing additional funding for an important service or program
- Developed new partnerships to support longevity and awareness
- Increased awareness or engagement with First Nations issues or cultures in the wider community
- Creating programs that enable First Nations people to practice their language and culture
- Elevating the role of Elders and cultural authority in community

Tip: Include *how* the nominee achieved this positive change through leadership. For example, did they:

- advocate amongst the wider community and/or to government
- share knowledge and walk alongside others
- guide through story and example
- foster connection and relationships
- demonstrate accountability.

5. What do you consider to be this person's legacy? What will be their lasting impact on First Nations communities and wider Victoria?

Please share with the panel any appropriate/relevant examples of the tangible or intangible effects that the nominee has had, for example:

- on the cultural continuity of knowledge, values or traditions
- on partnerships, community or reconciliation more broadly.

Tip: Consider which aspects of the nominee's work will live on, for example:

- an organisation they started may still be active and growing
- the changes they made to the lives of other people through their impact
- their actions led to a change in government policy
- the connections or partnerships they fostered.

Scoring guide

When completing a nomination form, remember to include information that might align with the below selection criteria scoring guide.

Criteria	Assessment Guide
Inspirational role model	Demonstrates qualities that inspire both First Nations and non-First Nations people in Victoria Enables self-determination and empowerment within their practice and greater contribution to community Trailblazer/change maker As a teacher, educator or mentor
Commitment to First Nations culture in Victoria	Dedicated to preserving and promoting First Nations traditions, culture and values Prioritises, encourages and amplifies First Nations culture across the wider Victorian community Prioritises community wellbeing
Community Impact	Significantly influences and contributes to the First Nations and/or wider community in Victoria. For example, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A First Nations driven/owned business, such as cultural tourism, clothing, fine art etc. that creates economic opportunities and engages with the wider community.• Political advocacy to drive significant changes in policies affecting First Nations communities.

- Social programs, health and wellbeing initiatives, educational programs, caring for Country and/or cultural preservation and promotion.

Leadership

Demonstrates leadership within the First Nations and/or wider community in Victoria, resulting in positive change and enhanced community outcomes

Demonstrated commitment and engagement to community programs, roles and positions

Leading projects which contribute to positive outcomes for Victorian communities

Builds relationships and connections

Tips for completing a nomination

Example response

When answering the questions, make sure you're thinking about how your answers address the Selection Criteria. For example, question four is asking about a project or activity the nominee has been involved in that made a positive difference.

When responding to this question, you could link your answer to the Selection Criteria by structuring your response to include leadership qualities the nominee has. Start with a clear sentence that explains what the nominee achieved and how they did it with their leadership skills.

For example:

The nominee demonstrated their leadership by taking the initiative to communicate and share cultural knowledge with the local council to achieve a positive change in the way local health services were delivered.

From there, you can provide more detailed information to support your answer.

Helpful words and phrases

It can be difficult to put into words how someone has made an impact. Below is a list of words and phrases that can be used to talk about cultural leadership. One or more of them could help you explain what the nominee has achieved.

- Collective responsibility
- Cultural knowledge
- Community wellbeing
- Custodianship / Care for Country
- Cultural authority
- Intergenerational knowledge sharing
- Responsibility to mob / community / kin
- Cultural continuity and transmission

- Relational accountability
- Guiding through story and example
- Walking alongside others
- Humility (serving community, not self)
- Acting with respect and reciprocity
- Making decisions in consultation with others
- Holding space for others to grow
- Protecting culture and language
- Enacting cultural governance
- Mediating conflict with fairness
- Builds relationships between people and community
- Fostering connections and relationships
- Kindness and generosity
- A sense of purpose and love

Getting help with your nomination

The team at First Peoples – State Relations is committed to making the nomination process as accessible as possible. If you need any assistance or have questions about the process, please do not hesitate to contact the team at fpsr.events@dpc.vic.gov.au or call 03 9922 7160.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay our respect to them, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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