

Acknowledging & Celebrating Community Service of Emergency Services Personnel

Rotary Club President

Proposal to initiate a Multi-District project

ROTARY – EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNITY AWARDS (RESCA)

It is proposed to initiate a multidistrict project titled “Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards”. This project would be in line with current RI Code of Policies and before being commenced require the approval of clubs within the Districts 9640, 9660, 9675, 9685, 9705, 9780, 9790, 9800, and 9815 (any others?)

History of RESCA

Since 2012 when the initial Emergency Services Community Awards were held in the Illawarra the following has occurred:

- 2012, 2013, 2014 – initiated and piloted by the 11 Clubs in the Illawarra on the South Coast of NSW.
- 2015 – moved to a NSW State-wide project and now successfully presented and delivered for 10 years.
- 2018 Awards was for both NSW and the ACT
- 2019 Awards run in both NSW and ACT separately with the first National Awards being presented at Government House Canberra by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) PHF and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley PHF.
- 2023 Awards began in Victoria and has just completed a second successful year.
- Website – www.rescawards.org.au visit for further information.

Purpose and structure of RESCA within ACT, NSW and Victoria

The purpose of the project is to enable Community recognition to say “thank you” publicly - anyone except oneself, can nominate and recognise emergency services personnel in their “Service Above Self” in their communities

Sponsorship funds are used to support **two (2) Rotary Projects**; the first is Research Scholarships (with both **Australian Rotary Health PhD in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder** and Victorian Emergency Services Foundation research scholarships); and sending a **Vocational Training Team – VTT** - to a developing country to train personnel in Disaster Preparedness. Further sponsorship monies are also used for scholarships in Victoria and NSW

The Emergency Services Community Awards invite members of the Community to help recognise outstanding Community Service performed by paid and volunteer members of Emergency Service Agencies through an Annual Awards Ceremony held in each State/Territory. The overall two (2) winners from each of those Awards will be judged and presented at a National Awards Ceremony. This is hosted by our Vice Regal Patrons, each year, in Government House, Canberra.

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Rotary formally recognises our emergency service personnel whom have gone above and beyond their call of duty and reflected the Rotary motto of "Service above Self", They are often the quiet achievers, never asking for recognition but making a significant difference in our communities..

Panels of Rotarians, independent judges, assess the nominations on three (3) key criteria:

- 1 Community service, over and above the call of normal duties which best exemplifies Rotary's motto of Service Above Self, e.g. community involvement when a nominee is working over and above their normal role/s, whether this is over and above the paid job/business role.
- 2 Personal attributes.
- 3 Contribution, including length of service to the Emergency Service Agency either as an officer in paid capacity or volunteer.

Emergency Service Personnel can be nominated by a colleague, family and any member/s of the community, or their respective Agency, by completing an online nomination form. Note, nominees may serve in more than one ES agency and self-nominations are not accepted.

To date, the Commissioners/CEO's of each of the Emergency Services Agencies involved, fully support and hold this initiative in the highest regard. For many, these Awards are the only recognition held within those Agencies.

Each state would under a multi-district activity still hold their own Awards event including liaising with Emergency Services Agencies, the setup of independent committees to run same and to invite their own sponsors to join.

A patron has been appointed within the States and the State Member of Parliament who is the minister for Emergency Services is involved. Each year the awards culminate in a ceremony where the finalists and winners are presented with the appropriate trophies.

The overall two (2) winners – officer in Paid Capacity and officer in Volunteer Capacity, from each state would then be eligible to be finalists within the national award ceremony.

The costs of the awards are met by sponsorship either nationally or locally. There is no cost to either Rotary Districts or Rotary clubs unless they wish to become a sponsor or friend of the awards within their states. Sponsorship levels come with a varying number of tickets to attend the event and promotional opportunities based on the level of sponsorship. Each Club and District would be requested to promote the awards and to attend, if possible, the award ceremony dinner held each year in each state in August.

If approval is given by your club for your district to form a Multidistrict project in Australia under the RI Code of Policies 21.010 an incorporated body would be set up to oversee this project on behalf of the Governors. The Board would consist of members as defined within the RI Code of Policies

Guidance and advice have been sought from Club and District Support at RISPPPO. The main requirement for approval under the RI Code of policies is that any project shall not be undertaken initially unless each governor concerned has agreed to such a joint activity and then, only after approval of two-thirds of the clubs in each district. District Governors have been supportive of the proposal.

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We are seeking club approval for your district to approve the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards Multi-District project. Voting for this proposal must be completed by the Club President (or delegated nominee) and is by means of the following online voting slip (1 vote per club) [Click here for access to online form](#). Voting must occur by the 22nd November 2024.

If the vote is in the positive and the formation of the Rotary Districts of Australia Emergency Services Community Awards occurs the following would occur.

- 1 Legal assistance would be sought for the implementation of the incorporation including constitution and bylaws.
- 2 Interested parties would be sought from districts through the Governors for Board members as per Code of Policies.
- 3 The entity would be incorporated in NSW.

If you require further information regarding this program, please contact one of the following

Steve Hill

Past District Governor
Phone 0412 854 047

Warwick Richardson (NSW Chair)

Past District Governor
Phone 0418 978 555

Dot Hennessey OAM

Past President
Phone 0412 120 314

Grant Hocking (Victoria Chair)

Past District Governor
Phone 0429 802 722