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MEDIA RELEASE

31 MARCH 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2022 PRIDE IN SPORT AWARDS

Finalists for the 2022 Pride in Sport Awards have been announced ahead of the fifth annual awards ceremony that will see sporting identities, clubs and codes across the country gather to celebrate LGBTQ inclusion in Australian sport on 27 April in Melbourne.

First held in 2018, the Australian Pride in Sport Awards is a national event dedicated solely to recognising exceptional efforts in making sport more inclusive of LGBTQ people. It is produced by Pride in Sport, the national not-for-profit sporting inclusion program spearheaded by Australia's largest LGBTQ health organisation ACON.

Hosted by former Australian professional tennis player, Channel Nine commentator and Women and Girls Lead for Tennis NSW, Casey Dellacqua, the Awards will feature keynote speakers from experts within the industry, as well as the much-anticipated award ceremony.

One of the leading events on the LGBTQ sporting calendar, the Australian Pride in Sport Awards honours athletes, employees and organisations as it showcases the results of the Pride in Sport Index (PSI) – the national benchmarking instrument used to assess LGBTQ inclusion within Australian sport.

Co-Founder of the Pride in Sport Index Andrew Purchas said: "The Awards build on progress in achieving LGBTQ rights and ongoing work in making sporting arenas, fields, and spectator stands more inclusive."

"The focus on LGBTQ inclusion, zero tolerance of homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia, not only within the corporate sector via their diversity and inclusion practices, but also within sport and society as a whole is unprecedented.

"Sport has the opportunity to ensure that this focus translates to meaningful societal change and is not just fad. Sport breaks down barriers. Sport aims to create a fair go for all."

Acting Pride In Sport National Program Manager Elaine Czulkowski added: "Many of Australia's sporting organisations, from national level to state and community clubs, are recognising that positive action needs to be taken to ensure sexuality or gender identity does not impact one's ability to play, watch or be involved with sport at any level."

"The Australian Pride in Sport Awards allows us to celebrate the outstanding achievements of clubs and individuals in improving and promoting LGBTQ inclusion within Australian sport."

***The 2022 Australian Pride in Sport Awards is on Tuesday 27 April 2022 6pm – 9pm at Showtime Events Centre, 61 S Wharf Promenade, Melbourne VIC.***

***For more information and to purchase tickets, [click here](#).***

ENDS

**(Finalists on the next page)**



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## 2022 Pride in Sport Awards Finalists

Award	FINALISTS
Community Sporting Organisation of the Year	- Bentstix Hockey Club - Climbing QTs - Kingston City Rollers
LGBTQ Ally Award	- Cassie Lindsey, Geelong Cats - Ivan Power, Bronte Surf Life Saving Club
LGBTQ Out Role Model	- Hendry Lukman, Hobart Out Tennis - Dominic Clarke, Gymnastics NSW
LGBTQ Inclusive Coach	- Matthew Helm, Diving Australia - Sheena Atkin, Basketball, Queer Sporting Alliance
LGBTQ Positive Media Award	- Elliot, Win News Tasmania – Inclusive Sport State Rounds - Mary Konstantopoulos; Holly’s Story – Coming Out
LGBTQ Inclusion Initiative Award	- Rolling Rainbow Sports Day – Wheelchair Sports - Richmond Pride Ally Network - Champion Come Out & Play, Queer Sporting Alliance - South Melbourne District Football Club - Inaugural Pride Round
Executive Leader of the Year Award	- Michael Johnston, Chief Strategy Officer & General Counsel, Hockey Australia - Craig Tiley, Chief Executive Officer, Tennis Australia

### **ABOUT PRIDE IN SPORT**

Launched in 2016, the PSI was developed in conjunction with the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Australian Sports Commission and Bingham Cup Sydney, alongside an advisory group comprising representatives from a range of peak sporting bodies including the National Rugby League, the Australian Football League, the Australian Rugby Union and Football Federation Australia.

The Pride in Sport Index is an initiative of the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Australian Sports Commission and a legacy of the Bingham Cup, Sydney. Following the release of the Out on the Fields study in May 2015, the largest international study examining homophobia in sport, these organisations commissioned Pride in Diversity to develop a Pride in Sport Index.

The Pride in Sport Index™ (PSI) is the first and only benchmarking instrument specifically designed to assess the inclusion of people with diverse sexualities and genders across Australian sport. Participating in the index will allow Australian sporting organisations to not only assess their own practice, but determine that which constitutes good practice, along with the ability to benchmark their own initiatives against an external measure and other sporting organisations.

Pride in Sport is an ACON program, one of three within the Pride Inclusion Programs that specifically look at the inclusion of people of diverse genders and sexualities within sport, the workplace and health service provision.