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2023 PRIDE IN SPORT AWARDS CELEBRATING ATHLETES, CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS FOR LGBTQ INCLUSION

Hockey ACT, Touch Football Australia, Netball Victoria, Tennis Australia, and Macquarie University Sport are among a range of sporting organisations and individuals who have been named as the country's best for LGBTQ inclusion at the Australian Pride in Sport Awards held today in Melbourne at CENTREPIECE.

Launched in 2018, the Australian Pride in Sport Awards is the first celebration of its kind dedicated solely to celebrating and acknowledging exceptional efforts in making Australian 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.

Along with sporting clubs and organisations, individuals from community, as well as allies, from a range of codes were awarded for their efforts in making their respective sports a more welcoming place for LGBTQ people on and off the field. **(See next page for complete list of award recipients.)**

The awards showcase the results of the Pride in Sport Index (PSI) – a national benchmarking instrument used to assess LGBTQ inclusion within Australian sport.

Co-founder of the PSI, Andrew Purchas, said: "Every year, the awards build on progress in achieving LGBTQ rights and ongoing work in making sporting arenas, pitches, and spectator stands more inclusive.

"Over the years since the PSI and Awards were established, Australian sporting codes, organisations and clubs have shown that they're heeding growing calls and expectations that sport is welcoming of everyone. They are taking the positive steps needed to ensure a person's sexuality and/or gender identity and is not a barrier to being able to participate, spectate or volunteer with sport at any level.

"The growth in participating clubs, organisations and codes is incredibly encouraging as it demonstrates a growing focus on LGBTQ inclusion, zero tolerance of homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia.

"I congratulate all the award recipients and finalists, along with many others working towards making Australian sport an inclusive place for everyone. I'm proud of all their efforts and to celebrate those success stories at the Pride in Sport Awards today," Purchas said.

The awards, hosted by comedian Bobby Macumber, featured *The Voice* and *Australia's Got Talent* music sensation Jael Wena, as well as the much-anticipated award ceremony.

Pride In Sport National Program Manager Beau Newell added: "Since it was established seven years ago, the PSI has continued to see a tangible shift in practice with LGBTQ inclusion work in Australian sport, as well as greater and demonstrable commitments to providing safer and more inclusive environments and experiences for sexuality and gender diverse people."

"As society becomes more inclusive, there is an expectation that sport also reflects the diversity of our communities. There is more to be done to ensure sport – whether on or off the field – is inclusive of everyone and that every person feels welcome as they are, in the sport they love. Everyone has fundamental right to participate in sport.

"Pride in Sport would like to congratulate all sporting codes, clubs, athletes, administrators, support staff and the many volunteers on the efforts they are making to ensure everyone is welcome and supported in sport," Newell said.

ENDS



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2023 Pride in Sport Awards Recipients

Award	Recipient
Sporting Organisation of the Year	Hockey ACT
Community Sporting Organisation of the Year	Kingston City Rollers
Most Improved Sporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touch Football Australia • Kingston City Rollers
LGBTQ Ally Award	Kerry Tavrou, Tennis Australia
Executive Leader Award	Mick Garnett, Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT
LGBTQ Inclusive Coach Award	Sam Dengate, T Generation
LGBTQ Out Role Model Award	Sharni Williams, Rugby Australia
LGBTQ Positive Media Award	'Melbourne United supports and celebrates Isaac Humphries courageous decision', National Basketball League (NBL)
LGBTQ Inclusion Initiative Award	SLSA Pride Surf Rescue Board, Surf Life Saving Australia
Gold Sporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hockey ACT • Macquarie University Sport • Netball Victoria • Tennis Australia • Touch Football Australia
Gold Community Sporting Organisation	Kingston City Rollers
Silver Sporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hockey Australia • Hockey QLD • Hockey Victoria • Lacrosse Victoria • Tennis NSW • UWA Sport
Bronze Sporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANU Sport • Australian Football League (AFL) • Hockey WA • National Rugby League (NRL) • RMIT University Sport

ABOUT PRIDE IN SPORT

Pride in Sport is a national not-for-profit program that assists sporting organisations and clubs with the inclusion of LGBTI employees, players, volunteers and spectators. It is part of ACON's Pride Inclusion Programs, which provides a range of services to employers, sporting organisations and service providers with support in all aspects of LGBTI inclusion. All funds generated through membership and ticketed events go back into the work of Pride in Sport, actively working alongside sporting organisations, clubs and participants to make Australian sport inclusive of LGBTI communities. For more information, visit the Pride Inclusion Programs website [here](#).

ABOUT THE PRIDE IN SPORT INDEX

The Pride in Sport Index (PSI) is an independently administered benchmarking system that provides the opportunity for all national and state sporting organisations to have their LGBTI related initiatives, programs and policies reviewed, measured and monitored. An initiative of the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Australian Sports Commission and a legacy of the Bingham Cup Sydney 2014 (the world cup of gay rugby), it was developed alongside an advisory group that includes representatives from the National Rugby League (NRL), the Australian Football League (AFL), the Australian Rugby Union (ARU), Football Federation Australia (FFA), Cricket Australia, Swimming Australia, Water Polo Australia, Basketball Australia and Golf Australia. For more information, visit the Pride in Sport website [here](#).