



# Ricci Marks Awards

## Nomination guide

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First Peoples –  
State Relations





## About the awards

The Ricci Marks Awards (awards) began in 1997 as the Aboriginal Young Achievers Award. In 2004, it was re-named after Ricci Marks. Ricci Marks was a proud Wotjobaluk man and previous award recipient. In his short life, he made an outstanding contribution to his community.

The awards acknowledge achievements with an emphasis on future pathways and development. Recipients receive a bursary intended to assist them in pursuit of their aspirations

Today, the awards recognise the individual achievements of young First Peoples living in Victoria in areas such as: training, education, arts, sports, culture and community leadership.

There are two awards within the program:

- The **Ricci Marks Award** recognises the significant achievements and aspirations of young First Nations people living in Victoria.
- The **Ricci Marks Rising Star Award** recognises young First Nations people living in Victoria who demonstrate significant promise and potential.

Awards nominations are reviewed, and recipients are selected by an independent community panel. Award winners will be announced at an awards ceremony. All shortlisted nominees and their nominators are requested to attend the event.

## Eligibility

To be eligible, nominees must:

- be a First Nations person of Australia
- be aged between 16 and 25 years of age (inclusive) on 1 January the year of the award
- have lived in Victoria since 1 January 2023
- not be a First Peoples – State Relations (FPSR) staff member or elected Victorian Government official.

## Key dates

Milestone	Date
Nominations open	Friday 16 August 2024
Nominations close	11:59 pm, Monday 21 October 2024
Judging period	November 2024
Finalists announced	February 2024
Awards ceremony	Late February 2024



## Information needed to submit a nomination

Nominees can be self-nominated or be nominated by others. Nominators can include family members, friends, employers, a representative from organisations, community groups and schools.

### If you are nominating yourself, you need to provide

- your details
- your responses to the nomination questions
- a high-resolution image and short (50 word) description about you. If you are an award winner, this will be used to describe your success on our website, at the event and in potential other awards promotions
- contact details of a referee to support your application, who may be contacted by FPSR staff to verify information.
- a signed consent form attached as a word document or pdf.

### If you are nominating a young First Nations person, you need to provide

- your contact details
- your responses to the nomination questions
- the contact details of the young person you are nominating
- a high-resolution image and short (50 word) description about the young person. If they are an award winner, this will be used to talk about their success on our website, at the event and in potential other awards promotions
- a signed consent form from the nominee attached as a word document or pdf.

## How to nominate

### Step one

Read this nomination guide and the submission requirements of entry for the awards.

### Step two

Determine who to nominate and which award you are nominating them for, using the selection criteria scoring guide on pages 5 and 6 below:

- The Ricci Marks Award.
- The Ricci Marks Rising Star Award.

If you are nominating someone else, you must have their consent and have notified the nominee of the submission. A signed consent form from the nominee is required to submit your nomination.

### Step three

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

Please note: Submissions can be accepted in other formats. To discuss this further, please contact the FPSR Events Team at [fpsr.events@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:fpsr.events@dpc.vic.gov.au).



#### **Step four**

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

#### **Step five**

Complete and submit your nomination(s) by 11:59 pm Monday 21 October 2024.

Nominations received after this time may not be considered for the awards and no responsibility will be accepted by FPSR for lost, late, incomplete or incorrectly submitted nominations. If you need assistance with submitting your nomination by the deadline, please contact FPSR on 9922 7540 or email [fpsr.events@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:fpsr.events@dpc.vic.gov.au)

Online nominations will be acknowledged with a confirmation email once your nomination form is received. Offline nominations will be acknowledged within 10 business days of the nomination closing date.

#### **Step six (if shortlisted)**

Shortlisted individuals will be contacted by FPSR for an interview with the Ricci Marks Awards Selection Panel. This interview will form part of the panel's decision-making.

### **Help with your application**

If you are self-nominating or nominating someone else and would like some guidance and advice on completing the application, you can contact the FPSR Events Team at [fpsr.events@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:fpsr.events@dpc.vic.gov.au).

### **Assessment process**

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

An independent panel will review nominations and meet to discuss each eligible nomination. They consider all information submitted by the nominator and give each nomination a score based on the nominator's answers and any supporting information supplied with the nomination. Nominations are independently scored by the panel to create a shortlist.

This shortlist will be contacted by FPSR to arrange an interview. After the interview, the Panel meet to discuss and determine the recipients of the awards.

As part of this process, referees may be contacted to verify or clarify information before recipients are recommended to the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples.

All nominators will receive notification of the outcome by email. All nominees will also be notified.

## Selection Criteria Scoring Guide

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

Criteria	Guide
<p><b>Achievements and goals</b></p> <p>Weighting:</p> <p>Ricci Marks Award: 25%</p> <p>Rising Star: 25%</p>	<p>Describe examples of what the nominee has already accomplished and their goals, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting their culture</li> <li>• Contributing creative, unique or innovative ideas or initiatives</li> <li>• Community engagement through programs and initiatives, e.g. social justice, education, health and wellbeing programs</li> <li>• Engagement in study and learning programs (at university, TAFE or other institutions)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commitment to complete proposed goals and aspirations</b></p> <p>Weighting:</p> <p>Ricci Marks Award: 20%</p> <p>Rising Star: 20%</p>	<p>Share information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed or upcoming applications for study, other awards, grants and more.</li> <li>• Engagement with stakeholders/communities</li> <li>• Development of a project or business plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Involvement in First Nations or wider Victorian communities</b></p> <p>Weighting:</p> <p>Ricci Marks Awards: 20%</p> <p>Rising Star: 10%</p>	<p>Examples of involvement in First Nations communities and wider Victorian communities, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning cultural practice, dancing or language</li> <li>• Involvement with local First Nations organisations</li> <li>• Involvement in NAIDOC Week</li> <li>• Playing in sports events or carnivals</li> <li>• Singing or doing stand-up at community gatherings or talent nights</li> <li>• Organising activities or events for First Nations communities</li> <li>• Attending a Koorie youth group</li> <li>• Volunteering</li> </ul> <p>Where possible, highlight how the nominee's involvement impacts both First Nations communities and wider Victorian communities.</p>
<p><b>How the award will support the nominee</b></p> <p>Weighting:</p> <p>Ricci Marks Awards: 10%</p> <p>Rising Star: 15%</p>	<p>Share examples of how the bursary and the recognition will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase community impact through their projects or goals</li> <li>• Promote culture and identity</li> <li>• Subsidise upcoming fees/expenses</li> </ul>



<p><b><u>Ricci Marks Award only</u></b></p> <p><b>Demonstrated leadership and initiative</b></p> <p>Weighting: 25%</p>	<p>Include examples such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formal leadership roles in the nominee’s communities</li><li>• How the nominee promotes and builds understanding and engagement with community causes</li><li>• Support provided to other young people within their communities through knowledge and skills sharing</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Rising Star Award only</u></b></p> <p><b>Demonstrated promise and potential</b></p> <p>Weighting: 30%</p>	<p>Include examples such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involvement in community clubs and groups</li><li>• Volunteering</li><li>• Participation in community events</li><li>• Enrolment in further studies</li><li>• Extra-curricular activities</li></ul>

## Accessing and using the bursary

### Payment of funds

The Ricci Marks Award bursaries are valued at \$5,000 each and the Rising Star Award bursary is valued at \$1,500. The bursary is paid in one instalment, directly transferred to a bank account nominated by the selected nominee/s.

### Usage of funds

There are no restrictions on how the bursary can be used.

