

# Autism Victoria "Creative Futures" Recognition Awards 2007



## Autism Victoria Exemplary Service Award Recognition of services to parents/carers Ms Thea Calzoni, Melbourne City Mission Nominated by Helen Shanahan

Thea is proactive in finding or establishing community based supports in the Northern region, ranging from social skills programs, an adolescent Asperger group and a sports program. She has fostered a multi focal approach to parent support - taking every opportunity to teach the community about Autism Spectrum Disorder, provide valuable activity programs to the children and adolescents, and foster parent to parent support.

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**Autism Victoria**

**Individual Achievement Award**

Recognition of services to the Autism Victoria  
Professional Panel

**Associate Professor Amanda Richdale**

Nominated by Amanda Golding

Amanda is member and past Chairperson of the Autism Services Coordinating Committee (now the Autism Victoria Professional Panel), is Victoria's representative on the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders Professional Committee, fosters Autism Spectrum Disorder research at RMIT University Bundoora, and partners in many Autism Spectrum Disorder based research and evaluation projects.

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## **Autism Victoria Patronage Award**

Recognition of services to the governance of  
Autism Victoria

**Mr Colin Morris**

Nominated by Mary Thomson

Colin has provided legal support to Autism Victoria over many years, is the author of our Constitution, past State Council and Executive Committee member, past President of Southern Autistic School Council, and a voice for Autism Spectrum Disorder on several legal advisory bodies.

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**Autism Victoria**

**Professional Achievement Award**

Recognition of services in the fostering of  
inclusive education

**Donvale Primary School (Principal Carol Curnow)**

**Nominated by Meredith Ward**

With the Autism Spectrum Disorder prevalence in this small school of 1 in every 21 students ( 295 students 14 with an ASD), Donvale has had 100% success in obtaining funding for their ASD students. Their belief is that "*Integration is the ongoing process which enables children with a disability to have the opportunities, choices and support to fully participate in school life*". This is evident in their innovative inclusion program encompassing a *lifeskills* program focusing on the development of social skills, independence and choice making; a lunchtime program and a flexible curriculum which enables the children to experience success.

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**Autism Victoria**

## **Individual Achievement Award**

Recognition of leadership in the provision of  
quality curriculum for children with autism

**Ms Carolyne Collings**

Nominated by the Autism Victoria Executive  
Committee

Carolyne has been a teacher at Wantirna Heights School since its inception, and was previously a teacher at the Irabina Eastern Centre. Carolyne is highly respected for her leadership, patience and expertise in working with the most severely handicapped of children with autism and for her dogged advocacy on behalf of these children.