



MEDIA RELEASE

WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2015 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Dr Robert Isaacs OAM JP PhD has been awarded the State's highest honour, being named *Western Australian of the Year* at the 42nd Western Australian of the Year Awards held last night.

The Aboriginal elder had a shaky start to life, as part of the Stolen Generation he was taken from his family at just six months old and was in institutions until 17 years old. Dr Isaacs has since dedicated his life to helping improve health, housing, employment and education within Aboriginal communities.

He has achieved a number of firsts in his lifetime, becoming the first Aboriginal person to be elected to local government as Councillor and Deputy Mayor for the City of Gosnells and played a key role in setting up Australia's first Indigenous school, Clontarf Aboriginal College.

Dr Roberts has also received an Order of Australia Medal in recognition of his work to improve relations between Aboriginal people and the justice system and helping to implement programs to assist Aboriginal people achieve home ownership and housing security.

Recognising the achievements of Western Australians from a broad cross section of the community, 26 finalists were chosen across seven categories for the awards.

The individual winners of each category are as follows:

- **Aboriginal Award** – *Sponsored by Wesfarmers*
 - Dr Robert Isaacs OAM JP
- **Arts and Culture Award** – *Sponsored by Woodside*
 - Henry Boston
- **Business Award** – *Sponsored by Telstra*
 - Peter Prendiville
- **Community Award** – *Sponsored by Alcoa of Australia*
 - Dr Ros Worthington OAM
- **Professions Award** – *Sponsored by St John of God Health Care*
 - Frank Cooper AO
- **Sport Award** – *Sponsored by Hardy Brothers Jewellers*
 - Andrew Vlahov
- **Youth Award** – *Sponsored by BHP Billiton*
 - Rhys Williams

This year's winners were announced at a Gala dinner on Friday 29 May at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

About Celebrate WA

Celebrate WA is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for promoting and organising the annual WA Day celebrations; promoting excellence and achievement by Western Australians in all fields of endeavour; and encouraging pride in all things Western Australian.

Celebrate WA's Major Supporters include BHP Billiton, the State Government, and Lotterywest.

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