



## New ESF Diversity & Inclusion Awards

On 7 March 2024, ESF will host the annual International Women's Day forum. This is an event to show support and advocate for women and gender diverse people in the emergency services sector. An addition to the 2024 program will be Diversity and Inclusion Awards, to recognise and celebrate good work taking place across the sector.

There will be three awards.

1. **Gender Inclusivity Initiative** - This award will acknowledge a particular program within one of ESF's 15 member agencies at the corporate or branch level, which has promoted the equitable treatment and inclusion not just of women but of all gender identities.
2. **Women's Equality Initiative** - This award will acknowledge a particular program within one of ESF's 15 member agencies at the corporate or branch level, which has explored and advocated for the equitable treatment and inclusion of women.
3. **Diversity and Inclusion Champion** - This award will acknowledge an individual, regardless of their role or rank, who has demonstrated, through their action and initiative, support for diversity and inclusion. They should be a shining example of, and role model for, gender diversity and inclusion.

The application process is simple. It involves detailing the motivation, process, and results of the nominated diversity and inclusion initiative. Each nomination requires evidence of impact in the form of notes of support.

The judging panel comprises:

- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner, Ro Allen
- Commissioner for Gender Equality in the Public Sector, Dr Niki Vincent
- Emergency Management Commissioner, Rick Nugent

Applications close on 11 February 2024 and winners will be invited to outline their initiatives at the International Women's Day forum in March 2024

## RESPONSES

*"The Emergency Services Foundation, Diversity and Inclusion Awards, are a brilliant initiative, everyone deserves the right to feel included and good practice should be celebrated".*

**Ro Allen, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner**

*"It is no secret that a key element of a psychologically safe working environment is to walk the talk when it comes to creating and valuing a truly diverse and inclusive workplace. Through this new award, ESF will shine a light on great inclusion and diversity practices across the EM sector, enabling us to listen, learn and share."*

**Catherine Greaves, CEO Life Saving Victoria**

*"Ensuring our emergency services are diverse and inclusive is the key to our successes and to our future. Reflecting the communities we serve can only improve our service delivery and our connection with those communities and ensure that we are all safer."*

**Natalie MacDonald, CEO CFA**

[Apply or nominate here](#)