

2025 Social Housing Volunteer Awards

How to nominate a social housing resident

# Frances Penington and Molly Hadfield Awards

## Recognising community achievement

In every community, there are exceptional people who reach out, lend a hand, and get involved. These are the people who go above and beyond to help others and in doing so, build a strong community spirit.

The Frances Penington and Molly Hadfield Awards publicly acknowledge an individual resident, or a group of residents, who positively impact their local community.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing are calling for nominations for these two awards.

# The Frances Penington Award

## Who is making a difference in your community?

**Eligibility criteria:**

* **individual public or community housing resident, or a group of residents**
* **who are making an outstanding voluntary contribution to their community.**

The Frances Penington Award recognises an individual public or community housing resident, or a group of residents, who are making an outstanding voluntary contribution to their community.

The award honours the late Frances Penington, a Commissioner of the Housing Commission and the first woman appointed to the board of a statutory authority in Victoria. She was also a strong advocate for public housing residents, particularly for women living in housing estates.

In keeping with the memory of Frances Penington, this award recognises the achievements of role models, community builders and local heroes who have gone out of their way to help their neighbours, volunteered with a community group, or proactively found solutions to address local neighbourhood issues.

# The Molly Hadfield Award

## Who is making a difference for older residents in your community?

Eligibility criteria:

* **individual public or community housing resident or a group of residents**
* **who are having a positive effect on the lives of older residents in their community.**

The award honours the work of the late Mary (Molly) Hadfield, a dedicated advocate for public housing residents. She was also a founding member of the Housing for the Aged Action Group, which started in 1983.

In 2006, she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the community across the areas of aged care, community health, and youth. In the same year, she was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

# How to make a nomination

If you know someone or a group of people whose outstanding contribution should be recognised, please complete the nomination form and return it by **26 September 2025**. The nomination form is available on the housing website, visit the [Social Housing Volunteers Awards page on the Housing website](http://housing.vic.gov.au/social-housing-volunteer-awards) http://housing.vic.gov.au/social-housing-volunteer-awards.

All nominees for the awards will receive a certificate of recognition.

The Minister for Housing will announce recipients of the Frances Penington Award and Molly Hadfield Award at a special ceremony, in December 2025 (date to be confirmed). The department will notify and invite nominees to this event.

Please ensure you complete all parts of the nomination form, including the declaration and signature of the person or group being nominated.

## More information

For more information about the Frances Penington Award or the Molly Hadfield Award

* call us at (03) 8633 4357 or 0439 209 122
* visit the [Social Housing Volunteers Awards page on the Housing website](http://housing.vic.gov.au/social-housing-volunteer-awards) http://housing.vic.gov.au/social-housing-volunteer-awards.

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