



**Equal Opportunity
Tasmania**

Equal Opportunity Tasmania

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MEDIA RELEASE / STATEMENT

**EMBARGOED til
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TASMANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK AWARDS 2020

It can certainly be said that globally and nationally 2020 has been a kaleidoscope of extraordinary and disconcerting events.

Over recent times Australia had its share of devastation, anguish and grief produced by drought, bushfires and floods. Then, before we had time to draw breath we were caught up in the unexpected, unpredictable and unprecedented impacts of a pandemic.

Throughout the year we have seen the very best of human behaviour and we have seen the worst.

There is little doubt that the emotional and financial heartache and loss that comes with turbulent times can be softened through acts of kindness and compassion.

Accordingly, Equal Opportunity Tasmania determined that this year's Human Rights Week Awards should be presented to Tasmanians who demonstrated **acts of kindness and compassion** towards fellow Tasmanians. The reality is that if more people acted with kindness and compassion towards others the need for organisations like Equal Opportunity Tasmania would be greatly diminished.

Virtues such as kindness breeds respect. When respectful attitudes and behaviours prevail there is no room for discrimination.

An independent panel of four judges was convened to consider the Award nominations.

**Celebrating Difference
Embracing Equality**

The Attorney General, the Honourable Elise Archer, MP presented Awards to twenty two (22) recipients at a ceremony held on Thursday afternoon in the Premier's Reception Room. The Awards recipients included individuals, community groups and organisations that have each made a positive difference in the Tasmanian community.

Sarah Bolt, Anti-Discrimination Commissioner

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