



*Westfield*

*Local Heroes*

2021

Westfield Local Heroes is a community recognition and awards program, designed to shine the spotlight on those people across Australia and New Zealand who make a positive impact to their local community and environment.

Individuals are nominated by their local communities, with the outcome of a public vote determining the three successful 2021 nominees for every Westfield centre.

# Westfield Local Heroes

Now in its fourth year, we have awarded \$4.88 million to 489 community organisations.

Every year, we recognise more than 120 Westfield Local Heroes and provide more than \$1.2M in community grants to their affiliated organisations.

We congratulate all the 2021 nominees for being recognised by their communities and thank them for the important contribution they all make.



*Westfield*

**Chermside**

QLD

**Jodie Frisch is on a mission to ensure families fleeing domestic violence have everything they need to rebuild their lives.**

Jodie works at RizeUp Australia, a charity committed to raising awareness about domestic violence and providing practical support to people escaping danger.

Families fleeing domestic violence often enter refuges with nothing but the clothes on their back. As Homes Manager at RizeUp, Jodie helps them furnish their new accommodation with everything they need to make it a home. She also helps provide clothing for their children and source essential items at a moment's notice.

"How can you not help? How can you un-hear the stories? You can't, but you can do something to make a difference. Everyone can do something," she says.

Jodie is known for her strong, loyal and kind personality. She treats everyone from all walks of life with compassion and empathy.

In addition to her refuge work, Jodie is a foster mum, and over the past nine years has looked after 36 babies in need of an emergency home.

Jodie feels grateful to be nominated as Westfield Local Hero. "It's incredibly kind, and I'm so grateful. There are so many deserving people in the world. I'm just one person, doing my little bit."

*Jodie's nominator says: "Jodie is a Westfield Local Hero because, in the darkest moments of life, she brings warmth, happiness and light to people in our community who need it most."*



**Helping rebuild lives**

## **Jodie Frisch**

RizeUp Australia

*Committed, Compassionate, Determined*

**"There are so many deserving people in the world. I'm just one person, doing my little bit."**



## Giving everyone a fighting chance

### Sammy Leone

The Boss Boxing

*Dedicated, Hardworking, Leader*

**"At a low point in my life, I found myself at a crossroads, and after a cultural and spiritual experience, I made a decision to take the steps to improve my situation."**

**Former boxing champion Sammy Leone is a proud Aboriginal man who has supported the Zillmere community for more than a decade, using his sport to empower people and transform lives.**

Sammy is passionate about using the skills developed in boxing to keep vulnerable people away from substance abuse and crime. A few years ago, he founded The Boss Boxing, where he is head coach. His vision is to empower young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, especially those who have been in foster care or who have had social services interventions.

Sammy faced a challenging start to life, experiencing poverty, racism, poor mental health, crime, foster care and drug and alcohol misuse.

"At a low point in my life, I found myself at a crossroads, and after a cultural and spiritual experience, I made a decision to take the steps to improve my situation," he says.

Sammy started boxing training, which turned his life around. He won regional, state and national titles.

He says it feels good to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "To be recognised by the local community is quite humbling. We never look for accolades, but it's great to be acknowledged for the tireless community work that is unseen by many."

*Sammy's nominator says:*

*"Sammy is a Westfield Local Hero because he noticed there was a need for a program for young people within the local community. Through The Boss Boxing, Sammy has been able to engage through physical activity, which is making a big difference and changing lives."*

**For the past five years, Amy Dawes has poured her heart and soul into reducing stigma and increasing understanding of birth-related trauma that impacts 1 in 3 Australian women as well as birthing partners and professionals.**

Amy co-founded the Australasian Birth Trauma Association (ABTA) in 2016, the first charity in Australia solely dedicated to supporting families impacted by birth-related trauma.

Amy was driven to do something positive after she experienced severe injuries from the birth of her daughter and struggled to find information and support. "I felt isolated and alone, but when I discovered how common birth trauma is, I wanted to be a voice for the many people that are suffering in silence," she says.

ABTA provides free, peer-led support to thousands of families across Australia. The charity hosts online support services that connect those who have

experienced birth-related trauma with peer mentors who have walked the journey before them. This unique support has provided valuable information to help inform their work and puts them in a unique position to represent and support the birthing community.

As a result, ABTA also provides training, resources, and information to professionals, aimed at reducing the rates of birth trauma and enable better diagnosis and pathways to care. Amy feels grateful to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "It means the world to me," she says.

*Amy's nominator says: "Amy is a Westfield Local Hero because she has the strength to face her own trauma every day and use her experience to raise the profile of birth-related trauma to create a community of support and she works to prevent others having the same experience."*



## Improving maternal health

### Amy Dawes

Australasian Birth Trauma Association

*Inspirational, Generous, Thought-leader*

**"I felt isolated and alone, but when I discovered how common birth trauma is, I wanted to be a voice for the many people that are suffering in silence."**

## Your 2021 Finalists



**Len McCandless**

**Rosies – Friends on the Street Brisbane North Branch**

Len McCandless is an empathetic community worker who uses his own experience of living on the street to help homeless people or those living with a disability. He is the team leader at Rosie's – Friends on the Street Brisbane North Branch, where he is known for his big heart – always greeting patrons with a smile, a cup of tea and a chat.



**Eileen Cooke**

**Preterm Infants Parents Association Inc. (PIPA)**

Veteran volunteer Eileen Mary Jane Cooke is the driving force behind support for Queensland parents of premature babies. Eileen has been volunteering with the Preterm Infants Parents Association (PIPA) for over 20 years and has helped many parents in that time. It is her way of giving back for the support she received from PIPA when she needed it. Eileen was a Westfield Local Hero finalist in 2019 and 2020 and appreciates being nominated for a third time.



**Garry Hunt**

**SANDBAG (Sandgate and Bracken Ridge Action Group Incorporated)**

Garry Hunt is a hard-working community worker dedicated to providing practical support to people in need. The volunteer turned staff member at Sandgate and Bracken Ridge Action Group (SANDBAG), Garry has supported thousands of people facing poverty, homelessness, mental illness, domestic violence and discrimination. Garry always treats people equally and is known for his inclusive, welcoming and respectful nature.



# Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Bradley King  
**Farm Animal Rescue Inc**

Bernadette Knight  
**POWERtalk Brisbane Central**

Natasha Gaddes  
**Kedron Wavell Hockey Club**

Ronnie Benbow  
**The Carers Foundation  
Australia**

Richard Holt  
**Holt Bolt**

Jodi Travis  
**Bridgecare**

Madeline Stuart  
**InsideOutside Dance**

Cody Schaeffer  
**Borderline Youth Camp  
Youngcare**

**Pipes & Drums National  
Servicemen's Memorial Band**

Andrea Carlaw  
**Brisbane Inline Hockey  
Streams**

David Twigg  
**Red Frogs Australia**

John Twartz  
**Lions Community Club  
Bracken Ridge**

LeeAnn Quilter  
**Brisbane Netball Association**

Kelli Martin  
**Red Rose Foundation Ltd**

Daniel Walker  
**Fortitude Valley Rugby  
League Football Club**

Maree Pickett  
**Suited to Success**

Dr Grant Cracknell  
**JDRF Australia**

Emma Ferguson  
**Elemental Formations**

Tiffany Visser  
**Brisbane Multiple Birth  
Association Northside**

Sam Moss  
**Arthritis Queensland**

Mandy Cotterill  
**PCYC Zillmere**

Eilisha Rodrigues  
**Multicap disability**

Beverley Isdale  
**Chermside and Districts  
Historical Society**

James Robert Bennett  
**The South Burnett Pantry Inc**

Robyn Robertson  
**Riverlife**

Taj Pabari  
**Australian School of  
Entrepreneurship (ASE)**

Maxine Silvestro  
**Nundah and Districts  
Historical Society Inc**

Kate Eggar  
**Yun Hap Taekwondo**

Greg Livingstone  
**The Pinnacle Foundation**

Graham Gillet  
**Animal Welfare League of Qld**

Andrea Hendry  
**Miracle Babies Foundation**

Syl Johns  
**Kurbingui Sporting  
Association**

Sonny and Leisa Pascoe  
**We Care Week**

Amie Carrington  
**Domestic Violence Action  
Centre**

Faye Lawrence  
**Untoxicated**

Rebecca Sutherland  
**Geebung Kindergarten C&K**

David Staines  
**The Australian Koala  
Foundation**

Shannon Lovell  
**Active Eight (A8)**

Nicole Richardson  
**North Pointe Physie & Dance**

David Engwicht  
**Creative Communities  
International**

Cecilio Tipace (Jojo)  
**Northside Boxing**

Steph Bennett  
**Wildcare**

Linda Meinicke  
**Willmore Kindergarten and  
Preschool Inc**

Dr Julian Mok  
**Multicultural Community  
Centre (MCC)**

Patrick O'Shea  
**Chermside and Districts  
Historical Society**

Susan Gribble  
**Koala Rescue Queensland Inc**

Vivian Townsend  
**Peach Tree Perinatal Wellness**

Richard Williams  
**Lions Club of Brisbane Inner  
North**

Melissa Sotheren  
**Queensland Pathways State  
College**

Penelope James  
**Albany Hills discount  
pharmacy**

Ammar Wahba  
**Syrian Mosaic Community in  
Brisbane**

Roslyn Fenson  
**The Nest Community**

Aimee Davies  
**The Hey Mate Project**

Timothy Robert Eggar  
**Queensland State Emergency  
Service**

Berniece Rains  
**St Vincents Private Hospital  
Northside**

Jessica Evans  
**R u o k**

Craig Hannam  
**All in the Mind – A Craig  
Hannam Foundation**

Dr Simon Apte  
**The Prince Charles Hospital**

Amy Dawes  
**Australasian Birth Trauma  
Association**

Sammy Leone  
**The Boss Boxing**

Len McCandless  
**Rosies – Friends on the Street  
Brisbane North Branch**

Mark Taylor  
**Multicultural Australia**

Eileen Mary Jane Cooke  
**Preterm Infants Parents  
Association Inc. (PIPA)**

Tony Ralph, OAM  
**Legacy Brisbane Ltd**

Garry Hunt  
**SANDBAG (Sandgate and  
Bracken Ridge Action Group  
Incorporated)**

Selena Grace Jandesu  
**Hillsong CityCare**

Jodie Frisch  
**RizeUp Australia**

**If you or anyone you know would like more information  
on what support is available:**

---

**AUSTRALIA**

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

MensLine: 1300 78 99 78

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

**NEW ZEALAND**

Lifeline: 0800 543 354

Suicide Crisis Helpline: 0508 828 865

Kidsline: 0800 54 37 54

Depression Helpline: 0800 111 757

Samaritans: 0800 726 666

Family Violence Information Line: 0800 456 450

The background features a large, abstract graphic composed of overlapping, rounded shapes in various shades of red and white. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors range from a bright, vibrant red to a deep, dark red, with white areas that appear to be cutouts or highlights within the composition.

[westfield.com.au/local-heroes](http://westfield.com.au/local-heroes)

[westfield.co.nz/local-heroes](http://westfield.co.nz/local-heroes)

*Westfield*  

---

*Local Heroes*  

---

**2021**

SCENTRE GROUP