



STUDENT *voice* AWARDS

NOMINATION PACK

from

VicSRC

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## What is VicSRC?

The Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC) is the peak body representing school aged students in Victoria. We exist to empower all student voices to be valued in every aspect of education.

## What are the VicSRC Student Voice Awards?

The VicSRC Student Voice Awards celebrate best practice in student voice, connect the education community and share ideas, and are a catalyst for inspiring action.

There are 5 award categories:

1. Student-Led Project Award
2. Student Voice Ally Award
3. Student Voice Primary School of the Year
4. Student Voice Secondary School of the Year
5. Newsboys Foundation Youth Leadership Award

## How to nominate:

To nominate for an award, you must submit a 1-2 minute video showcasing how you/your school meet the category criteria. You must also complete a written nomination to accompany your video. Each award has its own nomination form. You can nominate for more than one award, but each nomination you submit must have a different video.

A VicSRC [Talent Release Form](#) must be completed and received by VicSRC for every participant in the video. If all forms are not received by close of nominations, your nomination will not be considered. Forms can be submitted via the relevant section in each award's Nomination Form or can be emailed to [programs@vicsrc.org.au](mailto:programs@vicsrc.org.au) with the subject line including your school's name and the award you are nominating for by close of nominations.

## Who can nominate?

Students or adults can submit nominations for all awards except for the *Student Voice Ally Award*. For this award the nomination must come from a student.

## Tips before you nominate:

- ✓ Read up on student voice, agency and participation [here](#)
- ✓ Clearly read the category criteria below and ensure you meet it
- ✓ Think strategically and plan your nomination video – does it clearly address the category criteria, or would it fit better in a different category?
- ✓ Use examples that demonstrate the impact student voice has had in your school or community

- ✓ Relate your nomination back to how it is contributing to, changing and/or strengthening the culture of student voice in your school or community

## What happens once you nominate?

Once you submit your nomination, you will receive a confirmation email (please be patient – it may take us a week to confirm your nomination). Nominations close at 5pm on Monday 2 September 2019. Once nominations are closed, they are shortlisted and then reviewed by a panel of judges. Nominees will be notified by Thursday 19 September 2019 if they are finalists or not. Finalists will be invited to attend the Student Voice Awards ceremony on Thursday 24 October 2019 from 6pm at The Library at the Dock in the Docklands, Melbourne.

Finalists will receive an Information Pack via email with further details of what to expect when they are notified.



## Student-Led Project Award

The *Student-Led Project Award* recognises a group of students that have implemented a project in their school or community with the intention of a clear positive change or outcome.

### Criteria

| Use these criteria to determine if this award category is right for you and guide the answers to your nomination questions! | Yes, this is us! |
|---|------------------|
| Students initiated, coordinated and implemented the whole project.  |                  |
| The project had, is having, or will have a clear positive effect on students, the school, and/or the community.             |                  |
| The student-led project method has helped strengthen student voice in other areas in the school or community.               |                  |

### Nomination Questions

1. Describe the project that you/your students have undertaken this school year. Make sure you include:
  - a. the issue/s the project was intended to combat
  - b. the goal/s of the project
  - c. the method of student engagement – how did you involve more students than just those undertaking/leading the project?
2. What were the outcomes of the project? Make sure you include examples of positive change in the school or community.
3. What were some challenges you encountered during this project and how did you overcome them?
4. What remains to be done on this project? Make sure you include:
  - a. How you will record what you learnt from this project – what worked and what didn't work
  - b. How you will make sure the project keeps doing good things for students in the future
5. How did this project contribute to, change and/or strengthen the culture of student voice in your school or community?
6. If you are selected as a finalist for this award, how will you use the prize money?

[Nominate for this award here!](#)

## Student Voice Ally Award

The *Student Voice Ally Award* recognises an adult (such as a teacher, other member of school staff, educator, youth or social worker) who has supported and amplified student voice in a school or community. The Student Voice Ally is someone who has been integral to empowering students to make change, always puts students front and centre, and constantly seeks to learn from students.

### Criteria

| Use these criteria to determine if this award category is right for you and guide the answers to your nomination questions! | Yes, this is them! |
|---|--------------------|
| The nominee consistently listens to student voice and acts on it.   |                    |
| The nominee facilitates students to be independent and self-regulated school community members.                             |                    |
| The nominee always relates to students as an equal.   |                    |

### Nomination Questions

1. How did this person contribute to, change and/or strengthen the culture of student voice in their school or community?
2. What has happened in the school or community that could not have happened without their support?
3. What do you think others could learn from this person about supporting student voice?
4. If this person is selected as a finalist for this award, how would your school use the prize money?

[Nominate for this award here!](#)

## Student Voice Primary School of the Year

The *Student Voice Primary School of the Year* award recognises a primary school that has embedded student voice and agency into the school culture, undertaking a whole-school approach.

### Criteria

| Use these criteria to determine if this award category is right for you and guide the answers to your nomination questions!       | Yes, this is us! |
|---|------------------|
| The school has a clear understanding of what student voice and agency is.   |                  |
| The school demonstrates student voice and agency on different levels (in the classroom, in the whole school, in decision-making). |                  |
| Student voice and agency is attributed to all students, not just a student representative body.                                   |                  |

### Nomination Questions

1. Describe how your school has embedded student voice into its culture. Make sure you include:
  - a. Your school's shared understanding of what student voice and agency is
  - b. Classroom or teaching practices that reflect student voice, agency and participation (i.e. students designing lesson plans and/or curriculum, student-teacher dialogues and feedback)
  - c. If and how students have a role in decision-making (i.e. sitting on committees, consulting on school policies, interviewing new teachers)
2. What are some things that have changed in your school as a result of student voice?
3. What are some challenges your school has encountered while embedding student voice and agency, and how have you overcome them?
4. What advice would you give other schools on how to embed student voice and agency?
5. What are the next steps your school needs to take to further embed student voice and agency?
6. If your school is selected as a finalist for this award, how will you use the prize money?

[Nominate for this award here!](#)

## Student Voice Secondary School of the Year

The *Student Voice Secondary School of the Year* award recognises a secondary school that has embedded student voice and agency into the school culture, undertaking a whole-school approach.

### Criteria

| Use these criteria to determine if this award category is right for you and guide the answers to your nomination questions!       | Yes, this is us! |
|---|------------------|
| The school has a clear understanding of what student voice and agency is.   |                  |
| The school demonstrates student voice and agency on different levels (in the classroom, in the whole school, in decision-making). |                  |
| Student voice and agency is attributed to all students, not just a student representative body.                                   |                  |

### Nomination Questions

1. Describe how your school has embedded student voice into its culture. Make sure you include:
  - a. Your school's shared understanding of what student voice is
  - b. Classroom or teaching practices that reflect student voice and agency (i.e. students designing lesson plans and/or curriculum, student-teacher dialogues and feedback)
  - c. If and how students have a role in decision-making (i.e. sitting on committees, consulting on school policies, interviewing new teachers)
2. What are some things that have changed in your school as a result of student voice?
3. What are some challenges your school has encountered while embedding student voice, and how have you overcome them?
4. What advice would you give other schools on how to embed student voice and agency?
5. What are the next steps your school needs to take to further embed student voice and agency?
6. If your school is selected as a finalist for this award, how will you use the prize money?

[Nominate for this award here!](#)

## Newsboys Foundation Youth Leadership Award

The *Newsboys Foundation Youth Leadership Award* recognises a Year 12 student who has championed student voice in their school or community and has brought about positive change through their leadership and advocacy on behalf of young people.

Please note when nominating for the Newsboys Foundation Youth Leadership Award you will be required to attend an interview in Melbourne in the final weeks of Term 3 if you are shortlisted.

### Criteria

| Use these criteria to determine if this award category is right for you and guide the answers to your nomination questions! | Yes, this is me! |
|---|------------------|
| The nominee is in Year 12 and will be completing Year 12 in 2019.   |                  |
| The nominee has directly enabled and encouraged student voice in their school and/or community.                             |                  |
| The nominee's leadership has had a clear positive effect on students, the school, and/or the community.                     |                  |

### Nomination Questions

1. Why are you nominating for this award? Make sure you include:
  - a. Your achievements as a leader in your school and/or community
  - b. How you have championed student voice at your school
2. What are the outcomes of your leadership activities? Make sure you include:
  - a. How you have helped other students/young people
  - b. Examples of positive change that has occurred in your school and/or community as a result of your leadership
3. What are some of the challenges you have encountered as a leader, and how did you overcome them?
4. What are your leadership aspirations for the future?
5. If you received this award, what would it enable you to do, and how would that continue to support young people in your school and/or community?

[Nominate for this award here!](#)

## Terms and Conditions of Entry

**Eligibility:** The VicSRC Student Voice Awards are open to all Department-recognised schools in Victoria. Each school (or individual/group within a school) can apply for one or more category, but awards will be limited to one per school/individual.

**Nominations:** Each award nomination requires a separate video. Videos must not be longer than 2 minutes and must not contain commercial music. VicSRC Talent Release Forms must be submitted for all video participants. The accompanying written nomination will be used to create a best practice case study to be distributed to the Department of Education and Training, on the Student Voice Hub and throughout the VicSRC's networks.

**Award value:** Winners of each category receive \$3,000 and the two finalists of each category receive \$1,000 each. Judges reserve the right to award a joint first place at their discretion. In this situation, the first-place winners will split the first-place grants equally

**Payment of prize money:** VicSRC will transfer the full amount of prize money for the categories of Student- Led Project, Student Voice Ally, Student Voice Primary School of the Year and Student Voice Secondary School of the Year upon receipt of an invoice from recipients.

**Use of prize money:** The prize money for the categories of Student-Led Project, Student Voice Ally, Student Voice Primary School of the Year and Student Voice Secondary School of the Year may only be used by the school which applied. The prize money for the above categories cannot be transferred to an individual's account.

**Newsboys Foundation Youth Leadership Award:** To be eligible for this award, nominees must be in Year 12 in 2019 at a Victorian school. The winner and two finalists of the Newsboys Foundation Youth Leadership Award receive a grant (\$3,000 for the winner, \$1,000 each for the finalists) to be used to further their leadership goals and capacity. A plan of how this grant is going to be spent to further their leadership skills must be submitted to the Newsboys Foundation for approval. Newsboys Foundation will transfer the full amount of the grant money to the recipients. Winners will also receive an invitation to join the Newsboys Foundation Youth Leadership Award Alumni Group.