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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Winners of the 2011 Yooralla Media Awards and Finalists for Yooralla Media Awards for Excellence

Yooralla is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 Yooralla Media Awards and the three finalists for the Yooralla Media Awards for Excellence.

The Yooralla Media Awards took place on Monday, November 14, 2011 at Allens, Arthur Robinson in Melbourne and provided an important opportunity to recognise and reward media coverage that contributes to public awareness and understanding of disability.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Families & Community Services, Andrea Coote MLC congratulated Yooralla for organising the awards.

"These awards recognise excellence in the field of journalism and the importance of fair and unbiased reporting on disability," she said. "The media also has a vital role to play in promoting the rights, the achievements, and opportunities for people with a disability and their carers.

"Right now the Victorian Government is working very hard to lead the development of a National Disability Insurance Scheme. This will be the single biggest reform in history for the support of people with a disability, and the media has played a significant role in raising awareness and opening up the issue for public debate. I thank the media for that."

In total nine awards were presented over five categories, including:

**Print** – Best News Report, Best Feature

**Photojournalism** - Best News/Feature Photograph, Best Sports Photograph

**Radio** – Best Radio News, Feature or Documentary

**Television** – Best TV News, Feature or Documentary

**Online Media** – Best Online Commentary, Analysis, Opinion or Critique

From among the winners, Koren Helbig, The Courier Mail; Nance Haxton, ABC Radio, The World Today and Max Fitcher, Network Ten have been selected as finalists for the overall Yooralla Media Award for Excellence which will be presented in Canberra on 22 November as part of the 2011 National Disability Awards.

"The standard of reporting this year has been very high across all the categories," said Dr Rhonda Galbally AO. "It is exciting to see that the bar is constantly being raised in reporting on disability and disability issues in Australia. By recognising and rewarding these journalistic efforts through awards such as these – we hope this trend will continue," Dr Galbally AO continued.

#### Winners of the 2011 Yooralla Media Awards

##### Best Print News Award

Koren Helbig, The Courier Mail, Body of Work

##### Commendation

Andrew Stevenson, The Sydney Morning Herald, 'Parents of disabled children rebel against suspensions'

**Best Print Feature Award** JOINT WINNERS

Andrew Rule, The Herald Sun, 'Saving Lynny'  
Jenna Hand, The Canberra Times, 'Working for Justice'

**Best Photo Journalism News Award**

Craig Sillitoe, The Sunday Age, 'All Terrain Wheelchair'

**Commendation**

Michael O'Brien, The West Australian, 'Save Our School'

**Best Photo Journalism Sport Award**

Andrew Tauber, The Herald Sun, 'Table Tactics'

**Commendation**

Brett Costello, The Daily Telegraph, 'Ellie Wins Bronze'

**Online Award**

Brett Williamson, ABC Online, 'Making the most of time that is left'

**Radio (less than 5 mins) Award**

Nance Haxton, ABC Radio, 'Intellectually disabled people fight for equal access to justice'.

**Commendation**

Alex Mann, Hack- Triple J, 'Barriers to Love'

**Radio (more than 5 mins) Award**

Aaron Kearney, ABC Newcastle, 'When everything changes in an instant'

**Commendation**

Natasha Mitchell, ABC Radio National, Deaf Culture

**Television (less than 5 mins) Award**

Max Fitcher, Network Ten, 6:30 with George Negus, 'Ty Belnap'

**Commendation**

Daniel Bouchier, NITV News, 'Cheeky dogs'

**Television (more than 5 mins) Award**

Karen Barlow, ABC1, Lateline, 'Marlon Noble'

**Commendation - TWO**

Monique Schafter, ABC Hungry Beast, 'Trapped in Your Own Body'  
Kim Akhurst & Richard Corfield, ABC1 Compass, 'A Roof Over Their Heads'

The judging panel for the 2011 Yooralla Media Awards included: **Alan Howe**, Executive Editor of the Herald & Weekly Times; **Michelle Grattan**, Canberra-based Political Editor of The Age; **Ross Stevenson**, a member of 3AW's top-rating breakfast program; and **Steve Carey**, Director of News for Seven News Melbourne.

They were joined by **Dr Rhonda Galbally AO**, chair of the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council and former CEO of the Australian Commission for the Future.

This initiative was intended to raise awareness and improve the accuracy, quality and integrity of reporting about people with a disability, their achievements and the issues they face.

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