

2018 Honour Roll Inductees

CISVic aims to recognise people who have made a significant contribution to the community information & support sector through their work at the local, regional and/or state level. All workers (voluntary and paid) at member agencies will be eligible for nomination. This is not simply a long-service award. We wholeheartedly congratulate the inductees and acknowledge their contributions. Their names are recorded for ever more on our Honour Roll. There are two inductees for 2018:

Alan Roberts, Whittlesea Community Connections

Alan Roberts has been a volunteer at Whittlesea Community Connections for over 10 years, volunteering his time in the emergency relief program. Alan has developed a very good understanding of the local service system and is highly skilled in providing facilitated referrals for community members due to his relationships with other agencies and workers in the community.

Alan's practice is very consultative, client centred, non-judgmental and culturally inclusive. He is a strong advocate who informs clients of all their rights, is respectful of their decisions and views a person as the best placed to assess their own circumstances and priorities.

Allan is well known within the local community, his reputation as easy going and non-judgmental means that he is frequently asked for by members of the community. Alan has made a significant contribution to his community through his reliability, commitment, passion, inclusive and gentle nature. For 10 years Alan has volunteered two days a week with extreme reliable attendance.

Helen Besley, CISVic & Diamond Valley Community Support

Helen was employed as a Trainer with CISVic in July 2006, and retired in September 2017. With a strong education background and own voluntary experience as a Community Support Worker, Helen was an ideal trainer. While at CISVic, Helen personally delivered over 30 training sessions of our accredited training program Community Support Workers Course to over 330 volunteers. The direct impact of this is evident – if those 330 volunteers helped just 2 clients per week over a 12-month period, that's over 34,000 clients we've been able to assist as a direct result of her training. She also delivered countless sessions of non-accredited training programs.

During Helen's time with us, she participated in at least 2 reviews and redevelopment of our accredited courses. She was a key contributor to the development and delivery of our energy hardship and tenancy rights training programs and other accredited training programs. Helen served on the CISVic training sub-committee – which directed and oversaw the training activities of the organisation, and she provided support to the CISVic team and overall operations of CISVic.

Those she works with and train know her to be a gentle, passionate, patient and caring person with a strong commitment to social justice. While her time with CISVic came to an end in 2017, Helen continues to volunteer at Diamond Valley Community Support where she has worked for around 16 years.