

**For Immediate Release**

**24 August 2022**

**Amaze honoured to be recognised at Victorian Disability Awards for  
Australian-first autism education campaign**

Today, leading autism organisation Amaze was recognised for its vital education work at the 2022 Victorian Disability Awards.

Receiving the award as equal category winners with Lance Nilsson of Doncaster All Abilities Basketball, Amaze was awarded for its *Change Your Reactions* education campaign in the category of excellence in creating inclusive communities.

Described as “ground-breaking”, *Change Your Reactions* is an Australian-first education campaign which urges Australians to take steps to build a more inclusive community that understands, accepts and positively engages with autistic people.

More than half of Autistic Australians and their families have experienced significant social isolation, with 40 per cent revealing they sometimes struggle to leave the house because they’re concerned about being subjected to discriminatory or negative behaviours in the community.

Research found that while around 80 per cent of Australians know an autistic person, only 29 per cent know how to support an autistic person, revealing a significant gap between the community being aware of autism and creating an autism-friendly community.

*Change Your Reactions*, the first social behaviour change campaign to promote understanding and inclusion of autistic people in Australia, seeks to bridge this gap.

The campaign, which included a mix of advertising across regional and metropolitan television, print, radio, digital and social media, was created by Amaze in consultation with Autistic people and is portrayed by Autistic actors.

“We are absolutely honoured and thrilled to have received this award for the *Change Your Reactions* education campaign,” said Amaze CEO Jim Mullan.

“The aim of the campaign was always to give the wider community a better understanding of how Autistic people experience the world and how the impact of the reactions of those around them can either hurt, or help.

“We hope the campaign has helped Victorians better understand how they can support autistic people in the community and lead to a more inclusive environment for all,” he said.

**-ENDS-**

**For more information and requests for interviews, please contact:**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### About Amaze

Founded in 1967 by a group of parents who were struggling to find autism resources, Amaze works together with the autism community and a broad range of supporters to create a more autism inclusive Australia.

Amaze builds autism understanding in the community, influences policy change for Autistic people and their families/supporters, and provides independent, credible information and resources to individuals, families, professionals, government and the wider community.

### About the Victorian Disability Awards

The Victorian Disability Awards honour the contributions of Victorians who support, lead, educate and advocate for people with disability.

The Awards, now in their eleventh year, have a strong focus on recognising and honouring the achievements and contributions of individuals, teams and organisations that promote the rights and inclusion of people with disability.

