

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Subject: **International Day of People with Disability Awards Winners 2023**

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**The Rural City of Murray Bridge marked the International Day of People with Disability Awards on Friday 1 December, by honouring outstanding personal achievements and community initiatives promoting equity and accessibility.**

The celebration took place at the picturesque Sturt Reserve and featured engaging family-friendly activities, a complimentary delectable BBQ spread, a variety of accessible activities and prizes.

This year, the assessment panel received strong nominations, reflecting our community's commitment to inclusivity and accessible opportunities. The panel decided to award a Certificate of Commendation for the 2023 Disability Recognition Award to a Disability Friendly Organisation/Program.

### **2023 Individual Recognition Award – Winner: Cadeyrn Smith**

Cadeyrn Smith, a true role model and advocate for inclusivity and empowerment, emerged as the deserving winner of the Individual Award for People Living with a Disability. His resilience, focus on abilities and dedication to awareness and support make him an inspirational figure. Cadeyrn has overcome significant social and emotional hurdles, actively sharing his experiences and expertise, notably through his participation in various community activities. His commitment to highlighting abilities over limitations is evident in his involvement with Fresh Perspective Photography, where he has started his own photography business, displaying creativity and confidence.

Cadeyrn actively advocates for disability awareness and the rights of all individuals, inspiring others not to lose hope.

### **2023 Disability Recognition for a Disability Friendly Organisation or Program**

#### ***Certificate of Commendation - Playing For All Program***

The Playing For All Program, a games-based initiative for both children and adults with intellectual disabilities, received a Certificate of Commendation for the 2023 Disability Recognition Award. Since its inception in term 2 of this year, the program

has made a positive impact, enhancing coordination skills, muscle tone, resilience and social skills. Participants and caregivers have noted the program's success in fostering positive connections, with inclusivity emphasised through the use of sign language at each session.

***Award Winner - Fresh Perspective Photography***

Fresh Perspective Photography, part of Genuine Support Services Australia, was awarded the winner for its exceptional engagement with people with disabilities. The program prioritises inclusivity, creating an environment where everyone, regardless of ability, can actively participate and thrive.

The program contributes to social inclusion, skill development and improved communication by providing participants with professional photography skills, technical expertise and avenues for personal and professional growth. Fresh Perspective Photography distinguishes itself as a disability-accessible business actively empowering people with disabilities.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event. For more information, please contact us at 8539 1120 or visit [murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au).

