



# Media release

## Teenagers to Take Over ABC Melbourne

The ABC has announced the 31 young winners of the inaugural Takeover Melbourne storytelling competition.

Takeover Melbourne is a new initiative from the ABC in partnership with VicHealth, Resilient Melbourne and the Centre for Multicultural Youth, amplifying the voices of young Melburnians (aged 12 to 18 years).

Despite the many challenges faced by Melburnians this year, hundreds of young people from across Melbourne stepped up to share their stories. Thirty-two winners were selected, representing each of the local Government areas of Greater Melbourne, to have their stories featured on the ABC.

From growing up with Tourette's Syndrome, to overcoming internalised racism, from finishing year 12 during COVID-19, to rebuilding after the Black Saturday bushfires, the stories showcase the resilience and talent of the city's young people. From disability advocates and geologists, to musicians and sport fanatics, the 32 stories paint a vivid picture of Melbourne in 2020.

Sam, 17, who lives in Kilsyth in Melbourne's north, is one of the Takeover Melbourne winners.

"I'm so excited to part of the first cohort of Takeover Melbourne winners," he said.

"It hasn't been an easy year for everyone, especially for us living in Victoria... but being part of this awesome program has given me a lot to look forward to. I can't wait to share my story."

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp congratulated the Takeover Melbourne winners on their stories.

"There's never been a more important time for Melburnians to tell their stories and I want to acknowledge all the young people who have shone a light on the stories that matter to them," the Lord Mayor said.

"Sharing these stories is a way to make even more meaningful connections and help bring us together."

Director of ABC Regional and Local, Judith Whelan, said the Takeover Melbourne Competition is an important platform for young people living in Greater Melbourne to make a difference.

"Congratulations to all of the winners for proudly sharing your courageous and powerful stories. Stories like these have the ability to bring us together as a community."

CEO of VicHealth, Dr Sandro Demaio, also congratulated the winners, saying: "After such a challenging year for Melburnians, it's more important than ever that young people are heard in the conversation about the future of their city."

The Takeover Melbourne winners will be showcased across the ABC, so keep an eye out for their stories on ABC Radio Melbourne and on ABC TV. They will also be celebrated in a virtual Gala event on December 3, streamed live on the ABC Melbourne Facebook page.

To see the full list of Takeover Melbourne winners and hear their stories: [abc.net.au/takeover](https://abc.net.au/takeover)

Takeover Melbourne is made possible through partnership with Resilient Melbourne, VicHealth and the Centre for Multicultural Youth, as well as with the support of the 32 local councils of Greater Melbourne.



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For more information or to interview a Takeover Melbourne winner, please get in touch. Photos of all winners are also available by request.

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2020 Takeover Melbourne Winners		
Inner Metro		
Essey	North Melbourne	When life can get crazy, music takes me to a safe place where I can be myself
Millar	Elwood	I found strength in vulnerability, and now I'm smashing my goals
Phoebe	Fitzroy North	The Merri Creek inspires me to think about future generations
Casper	Clifton Hill	It feels so good living in this body. People see me as the person I always knew I was.
Inner South East		
Charlie	Prahran	I have Alopecia, but it doesn't have me
Sammy	Brighton East	The present that made all the difference to Sam, who has cerebral palsy.
Jemima	Hawthorn East	Learning to manage a stutter to become a public speaker
Holly	Caulfield	Seasons may change but friendships remain the same
Western		
Zoe	Melton	I want to show people that my disability isn't all funny.
Sadaf	Delahey	We came to Australia to find peace... but when I started high school... all I found was pain.
Alexander	Werribee	Making real change for LGBT rights after overcoming mental health struggles
Jumess	Truganina	Overcoming internalised racism to inspire fellow African Australians to love their culture
Anjali	Essendon	Waking up to another day living in a pandemic.
Northern		
Sam	Kilsyth	From the streets to the studio, how music gave me a new hope in life
Nour	Lalor	An ode to growing up in Afghanistan
Fergal	Wattle Glen	I'm not scared of my Tourette's anymore. It makes me who I am.
Sara	Craigieburn	Escaping war in Iraq and finding safety, at last, in Melbourne
Mohammad	Attwood	The dangerous journey to Australia to get a strong education
Matilda	Kinglake West	Rocks are my passion, and I wouldn't have it any other way!



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Eastern		
Tahlia	St Andrews	Surviving the Black Saturday fires and rebuilding a bright future
Tiana	Box Hill North	Falling 8 metres made me realise I'm not invincible, no one is.
Blake	Knoxfield	I used to feel so different from the girls at school, until I understood why
Caitlin	The Patch	I finally conquered my anxiety and fulfilled my footy dream
Natalie	Croydon Hills	Visiting the Great Barrier Reef was exhilarating, but it also made me angry.
Evonne	Mount Waverley	I want to continue to show future generations the love my Nana has showed me.
Southern		
Jane	Waterways	I used to be afraid of my broken Vietnamese, my grandparents helped me change that
Tabatha	Seaford	I'm an award-winning female athlete on the spectrum, and footy is my soul
Riley	Pakenham	I thought the whole world had given up on me – I'm now building my own future
Paige	Berwick	I always wondered why adults could make decisions about my life
Latoya	Dandenong	I'm a proud Yorta Yorta woman who found independence through work
Tamsin	Mount Martha	Sex is a natural part of life, so why is it not taught adequately in schools?