

# The LyonsCare Award for Combating Loneliness

## The promotion of better social integration of older persons

### Aim

This LyonsCare Award for the promotion of better social integration of older persons recognises individuals, groups and organisations who have demonstrated excellence in the following areas:

- Personal & collective conscience in addressing loneliness and social isolation
- Promotion of broader social integration amongst older persons
- Engagement in concrete action to address loneliness amongst older persons in Maltese society

### Awards

Two awards shall be awarded for individual and collective initiatives as follows:

- Individual recipients will receive a certificate and a one-time award.
- Group recipients will receive a certificate and a one-time award.

### Award criteria

The award recognises extraordinary personal, group/collective initiatives in achieving the following with older persons:

- i. **Identify** the roots and causes of loneliness at various social levels;
- ii. Engage and create **sustainable remedies** and **adequate environment** to combat loneliness. Initiatives can include:
  - Creation of physical spaces to promote social connections;
  - Support through social platforms, including of *organised* use of technology, social media and communication channels;
  - Programmes which foster a sense of community;
  - Actions which facilitate older person integration in new communities;
  - Other creative/innovative solutions which address loneliness amongst older persons at various society levels

### Eligibility criteria

The awards shall be given to the individual and group/organisation who distinguish themselves in the preceding six months through initiatives which yield tangible results in combating loneliness in older persons. New projects which are in early stages of implementation and established/ongoing initiatives are eligible. The award is open to all age groups and is limited to voluntary/not for profit initiatives. Schemes, projects performed on a commercial/business basis will not be considered.

## Submitting a nomination

Individuals, groups or organisations can submit their nominations. Each nomination shall be supported by:

- a **citation** (100 words maximum), which highlights why the nominee deserves the award and details the achievement. The citation will be read during the awards giving ceremony.
- a minimum of **two supporting statements**/letters of support which provide details of the nominee's action and impact in relation to the award criteria. Statements should provide details and reflect nominee's efforts in relation to the aims of the award/award criteria.
- other supporting documents are optional.

**Referees** who can include:

- independent persons
- individuals who benefit from the initiative
- persons who form part of the initiative

Nominations are only valid for the year in which they are submitted and must be based on achievements within the preceding six months.

## The nomination process

1. Obtain the nominee's consent.
2. Complete the nomination form as described below.
3. Submit the nomination package to LyonsCare

Upon nomination the nominee shall receive a confirmation email with a link to provide online consent. This step must be completed before the deadline.

Group/Organisation nominations should be submitted under the team lead's name. If there is no team lead, one team member's name is to be selected.

Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Nominations by members of the organising committee or members of the selection committee will not be accepted.

## The selection process

The selection committee's is responsible for the selection of distinguished persons, groups/organisations, whose achievements meet or exceed the award criteria. The committee shall include:-

- chairperson
- four (4) committee members

All nominations which meet award and eligibility are reviewed and evaluated.

An award will not be given if the committee determines there is no suitable nomination.

