

To Whom It May Concern,

I am delighted to nominate Aishwarya Karthik for the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year - Personal Achievement Award. Aishwarya and I met during the Together For Humanity National Summit convened at Parliament House on 12 August 2024. After speaking with her and fellow students from Telopea Park School, and observing her presentation, I was moved by her care, intellect, and passion to engage and support students across Australia who are also navigating difficult, social issues impacting our communities. In my humble perspective, Aishwarya demonstrates the achievements and life experiences, even at this early stage in her life, which contribute to her strong candidacy for this award.

During the TFH National Youth Summit, Aishwarya facilitated discussions and encouraged fellow students to share their opinions on issues affecting Australian youth today. Issues included anti-bullying, discrimination, social inclusion in communities and toxic masculinity. She demonstrated an ability and interest to engage with diverse groups of students from public and private schools while discussing complex topics. Aishwarya fostered an inclusive and open dialogue, creating a safe zone for students to become more involved.

Aishwarya and her family moved to Canberra from the United Arab Emirates in January 2023. After enrolling at Telopea Park School, and overcoming the challenges of adapting to a new educational environment, culture and curriculum, she quickly adapted in a matter of months. Aishwarya was selected as a School Captain in November 2023! This on its own is testament to Aishwarya's adaptability and perseverance to overcome challenges, connect with fellow students, and become the best she can be for herself, her family, community and fellow students.

In conclusion, I strongly endorse Aishwarya Karthik and her nomination for Young Canberra Citizen of the Year - Personal Achievement Award. She is most worthy of this prestigious award. Aishwarya will make a lasting impact on everyone she engages throughout her youth and professional life.

Sincerely,

Mark Herndon
Head of Philanthropy and Partnerships



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