



MEDIA RELEASE

Melissa Aguasa, Melissa's Supermarket winner of Business Migrant of the Year in 28th Belmont & WA Small Business Awards

Melissa Aguasa, Melissa's Supermarket was one of many Western Australian small businesses awarded in the 28th Belmont & WA Small Business Awards on the Thursday the 28th of October 2021. The winners were showcased at the 'Night of Stars Event' in the ballroom of the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre with over 460 attending. MCs for the 'Night of Stars' evening included Belmont BEC Patron Louise Percy & Past Belmont BEC Board Member Hannah Beazley MLA.

The welcome address was delivered by City of Belmont Mayor Cr Phil Marks, VIP's and guests included; Minister for Emergency Services, Racing, Gaming, Small Business & Volunteering, Hon Reece Whitby MLA; Member for Victoria Park, Hannah Beazley MLA; Member for South Perth, Geoff Baker MLA; Her Honour Judge Natalie Whitby, Consul General India, Dantu Charandasi & Comm Consul of India, Naresh Sharma; Hon Consul Slovakia, Chair of Belmont BEC Paul Faix; Hon Consul of the Republic of Mauritius, Ian Whitaker; Hon Consul of the Philippines, Virma Symons; City of Belmont councillors Cr George Sekulla, Cr Margie Bass, Cr Bernie Ryan, Cr Jenny Davis, Cr Natalie Carter; City of Bayswater Deputy Mayor Catherine Ehrhardt; City of Cockburn Cr Chontelle Stone; Belmont BEC Inc. Patron Louise Percy; TCF WA Inc Chair Irving Lane; The Australian Asian Association of WA, President Marlene Burnaby; Combined Small Business Alliance of WA Inc. Chair Les Marshall; Business & Professional Women, WA State President Sandra Cook; BPW Belmont President Kathryn Yew; Afghan Young Leaders, Chair Maria Aziz; Racing & Wagering WA, David Hunter; AusIndustry WA, Brett Duane; Australian Indian Business Association, Chair Kamlesh Patel; WA Vietnam Business Council, President David Morgan; National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka, Kapila De Silva.

Entertainment was provided by performers Charndeeep Kaur & Nazrul Islam from Expedition The Musical Journey, Artist Sarasa Krishnan, Sarasso and Music Maestro Dr. Subramaniam, with Ken Hayward and Jordan Hayward presenting the Welcome to Country.

Melissa's Supermarket Owner and Manager, Melissa Aguasa arrived in Perth and began working odd jobs to put her savings towards her business idea. Today that idea has grown into Melissa's Supermarket, a community friendly hub for Filipinos in WA. They offer a wide range of products at affordable prices.

Winner of the Business Migrant of the Year, Melissa believes that an integral part of the business is social responsibility and gives back to her community. She is very active in charity fundraisers and supports many local and Filipino organisations including the Holy Trinity Orphanage and the Filipino Australian Healthworkers Association Inc.

The Business Migrant of the Year Award is supported by The Australian Asian Association WA & MY Fashion Incubator Migrant Small Business Projects. The Australian Asian Association of WA is currently one of the longest serving ethnic associations involved in providing settlement, aged car and youth services for CALD and other newly arrived migrants and refugees.

The MY Fashion Incubator Migrant Small Business Project provides business skills to encourage migrants in WA to start, grow or improve their small business in Western Australia through a range of online webinars, networking and business opportunities.

Carol Hanlon, Founding Manager of Belmont BEC Inc, and the Belmont & WA Small Business Awards said, "The awards provide a fantastic opportunity for small and growing enterprises from Belmont and across Western Australia to be recognised for their achievements."

Ms Hanlon said, "This is the 28th year we have held our Small Business Awards and it is exciting to see the awards grow each year to provide recognition to those in Western Australia striving for business excellence and acknowledging their achievements. We sincerely thank our Major Sponsor the City of Belmont for their long-term support and the valuable support from all our Category Sponsors which make this amazing small business event possible.



For further details on all winners of the 28th Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards 2021 visit www.belmontbec.com/awards

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www.tcfwa.com www.myfashionincubator.com www.tcfaustralia.com www.tcfglobal.com

City of Belmont

The City of Belmont is a vibrant, modern City located just six kilometres from Perth CBD. The City is a thriving network of economic growth and development opportunities and is located in one of the most significant logistics hubs in the region. The City's most significant community infrastructure project Belmont Hub opened in 2020. This state-of-the-art facility with integrated services, continues to consolidate its position in the City centre. Belmont's prime location provides opportunities for economic and community development in our City and has attracted new families and businesses of varying sizes and across a range of industries. These communities have made Belmont their home to live, work and invest. www.belmont.wa.gov.au

Belmont BEC | BEC Global is a not-for-profit community organisation established in 1994, providing training and mentoring support services to over 27,000+ individuals in Australia to start or improve their small business and is a specialist in virtual business incubation. Belmont BEC has originated a large range of well-known projects and programs for the benefit of its small business clients that have included the annual Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards, Designedge Innovation Festival, MY Business Incubator Training & Mentoring Projects, TCF Resource Centre WA, Multicultural Business Support Services, WA Racing Industry Project, Belmont Clothes Library and the BPW Business Incubator Online Projects. www.belmontbec.com www.mybusinessincubator.com.au
www.bpwbusinessincubator.com/empoweringwomen

TCFWA | TCF Australia | TCF Global is a not-for-profit community organisation established in 1998, assisting over 6,500+ designers and fashion industry small businesses with fashion business skill development, linkages in the global supply chain, International trade, and industry networks. www.tcfwa.com www.tcfaustralia.com www.tcfglobal.com www.myfashionincubator.com
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