

## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

### **Liberty Victoria to present Voltaire Award to Get Up!**

Liberty Victoria has announced that this year's Voltaire Award will be presented to the online advocacy organisation Get Up! at the Liberty Annual Dinner on Saturday 18 July 2009 at the Windsor Hotel.

The Voltaire Award is made each year to a person who, or organisation which, has made a significant contribution to free speech. Inaugurated by Free Speech Victoria, the award has been taken over by Liberty Victoria as part of its merger last year with Free Speech Victoria. Past winners include Julian Burnside AO QC and Kate Durham, Margaret Pomeranz, Richard Ackland and Stephen Mayne.

Liberty President, Michael Pearce SC, said Liberty was proud to be continuing the Free Speech Victoria tradition of the Voltaire Award. "Free speech is one of the most important civil liberties and human rights which Liberty promotes," he said. "We are especially pleased to be making the award this year to Get Up! because of its outstanding work in fighting internet censorship." Mr Pearce also acknowledged Get Up!'s contribution to the national human rights consultation and its impact in fostering political activism among the internet generation.

National Director Simon Sheikh will receive the Voltaire Award on behalf of Get Up! He said Get Up! was honoured to receive to award and that it recognised the efforts not just of Get Up! staff but also of its hundreds of thousands of members. "The Voltaire Award is tangible proof that we are achieving our objective of making a difference in the area of free speech," he said. "It is important to be reminded of Voltaire's views on free speech in a country where the government is proposing a secret list of banned internet sites and its senior figures promote a draconian censorship regime."

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