

**ITEM 5.2                      MAYORAL MINUTE - 2023 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS****Attachments:              Nil**Submitted by:              Councillor Angelo Tsirekas (Mayor)

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**MOTION**

That Council congratulates Justine Perkins and Jennifer Collins on their Australia Day honours.

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**BACKGROUND**

I would like to draw Council's attention to the recent Australia Day awards, at which two women who have had enormous impact on our local community were celebrated.

At this year's Australia Day Honours, Justine Perkins was recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for 'service to the community through charitable organisations'.

Since forming the Touched By Olivia Foundation in early 2007 with her husband John, Justine has transformed life for children both in our community and across Australia. In memory of their baby daughter Olivia, their work focuses on creating a more inclusive society through the development of inclusive play spaces. Their dream was, and is still, to give children and their families the chance to play side by side regardless of ability, difference, or background.

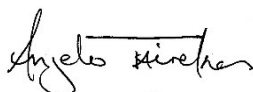
Justine's inspirational work in our community led to her being named our 2007 City of Canada Bay Citizen of the Year and it is our Council's honour to still collaborate with Justine and her Foundation to this day.

Jennifer Collins has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for 'significant service to veterans and their families and to nursing'.

Former Chair of Australian War Widows NSW, Jennifer Collins was previously Deputy Commissioner at the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs for NSW/ACT but locally she is known to our community and to Council as the Chair of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway.

Under her leadership, the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway has gone from strength to strength, transforming from one of Australia's finest war memorials to a wonderful educational precinct linking generations and keeping the stories and memory of the Kokoda veterans alive for the future. Jennifer also recently secured Federal and State Government funding to ensure the future of the Track.

I ask Council to join me in celebrating the enormous local contribution and achievements of these two women and I commend them on their Australia Day Honours.

**Angelo Tsirekas**

MAYOR