

Nominations open for Community Services Excellence Awards

Nominations for the Community Services Excellence Awards (CSEA) are now open.

The biennial awards are presented by WACOSS, in partnership with the State Government. They recognise the important role the community sector and individuals have on Western Australians.

Organisations and individuals are invited to nominate people, programs, services, or organisations that have demonstrably made a positive difference to people, families, and communities through innovative and creative practice.

Two new awards this year recognise individuals' efforts – the Above and Beyond acknowledges a person for the outstanding commitment to the sector, for their efforts contributing positively to the lives of people in the community.

The Excellence in Leadership award is for someone whose inspiring guidance and vision has contributed significantly to the improvement of people's lives. The winners of the individual awards will automatically be nominated for 2019 Western Australian of the Year.

There are six organisational categories, for small, medium, and large organisations, as well as awards to recognise regional organisations, collaborative place-based services, and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

"The awards are a long-term partnership with the Government, supported by Lotterywest, and WACOSS is honoured to present them to the worthy and esteemed organisations and individuals who perform tireless work in the sector year after year," said Dr Jennie Gray, Deputy CEO, WACOSS.

"The awards are a chance for us to all reflect on the success of the work that we all do, and a chance to come together, celebrate, network, and to pause and applaud the work of the sector who assist people experiencing disadvantage and adversity ," Dr Gray said.

Nominations are open until Monday 26 February, and finalists will be announced by Community Services Minister Simone McGurk on Monday 2 April. Winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony, on Wednesday 2 May, which coincides with the WACOSS conference: Making PLACE.

For more information, or to nominate, visit: www.cseawards.org.au

Ends

CESA Categories

1. Small organisation providing collaborative, innovative or creative programs or services.
2. Medium organisation providing collaborative, innovative, or creative programs or services.
3. Large organisation providing collaborative, innovative, or creative programs or services.
4. Regional organisation providing collaborative, innovative, or creative programs or services.
5. Outstanding commitment to collaborative place-based services or solutions.
6. Outstanding contribution to improving life in communities by an Aboriginal organisation.
7. Above and beyond, for a hard working individual in the community services sector, whose involvement and commitment has surpassed expectations.
8. Excellence in leadership, for a person who has demonstrated great innovation, leadership, guidance, and contributed significantly to the improvement of people's lives.

Some previous CSEA winners include:

- Kaitijin Mia Mia Aboriginal Foundation – for their program 'Healing Centre and Bush University'.
- Coolbinia Junior Football Club – for children of all abilities, who are unable to participate in mainstream sporting teams.
- Zonta House Refuge Association, Positive Pathways Program – for women and children who have experienced or are experiencing family and domestic violence, mental health, or homelessness.
- Nintirri Centre Inc. – a regional organisation based in Tom Price, delivering more than 20 services and programs to the community, reflecting local priorities.
- Fair Game WA – a health promotion and community development charity that donates recycled sports equipment to underserved communities.
- Rise Network Inc. – Kira House Project, a safe house for young women aged 14-18.