



The Community Services Excellence Awards recognise the important role the community sector and individuals play in making a positive difference to people, families and communities through their innovative and creative services.

Please check the CSEA website for more information on eligibility, how to nominate and judges: www.cseaawards.org.au

If you have any questions relating to nominating including eligibility and nominating please contact the CSEA Coordinator on CSEA2027@wacoss.org.au

If you have any queries relating to challenges with submitting your form please contact Event & Conference Co: 08 6102 2516
wacoss@eventandconferenceco.com.au

NOMINATOR'S DETAILS

Complete this section if you are nominating an individual or organisation outside your own organisation or workplace.

Nominator name

Organisation (if applicable)

Phone

Email

Website (if applicable)

AWARD CATEGORY

Please mark the relevant award category that you wish to nominate an organisation or individual for.

Organisational Categories

- ☐ Category 1: Trailblazing Small Organisation: *Catalysts of Community Innovation.*
- ☐ Category 2: Standout Medium Organisation: *Engines of Progress and Creativity*
- ☐ Category 3: Impactful Large Organisation: *Powerhouses of Positive Change*
- ☐ Category 4: Remarkable Regional Organisation: *Champions of Rural and Remote Innovation*
- ☐ Category 5: Visionary Community-Led Collaboration: *Crafting Better Futures Together*

Categories in partnership with the Council of Aboriginal Services WA (CASWA)

- ☐ Category 6: Dr Millie Penny AM Award - Outstanding Exceptional Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation: *Champions of Cultural Empowerment*
- ☐ Category 7: Inspiring Partnership between an Aboriginal Controlled Organisation and a Community Services Organisation

Individual Categories

- ☐ Category 8: Outstanding Contribution: *Going Above and Beyond*
- ☐ Category 9 Leadership Excellence: *Inspiring Change and Innovation*

NOMINATING AN ORGANISATION

If you are nominating an organisation please fill out this section

Nominated organisation's name

Program or service (if applicable)

Address

Contact name

Contact person's pronoun

Position title

Phone

Email

Website (if applicable)

ABN

Funding Source

Source:

☐ Government funding

☐ Corporate funding

☐ Philanthropic funding

☐ Donations

Other (please specify)

Total annual turnover (WA) as of 30 June 2026

Number of paid staff and/or volunteers in program or service

Staff

Volunteers

Is this a self-nomination?

☐ Yes

☐ No

NOMINATING AN INDIVIDUAL

If you are nominating an individual, please fill out this section

Nominated individual's name

Nominated individual's pronoun

Program or service (if applicable)

Address

Contact name

Contact person's pronoun

Position title

Phone

Email

Is this a self-nomination?

☐ Yes

☐ No

REFEREE

Please provide contact details of referee or advocate who is able to make a direct comment on the contribution or service of the individual or organisation nominated.

Referee name

Referee pronoun

Phone

Email

Website (if applicable)

SELECTION CRITERIA

Please write up to 750 words addressing the specific award criteria, explaining why the individual, organisation, program, or service is deserving of the award.

There are nine Community Services Excellence Awards. Seven Award categories recognising organisations and two Award categories recognising individuals for their exceptional work in the community services sector.

Category 1: Trailblazing Small Organisation: *Catalysts of Community Innovation*.

This Award category celebrates the unsung heroes of our communities—small, often volunteer-driven organisations that make a huge impact through their innovative, collaborative, or creative programs. These dynamic organisations deliver essential, irreplaceable services that make a real difference in people's lives. Nominate a small organisation that's making a real difference supporting individuals, families, and communities.

To be eligible for this category, the organisation must have an annual turnover between \$5,000 and \$1,000,000 per year.

Nominations will be assessed regarding how effectively:

- The organisation demonstrates a commitment to innovation, creativity or collaboration across any aspect of its operations—whether through program design, service delivery, community engagement, resource use, or problem-solving strategies.
- The organisation provides clear, measurable outcomes from their programs, services or projects that show positive changes in the lives of individuals, families, or communities.
- The organisation has creatively developed and implemented solutions to meet specific community needs, showcasing innovative approaches.
- The organisation proactively identifies and responds to new or evolving needs within the community, demonstrating adaptability and a forward-thinking approach.
- The organisation can demonstrate a dedication to best practice and continuous improvement to better meet community needs through effective processes and procedures.

Category 2: Standout Medium Organisation: *Engines of Progress and Creativity*

This Award honours those organisations that are driving positive change through inventive, collaborative, and imaginative programs or services. Nominate a medium organisation that's making a significant difference in the lives of people in the community.

To be eligible for this category your organisation must have an annual turnover between \$1,000,000 and \$6,000,000 per year.

Nominations will be assessed regarding how effectively:

- The organisation demonstrates a commitment to creativity across its activities, using imaginative, resourceful, and unique approaches to make a positive impact in the community.
- The organisation provides clear, measurable outcomes from their programs, services or projects that show positive changes in the lives of individuals, families, or communities.
- The organisation has creatively developed and implemented solutions to meet specific community needs, showcasing innovative approaches.
- The organisation proactively identifies and responds to new or evolving needs within the community, demonstrating adaptability and a forward-thinking approach.
- The organisation can demonstrate a dedication to best practice and continuous improvement to better meet community needs through effective processes and procedures.

Category 3: Impactful Large Organisation: *Powerhouses of Positive Change*

This Award category acknowledges a large organisation that stands out for its exceptional contributions through innovative, collaborative, and creative programs or services. Nominate an organisation that is making a meaningful difference to individuals, families, or communities.

To be eligible your organisation must have a turnover of over \$6,000,000 per year.

Nominations will be assessed regarding how effectively:

- The organisation demonstrates a commitment to positive change in the community through innovation, creativity or collaboration across any aspect of its operations—whether through program design, service delivery, community engagement, resource use, or problem-solving strategies.
- The organisation provides clear, measurable outcomes from their programs, services or projects that show positive changes in the lives of individuals, families, or communities.

- The organisation has creatively developed and implemented solutions to meet specific community needs, showcasing innovative approaches.
- The organisation proactively identifies and responds to new or evolving needs within the community, demonstrating adaptability and a forward-thinking approach.
- The organisation can demonstrate a dedication to best practice and continuous improvement to better meet community needs through effective processes and procedures.

Category 4: Remarkable Regional Organisation: *Champions of Rural and Remote Innovation*

This Award category recognises regional, rural, and remote community service organisations as the backbone of vibrant, diverse regions who face unique challenges. This Award honours organisations that excel in delivering creative, collaborative, and innovative programs or services in these tough environments. Nominate an organisation that is a star in their regional community.

Nominations will be assessed regarding how effectively:

- The organisation significantly contributes to the overall well-being of individuals and families in the regional, rural or remote communities through programs, services or projects.
- The organisation provides clear, measurable outcomes from their programs, services or projects that show positive changes in the lives of individuals, families, or communities.
- The organisation has creatively developed and implemented solutions to meet specific community needs, showcasing innovative approaches.
- The organisation proactively identifies and responds to new or evolving needs within the community, demonstrating adaptability and a forward-thinking approach.
- The organisation can demonstrate a dedication to best practice and continuous improvement to better meet community needs through effective processes and procedures.

Category 5 Visionary Community-Led Collaboration: *Crafting Better Futures Together*

This Award category recognises the power of community-driven solutions and collaborations that rise from our collective strengths. This category recognises outstanding strategies that emerge from genuine, community-led design, leading to culturally sensitive, place-based, and sustainable outcomes. Nominate collaboration that exemplifies how community insights and experiences can forge impactful, lasting change.

Nominations will be assessed regarding how effectively:

- The collaboration fosters innovative approaches and solutions that arise from the collective knowledge, creativity, and experience of its participants.
- The collaborative efforts lead to significant positive outcomes for the community, enhancing social, economic, or environmental well-being
- The organisation provides clear, measurable outcomes from their programs, services or projects that show positive changes in the lives of individuals, families, or communities.
- The organisation has creatively developed and implemented solutions to meet specific community needs, showcasing innovative approaches.
- The organisation proactively identifies and responds to new or evolving needs within the community, demonstrating adaptability and a forward-thinking approach.
- The organisation can demonstrate a dedication to best practice and continuous improvement to better meet community needs through effective processes and procedures.

Categories Presented in Partnership with The Council of Aboriginal Services WA (CASWA)

Category 6: Dr Millie Penny AM Award - Outstanding Exceptional Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation: Champions of Cultural Empowerment

This award is dedicated to Dr Millie Penny AM, a respected WACOSS Elder, community leader and tireless advocate for Aboriginal people and communities. Throughout her life, Dr Penny championed self-determination, cultural strength, and community-led solutions, inspiring generations through her wisdom, generosity and leadership. This award honours her enduring legacy by recognising Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations that embody the same commitment to empowering communities, strengthening culture, and creating lasting positive change.

Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) are essential providers of trusted, place-based, community-led, and culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal communities. This Award celebrates an ACCO that embodies and promotes the spirit of self-determination, and achieves outstanding outcomes for Aboriginal people and families in collaboration with their communities, through a holistic and culturally grounded approach.

Nominations will be assessed regarding how effectively:

- The organisation actively promotes self-determination, empowering communities to lead and make decisions regarding their own services and well-being.
- The organisation provides clear, measurable outcomes from their programs, services or projects that show positive changes in the lives of individuals, families, or communities.
- The organisation has creatively developed and implemented solutions to meet specific community needs, showcasing innovative approaches.
- The organisation proactively identifies and responds to new or evolving needs within the community, demonstrating adaptability and a forward-thinking approach.
- The organisation can demonstrate a dedication to best practice and continuous improvement to better meet community needs through effective processes and procedures.

Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation or ACCO means an organisation that is an “Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisation” within the meaning of clause 44 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, being an organisation that delivers services, including land and resource management, that builds the strength and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people and is:

- a) incorporated under relevant legislation and not-for-profit;
- b) controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people;
- c) connected to the community, or communities, in which they deliver the services; and
- d) governed by a majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body.

Category 7: Inspiring Partnership between an Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation and a Community Services Organisation

Partnerships between Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and Community Service Organisations (CSO) enhance culturally sensitive service delivery, build capacity, foster trust, and work towards self-determination for Aboriginal communities.

This category recognises exceptional relationships between ACCOs and CSOs, grounded in trust and genuine partnership, which lead to culturally appropriate service delivery and improved outcomes for Aboriginal people and their communities. Nominations should highlight initiatives that are based on mutual respect, shared decision making, and impactful outcomes, showcasing how the partnership effectively addresses community needs while empowering Aboriginal voices and self-determination.

Successful nominees will exemplify commitment to cultural safety and innovative practices that foster community resilience and inclusivity.

- The organisation actively promotes self-determination, empowering communities to lead and make decisions regarding their own services and well-being.
- The collaboration fosters innovative approaches and solutions that lead to significant positive outcomes for the community, enhancing social, economic, or environmental well-being
- The organisation provides clear, measurable outcomes from their programs, services or projects that show positive changes in the lives of individuals, families, or communities.
- The organisation has creatively developed and implemented solutions to meet specific community needs, showcasing innovative approaches.
- The organisation proactively identifies and responds to new or evolving needs within the community, demonstrating adaptability and a forward-thinking approach.
- The organisation can demonstrate a dedication to best practice and continuous improvement to better meet community needs through effective processes and procedures.

Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation or ACCO means an organisation that is an "Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisation" within the meaning of clause 44 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, being an organisation that delivers services, including land and resource management, that builds the strength and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people and is:

- a) incorporated under relevant legislation and not-for-profit;
- b) controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people;
- c) connected to the community, or communities, in which they deliver the services; and
- d) governed by a majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body.

Individual Categories

Category 8: Outstanding Contribution: Going Above and Beyond

This Award category celebrates outstanding staff members who have exceeded expectations through their extraordinary involvement in community projects or in their significant impact to the sector. In the community services sector, some individuals truly stand out by going that extra mile. Nominate an outstanding contributor who has gone above and beyond within the sector. Nominees for this Award will automatically be considered for the 2028 Western Australian of the Year Award.

To be eligible for this award, the nominee must work or volunteer in Western Australia.

Nominations will be assessed regarding how effectively:

- The nominee demonstrates unwavering dedication to their role and the community, consistently going beyond their job requirements to support individuals and projects.
- The nominee has made a measurable and positive impact on the lives of individuals or the broader community through their actions and initiatives.
- The nominee should exemplify personal dedication and resilience in overcoming challenges within their role.
- The nominee demonstrates a commitment to innovation, creativity or collaboration.

Category 9 Leadership Excellence: Inspiring Change and Innovation

This category honours a standout leader who has brought exceptional innovation and guidance to their organisation and community. Nominate an excellent leader who has made a substantial difference in improving the lives of individuals and communities. Finalists in this category will also be nominated for the 2028 Western Australian of the Year Award.

To be eligible for this award, the nominee must work or volunteer in Western Australia.

Nominations will be assessed regarding how effectively:

- The nominee demonstrates leadership qualities by inspiring and guiding others within the organisation or the community.
- The nominee exemplifies personal dedication and resilience in overcoming challenges within their role.

- The nominee demonstrates a commitment to innovation, creativity or collaboration.
- The nominee demonstrates a track record of implementing innovative practices or programs that address community needs.
- The nominee demonstrates a substantial and positive impact on the lives of others and the community as a whole. This includes addressing social issues, enhancing quality of life, and contributing to community resilience and wellbeing.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

In addition to the addressed selection criteria, you must provide supporting information with your nomination, up to 10MB in size, including:

- Up to two high-resolution images relating to the community service organisation that can be used for promotional purposes
- A copy of organisation's income and expenditure statement

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

You can choose to submit additional documentation that supports your nomination. This may include

- Photos
- Testimonials
- Articles

DECLARATION

Please mark the boxes in the section relevant to your nomination to acknowledge that you accept this declaration.

Organisational Nominations

- ☐ This nomination includes the organisation's income and expenditure statement that I have obtained from the organisation.
- ☐ I certify that all information and statements concerning this nomination are true and correct.
- ☐ This application is approved by the Chairperson, President, or authorised delegate of the organisation.
- ☐ I acknowledge that my information will be added to the WACOSS mailing list.
- ☐ I understand all nomination material and information remains the property of WACOSS.

☐ I agree that award judges reserve the right to request additional information to support the nomination if required.

☐ The nominated organisation understands that by submitting this form they agree to participate in media interviews and photo opportunities and approve the use of their story or any photographs to be used in marketing materials. They acknowledge that it is their responsibility to contact WACOSS in writing should they wish to withdraw this permission.

☐ The nominated organisation understands that by submitting this form they agree that the nomination and the details provided will be shared with Auspire and its Local Council Partners, to be entered into the Community Citizen of the Year Award where nominations meet the required criteria.

☐ I certify that all information and statements concerning this nomination are true and correct.

Individual Nominations

☐ This application is approved by the nominated individual, OR the nominated individual will be informed of this application if the nominated individual is successful in becoming a finalist.

☐ I acknowledge that my information will be added to the WACOSS mailing list.

☐ I understand all nomination material and information remains the property of WACOSS.

☐ I agree that award judges reserve the right to request additional information to support the nomination if required.

☐ The nominee understands that by submitting this form they agree to participate in media interviews and photo opportunities and approve the use of their story or any photographs to be used in marketing materials. They acknowledge that it is their responsibility to contact WACOSS in writing should they wish to withdraw this permission.

☐ The nominee understands that by submitting this form they agree that the individual nomination and the details provided may be shared with Auspire and its Local Council Partners, to be entered into the Australian of the Year award (WA) and the Community Citizen of the Year Award where nominations meet the criteria.

☐ I certify that all information and statements concerning this nomination are true and correct.