

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

CATEGORY CRITERIA

- All nominees will be considered for the Australian of the Year Award
- Nominees aged 16 to 30 years will be considered for the Young Australian of the Year Award
- Nominees aged 65 years and over will be considered for the Senior Australian of the Year Award
- All nominees will be considered for Australia's Local Hero Award
- Ages are as at 26 January of the Awards year

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- Nominees must be Australian citizens
- Awards will not be granted posthumously
- Self-nominations will not be accepted
- Nominees must be at least 16 years of age on 26 January of the Awards year
- Sitting state and federal politicians and current vice-regal officers are not eligible
- Retired politicians and vice-regal officers will be considered for work undertaken in addition to their official duties
- At the national level a person cannot receive a second award in the same award category, but can be considered for recognition in a separate category in following years – for example, Young Australian of the Year and then Australian of the Year
- Unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated in subsequent years
- Individuals can be nominated in only one state or territory – for example, a person who has recently moved interstate will be eligible for consideration in only one location. Selection panels may choose to contact the nominee for them to determine which jurisdiction is most appropriate
- Groups of people or couples will not normally be eligible, though in exceptional cases the selection panels reserve the right to consider such nominations
- Current members of the NADC Board and state-based Australia Day Board are not eligible
- Absolutely NO weight is given to the number of times a person is nominated

The Australian of the Year Awards consider nominees' achievements from the past year, along with past accomplishments and ongoing contributions to the community.

The public wants to see the Awards recognise individuals who positively impact lives and society. Ideal recipients are those who have faced challenges, taken risks and pioneered efforts that benefit others.

The Award should focus on the nominee's key work during the year they are honoured. A person needs only one nomination to be considered; additional nominations do not influence the selection process.

SELECTION

The selection criteria are:

- Significant contribution to the Australian community and nation
- An inspirational role model for the Australian community
- Demonstrated excellence in their field
- The Local Hero award acknowledges a significant contribution at local community level

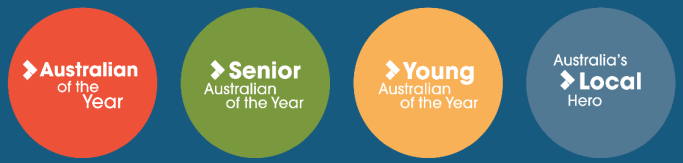
Selection panels will also consider the following in assessing and comparing nominations against the above criteria:

- Personal, academic and professional achievements
- Contribution in the relevant field
- Demonstrated leadership, innovation and creativity
- Personal interests and community involvement
- Contribution to development of regional community and/or economy
- Future goals and likely impact
- Degree of difficulty of the achievement and sacrifices made
- Country of residence
- Previous awards and recognition
- Voluntary work beyond paid employment
- Nature and length of activity or service
- Achievements as an individual or as part of a group or organisation
- Availability and commitment to promote national pride and active citizenship through the year of the recipient's appointment

In ensuring that the Australian of the Year Awards recipients are representative of our diverse nation, consideration may be given to:

- Gender
- Age
- Remote, regional, city locations (particularly in relation to the Local Hero Award)
- Ethnicity
- Field of endeavour

STATE AND TERRITORY SELECTION PANELS



State and territory selection panels aim to reflect Australia’s diversity and include representatives with varying backgrounds – Indigenous Australians, young people, women, people from rural and remote areas, and people who come from a wide range of fields of endeavour.

The state and territory selection panels are chaired by the local Australia Day organisation and include representatives of the state or territory Australia Day organisation, program sponsor representatives and community representatives.

The National Australia Day Council Chief Executive Officer or senior management will provide direction to the selection committee about the technical aspects of the selection process, criteria and the like, as well as provide a national perspective on the selection process.

[View the list of state and territory selection panel members for the 2025 Australian of the Year Awards.](#)

NATIONAL SELECTION PANEL

The [Board of the National Australia Day Council](#) make up the national selection panel.

WITHDRAWAL OF AN AWARD

The selection of nominees and recipients reflect the nominations received and information available to the selection panel at the time. The National Australia Day Council reserves the right to withdraw an award if further information or the recipient's conduct draws the Australian of the Year Awards into disrepute.