

2026 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award

Form Preview

2026 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards

Information before you start

The Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards (the Awards) is an annual celebration, established in 1989, that recognises the achievements and contributions of young people aged 12 to 25 years in the ACT.

The Awards recognise a diverse range of achievements, including contributions to community service, sport, education, science, culture, the arts, environmental sustainability, leadership, advocacy and personal development.

Nominations are invited across the following categories:

- Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award
- Young Achiever Award
- Personal Achievement Award
- Environment and Sustainability Award
- Group Achievement Award
- Arts and Multimedia Award

The Awards are supported by the ACT Government and sponsors, who are committed to recognising the talents and contributions of young people from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences.

Nominations close: Tuesday 1 September 2026

Awards Ceremony: Friday 6 November 2026 at the Anne Harding Conference Centre, University of Canberra, Bruce.

Before submitting your nomination, please read the 2026 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Guidelines for eligibility and application details. <https://www.act.gov.au/community/honours-and-awards/young-canberra-citizen-of-the-year-award>

How to nominate

- All nominations must be submitted online through this SmartyGrants form.
- You can nominate yourself or someone else
- You can nominate one individual, group, or organisation per application.
- You can nominate for more than one award category in the same application.

Note: Incomplete forms cannot be submitted. SmartyGrants will prompt you to complete missing fields before proceeding.

Assistance and support

If you have any questions or need help accessing or completing the nomination form, the Office for Youth Engagement team is here to assist you.

- Email: Youth.Engagement@act.gov.au

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Assessment

The Office for Youth Engagement will convene a selection panel to assess all nominations. Nominations will be assessed based on the quality of responses provided in the application and any supporting documentation. Reference checks will be conducted for shortlisted nominees.

Category Information

For detailed descriptions of each Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award category, including eligibility criteria and examples, please visit:

<https://www.act.gov.au/community/honours-and-awards/young-canberra-citizen-of-the-year-award>

Who can be nominated?

Nominees must:

- be aged between 12 to 25 years by the closing date of nominations (1 September 2026)
- live, work, study or make a significant contribution to the ACT community
- meet the requirements of the award category they are nominated for
- agree to be nominated.

Previous recognition

Where a nominee, program, project or initiative has received a Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award or commendation across all categories within the past two years, nominations should clearly show new achievements, growth, outcomes or innovation since the previous recognition.

Nominations that do not provide evidence of new or expanded impact may be considered less competitive during the assessment process.

Nominee details

* indicates a required field

Who are you nominating? *

- ☐ Individual
- ☐ Organisation
- ☐ Group

Individual nomination details

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Nominee Name *

Title	First Name	Last Name

Preferred pronoun *

- ☐ They/Them
- ☐ She/Her
- ☐ He/Him
- ☐ xe/xem
- ☐ she/they
- ☐ he/they
- ☐ Avoid pronouns/use name
- ☐ Prefer to not answer
- ☐ Other:

How does the Nominee describe their gender? *

- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Man
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Use a different term
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other:

Nominee Postal Address *

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, and Postcode are required.

Nominee Mobile Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Nominee Email *

Must be an email address.

Does the Nominee identify in any of the below categories, as far as you know? *

- ☐ Aboriginal young person
- ☐ Torres Strait Islander young person
- ☐ Young person with disability
- ☐ Young person as a primary carer of a family member with a disability
- ☐ Young person who speaks a language other than English at home
- ☐ LGBTIQA+
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Unsure

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Age of Nominee in November 2026 *

Must be a number.

Applicant needs to be aged between 12 to 25 years by the closing date of nominations 1 September 2026

Does the nominee live, work, study or make a significant contribution to the ACT community? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Has the nominee agreed to be nominated? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Organisation nomination details

Organisation Name *

Organisation Name

Organisation Representative Name *

Title First Name Last Name

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Organisation Representative Position *

Organisation Postal Address *

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Organisation Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Organisation Mobile Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Organisation Email *

Must be an email address.

ABN

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The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity Name	
ABN Status	
Entity Type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main Business Location	

Must be an ABN.

Does the organisation operate in the ACT, or benefit residents in the ACT region?

*

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you work with young people aged 12 to 25? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you work with young people from the following categories? *

- ☐ Aboriginal young person
- ☐ Torres Strait Islander young person
- ☐ Young person with a disability
- ☐ Young person as a primary carer of a family member with a disability
- ☐ Young person who speaks a language other than English at home
- ☐ LGBTIQA+
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Unsure

Group

Group Name/Description

Group Contact Person *

Title First Name Last Name

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Group Nomination Postal Address *

Address

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Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, and Postcode are required.

Group Nomination Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.
example 02 62071000

Group Nomination Mobile Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Group Nomination Email *

Must be an email address.

Please confirm that the group members are aged from 12 to 25 *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do the group members identify with any of the categories below, as far as you know? *

- ☐ Aboriginal young person
- ☐ Torres Strait Islander young person
- ☐ Young person with a disability
- ☐ Young person as a primary carer of a family member with a disability
- ☐ Young person who speaks a language other than English at home
- ☐ LGBTIQA+
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Unsure

Nominator Details - the person completing this form

* indicates a required field

Nominator Name *

Title First Name Last Name

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Position in the organisation

Nominator Relationship to Nominee *

Email *

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Must be an email address.

Nominator Mobile Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.
example 02 62071000

Tell us about your Nominee

* indicates a required field

Individual - Nomination Category

An individual person can be nominated for more than one category. Please select the award category or categories from the following: *

- ☐ Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award (aged 12 to 25)
- ☐ Young Achiever Award (aged 12 to 17)
- ☐ Personal Achievement Award (aged 12 to 25)
- ☐ Environment and Sustainability Award (aged 12 to 25)
- ☐ Arts and Multimedia (aged 12 to 25)

If the Assessment Panel considers another category more suitable, do you agree to the nomination being considered in another category? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Group / Organisation - Nomination Category

A group/organisation can be nominated for more than one category. Please select the award category or categories from the following: *

- ☐ Environment and Sustainability Award
- ☐ Group Achievement Award

If the Assessment Panel considers another category more suitable, do you agree to the nomination being considered in another category? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Tell us about the nominee's key achievements and contribution.

Please provide an overview of the nominee and their most significant achievements, initiatives, or activities.

Your answer *

Word count:
Maximum 1,000 words

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How does the nominee meet the criteria for the selected award category?

Please address the criteria for the selected category or categories and provide examples where possible. You may include activities or achievements in school, work, or community settings.

Your answer *

Word count:

Maximum 1,000 words

How has the Nominee made a positive impact/contributed to the ACT community?

Describe the broader impact of the nominee's contributions.

Include examples such as:

- Community engagement or participation
- Advocacy or leadership
- Environmental, social, or cultural contributions
- Achievements in sport, arts, education, or youth projects.

Your answer *

Word count:

Maximum 1,000 words

In what areas has the nominee excelled? *

For example: community service, advocacy, education, arts, environment, sport, leadership, or overcoming adversity.

Please list other significant achievements, leadership roles, or community involvement.

Include:

- Committees, groups, or organisations they contribute to
- Awards or recognition received
- Volunteer activities
- Leadership roles in school or the community

Your answer *

Word count:

Maximum 1,000 words

Has the service been provided in a voluntary or paid capacity? *

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- ☐ Voluntary capacity
- ☐ Paid capacity
- ☐ Both

How long has the Nominee been making this contribution? (Maximum 300 words)

*

Outline the duration and consistency of the nominee's contributions (e.g. months, years, key milestones, progression over time).

Supporting information

Please upload any supporting information that may assist the Assessment Panel. Supporting information is optional, but encouraged. Examples include:

- letters of support
- references
- media articles
- certificates
- photographs
- videos
- examples of work.

Attach a file:

Background Check Information

Please note: Any information provided will be treated in strict confidence and used solely for the purpose of assessing the nominee's eligibility and ensure that any public messaging does not inadvertently cause distress to the nominee or those around them. It will not be disclosed publicly or shared beyond the award assessment panel without prior consent. The ACT Government will seek to confirm or validate relevant claims before these are considered.

Are you aware of any circumstances or incidents involving the nominee that may be relevant to the consideration of this award, or that could potentially bring the award into disrepute? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

For example, is the nominee currently under investigation, facing criminal charges, or has previously been charged with a relevant criminal offense?

Referees

* indicates a required field

Please provide details of 2 referees who can speak to the nominee's achievements.

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Referees may be individuals or representatives of organisations, and they may be contacted by the selection panel to verify the nominee's contributions.

By submitting this information, you confirm that both referees have been informed of the nomination and have provided their consent to be contacted by the Office for Youth Engagement.

Referee 1

Full Name *

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.
example 02 62071000 or mobile

Email *

Must be an email address.

Relationship to Nominee (Who is this referee and why is their support relevant?) *

You may wish to provide a letter of reference or support letter (maximum of 2 pages)

Attach a file:

To strengthen the application please attach a letter of reference or support letter.

Referee 2

Full Name *

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.
example 02 62071000 or mobile

Email *

Must be an email address.

Relationship to Nominee (Who is this referee and why is their support relevant?) *

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You may wish to provide a letter of reference or support letter (maximum of 2 pages)

Attach a file:

To strengthen the application please attach a letter of reference or support letter.

Declaration

*

☐ I declare the information provided is true and correct.

*

☐ I declare that the nominee has agreed to be nominated

*

☐ I declare that both referees have agreed to be contacted

Name *

Title First Name Last Name

Date *

Must be a date.

You are nearly finished!

Before selecting REVIEW and SUBMIT, we invite you to provide feedback on your experience with this online application process.

Please indicate how you found the online application process:

- ☐ Very easy
- ☐ Easy
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ Difficult
- ☐ Very difficult

How much time did it take you to complete this application?

Please tell us how you found out about the 2026 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award

- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ ACT Government Newsletter
- ☐ School/youth organisation
- ☐ Word of Mouth

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☐ Other:

Do you wish to receive the Office for Youth Engagement's newsletter to stay updated on grants, events and opportunities?

- ☐ Yes, please add me to the mailing list
☐ No

Do you have any suggestions for improving this form or process?

No more than 100 words.