

Agency Toolkit



**Public
Sector
Excellence
Awards**



**Government
of South Australia**

Welcome

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The Public Sector Excellence Awards celebrate individuals and teams across the South Australian public sector who deliver outstanding outcomes for South Australia while upholding the Public Sector Values.

The awards provide an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the people, teams and initiatives that make a positive difference to South Australians. We encourage agencies across the public sector to share their success stories and acknowledge the outstanding work being delivered every day.

You'll find everything you need to take part in this year's awards here. If you have any questions, please contact us at:
ExcellenceAwards@sa.gov.au



**20
26**

Celebrate success. Share your story. Submit a nomination.

Key dates

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Monday 2 November 2026, 9:00am

Nominations open

Tuesday 8 December 2026, 11:59pm

Nominations close

January/ February 2027

Evaluation period

February 2027

Finalists announced

Tuesday 6 April 2027

Awards ceremony



Eligibility

Eligibility criteria

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The following eligibility criteria must be met for all nominations. Please read carefully before submitting your nomination.

- Any current South Australian public sector employee may be nominated for an award by a second party. Individuals cannot self-nominate.
- Nominees may include ongoing, temporary, or contract employees engaged by a South Australian public sector agency during the eligibility period.
- Most of the service or program must have been between January 2026 and December 2026. Activities that commenced prior to 2026 but continued into the eligibility period may be considered, provided significant outcomes were achieved during 2026.
- Previous award recipients are eligible to be nominated again only where the nomination recognises a distinct new achievement or project.
- Individuals may be included in a team nomination for the same project or initiative for which they have also been nominated individually. However, where both nominations are recognising essentially the same work, the Awards Program Team may decide that only one nomination will progress as a finalist
- All nominations will need the relevant agency's endorsement by the Chief Executive/Agency Head.
- In the case of team nominations, a maximum of five key representatives may be nominated (to represent the group).
- If short-listed as a team finalist, these same team representatives will be invited to the awards ceremony.
- If an individual or team is shortlisted as a finalist, they will need to be available for a videographer session during February/March 2027. This session will capture content to be featured during the awards ceremony and in associated promotional materials.
- In the case of a cross-agency team, the nominator is expected to coordinate the nomination in liaison with the other team members' representative agencies and obtain relevant Chief Executive/Agency Head endorsement.
- The Awards Program Team reserves the right to withdraw a nomination if eligibility requirements are not met, or if the information provided is found to be inaccurate or incomplete.
- By submitting a nomination, nominators and nominees' consent to the use of their names, images, and related information for awards promotion and communication purposes.



Categories and criteria

Categories overview

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Category 1A

Excellence in Service Delivery (Individual)

Awarded to an individual for their exemplary service to South Australia. Their program, service or initiative has had a far-reaching, positive impact.

Criteria 1 – Demonstrated Positive Impact (150 words)

Describe how the nominee has made a measurable difference to the South Australian community, highlighting improvements in outcomes, satisfaction, wellbeing, or quality of service.

Criteria 2 – Reach and Scale of Impact (150 words)

Describe the breadth of the nominee's impact, including who and how many people, communities, or sectors have benefited. Highlight the longevity of the impact, whether the benefits are expanding, and the extent to which they create wider or lasting outcomes.

Criteria 3 – Complexity and Challenge (150 words)

Explain the level of challenge involved in achieving the outcomes, considering factors such as resource constraints, policy or environmental issues, or the use of innovative problem-solving.

Criteria 4 – Community Engagement and Collaboration (150 words)

Describe how the nominee worked with others, including community members, partners, or stakeholders, to design or deliver better outcomes. Highlight their approach to building partnerships, fostering teamwork, and engaging the community to achieve meaningful results.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominee demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the nominee demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.

Category 1B

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Excellence in Service Delivery (Team)

Awarded to a team for their exemplary service to South Australia. Their program, service or initiative has had a far-reaching, positive impact.

Criteria 1 – Demonstrated Positive Impact (150 words)

Describe how the nominated team has made a measurable difference to the South Australian community, highlighting improvements in outcomes, satisfaction, wellbeing, or quality of service.

Criteria 2 – Reach and Scale of Impact (150 words)

Describe the breadth of the nominated team's impact, including who and how many people, communities, or sectors have benefited. Highlight the longevity of the impact, whether the benefits are expanding, and the extent to which they create wider or lasting outcomes.

Criteria 3 – Complexity and Challenge (150 words)

Explain the level of challenge involved in achieving the outcomes, considering factors such as resource constraints, policy or environmental issues, or the use of innovative problem-solving.

Criteria 4 – Community Engagement and Collaboration (150 words)

Describe how the nominated team worked with others, including community members, partners, or stakeholders, to design or deliver better outcomes. Highlight their approach to building partnerships, fostering teamwork, and engaging the community to achieve meaningful results.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominated team demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the team demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.

Category 2A

Driving Innovation (Individual)

Awarded to an individual that has demonstrated a commitment to and support for new ideas and experimentation or found new ways to solve problems to deliver for South Australia and its future prosperity.

Criteria 1 – Creative Problem Solving (150 words)

Focus on the nominee's approach and mindset when tackling challenges. Highlight examples of thinking differently, identifying problems in new ways, and devising original solutions within policy, regulatory, or resource constraints.

Criteria 2 – Collaboration and Goal Achievement (150 words)

Describe the nominee's innovative approaches to working with teams, stakeholders, or communities to achieve shared objectives. Consider examples of building partnerships, engaging others in problem-solving, or fostering collective creativity.

Criteria 3 – Creative Method and Tools (150 words)

Showcase the practical methods, processes, or tools the nominee has implemented creatively to achieve results. This can include procedures, use of technology, data, or other resources applied in inventive ways.

Criteria 4 – Impact and Efficiency (150 words)

Demonstrate how the nominee's innovation led to tangible improvements, such as enhanced service delivery, cost or time savings, increased accessibility, or wider community benefit. Emphasise measurable results, lasting improvements, or broad-reaching impact.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominee demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the nominee demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.

Category 2B

Driving Innovation (Team)

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Awarded to a team that has demonstrated a commitment to and support for new ideas and experimentation or found new ways to solve problems to deliver for South Australia and its future prosperity.

Criteria 1 – Creative Problem Solving (150 words)

Focus on the nominated team's approach and mindset when tackling challenges. Highlight examples of thinking differently, identifying problems in new ways, and devising original solutions within policy, regulatory, or resource constraints.

Criteria 2 – Collaboration and Goal Achievement (150 words)

Describe the nominated team's innovative approaches to working with teams, stakeholders, or communities to achieve shared objectives. Consider examples of building partnerships, engaging others in problem-solving, or fostering collective creativity.

Criteria 3 – Creative Method and Tools (150 words)

Showcase the practical methods, processes, or tools the nominee has implemented creatively to achieve results. This can include procedures, use of technology, data, or other resources applied in inventive ways.

Criteria 4 – Impact and Efficiency (150 words)

Demonstrate how the nominated team's innovation led to tangible improvements, such as enhanced service delivery, cost or time savings, increased accessibility, or wider community benefit. Emphasise measurable results, lasting improvements, or broad-reaching impact.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominated team demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the team demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.

Category 3A

Building South Australia's Economy (Individual)

Awarded to an individual for their contribution to a project, service, policy, reform or initiative that has delivered a positive impact on South Australia's economy, productivity, workforce capability, business environment, investment attractiveness, or long-term prosperity.

Criteria 1 – Outcomes and benefits (200 words)

Describe how the nominee's work has contributed to South Australia's prosperity through economic growth, workforce capability, business development, productivity improvements, service enhancement, regulatory reform, investment attraction, or other positive outcomes.

Criteria 2 – Collaboration, partnerships and leadership (200 words)

Describe how the nominee worked with stakeholders, industry, community organisations, government agencies or other partners to achieve outcomes. Demonstrate how the nominee delivered outcomes, built effective relationships, overcame challenges, or brought people together to deliver shared objectives.

Criteria 3 – Innovation and lasting impact (200 words)

Describe how the nominee introduced new ideas, approaches, processes, policies, services or solutions that improved outcomes.

Highlight how the benefits will continue beyond the immediate project or initiative, including capability building, sustainable improvements, long-term efficiencies, stronger partnerships or enduring value for South Australia.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominee demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the nominee demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.

Category 3B

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Building South Australia's Economy (Team)

Awarded to a team for their contribution to a project, service, policy, reform or initiative that has delivered a positive impact on South Australia's economy, productivity, workforce capability, business environment, investment attractiveness, or long-term prosperity.

Criteria 1 – Outcomes and benefits (200 words)

Describe how the nominated team's work has contributed to South Australia's prosperity through economic growth, workforce capability, business development, productivity improvements, service enhancement, regulatory reform, investment attraction, or other positive outcomes.

Criteria 2 – Collaboration, partnerships and leadership (200 words)

Describe how the nominated team worked with stakeholders, industry, community organisations, government agencies or other partners to achieve outcomes. Demonstrate how they delivered outcomes, built effective relationships, overcame challenges, or brought people together to deliver shared objectives.

Criteria 3 – Innovation and lasting impact (200 words)

Describe how the nominated team introduced new ideas, approaches, processes, policies, services or solutions that improved outcomes.

Highlight how the benefits will continue beyond the immediate project or initiative, including capability building, sustainable improvements, long-term efficiencies, stronger partnerships or enduring value for South Australia.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominated team demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the team demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.

Category 4A

Leadership in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Individual)

Awarded to the individual whose project or initiative contributes to building a public sector where everyone belongs, and their uniqueness is valued.

Criteria 1 – Representation and Participation (300 words)

Highlight efforts to increase the inclusion and participation of under-represented groups, such as Aboriginal employees, people living with disabilities, carers, and culturally and linguistically diverse individuals. Include initiatives that enable broader workforce participation or engagement.

Criteria 2 – Impact and Cultural Change (300 words)

Describe the broader outcomes of the nominee's work, including how it fosters a culture of respect, equity, and inclusion, or creates lasting changes in workplace practices, policies, or attitudes. Highlight tangible results or examples of sustained cultural improvements.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominee demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the nominee demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.

Category 4B

Leadership in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Team)

Awarded to the team whose project or initiative contributes to building a public sector where everyone belongs, and their uniqueness is valued.

Criteria 1 – Representation and Participation (300 words)

Highlight efforts to increase the inclusion and participation of under-represented groups, such as Aboriginal employees, people living with disabilities, carers, and culturally and linguistically diverse individuals. Include initiatives that enable broader workforce participation or engagement.

Criteria 2 – Impact and Cultural Change (300 words)

Describe the broader outcomes of the nominated team's work, including how it fosters a culture of respect, equity, and inclusion, or creates lasting changes in workplace practices, policies, or attitudes. Highlight tangible results or examples of sustained cultural improvements.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominated team demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the team demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.

Category 5A

Connecting Communities (Individual)

Awarded to the individual whose work has made a positive impact on communities across South Australia including grassroots or established community initiatives that demonstrate genuine involvement, offer long-term value and add to the life of their community.

Criteria 1 – Value to the Community (150 words)

Describe the benefits or improvements the nominee brought to the community. Highlight how it addressed community needs, solved problems, or created opportunities.

Criteria 2 – Reach and Participation (150 words)

Explain the number of people, groups, or communities involved or impacted by the initiative. Consider both direct and indirect effects.

Criteria 3 – Community Response (150 words)

Describe how the project or service was received by the community. Include feedback, engagement, or participation that demonstrates the initiative's relevance and acceptance.

Criteria 4 – Impact on the Community (150 words)

Demonstrate the tangible outcomes or longer-term effects of the initiative. Highlight improvements in wellbeing, quality of life, accessibility, or other measurable community benefits.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominee demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the nominee demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.

Category 5B

Connecting Communities (Team)

Awarded to the team whose work has made a positive impact on communities across South Australia including grassroots or established community initiatives that demonstrate genuine involvement, offer long-term value and add to the life of their community.

Criteria 1 – Value to the Community (150 words)

Describe the benefits or improvements the nominated team brought to the community. Highlight how it addressed community needs, solved problems, or created opportunities.

Criteria 2 – Reach and Participation (150 words)

Explain the number of people, groups, or communities involved or impacted by the initiative. Consider both direct and indirect effects.

Criteria 3 – Community Response (150 words)

Describe how the project or service was received by the community. Include feedback, engagement, or participation that demonstrates the initiative's relevance and acceptance.

Criteria 4 – Impact on the Community (150 words)

Demonstrate the tangible outcomes or longer-term effects of the initiative. Highlight improvements in wellbeing, quality of life, accessibility, or other measurable community benefits.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominated team demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the team demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.

Category 6

Emerging Young Talent (Individual)

Awarded to an individual aged 30 or under, who has demonstrated excellence, passion, commitment and action towards making a positive difference to the lives of South Australians.

Criteria 1 – Achievement and Impact (300 words)

Describe what the nominee has achieved and the difference it has made in their role or to the lives of South Australians. Include examples of projects, initiatives, or contributions they have led or participated in, and explain the outcomes or results that demonstrate consistent performance or excellence.

Criteria 2 – Qualities, Resilience, and Community (300 words)

Highlight the nominee's qualities, such as initiative, leadership, resilience, or willingness to learn, with examples of how they demonstrated these, including any challenges they overcame and contributions to the community through volunteering, mentoring, or other broader-impact activities.

Core Criteria – Public Sector Values (300 words)

Describe how the nominee demonstrates the South Australian public sector purpose in their role and embodies the public sector values of Service, Professionalism, Trust, Respect, Collaboration and Engagement, Honesty and Integrity, Courage and Tenacity, and Sustainability.

Explain how they make a positive difference to the lives of South Australians through their work and service to the community. Consider examples of how the nominee demonstrates public sector values in their work, including ways they serve the community, collaborate with others, act with integrity, or show courage and innovation.



Nomination process

How to use the nomination portal

1. Access the nomination portal here:
<https://publicsectorexcellenceawards.awardsplatform.com>
2. Login using your previous Public Sector Excellence Awards account information. If you don't have an existing account, create one using your government email.
3. Complete the online entry form, collating the information required.
4. Submit your nomination by 11:59pm Tuesday 8 December 2026.

Contact

ExcellenceAwards@sa.gov.au

www.publicsector.sa.gov.au



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