



**OFFICE OF
MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**



2026 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL AWARDS

Nominations Information Pack

2026 Western Australian Multicultural Awards

The 2026 Western Australian Multicultural Awards recognises individuals and organisations for their outstanding contributions to multiculturalism and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities in Western Australia.

Awards are presented in the following categories:

- 1) Outstanding Individual Achievement
- 2) Youth
- 3) Community Service and Support
 - i. CaLD Community Association
 - ii. CaLD Community Service Organisation
 - iii. General Community Service Organisation
- 4) Business
- 5) Local Government
- 6) Premier's Public Sector
- 7) Artist of the Year
- 8) Sportsperson of the Year
- 9) Laksiri Jayasuriya Lifetime Community Service
- 10) Sir Ronald Wilson Leadership

Awards will be presented across the 10 categories at a ceremony to be held on Thursday 12 March 2026.

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Submitting a nomination

How do I submit a nomination?

- Go to: wamulticultural.awardsplatform.com

Who can submit a nomination?

- Nominations are invited from any member of the Western Australian community.
- Self-nominations for individual categories are not accepted.
- Please check the eligibility criteria for each award.

Who can be nominated?

- Nominations must meet the eligibility requirements and selection criteria for the category.
- You can nominate the same person or organisation for more than one category, but they can only receive one award.
- Past winners of a Multicultural Award are eligible for an award in the same category, but not for the same project.
- In the individual categories, nominees will not be eligible for awards recognising achievements that were directly related to their employment.
- In the organisation categories, nominees must have one referee that is external to the organisation.
- The Office of Multicultural Interests may move a nomination into another category if deemed more appropriate.

What do I need to make a nomination?

- You will be asked a series of questions to support your nomination.
- All nominations must include contact information for 2 referees.
Note: referees are compulsory.
- You may attach up to 5 additional materials to support your nomination. These can include news articles, videos, photographs or referee statements.
- Nominees must agree to make themselves available for media and publicity purposes as required (without fees) both before and after the awards presentation, and consent to their curriculum vitae/résumé and photographs being used for promotional purposes.
- The Office of Multicultural Interests reserves the right to ask for further information and to make additional enquiries.

Definition of CaLD for the purposes of these awards

The term 'culturally and linguistically diverse' (CaLD) is generally applied to groups and individuals who differ according to religion, language and ethnicity and whose ancestry is other than Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, Anglo Saxon or Anglo Celtic.

Definition of a CaLD community association

To be classified as a culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) community association, the association must demonstrate and provide evidence that they meet the following criteria:

- The association is incorporated under the Western Australia Associations Incorporation Act 2015.
- The objectives of the association (in the association's Constitution or Rules) clearly state that it is specifically established to represent and promote the interests of a CaLD community with a shared country/continent of ancestry, ethnicity, culture, language or religion.
- The Management Committee or Board of the association predominantly reflects the intended CaLD community and is elected by members of that community to represent the community.
- The association's membership comprises individuals or other groups representative of that CaLD community.

Definition of a CaLD community service organisation

To be classified as a culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) community service organisation, the organisation must demonstrate and provide evidence that they meet the following criteria:

- The association is incorporated under the Western Australia Associations Incorporation Act 2015, or is a not-for-profit organisation based in Western Australia.
- The objectives of the organisation (in the organisation's Constitution or Rules) clearly state that it is specifically established for and its core business and focus is to either: a) provide support and deliver services and programs to CaLD communities or b) represent and advocate for the interests of CaLD communities.
- The organisation has ongoing operational resourcing and employs paid staff.
- The Management Committee or Board and staffing profile of the organisation reflects CaLD communities, and it has a commitment to workforce training in cultural competency.
- The organisation has internal policies and procedures that demonstrate a commitment to multiculturalism and cultural diversity.

Judging process

- An independent judging panel will be appointed by the Minister for Multicultural Interests to identify winners.
- Judging will be based on the responses to the nomination questions.
- The Office of Multicultural Interests reserves the right to ask for further information and to make additional inquiries.
- The judging panel may move a nomination into another category, if deemed more appropriate.
- The decision of the judges is final. No further correspondence will be entered into.

Privacy

Personal information provided to the Office of Multicultural Interests will be handled in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Supporting statements—must be completed

Why does the nominee deserve this award?*

Describe at least one project or activity the nominee has been involved in that aligns with the award category description and selection criteria. The nominee's achievements must meet at least one selection criteria for the category to be considered.

**If your submission is for an organisational award, 'nominee' refers to the organisation.*

What are the outcomes or achievements of the nominee's project or activity?

Describe the outcomes or achievements of the project or activity.

Which communities have benefited or been supported by the nominee's project or activity?

Identify which culturally or linguistically diverse community/ies or migrant groups, have benefited or been supported through this project or activity.

What impact has the nominee's work had on communities?

Describe how these communities or groups have benefited or been supported by the nominee's project or activity.

Having trouble with the form or with the submission process?

Contact the Office of Multicultural Interests:

Phone – (08) 6552 1607

Email – harmony@omi.wa.gov.au

Eligibility and selection criteria

Category 1: Outstanding Individual Achievement Award

The *Outstanding Individual Achievement Award* recognises an individual from a CaLD background who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment through service to CaLD communities and the promotion of multiculturalism in a field such as business, media, health services, aged care, advocacy, sport or education.

Eligibility

- Individuals from CaLD backgrounds.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.
- Nominees may not be eligible for awards recognising achievements that were directly related to their paid employment.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee contributed to advancing, promoting and implementing the principles of multiculturalism as outlined in the [WA Charter of Multiculturalism](#)?
- b) How has the nominee advocated to remove barriers, such as racism and discrimination, experienced by Western Australians from CaLD backgrounds?
- c) How has the nominee contributed to the improvement of services to CaLD communities and encouraged initiatives and activities between culturally diverse communities?
- d) Which communities have benefitted from the nominee's activities?

Category 2: Youth Award

The *Youth Award* recognises an individual under the age of 25 at the time of the awards ceremony, from a CaLD background, who demonstrates leadership and promotes social inclusion and intercultural understanding in Western Australia.

Eligibility

- Individuals under 25 years of age at the time of the awards ceremony on 12 March 2026 from CaLD backgrounds.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.
- Nominees will not be eligible for awards recognising achievements that are directly related to their paid employment.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee actively promoted social inclusion and/or intercultural understanding?
- b) How has the nominee demonstrated leadership in the community?
- c) How has the nominee actively engaged with the community?

Category 3: Community Service and Support Awards

The three *Community Service and Support Awards* recognise the Western Australian community sector organisations, CaLD service providers, or general service providers that have shown leadership in supporting the advancement of cultural and linguistic diversity in Western Australia.

3.1 CaLD Community Association

The CaLD Community Association Award recognises a Western Australian CaLD community organisation that has shown leadership in supporting the advancement of cultural and linguistic diversity in Western Australia.

Eligibility

- Incorporated not-for-profit CaLD community associations.
- Must be Western Australia-based.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- Nominees must have one referee that is external to the organisation.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee shown leadership in supporting cultural diversity in WA — such as by developing and introducing innovative services, or by removing barriers experienced by CaLD communities?
- b) How has the nominee provided support to CaLD communities through the provision of programs and services?
- c) How has the nominee built the capacity of CaLD communities?
- d) Which communities have benefitted from the nominee's activities?

3.2 CaLD Community Service Organisation

The CaLD Community Service Organisation Award recognises a Western Australian CaLD community service organisation that has shown leadership in supporting the advancement of cultural and linguistic diversity in Western Australia.

Eligibility

- Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations who are specifically established for and whose core business and focus is to either:
 - provide support and deliver services and programs to CaLD communities
 - or
 - represent and advocate for the interests of CaLD communities.

- Must be Western Australia-based.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- Nominees must have one referee that is external to the organisation.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee shown leadership in supporting cultural diversity in WA — such as by developing and introducing innovative services, or by removing barriers experienced by CaLD communities?
- b) How has the nominee demonstrated cultural competency in service provision to CaLD communities?
- c) How has the nominee engaged with, consulted or partnered with CaLD communities in design and delivery of services and programs?
- d) Which communities have benefitted from the nominee's activities?

3.3 General Community Services Organisation

The General Community Services Organisation Award recognises a Western Australian non-CaLD not-for-profit organisations delivering specific services to CaLD communities that has shown leadership in supporting the advancement of cultural and linguistic diversity in Western Australia.

Eligibility

- Non-CaLD not-for-profit organisations delivering specific services to CaLD communities in the areas of civics, employment, social services and/or advocacy.
- Must be Western Australia-based.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- Nominees must have one referee that is external to the organisation.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee shown leadership in supporting cultural diversity in WA — such as by developing and introducing innovative services or by removing barriers experienced by CaLD communities?
- b) How has the nominee demonstrated cultural competency in service provision to CaLD communities?
- c) How has the nominee built the capacity of CaLD communities?
- d) How has the nominee engaged with, consulted or partnered with CaLD communities in design and delivery of services and programs?
- e) Which communities have benefitted from the nominee's activities?

Category 4: Business Award

The *Business Award* recognises a private sector business or other enterprise operating in Western Australia that demonstrates excellence in ensuring cultural diversity and inclusion in its workplace through policies in employment, training, staff equity and other initiatives.

Eligibility

- Businesses, universities, not-for-profit organisations.
- Have a registered office in Western Australia.
- Minimum 5 full-time equivalent staff.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- Nominees must have one referee that is external to the organisation.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee shown leadership in supporting cultural diversity in the workplace?
- b) How has the nominee encouraged people from CaLD backgrounds to seek and obtain employment in the business?
- c) How has the nominee provided avenues for professional development for people from CaLD backgrounds within the business?
- d) How has the nominee contributed to removing barriers within the business experienced by people from CaLD backgrounds and introduced sustainable strategies to ensure a continued commitment to doing so?

Category 5: Local Government Award

The *Local Government Award* recognises major improvements made, or initiatives developed, by a local municipal council that promotes and strengthens multiculturalism and meets the identified needs of its CaLD communities.

Eligibility

- Local municipal councils.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- Nominees must have one referee that is external to the organisation.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee responded to CaLD communities by providing enhanced and culturally relevant services?
- b) How has the nominee promoted and enhanced inclusive participation and actively engaged with CaLD communities in the civic life of the municipality?
- c) How has the nominee promoted greater communication with, and access for CaLD communities?

Category 6: Premier's Public Sector Award

The *Premier's Public Sector Award* recognises a WA Government agency that has achieved exceptional outcomes relating to their multicultural plans to implement the [Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework](#).

Eligibility

- Western Australian Government departments, Senior Executive Service (SES), non-SES agencies and statutory authorities.
- The agency's current Multicultural Plan must be attached to the nomination, as part of the supporting documentation.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- Nominees must have one referee that is external to the organisation.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee responded to the needs of CaLD communities through the implementation of their Multicultural Plan?
- b) How has the nominee promoted and enhanced inclusive participation and actively engaged with CaLD communities?
- c) How has the nominee improved policies, programs and/or services to enhance communication with, and access to services for CaLD communities?

Category 7: Artist of the Year Award

The *Artist of the Year Award* recognises an artist or a performer from a CaLD background who, through their artistic endeavours, has advanced intercultural understanding and achieved excellence.

Eligibility

- Individuals from CaLD backgrounds.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.
- Nominees will not be eligible for awards recognising achievements that are directly related to their employment in the public sector.
- Minimum of 2 years' professional practice.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee developed their practice over time?
- b) How has the nominee represented cultural expression through their art?
- c) How has the nominee collaborated with or represented CaLD communities in their art practice?
- d) How has the nominee lifted the profile of CaLD communities through their achievements?

Category 8: Sportsperson of the Year Award

The *Sportsperson of the Year Award* recognises an individual from a CaLD background who has achieved excellence through their commitment to sport, either as an athlete, coach or sport administrator.

Eligibility

- Individuals from CaLD backgrounds.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.
- This category is open to athletes, coaches and sports administrators.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee demonstrated their commitment to their chosen sport?
- b) How has the nominee lifted the profile of CaLD communities through their achievements?
- c) How has the nominee demonstrated good sportspersonship?
- d) How has the nominee achieved excellence in the sporting arena?

Category 9: Laksiri Jayasuriya Lifetime Community Service Award

The *Laksiri Jayasuriya Lifetime Community Service Award* recognises the outstanding achievements of an individual from a CaLD background who has had a minimum of 20 years' service in progressing and promoting multiculturalism in Western Australia.

This award is named in honour of Emeritus Professor Laksiri Jayasuriya, who was a key contributor in the development of the WA Charter of Multiculturalism.

Eligibility

- Individuals from CaLD backgrounds.
- Nominees must have served a minimum of 20 years of voluntary service in community organisations, not-for-profit organisations, the private sector or government.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.
- Nominees will not be eligible for awards recognising achievements that were solely related to their employment.

Selection criteria

- a) How has the nominee contributed to advancing, promoting and implementing the principles of multicultural policy in WA?
- b) How has the nominee advocated to remove barriers, such as racism and discrimination, experienced by CaLD communities?
- c) How has the nominee contributed to the improvement of services to CaLD communities and encouraged initiatives and activities between diverse cultural groups?

Category 10: Sir Ronald Wilson Leadership Award

The *Sir Ronald Wilson Leadership Award* recognises outstanding Western Australians who have had a sustained impact on the lives of Aboriginal, CaLD or other marginalised groups in Western Australia.

This award is named in honour of Sir Ronald Darling Wilson, AC, KBE, CMG, QC, who was a passionate campaigner for human rights, conducting the landmark National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families, which resulted in the 1997 Bringing Them Home report.

Eligibility

- Individuals.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.
- Nominees will be assessed based upon their voluntary contributions, not their paid employment.
- Nominees will not be eligible for awards recognising achievements that were solely related to their primary paid employment or employment in the public sector.

Selection criteria

- a) Over a significant period, how has the nominee demonstrated exceptional leadership in advancing social justice, human rights, equality and/or anti-racism in Western Australia?
- b) How has the nominee contributed, over a significant period, to the achievement of substantive equality and advancement of the rights of all people, regardless of their origin, culture, religion, ethnicity and nationality?
- c) How has the nominee demonstrated a positive and sustained impact on the living, working, educational, social or economic environment of Indigenous, ethnic or other minority community groups in Western Australia?