2019 PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARDS

Recognising excellence

Application guide
Recognising excellence

In so many ways, our staff have a profound and lasting impact on children and young people in schools and preschools across South Australia.

The Public Education Awards celebrate the dedication and outstanding contributions made by our staff, and give us an opportunity to proudly share these achievements with the community. We are always pleased to showcase the innovation, passion and expertise at the heart of our strong public education system.

It’s important that we connect with the community and forge positive relationships to encourage parents to engage with the department. The public nomination process for the awards allows everyone to get involved and say thank you to an educator who has made a difference in their lives.

The awards recognise high quality leaders, teachers and support staff, as well as corporate and allied health professionals. They celebrate the work of all those who lead our vision of a world-class education system.

The awards also help strengthen our connection with local communities, support employees across the organisation and drive the pursuit of innovation in all we do to support children and young people.

We invite your involvement in the awards and a chance to celebrate your colleagues’ achievements – don’t miss your chance to nominate or apply.

Hon John Gardner MP

Rick Persse

Minister for Education

Chief Executive,
Department for Education
About

The Public Education Awards are open to all employees in the Department for Education. The awards recognise the achievements of teachers, leaders, allied health professionals, support and corporate staff across the state.

The awards provide the opportunity to highlight excellence in South Australian public education. The program sees many of our department’s inspirational role models recognised and rewarded for the difference they make to the lives of South Australian students and children.

Finalists and winners of the awards may use their prize to undertake professional learning, community activities or invest in resources.

This guide will provide you with information on how to apply for an award in 2019.

Key dates

Nominations open  1 to 31 May
Applications open  1 to 30 June
Finalists announced  24 August
Awards ceremony  12 October
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How do I apply?

Applications are open from Saturday 1 June to Sunday 30 June 2019. Make sure you check the terms of entry on page 30 before submitting your application.
### Awards open to

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<th>Early Years Teacher of the Year</th>
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*other than site based support staff  
** please note specific eligibility per category
1. NOMINATION OR APPLICATION

There are 2 ways to enter into the Public Education Awards. You will be nominated by a colleague or member of the public. When nominated, you will receive an email inviting you to submit an application. You may also submit an application for an award without having received a nomination. This is to recognise individual employees or teams whose amazing work may not be visible to the public or other areas within the department – so make sure you apply and tell us about it.

2. CHOOSE A CATEGORY

Once you decide to apply in the awards it is important to talk to your site leader or manager and choose the most appropriate category for your achievement. Your principal or director will be required to endorse your application after you submit. Some categories are open to all staff, or may be restricted to site-based staff, educators or corporate staff.

Choose the category in which you can most comprehensively address all of the award criteria. The criteria are included in the award category section from page 14 of this guide. Each category also specifies if it is open to applications from individuals, teams or both.

Some categories require a colleague or leader to complete the application on your behalf.
3. WRITE YOUR APPLICATION

The application form is available online at www.education.sa.gov.au/awards during June. Whether you’re completing an application for yourself or on behalf of another employee, you will need to create a login and then follow the steps to complete your application.

The response to each question in the application process has a word limit (250 words) – remember, less words is fine if you have clearly answered the question. Make sure your answers are clear, concise and written in plain English. Provide specific examples to demonstrate how you have met the awards criteria. Judges may be unfamiliar with your area of work so avoid acronyms or relying on assumed knowledge. Ask a colleague or manager to read through your application before submitting.

Where relevant consider following the STAR model to structure your responses providing clear examples / evidence knowledge or approach to work.

1. Situation: What was the situation/context/challenge faced?
2. Task: What needed to be accomplished, what role did you/the nominee take?
3. Action: What did you/the nominee do and how did you/the nominee go about it?
4. Result: What results/outcome were achieved and what did you/the nominee learn?

You will have the opportunity to attach documents (to a maximum of 2 pages) to support your application. Please make sure that any critical information is addressed within the application and does not rely on the supporting documentation.

There is a question that asks what you would spend the prize money on should your application be successful. Consider this carefully as it will be expected that you undertake this activity if you win.

The online form can be accessed on your computer or device and you can revisit to work on your application as many times as you like until you submit your entry up until 30 June.

* The application form auto-saves as you go, but please make sure you save whilst you work on any significant areas
4. SEEK ENDORSEMENT

All applications require endorsement to be eligible for an award. Endorsers must be a principal or director, including anyone acting in those positions at the time. Provide your endorser’s contact details on the ‘endorsement’ tab within your application. When you press ‘submit’ your application will be emailed to your nominated endorser.

5. SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

Please check carefully that you have addressed all criteria and read the terms of entry (pg.30) before submitting your application. Once your application is complete press ‘submit’. You will receive an email confirming that your application has been submitted. Applications undergo a range of endorsements and due diligence checks as part of the awards process to ensure that finalists are in good standing with the department.

The awards manager will keep in touch and advise if you are a finalist once judging is completed.

Late entries will not be accepted.
What’s Next?

**ASSESSMENT**

The awards have a two-stage judging process.

All applications are reviewed by a judging panel, consisting of a mix of department employees – principals, directors, executive directors, education directors and past award winners – from a variety of locations across the organisation.

The state panel reviews the shortlisted applications to select 1 winner and 2 finalists for each category. The state panel is chaired by the Chief Executive, Department for Education, and includes award partners from around the state with an interest in education services. Applicants will be notified by Friday 23 August if they have been selected as a finalist. Finalists will be sent an information pack, so please ensure your postal address is correct and kept up-to-date.

**FINALISTS AND WINNERS**

Finalists and winners of the awards may use their prize to undertake approved professional learning, community activities or invest in resources.

Winners for each category receive $10,000. Two finalists for each category will receive $2,000.
SHORT FILMS

Short films will be created for each finalist to introduce them and showcase their contribution and achievements. Finalists must be available for filming during late August to mid-September. The awards team and a professional film company will work with each finalist to prepare a short film of about 1 minute in length. Finalists will have the opportunity to speak to camera, record voice-overs and choose location and images for the film over a 1 to 2 hour film shoot. All films will be shown for the first time at the awards ceremony and will later be available on the department’s website. Finalists will receive a USB copy after the ceremony.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The 2019 awards ceremony will be held on Friday 11 October at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Finalists will be invited to attend the gala dinner awards ceremony. Short films showcasing all of the finalists will be shown and the winners of each category announced. Additional tickets may be available to purchase.

The Minister for Education and Chief Executive, Department for Education will present awards.

Finalists receive a signed certificate and $2,000 towards professional learning.

Winners are presented with a trophy and $10,000 towards professional learning. All winners and finalists will be highlighted on the department’s website.

Need more help?

More information can be found at www.education.sa.gov.au/awards
You can also contact the awards manager on 8226 3667 or email PublicEducationAwards@sa.gov.au
Award categories
This award recognises high quality leaders who drive performance, innovation and system improvements within the department.

It honours professionals who lead organisational excellence and demonstrate outstanding results to improve the educational and developmental outcomes for children and young people.

**CRITERIA**

1. **Quality leadership**
   Describe how you exhibit exemplary leadership and drive improvement, innovation and/or change initiatives within your role.

2. **World class education**
   Explain how your work aligns with your site’s improvement/quality plan and/or our department’s strategic plan.

3. **Collaboration**
   Show how you collaborate with others to use and develop evidence informed practice and share best practice across the system in order to generate outstanding results.

4. **Outcomes**
   Outline examples of how you have positively contributed to student engagement, achievement and/or wellbeing and how you have contributed to improvement to the system or the site.

5. **Professional development**
   Describe the proposed learning or activity that you intend to undertake should you win. Include time frame and budget, the expected outcomes and benefits to your role or future roles.
This award recognises high quality educators who exhibit exemplary pedagogical skills and specialist knowledge to engage students to be expert learners. These teaching professionals develop productive and inclusive learning environments based on best evidence and pursue ongoing learning in a secondary school setting.

It honours the dedication and passion of teachers who deliver outstanding educational and developmental outcomes for children, young people and their families.

**CRITERIA**

1. **Professional knowledge, practice and engagement**
   Describe how you exhibit exemplary professional knowledge, practice and/or engagement within your role using focus areas from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

2. **World class education**
   Explain how your work aligns with your site’s improvement/quality plan and/or our department’s strategic plan.

4. **Collaboration**
   Show how you collaborate with others and/or engage your community.

4. **Outcomes**
   Outline examples of how you have positively contributed to student engagement, achievement and/or wellbeing and added value to your site.

5. **Professional development**
   Describe the proposed learning or activity that you intend to undertake should you win. Include time frame, budget, the expected outcomes and benefits to your role or future roles.
This award recognises high quality educators who exhibit exemplary pedagogical skills and specialist knowledge to engage students to be expert learners. These teaching professionals develop productive and inclusive learning environments based on best evidence and pursue ongoing learning in a primary school setting.

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3. **Collaboration**
   Show how you collaborate with others and/or engage your community.

4. **Outcomes**
   Outline examples of how you have positively contributed to student engagement, achievement and/or wellbeing and added value to your site.

4. **Professional development**
   Describe the proposed learning or activity that you intend to undertake should you win. Include time frame, budget, the expected outcomes and benefits to your role or future roles.
This award recognises high quality educators who model exemplary pedagogical skills and specialist knowledge to engage students to be expert learners. These teaching professionals develop productive and inclusive learning environments based on best evidence and pursue ongoing learning in an early years setting.

It honours teachers who inspire young minds and deliver enriched learning experiences that enable children to achieve their highest potential.

**CRITERIA**

1. **Professional knowledge, practice and engagement**
   Describe how you exhibit exemplary professional knowledge, practice and/or engagement within your role using focus areas from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

2. **World class education**
   Explain how your work aligns with your site’s improvement/quality plan and/or our department’s strategic plan.

3. **Collaboration**
   Show how you collaborate with others and/or engage your community.

4. **Outcomes**
   Outline examples of how you have positively contributed to student engagement, achievement and/or wellbeing and added value to your site.

5. **Professional development**
   Describe the proposed learning or activity that you intend to undertake should you win. Include time frame, budget, the expected outcomes and benefits to your role or future roles.
This award recognises outstanding support staff members in a school or preschool setting.

It honours the outstanding contributions of individuals whose roles ensure a high functioning site and learning environment. It rewards the inspirational efforts of those who manage operational functions and support the educational goals, development and wellbeing of children, young people and their families.

CRITERIA

1. Exemplary practice
Demonstrate how you positively contribute to your school or preschool community and/or support young people’s achievement and development.

2. World class education
Explain how your work aligns with your site’s improvement/quality plan and/or our department’s strategic plan.

3. Collaboration
Show how you collaborate with others and/or engage your community.

4. Outcomes
Demonstrate positive outcomes of your work such as improvements, innovations or contributions to student engagement, achievement and/or wellbeing.

5. Professional development
Describe the proposed learning or activity that you intend to undertake should you win. Include time frame, budget, the expected outcomes and benefits to your role or future roles.
This award recognises outstanding outcomes in non-teaching roles, including expertise in areas of speciality such as allied health and corporate functions that support the education and child development system.

It honours professionals who excel in their field, provide significant contributions within their profession and use best practice to inform policies and strategy which further the development of children and young people.

CRITERIA

1. Excellence in practice
Demonstrate how you contribute to improved outcomes in the education and child development system and excellence in your chosen area of practice.

2. World class education
Explain how your work aligns with our department’s strategic plan.

3. Collaboration
Show how you collaborate with others and/or engage your community to generate outstanding results.

4. Outcomes
Demonstrate positive outcomes of your work such as improvements, innovations or contributions to student engagement, achievement and/or wellbeing.

5. Professional development
Describe the proposed learning or activity that you intend to undertake should you win. Include time frame, budget, the expected outcomes and benefits to your role or future roles.
This award recognises those working to engage with the community to improve education services.

It supports outstanding leadership in building and/or maintaining partnerships with local communities to support children’s learning and development. It recognises the importance of community involvement to build a healthy and strong public education system.

CRITERIA

1. Priorities
Provide an overview of your current priorities in working with the community and how this is integrated with school, preschool or system improvement strategies or plans.

2. Engagement
Identify your connection with the community and describe how these relationships have been created or strengthened.

3. Outcomes
Outline the impact or benefits you have experienced by engaging and working with the community.

4. Collaborative culture
Describe how your learnings from community connections have, or could be, transferred to other areas of education/regions.

5. Professional development
Describe the proposed learning or activity that you intend to undertake should you win. Include time frame, budget, the expected outcomes and benefits to your role or future roles.
INNOVATION IN PRACTICE AWARD

Open to
any Department for Education employee, as teams or individuals

Innovation is central to delivering contemporary, progressive education services and realising our ambition of a world class education and child development system.

This award recognises those who demonstrate outstanding contributions to the development of innovative practices and process improvements that contribute to better outcomes for every young South Australian.

CRITERIA

1. Engagement, achievement and wellbeing
Demonstrate how you contribute to child/student engagement, achievement and/or wellbeing.

2. Innovation
Provide an overview of how you have led or collaborated in the development of new or improved services and processes.

3. Outcomes
Demonstrate positive outcomes or anticipated outcomes of your work such as improvements, performance advances or public value.

4. Collaborative culture
Describe how your innovative practices have, or could be, transferred to other areas across the department.

5. Professional development
Describe the proposed learning or activity that you intend to undertake should you win. Include time frame, budget, the expected outcomes and benefits to your role or future roles.
This award is nomination based only, applications to be completed by a colleague or leader within the Department for Education on behalf of an applicant.

This award recognises the cultural and community expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working towards better outcomes for children and young people.

It supports innovation and excellence in child development, educational attainment and wellbeing. It also demonstrates a commitment to Reconciliation; supporting a growth in knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identities in our core services and valuing their culture and languages and contribution to nation building.

CRITERIA

1. Development, achievement and wellbeing
   Demonstrate how the applicant contributes to child development, educational attainment and/or wellbeing in their role.

2. Culture
   Explain how the applicant’s culture and experiences benefit the knowledge and understanding about the heritage and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout the department and further afield.

3. Collaboration
   Identify connections made and the benefits of this relationship/s for current and/or future child development, education attainment and wellbeing.

4. Innovation
   Provide an overview of the applicant’s innovative practices and how they have led or contributed to the development of new services, processes or efficiencies.

5. Professional development
   (The Applicant will be asked to review and accept the nomination and propose their own professional development). Describe the proposed learning or activity that you intend to undertake should you win. Include time-frame, budget, the expected outcomes and benefits to your role or future roles.
ABOUT AUNTY JOSIE AGIUS

South Australian Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Josie Agius, passed away in 2015 at the age of 81.

Aunty Josie was known for her dedication to Aboriginal people, especially children and young people.

She worked as one of the state’s first Aboriginal health workers in the 1980s, part of a team who set the cultural context for how hospitals and community health services respond to Aboriginal people.

She also worked for many years at Taperoo Primary School as an Aboriginal education worker and assisted many young Aboriginal people to develop their self-esteem and cultural pride through her ongoing work at Kurruru Youth Performing Arts.

Aunty Josie was inducted into the SA Women’s Honour Roll in 2009, was patron of the 2014 and 2015 NAIDOC SA Awards, and won the Premier’s NAIDOC Award in 2014.

Aunty Josie was a pillar of strength in the Aboriginal community and shared her culture with non-Aboriginal Australians.
KATRINA TJITAYI
Wellbeing Coordinator, Anangu Education Services Ernabella
with Uncle Fred, Aunty Josie’s son and Family.

2018 winner – Aunty Josie Agius Award

Katrina proudly shares her Anangu culture and Pitjantjatjara language and believes “when we speak a strong language, it makes our spirits strong and proud”. Co-delivering the Families Are First Teachers training program, Katrina teaches using paintings and stories. She supports teachers to work respectfully with families, to understand language and culture, and through her teaching helps to prepare new teachers for the reality of living and teaching in Anangu communities.

Along with the Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee, she worked with Carclew to document children’s Inma (song and dance) and Walka (meaningful marks and on the body). Travelling throughout the remote communities she worked with elders and Carclew to record their storytelling, and together they produced a resource book and DVDs which are used in teaching.

Katrina plans on undertaking a range of language focussed professional development opportunities in 2019.
This award is nomination based only, applications to be completed by a colleague or leader within the Department for Education on behalf of an applicant.

This award recognises outstanding employees or teams who have demonstrated excellence associated with one or more of the following public sector values; professionalism, service, collaboration and engagement, sustainability, courage and tenacity, trust, respect, honesty and integrity.

This award provides the opportunity for site leaders, colleagues and managers to recognise employees who exemplify our values in action and help to shape a workplace culture that continuously strives for improved outcomes for children and young people across South Australia.

**CRITERIA**

1. **Public Sector Value**
   Which value is embodied in the applicant’s way of working and who would recognise them as role modelling this value?

2. **Value in action**
   Describe how the applicant demonstrates this value in their every-day behaviour and/or what distinguishes their approach from others (e.g. when have they gone “above and beyond” expectations)?

3. **Outcomes**
   What impact has the applicant had on those around them, and/or their work from living the department’s value?

4. **Professional development**
   *The applicant will be asked to review and accept the nomination and propose their own professional development.*

   Describe the proposed learning or activity that you intend to undertake should you win. Include time frame, budget, the expected outcomes and benefits to your role or future roles.
South Australian Public Sector Values

Service
We proudly serve the community and Government of South Australia

Professionalism
We strive for excellence

Trust
We have confidence in the ability of others

Respect
We value every individual

Collaboration & Engagement
We create solutions together

Honesty & Integrity
We act truthfully, consistently, and fairly

Courage & Tenacity
We never give up

Sustainability
We work to get the best results for current and future generations of South Australians

publicsector.sa.gov.au
KELLY RIVETT
Year 5 teacher, Vale Park Primary School

2018 winner – Credit Union SA Primary Teacher of the Year Award

A unique handshake for every student as they enter Kelly’s classroom is the first indicator of this teacher’s innovative approach. Kelly believes she must prepare her students for the 22nd century and uses unique STEM opportunities to develop her student’s entrepreneurial spirit and problem-solving acumen, while advancing their social skills so that they are empathetic, critical thinkers and ultimately, more employable individuals.

The state’s first teacher to become a Kagan Cooperative learning trainer, Kelly’s students work in teams to provide each other with critical feedback, influence what is taught and decide what is assigned for homework. She also has a fortnightly meeting with each student, discussing their STEM skills, personal goals and helps them to undertake self-assessment against agreed success criteria. Together with the student, she then documents the outcomes of the discussions in an email to parents and caregivers which enhances the partnership between home and school.

Following her success as a winner of the Credit Union SA Primary Teacher of the Year Award, Kelly plans on attending the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) edTech 2019 conference in Philadelphia. She is also participating in an Earth Expeditions program in the Amazon, developing units of inquiry to enable her students to understand global issues and protection of eco-systems.

“The Public Education Awards are an affirmation of the positive impacts that we as educators make, which can be overlooked by the constant pressure that we face in the day-to-day.”
EARLY CAREER TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
People and Culture

2018 winner – System Excellence Award

The team connects with thousands of new teachers in what can be a challenging transition into the profession, as well as supporting their career progression from ‘Graduate’ to ‘Proficient’.

Online resources, face-to-face workshops and comprehensive guides for school and preschool leaders and mentors have helped build new teachers’ confidence, capabilities and expertise, which in turn improves outcomes for our students. The successful program has received national recognition and was profiled by David Gonski in ‘Through Growth to Achievement: Report of the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools’ as a case study support program for teachers starting out in their career.

Following their success as a winner of the System Excellence Award, the team will use their prize money to fund 2 Program Officers attendance at a 2 day Harvard University program ‘Strategies for leading successful change initiatives.’

“The application process for the Public Education Awards enabled our team to deeply reflect on our program and its impact. As a winner we are able to engage with colleagues internationally and undertake professional learning to inform further improvements to our program aligned to global best practice.”
Terms of entry

Eligibility
The Public Education Awards are open to all employees of the Department for Education. Some categories are only open to certain employees, please check individual category information. Applications from people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent are particularly encouraged.

Public Education Awards finalists / winners are not eligible for an award for a period of 2 years (including as part of a team). The work profiled by finalists/ winners is not eligible for an award for a period of 2 years.

Shortlisted applicants must be in good standing with the department. The awards manager reserves the right to remove any applicant at any time.

Nominations
Nominations are anonymous and may be made by a colleague or any member of the public, permission is not required from the nominee. Nominees must submit an application if they wish to be considered for an award, apart from the Auntie Josie and Performance Through Values awards which require applications to be completed by a colleague or leader.

Applications
Applications will be invited from nominees and are also open to all Department for Education employees. Individuals and teams may only apply in 1 category.

Entrants are required to answer all of the questions provided in the online application form for their chosen category. Information that is provided in the title and summary fields may be used for marketing purposes.

Judging
The State Judging Panel reserves the right to not award a winner if they deem there are no suitable submissions in a particular category. Decisions made by the judging panel are binding and final. No correspondence regarding the panel’s decisions and recommendations will be entered into.

Prizes
Prizes provided to winners and finalists must be taken by the end of the calendar year following the awards. Funds not used in this time must be returned to the Public Education Awards program. A question addressing what you would spend the winning prize on is included in each category. It is expected winning applicants will undertake the specified activity, or something very similar (such as the same course with a different provider). Any winner wishing to change their professional learning activity must seek permission from the awards manager and may forfeit their prize if no suitable alternative is found. Finalist’s prizes will be allocated post event for a professional activity of choice, as negotiated with their line manager and the awards manager.

Winners and finalists may be required to fulfil an ambassadorial role and must agree to participate in the promotion of the awards prior to and following the ceremony as requested by the department.
Thank you to our sponsors for their commitment to public education in South Australia.

**Event partner**

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Supporting SA’s education community

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TEACHERS HEALTH

We’re for teachers

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