



Department of
**Jobs, Tourism, Science
and Innovation**



Western Australia's
**Innovators
of the Year 2025**

2025

**WA Government Innovators of the
Year Award Guidelines for Applicants**

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

The Western Australia's Government Innovators of the Year (WAGIOTY) Guidelines for Applicants (Guidelines) are to be used as a reference guide when applying for the award.

Applicants should read these Guidelines before completing their Expression of Interest.

OVERVIEW OF THE WA INNOVATORS OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

The main aim of the WAIOTY program is to acknowledge and reward exceptional innovators in Western Australia who have developed an outstanding innovative product, technology, or service. The innovation must demonstrate an economic, social, and/or environmental benefit to Western Australia.

In 2024, a new WA Government Innovators of the Year Award was introduced to acknowledge Western Australian government entity employees who are innovating, creating novel IP and adding value to public service delivery. For the purposes of this program, Western Australian government entities include Local and State Government departments, and Government Trading Enterprises.

The objectives of the WA Government Innovators of the Year Award are to:

- Identify and celebrate Western Australian government entity employees who have created IP within government. This will be aligned to the new Western Australian Government Intellectual Property Policy 2023
- Encourage innovation within the public sector to improve efficiencies for Western Australia

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

To be considered eligible for this award, and included in the evaluation process, an application form should be completed online via [Good Grants](#) and must meet the following criteria:

- Be the legitimate originator/s of the innovation
- Must be an employee of a Western Australian government entity at the time of submission
- Entrants may be individuals or a team of up five (5) members
- Entrants should have developed their product or service from original concept, and can clearly define the market need or the problem it solves
- Entrants should demonstrate the impact (and potential), and benefits to the State
- If IP is involved, describe how it will be protected in accordance with the Western Australian Government Intellectual Property Policy 2023

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Eligible applicants will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. **Description of the innovation:** The applicant/s demonstrate how the innovation is novel, unique and innovative, and provides a solution to a public need in Western Australia (10 marks)
2. **Explanation of why the innovation was developed:** The applicant/s describe the need for the innovation including research carried out and justification (10 marks)
3. **Capability and capacity:** The applicant/s demonstrate how they have the necessary experience, resources and expertise (e.g., technical, managerial), either internally or externally, to advance the innovation (10 marks)
4. **Level of impact/change:** The impact that the State Government innovation will have on:
5. **Generating job creation and economic diversification benefits** for Western Australia; and
6. **Delivering tangible economic, social and/or environmental benefits** for the Western Australian community and State. (20 marks)

Each application will receive a total mark out of a total of 50.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Expressions of Interest will be **open from 7th May 2025** via the WAIOTY grant platform [Good Grants](#) and will **close at 11am on 25th July 2025**.

(Note: No late applications will be accepted)

All Expressions of Interest require endorsement from their agency's Director General or Commissioner. This can be uploaded as an attachment on the application form.

Although applicants are unable to add pictures or diagrams to the online application form, they are permitted to attach up to two images or diagrams (to a maximum of two single-sided pages each) to support the application as a separate attachment/s.

Applicants are to submit only the completed application form and permitted supporting documents including the endorsement from their agency's Director General or Commissioner. Do not submit any other supporting documentation as it will not be used in the evaluation of the application.

The online application must be submitted by the closing date and must meet the criteria outlined.

Applications lodged after the due date and time will not be accepted in any circumstances. Please ensure that you allow adequate time to submit your application as the Department takes no responsibility for late submission of applications.

All applicants will be notified via email as to the outcome of their application.

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation will establish an independent Evaluation Panel.

Evaluation of applications will be determined by the application's alignment with:

- The Award Evaluation Criteria contained in the application
- State Government priorities for industry and innovation

The application may also be subject to due diligence, technical, financial, and economic appraisals, carried out by the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

The Evaluation Panel reserves the right to request additional evidence to support claims against the Evaluation Criteria to assist with their recommendation.

The deliberations of the Evaluation Panel and all related information and material will be kept strictly confidential, subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

The WAIOTY program prize winner/s will win a place/s on the Australian Innovation Management Institute (AIMI): Certified Innovation Catalyst Program. The prize must be used within six (6) months from the date of announcement and is available for up to five (5) team members.

The State Government requires that winners and finalists will, from time to time, assist in publicly promoting innovation as an important component of Western Australia's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

The winner/s will be announced at the 2025 WAIOTY Awards, which will be held on Monday 27th October at The Westin Perth.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

In accordance with the strategic direction of the New Industries Fund to diversify the economy and create new Western Australian jobs, the WAIOTY program seeks to evaluate outcomes in terms of project progress, achievements and impact.

All finalists and winners of the WAIOTY are subject to a post funding review and are required to participate in online surveys conducted by JTSI up to 3 years after the funding ceases. Surveys generally take 10 minutes to complete and seek feedback on inputs, activities, results, usage and impacts related to the WAIOTY.

Participants in the WAIOTY program agree to provide to the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation information regarding their WAIOTY project as reasonably requested. This information may be used for reporting and accountability purposes and may also be used to inform policy development, investment decisions and design and delivery of future initiatives.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1992

Applicants are informed that the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, which provides a general right of access to records held by Western Australian State and Local Government agencies.

Applicants should be aware that some information about their innovation will be made public if they

progress to the final stage of judging. In order to promote and acknowledge the success of Western Australian innovators, the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation will hold an official ceremony and may include information about the finalists in brochures, media releases, social media and on the New Industries Fund, and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation's website.

Further information on the operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* can be obtained from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation's website.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Applicants and evaluation panel members are required to disclose any information that might be relevant to an actual or potential conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would exclude the panel member from judging the application and from providing input into the judging process.