



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation**



2025 Applicant Information Pack

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist of the Year

Applications close: 10:00AM (AWST) on Monday 28 July 2025

Applications must be submitted online and endorsed at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by 10:00AM (AWST) on Monday 28 July 2025.

Late applications or changes to applications will not be accepted after the advertised closing date and time.

Introduction

The Premier's Science Awards (the Awards) recognise and celebrate the achievements of the Western Australian science community. Award recipients exemplify the outstanding scientific research, science engagement, STEM education, and study efforts taking place in the State.

For the purposes of the Awards, the term 'science' encompasses applied and discovery science and includes engineering, new technologies and mathematics. Applications for any category can include achievement in any of these disciplines.

The Awards are a proud initiative of the Western Australian Government. The 2025 Premier's Science Awards program is sponsored by:

- Gold Sponsors: BioCina, Shell and Woodside
- Silver Sponsor: DUG
- Bronze Sponsors: CSIRO, Fogarty Foundation, Orthocell and Pawsey Supercomputing Research Centre
- University Sponsors: Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia
- Sector Sponsor: The Kids Research Institute Australia
- Community Partners: Scitech, Western Australian Museum
- Media Partner: The West Australian

In 2025, there are ten competitively assessed categories across scientific research, science engagement, STEM education and study. There will also be a People's Choice Award. This document outlines the requirements for applicants in the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist of the Year** category:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist of the Year: \$10,000

Awarded to an individual Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander scientist or researcher who demonstrates excellence in a field of science, scientific research, or technological advancement.

Application Process

The selection of the award recipients is a competitive process and comparability of the applications is critical to the selection of winners. The applicant must meet the required format and the information requirements that have been established for their application, to be considered by the judging panel.

Applications must be submitted and endorsed online by visiting the link <https://psa.grantplatform.com>. **The applicant must ensure that the online application and endorsement is submitted before the closing date and time, appropriate documentation is included (see below), the required format is followed and word limits are observed.**

An application not complying with any of the requirements established below will be considered ineligible.

The documentation required for this category is:

1. Completed and electronically submitted Application
2. Completed and electronically submitted Endorsement
3. Curriculum Vitae of a maximum of four (4) pages, including details of relevant publications, grants and industry collaboration relevant to the application.

For further information, contact the Project Officer, STEM Strategy and Coordination, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation by email at science@jtsi.wa.gov.au or by phone on 08 6277 2844.

Step 1: Eligibility

The applicant must complete the online application process for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist of the Year category and complete the applicant declaration confirming their eligibility to apply.

Eligibility to apply for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist of the Year award is limited to Australian citizens residing in Western Australia, or those that hold permanent resident status in Australia and are residing in Western Australia. If an applicant is chosen as a finalist, they will be required to provide evidence of Australian citizenship or permanent residency.

Applicants can submit applications to multiple categories as long as they meet the eligibility requirements for each category. Separate applications must be submitted for each category. Applicants for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist of the Year category are encouraged to also submit an application for Scientist of the Year, Mid-Career Scientist of the Year, Early Career Scientist of the Year or Student Scientist of the Year.

Specific Eligibility Criteria

The applicant must also meet the specific eligibility criteria for the category to which an application is submitted.

Applicants for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist of the Year award must:

- be currently residing in and conducting research in Western Australia; and
- be recognised as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

Finalists in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist of the Year category will be asked to provide evidence of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. This could be, for example, a signed endorsement letter from an Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Centre at a university or similar.

All eligibility time periods are as at the application closing date.

Relative Opportunity and Performance Evidence Criteria

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (the Department) is committed to ensuring that all eligible researchers and students, from universities and the wider research sector including industry, have a fair and equitable opportunity to compete in the Premier's Science Awards (the Awards). The Department recognises that diverse circumstances can affect research opportunity and aims to facilitate equitable access to the Awards for eligible researchers and students. The Awards application documents include extended eligibility timeframes for researchers and students who have experienced significant career interruptions. Applicants can submit responses to the Relative Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) criterion, which enables the judging panel to consider a researcher or student's activities, outputs and achievements in the context of opportunity and experience.

The judging panel will consider the applicant's activities, outputs and achievements in the context of opportunity and experience.

The applicant must outline the circumstances that explain why their achievements were realised over a longer period of time. The list below details examples of career interruptions that would be considered.

- Disruption due to international relocation;
- Limited access or no access to facilities and resources – such as through workplace interruptions;
- Caring and parental responsibilities;
- Medical conditions;
- Misadventure;
- Disability;
- Maternity or parental leave;
- Unemployment;
- Part-time study or employment;
- Non-research employment not concurrent with research employment such as time spent in industry;
- community obligations, including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural practices and protocols; or
- Other special circumstances similar to those listed above.

Step 2: Evaluation Criteria

The applicant is required to complete the Evaluation Criteria *within the online form*, providing a maximum 600 word response for *each* of the four evaluation criteria. Claims and impact should be justified and supported by clearly verifiable quantitative and qualitative evidence. Unsubstantiated or unverifiable statements will not be considered during the selection process. All sections of the form should be completed in detail.

Eligible applications will be evaluated and ranked against the **equally-weighted criteria** of:

1. *Excellence*, which refers to your research capabilities and achievements. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - demonstrated excellence in your field of research, including research quality, originality and depth, research achievements and peer and/or other formal recognition of your research; and
 - contribution to your area of research in strengthening knowledge (including Western and/or Traditional Knowledges), theories, models, methods and/or technologies.
2. *Impact*, which refers to the tangible and/or intangible benefits of your research for Western Australia. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - demonstrated impact and contribution to outcomes for Western Australia through providing economic, social, environmental, regional and/or other developmental benefits, and/or solving global challenges;
 - demonstrated translation of research into uptake and utilisation by industry, the broader community or other end-users, for example through policy, school of thought, practice, enhancing efficiency, enhancing infrastructure and/or commercialisation; and
 - raised awareness and reputation of Western Australian science and research in the local community, and nationally and/or internationally.
3. *Leadership and collaboration*, which refers to how you have led and worked with others to achieve excellence and impact. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - demonstrated contribution to building the State's capability and capacity for science and research, including in local communities, by supporting, supervising and mentoring others and/or expanding research teams;
 - demonstrated effective collaboration and genuine partnerships; and
 - demonstrated ability to attract national and/or international interest, research activity and/or investment to the State.
4. *Ambassadorship*, which refers to how you have used your role and/or profile to engage with the wider Western Australian community. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - demonstrated promotion and communication of your research outcomes and achievements in local, national and/or international forums;
 - demonstrated engagement with school, community, end-user and/or other audiences to raise the awareness of science and research, and its benefits, and/or encourage participation; and
 - demonstrated contribution to developing a culture of science and research in the State.

The applicant should ensure that they:

- provide responses to the criteria that are succinct, coherent, well-structured and written in plain English;
- prepare an application that is current and reflects any changes to guidelines or evaluation criteria;
- avoid repetition and ask someone to proof the application before submitting;
- avoid jargon and define necessary technical language and abbreviations;
- support claims with quantitative and qualitative evidence/data;
- make it clear what is attributable to their effort versus what is attributable to their team or colleagues;
- avoid including webpages and links to audio files as judges may only review hard copies of your application documents; and
- allow adequate time to prepare the application and obtain endorsement, as late or unendorsed applications will be deemed ineligible.

Step 3: Submission of Documentation and Declaration

The applicant should collate the relevant required documentation, submit their application and arrange to have it endorsed at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by the application closing date and time, available on the cover page of these guidelines.

Any materials other than those requested will not be provided to the judging panel and will therefore not be considered in the evaluation process.

The format for the required documentation for all research categories is:

1. Completed, and electronically submitted, online application for the one of the *Research* categories;
2. Curriculum Vitae of a **maximum of four (4) pages**, including details of publications, grants and industry collaboration relevant to the application, in single spaced Arial 11pt font (Word/PDF). CVs that do not comply with these parameters will be reformatted, if needed, and cut to four (4) pages; and
3. Completed and electronically submitted Endorsement.

You are permitted to attach up to **two pages of images, figures or tables** to support your application. Please make sure these are clearly referenced in each criteria section. If these additional two pages comprise of a CV extension, the above clause 2. will apply and these CV pages may not be considered in your application.

Naming Conventions

All documents must be clearly titled with the applicant's name, followed by the document name. For example, "JaneSmithCV.doc".

There are different online forms for applicants in the *Research, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Student, Educator, Science Engagement Initiative* and *Government Science Project* award categories. Please ensure you use the correct form for your chosen award category when applying.

In the online submission of the application, the applicant must complete a Declaration stating:

- the information supplied is true, accurate and not misleading to the best of their knowledge;
- they are an Australian citizen or permanent resident currently residing in and conducting research in Western Australia;
- they are not a past winner of the category which they are applying for;
- that appropriate endorsement will be obtained;
- that they permit the use of any materials submitted for the purposes of the selection process and that it may be used for promotional purposes; and
- in the event they are chosen as a finalist, the Department may use applicant information, photos and/or videos to promote the Premier's Science Awards program to the Western Australian community including, for example, social media promotion, public displays and public voting.

In the online submission of the application, the applicant should also declare any perceived, potential or actual conflicts of interest they or their partners may have in relation to any aspect of the Premier's Science Awards program. This will not affect the applicant's eligibility, but is necessary for Departmental consideration when managing conflicts of interest. If the applicant later identifies an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, they must inform the Department in writing immediately.

These conflicts of interest may include, but are not limited to a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party that could be reasonably construed as having or seen to have influence on the proper and objective judging process of the Awards, such as an officer of the Western Australian Government Department, an employee of one of the Awards sponsors or partners, a member of a judging panel or a Western Australian Member of Parliament.

Step 4: Application Endorsement

The applicant should obtain endorsement for their application within the online form at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by the application closing date and time.

In the online submission of the application, the applicant will be asked to provide the name and email address of a suitable endorser.

Once the application has been submitted, the endorser will receive an automated email asking them to log in to the online form and complete the endorsement of the application before the closing date and time, confirming that the application is true and correct, and is supported by the applicant's management.

The endorser should have knowledge of the applicant's achievements and be able to provide expert opinions regarding the applicant's work in scientific research. An individual can endorse multiple applicants for the same category.

The endorsement should be signed by a supervisor, manager or senior member within the applicant's organisation (for example: CEO, Director, Head of Research Group); or their institution's research office.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they allow sufficient time for the endorser to complete the online endorsement before the closing date and time.

The applicant will receive an email notification advising them once the application has been endorsed. If a notification has not been received, it is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with the endorser to ensure the endorsement has been completed before the closing date and time, available on the cover page of these guidelines.

We encourage applicants to inform their research office prior to submitting an application.

General Information

The applicant should read the following information before completing their application.

Decision Making Process

Applications will be evaluated by a Premier's Science Awards judging panel. Evaluation of applications will be based on the application's alignment with the evaluation criteria.

The judging panel reserve the right to request additional evidence to support claims against the evaluation criteria to assist it in making its decision. The judging panel may also seek advice from individuals with expertise in the area under consideration, to assist with evaluation.

The judges' recommendations are final. The deliberations of the judging panel and all related information and material will be kept strictly confidential, subject to the requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The judging panel reserves the right not to recommend a winner or finalist for a particular category.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email.

The winners of the 2025 Premier's Science Awards will be announced at the Premier's Science Awards ceremony, scheduled for October 2025.

Freedom of Information

Applicants are informed that the Department 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.

Further information on the operation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act can be obtained from the [Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation](#) or by contacting the Department's FOI Coordinator at foi@jtsi.wa.gov.au.

Use of Application Materials

All materials provided are accepted on the understanding that the Department will only use or disclose such material:

- in the process of determining the recommended winner and finalists for a category;
- for the purposes of informing the public about the award outcomes;
- in any promotion of the Awards;
- in any publicity concerning the promotion of STEM; or
- in other instances where information collected may be disclosed without consent, where authorised or required by law.

All award-related information, material provided, and material created by the Department through the Awards program, such as media statements, interviews, videos and photos remain the property of the Department.

Please note that upon submission of your application through the online platform, your institution's research office will automatically receive an email informing them of your name and the award category that you have applied for. No further information will be provided to them by the Department. This is separate to the endorsement process.

Tax Information

In some instances, the Australian Taxation Office views prize money as assessable income. An award recipient is advised to discuss any potential taxation implications with their financial advisor, or the Australian Taxation Office (13 28 61).

Obligations of Award Recipients

Award recipients of the Premier's Science Awards are expected to participate in public engagements promoting science to the wider community, such as National Science Week activities.

The Department may facilitate links between 2025 award recipients and existing science engagement opportunities. The Department may also invite 2025 finalists to participate in science engagement opportunities.

The Department encourages award winners to promote their success through newsletters, websites, social media and by other means. The Department will provide information to support award winners in these promotions. Please contact the Department to discuss the use of logos and other material.

In the event award recipients are contacted by the media, advice should be sought from the Department prior to interviews. Information provided to the media must appropriately acknowledge the Premier's Science Awards, your category and the date the award was granted. The Department strongly encourages all award recipients to seek advice prior to speaking to members of the media.

The Department may use finalist information, photos and/or videos to promote the Premier's Science Awards program to the Western Australian community including, for example, social media promotion, public displays and public voting.

The Department will contact the 2025 award recipients to discuss any proposed activities following the Awards Ceremony.

END OF INFORMATION PACK