



## **2025 Applicant Information Pack**

### **Engagement**

#### **Science Engagement Initiative of the Year**

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

Applications must be submitted and endorsed online 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 all fields of science, including natural, medical, applied and technological science, engineering 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 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, engagement, STEM education, and study. There will also be a People's Choice Award. This document outlines the requirements for applicants in the **Science Engagement Initiative of the Year** category.

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### Science Engagement Initiative of the Year: \$10,000

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The Science Engagement Initiative of the Year recognises an initiative that has made an outstanding contribution to community awareness, interest and/or participation in science in Western Australia.

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## 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.**

A contact person for the initiative must be nominated as part of the application process. An application not complying with either of the requirements established below will be considered ineligible.

The documentation required is:

1. Completed and electronically submitted Application
2. Completed and electronically submitted Endorsement

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](mailto: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 *Engagement* category and complete the applicant declaration confirming eligibility to apply.**

Organisations or individuals whose initiative has previously won the Science Engagement Initiative of the Year, or its previous iteration, can reapply if the application is for a new and different initiative.

Previous applicants are eligible to apply, however applications should not be a resubmission from a previous year. Please ensure your application is current and reflects any changes to guidelines or evaluation criteria.

If the science engagement initiative is chosen as a finalist, the application contact will be required to provide evidence that the provider of the initiative is based in Western Australia.

For individuals, this is evidence of Australian citizenship or permanent residence status. For entities or organisations, this is evidence of a registered ABN with a main business location of Western Australia.

## Step 2: Evaluation Criteria

**The Evaluation Criteria within the online form should be completed providing a maximum 600 word response for each of the three evaluation criteria. Claims and impact should be justified and must be 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. *Leadership and excellence*, which refers to the recognised quality of your initiative and its demonstrated leadership in promoting science. This may include, but is not limited to:
  - demonstrated excellence in science engagement methods and ambassadorship for science;
  - demonstrated peer, user and/or other formal recognition of excellence and achievements in science engagement; and
  - demonstrated focus on building a culture of science in the State and raising the profile of the State's capabilities, achievements and opportunities in science.

2. *Impact*, which refers to the tangible benefits of your initiative for its audience(s) and Western Australia. This may include, but is not limited to:
  - demonstrated outcomes in increased school, community and/or other audience awareness, interest and participation in science, including among under-represented or under-engaged groups;
  - demonstrated contribution or commitment to economic, social, environmental, regional and/or other developmental benefits and outcomes for the State; and
  - demonstrated the optimisation of available resources, both financial and other, to maximise impact and outcomes.
3. *Collaboration*, which refers to working with others and attracting funding. This may include, but is not limited to:
  - demonstrated effective collaboration and genuine partnerships;
  - demonstrated commitment to achieving outcomes that complement other key science, policy, engagement and/or education initiatives; and
  - demonstrated an ability to attract local, national and/or international interest and/or investment.

The application contact should ensure the application:

- provides responses to the criteria that are succinct, coherent, well-structured and written in plain English;
- is current and reflects any changes to guidelines or evaluation criteria;
- avoids repetition and is proofread by someone else before submitting;
- avoids jargon and defines necessary technical language and abbreviations;
- supports claims with quantitative and qualitative evidence/data;
- avoids the inclusion of webpages and links to audio files, as judges may only review hard copies of application documents; and
- is prepared with adequate time for the endorsement the process allowed, as late or unendorsed submissions will be deemed ineligible.

### Step 3: Submission of Documentation and Declaration

The application and endorsement must be completed 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 is:

1. completed and electronically submitted Application
2. 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.

## Naming Conventions

All documents must be clearly titled with the initiative's name, followed by the document name. For example, "InitiativeNameAttachment.pdf".

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

In the online submission of the application, the application contact must complete a Declaration stating that;

- the information supplied is true, accurate and not misleading to the best of their knowledge;
- the initiative is based in Western Australia and is being delivered in Western Australia;
- appropriate endorsement will be obtained;
- the applicant grants the Department permission to use any materials submitted for the purposes of the selection process, and that it may be used for promotional purposes; and
- in the event an initiative is chosen as a finalist, the Department may use initiative 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 application contact 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 application contact should obtain endorsement for the application within the online form at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by the application closing date and time, available on the cover page of these guidelines.**

In the online submission of the application, the application contact 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.

An individual can endorse multiple applicants for the same category and the following table provides guidance on who can endorse an application:

Type of engagement provider	Endorser
Part of a larger group or organisation	An appropriate senior member of that group or organisation, such as the CEO, Head of the Research Group or similar
Independent engagement provider	An appropriate senior member of an organisation that has funded the initiative or is a beneficiary of the initiative's work

**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 application contact will receive an email notification 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.

## General Information

The following information should be read before an application is prepared.

## 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 an electronic letter.

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 of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (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](mailto: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; and
- 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 Premier's Science Awards program, such as media statements, interviews, videos and photos remain the property of the Department.

## 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 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 program 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**