

# 2026 ACT Multicultural Awards Guidelines

The ACT Multicultural Awards acknowledge and honour individuals and groups who support, celebrate, and promote multiculturalism.

The awards recognise the valuable contributions and efforts of Canberrans who actively support and promote an inclusive and harmonious community. They also raise awareness of multiculturalism's benefits in the ACT.

In February 2023, following extensive community consultation, the ACT Government enacted the *Multiculturalism Act 2023 (the Act)*. The Act supports the Territory's continuous growth and improvement as an inclusive city, and celebrates our multiculturalism and diversity.

The Charter for Multiculturalism, established under *the Act*, reinforces the ACT Government's commitment to an inclusive Canberra. A city where everyone feels a sense of belonging, and cultural diversity is accepted, embraced, and celebrated.

## Award aims

- Acknowledge the efforts and achievements of individuals, community organisations, government agencies, social enterprises, businesses, and the media that contribute to making Canberra an inclusive and welcoming city for all.
- Encourage individuals, organisations, educational institutions, government agencies, businesses, social enterprises, and the media to proactively advocate and promote multiculturalism in the programs and services they provide to the community.
- Raise awareness of and celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our Canberra community, highlighting the valuable contribution this makes to our city.



# Nominations

## Opening date

Friday 26 June 2026 at 9:00 am

## Closing date

Sunday 26 July 2026 at 11:59 pm

Late applications will not be accepted.

## Eligibility for nomination

Nominees **MUST** be:

1. a resident of the ACT or the Canberra region who contributes to or promotes multiculturalism in the Canberra community
2. an ACT or Canberra region-based organisation that contributes to or promotes multiculturalism in the Canberra community.

Nominees **MUST NOT** be:

1. an individual or organisation who received an ACT Multicultural Award in the past 3 years
2. an individual or organisation who received a commendation in the same category in the previous year's Awards.

The ACT Multicultural Award for Lifetime Achievement is a stand-alone category to mark the 15th anniversary of the awards. Nominees who have received an ACT Multicultural Award within the past 3 years remain eligible for nomination this category.

ACT Government employees who are involved in the assessment of the awards cannot be nominated.

## Award categories

There are 5 award categories.

### 1. ACT Multicultural Individual Champion Award

This award acknowledges an individual's outstanding contribution to making Canberra a more welcoming and inclusive community over the past 12 months.

To win this award an individual needs to show that they:

- promote and advocate for diversity and multiculturalism in the ACT and region
- promote community harmony, cohesion, and inclusion across the ACT
- actively contribute to Canberra as a welcoming city
- support people to participate in Canberra's social, cultural, economic, and civic life.

## **2. ACT Multicultural Community Organisation Champion Award**

This award acknowledges social enterprises, businesses, government agencies, and educational services who actively contribute to the ACT multicultural community strengthening social cohesion and meaningful participation over the past 12 months.

To win this award, an organisation needs to show that it:

- implements inclusive strategies, practices or initiatives that promote the benefits of multiculturalism in the ACT
- undertakes innovative promotion and communication strategies to better engage with the multicultural community in the ACT
- raises awareness or implements programs or initiatives that support and welcome newly arrived migrants to our community.

## **3. ACT Outstanding Excellence Award for Diversity and Inclusion**

This award recognises an individual or an organisation in the community sector for their dedication to enhancing cultural diversity and promoting inclusion in the ACT over the past 12 months.

To win this award an individual or organisation needs to show that they:

- provide excellent services for the community or clients by embracing and realising the benefits that diversity brings to our civic, cultural, economic, educational and social life
- value the contributions of all people, regardless of their backgrounds and experiences
- support multicultural communities to showcase, practice and maintain their cultural heritage

- deliver programs, services or initiatives that creates a harmonious and unified community based on mutual respect, trust and understanding that celebrates Canberra’s cultural diversity.

#### **4. ACT Multicultural, Art, Media, or Cultural Award**

This award recognises an individual or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to promoting multiculturalism in the ACT community through art, media, or other cultural activities over the past 12 months.

To win this award an individual or organisation needs to show that they:

- highlight the value of cultural diversity through dance, music, theatre, or other artistic mediums
- showcase Canberra’s cultural diversity through visual and/or audio artistic expression
- raise awareness of contemporary issues that help to create a better understanding and appreciation of the Canberra’s cultural diversity by using traditional or digital and social media channels.

#### **5. ACT Multicultural Award for Lifetime Achievement**

##### **15th Anniversary Award**

This award recognises an individual or organisation that has made a longstanding and continued contribution to promoting multiculturalism in the ACT over many years.

To win this award an individual or organisation needs to show that they:

- have a long-term and ongoing commitment to supporting multicultural communities in the ACT
- have made a consistent, long-term, positive contribution towards strengthening community harmony and inclusion
- are actively dedicated to making Canberra a welcoming city.

## **Nomination process**

- The nominee must consent to being nominated.

- The nomination must contain true and accurate information that can be verified and supported by the person submitting the nomination and the nominee.
- Nominees can receive 2 nominations per award category.
- An individual or organisation can be nominated for more than one category as long as the work of the individual or organisation meets the criteria for that category.
- Each application must include the contact details of 2 referees who can verify the nomination.

### Referees

- Referees must **NOT** be a family member of the nominee
- Referees should have firsthand knowledge of the work undertaken by the individual or organisation to confirm the information provided in the nomination.

### How to submit your nomination

To submit a nomination, please follow the steps below:

- Complete the [online form](#) located on the [Multicultural Awards - ACT Government](#) webpage.
- Attach relevant material that supports your nomination (such as copies of articles, online stories, letters of support or resumes).
- You should have all the attachments ready prior to starting the online form.

All entries must be submitted through the [online form](#).

Late applications will not be accepted.

### Tips for submitting your nomination

- The online entry form takes around 40 minutes to complete. Please allow enough time to complete your submission.
- Have your information ready before you start. If you leave the online form open too long the system can time out.
- Submit your nomination early. Do not wait until the last day in case high traffic causes delays on the webpage.

# Judging process and assessment

Award nomination review and assessment is completed by an independent judging and assessment panel (the panel). All nominations will be assessed by the panel.

The panel will assess nominations based on:

- the criteria outlined in each of the category descriptions
- the *Multiculturalism Act 2023* and the Charter for Multiculturalism.

The panel can make reasonable enquiries to verify or confirm the information provided in the nominations.

The panel can move a nomination to a different category if they decide it is appropriate.

In the absence of suitable nominations, the panel reserves the right not to proceed with an award.

## Conflict of interest

Each panel member is responsible for declaring any conflicts of interest.

A conflict can arise where a panel member has a personal or professional relationship with a nominee.

Prior to assessing nominations, all panel members will receive a list of all the nominations so they can identify possible conflicts of interest that may impact their ability to assess a nomination fairly.

If the conflict is considered significant, the panel member will be replaced.

If the conflict is deemed minor, the panel member will not participate in any discussions or the final decision surrounding that nomination.

## Assistance and support

For support or assistance please contact Multicultural ACT.

**Email:** [ma@act.gov.au](mailto:ma@act.gov.au)