# 2025 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards

# GUIDELINES

Established in 1989, the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards (the Awards) is an annual celebration recognising individuals and groups of young people aged 12 to 25 who have made a significant contribution to the ACT community.

Contributions may include achievements in community work, sport, education, science, culture, the arts, environment or personal development.

The Awards also celebrate young people who have demonstrated resilience, leadership or made a personal impact on others through service or creative expression.

Nominations can be submitted in the following categories:

1. Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award

2. Young Achiever Award

3. Personal Achievement Award

4. Environment and Sustainability Award

5. Group Achievement Award

6. Arts and Multimedia Award

The Awards are supported by the ACT Government and generous sponsors, who are committed to recognising the diverse talents and contributions of young individuals and groups across the ACT.

The Community Services Directorate (CSD) works closely with award recipients to support ongoing engagement with relevant networks, participation in community events, and representation of young people at official ACT occasions.

# AWARD CATEGORIES

## Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award

This is sponsored by Beyond Bank Australia and recognises an individual aged 12 to 25 who:

* is an exceptional role model
* has championed the values of youth issues in the ACT
* has made significant contributions to the ACT through personal effort or community involvement

## Young Achiever Award (12-15 years)

This is sponsored by the ACT Youth Advisory Council and recognises an individual aged 12 to 15 who:

* demonstrates emerging leadership potential
* has championed the values of youth issues in the ACT
* has taken initiative to achieve goals that benefit their community in the ACT

## Personal Achievement Award

This is sponsored by Anglicare ACT and recognises an individual aged 12 to 25 who:

* has overcome adversity to achieve their life goals
* has shown exceptional commitment to achieving their goals
* has advocated for young people or youth organisations in the ACT

## Environment and Sustainability Award

This is sponsored by Ginninderry and recognises an individual or group of people aged 12 to 25 who:

* have made a meaningful contribution conserving, rehabilitating, or sustaining the environment
* promote the development and benefits of environmentally responsible behaviour
* have contributed towards a cleaner, greener, and a more sustainable Canberra
* have driven positive environmental change locally

## Group Achievement Award

This is sponsored by the Australian Catholic University and recognises a group or organisation that:

* has delivered initiatives that promote and benefit young people in the ACT
* has championed the values and needs of young people in the ACT
* has maximised existing or provided new opportunities/services to young people in the ACT

**Arts and Multimedia Award**

This award is sponsored by the ACT Government. This category recognises an outstanding young creative individual and/or group of young people who:

* have excelled in the Arts, and/or
* have shown best practice in utilising art/ multimedia/ social media to promote and express youth issues in the ACT; and/or
* have used art/multimedia to empower and inspire young people in the ACT; and/or
* have used or created social media platforms that inspire or empower young people

# KEY DATES

* Nominations open: Wednesday 17 July 2025
* Nominations close: Wednesday 10 September 2025 at 5:00 pm
* Assessment panels (per category): Convened in the week of 16 September 2025
* Awards Ceremony: Friday 7 November 2025, Belconnen Arts Centre

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# HOW TO NOMINATE

* All nominations must be submitted online via SmartyGrants: <https://dhcs.smartygrants.com.au/YCCY2025>
* Incomplete nomination forms will not be submitted.

# QUICK TIPS

* If you want to nominate multiple people or teams you will need to complete separate forms.
* Include supporting material to support your nomination (e.g. letters, photos, videos, news articles).
* Share the completed form with referees in case the assessment panel makes contact.

# ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Assessment Panels for each category and include sponsor and ACT Government representatives.

To ensure accuracy and relevance when assessing nominations, the Assessment Panels may contact:

* Referees, for further information about the nominee.
* Nominators, to clarify or seek further information

*NOTE: Assessment Panel referee or nominator contact does not guarantee that the nominee is shortlisted or is a finalist.*

Nominators must provide truthful information, respecting nominee privacy while facilitating a fair assessment according to the award category’s criteria.

# AWARD CEREMONY

# The Minister for Children, Youth and Families will be invited to present the YCCY Awards to winners at a ceremony on Friday 7 November 2025 at the Belconnen Arts Centre.

# ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

# For more information please visit <https://www.act.gov.au/community/honours-and-awards/young-canberra-citizen-of-the-year-award>

# If you need help with a nomination or have questions, please contact the Office for Youth Engagement:

* (02) 6205 0563
* [Youth.InterACT@act.gov.au](mailto:Youth.InterACT@act.gov.au)