

INDIGENOUS BOARDING
AWARDS

**2019 Indigenous Boarding Awards
ENTRY GUIDELINES**



INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Boarding Australia, I am very pleased to invite applications to the inaugural Indigenous Boarding Awards.

This is an opportunity to recognise the achievements of individuals and organisations connected with boarding schools and residences with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boarders. Awards categories include the areas of Culture, Community, Leadership, Student Health and Wellbeing and Exceptional Contributions to Indigenous Student Boarding.

We encourage you to nominate organisations and individuals from across Australia who are demonstrating excellence in these award categories. This may include those that are heavily invested in the challenges of Indigenous student boarding and are continually working towards positive outcomes.

These awards will not only encourage us to reflect upon what is being achieved in our field, but allow us to share the stories and innovation from across the nation to inspire and influence the work of others in Indigenous student boarding.

The awards will be presented at a special evening function at the National Indigenous Education and Boarding Symposium at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The winners will be announced before an audience of boarding school leaders, heads of boarding, researcher and academics, state and Australian government officials and Indigenous community leaders.

I encourage you to have a look through the list of award categories and consider who you think would be a worthy recipient of an Inaugural Indigenous Boarding Award. Help us provide the recognition individuals and organisations deserve as well as the on-going development that can result from sharing the experiences of others in a sector.

Anthony Bennett
President, Boarding Australia

THE AWARD CATEGORIES

- Exceptional Cultural Connection by a Boarding School or Residence
- Exceptional Contribution to the Community by an Indigenous Boarding Student
- Excellence in the Provision of Indigenous Student Health and Wellbeing
- Excellence in Indigenous Boarding Leadership (Individual or organisation)
- Exceptional Contribution to Indigenous Student Boarding (Individual)

A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF EACH OF THE AWARD CATEGORIES.

Exceptional Cultural Connection by a Boarding School or Residence

This award is to acknowledge a boarding school or residence that recognises the value of Indigenous cultural connection and have activities or programs that connect their boarders with relevant Indigenous cultures. This may be connections to local Indigenous groups or the home communities of boarders.

Exceptional Contribution to the Community by an Indigenous Boarding Student

Community service not only enhances the lives of others in the community, it is a major contributor to the life skills and wellbeing of the young person giving their time and energy. In this award we are looking for nominations of Indigenous boarding students who actively engage in their community, be it their home community or the community in which they are resident whilst boarding, and have made an exceptional contribution.

Excellence in the Provision of Indigenous Student Health and Wellbeing

This award recognises organisations or individuals who provide Indigenous boarding students with health and wellbeing services and programs that not only supports their participation in education but allows them to thrive as individuals. This may be a partnership between a health provider and a boarding school/residence or a program that is provided to support Indigenous student health and wellbeing.

Excellence in Indigenous Boarding Leadership (individual or organisation)

Leadership comes in different forms and not just from those in leadership positions. Leadership may be a long-term contribution on a successful path or new innovative ways of doing things. The Excellence in Indigenous Boarding Leadership award recognises either individuals or organisations that have challenged common practice and are pursuing excellence in order to make a difference to the lives of their Indigenous boarders.

Exceptional Contribution to Indigenous Student Boarding (individual)

Many people make contributions to the boarding experience for Indigenous boarders whether it is a staff member, teacher, volunteer, community leader or a parent. However, some individuals go above and beyond with a passion to make an exceptional contribution. This award seeks to recognise these outstanding individuals.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE NOMINATED AS AN ORGANISATION?

A Boarding School or Residence with Indigenous Students is a typical candidate for some of the award categories. An organisation is also considered eligible if it provides services to a Boarding School or Residence with Indigenous students.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE NOMINATED AS AN INDIVIDUAL?

To be eligible for the *Exceptional Contribution to the Community by an Indigenous Boarding Student* award a student must either be currently enrolled or have completed high school in the same financial year as the awards are presented.

For other awards where it is appropriate to nominate an individual the candidate needs to have made a significant contribution to one or more indigenous boarding services. They could be a staff member, service provider, student, parent or community member.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO MAKE THE NOMINATION?

The organisation being nominated must have consulted their senior management and have their support to participate in the award program. Similarly, if you wish to nominate an individual, they must be consulted about it beforehand. An individual wishing to nominate them self must seek endorsement of a senior staff representative of the organisation they are associated with.

An organisation can self-nominate.

Meaning only one person on behalf of the organisation is required to complete the entry form. However this should be a minimum of a Head of Boarding, Principal or equivalent.

In the case of service provider organisations this should be a minimum position equivalent to that of State or regional manager.

An individual cannot self-nominate.

An individual will need to be nominated by a senior staff member of a relevant organisation and co-sign the entry form as well.

What is the awards judging process?

All nominations will be cross-checked against the awards criteria to ensure eligibility by the Boarding Australia team.

A judging panel from across Australia appointed by Boarding Australia Ltd will rank the applications independently and then convene as a group to make the final shortlisting of finalists and award winner.

Judges will be asked to declare any conflict of interest where they may have a personal or professional relationship with the nominee. The judges will be announced after the selection process has been completed.

WHAT DETAILS DO I NEED TO PREPARE FOR A NOMINATION

You will need to explain why the individual or organisation is a strong candidate to receive a national award. Referring to the Award descriptions elaborate on what has been achieved, how it was achieved and why such an achievement is important to indigenous boarding.

You will also need to supply information about over what timeline this activity occurred and provide an overview about the individual or organisation.

As part of the nomination process you will need to provide between 2 and 5 photographs relevant to the nomination. Please ensure you have permission of the people featured in the photographs as these may be used at the Awards Ceremony and for promotional purposes in print and online.

IMPORTANT DATES

Entries open
12noon (CST) Friday 1 February

Entries Close
12noon (CST) Mon 25 February

Finalists announced on website
Mon 4 March

Awards Dinner ticket sales close
Sat 9 March

Awards Dinner and presentations
Tues 12th March

Winners announced on website
Wed 13 March

FAQ

Can I nominate for more than one award?

Yes. If you believe an individual or an organisation meets the criteria, then you can nominate for more than one award category.

Is an online submission the only way to enter the awards?

Yes. We do not accept submissions in hard copy or email. If you have any difficulties using the online form, please contact Boarding Australia admin@boardingaustralia.edu.au or phone 1300 378 416.

Is there an entry fee?

There is no charge to enter the awards. Boarding Australia is covering all costs associated with administering and presenting the Awards.

What happens after I enter?

Upon making your submission you will receive an automated confirmation. If Boarding Australia has any queries with the information and images you have submitted, we will be in touch to clarify things with you.

Finalists will be announced on the Boarding Australia website at 10am (CST) Monday 4 March.

Will all entries become finalists?

Subject to the amount and quality of entries received the judges will determine a shortlist of entries to announce as finalists in an award category.

What do I receive if I become a winner or a finalist?

Award winners will receive a customised trophy and certificate. Their story will be broadcast at the Awards Dinner and via various social media channels after the event. Mainstream media is a possibility but is at the discretion of the media outlets.

An award winner or finalist will have the opportunity to add that title to their resume or organisational profile and professional

photographs of the Awards ceremony will be made available to you.

Boarding Australia will also publish the list of Award winners in the following publications and websites.

WEB www.boardingaustralia.edu.au

FACEBOOK @Boarding.Australia

Boarding Buzz (subscribe at

www.boardingaustralia.edu.au)

Do I need to be a member of Boarding Australia to enter?

All individuals and organisations making a significant contribution to indigenous boarding are eligible to enter.

How do I attend the Awards ceremony?

The Awards Dinner is being held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on Tuesday March 12, from 6.30pm as part of the 2019 National Indigenous Education and Boarding Symposium, 11-14 March. Entry to the Awards Dinner is included with a Symposium Registration, but if you are not attending the Symposium or wish to bring along additional people you can purchase individual Awards Dinner Tickets. They are available for \$150 per person and that includes a 3-course meal, drinks and entertainment.

Make bookings at

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=456006>

What if I cannot attend the ceremony?

At approximately Friday 1 March finalists will be invited to attend and will be asked to RSVP. This process allows you to advise us that you are not attending and possibly nominating someone else to act on your behalf. There is also the option to supply a short acknowledgement that can be read out on your behalf on the night.

If you do not know anyone who is attending the Symposium that could receive the award on your behalf Boarding Australia may be able to recommend someone for you.

Alternatively, the Award Sponsor can accept it on your behalf and we will make arrangements to mail your award and/or certificate to you.

Submitting supporting information (photos)

Please select a minimum of 2 and maximum of 5 photographs relevant to the nomination. Please ensure you have permission of the people featured in the photographs as these may be used at the Awards Ceremony and for promotional purposes in print and online. The preferred file type is a jpg no larger than 2MB. You may submit up to 5 photographs as long as the total of all files combined does not exceed 10MB.

Indigenous Boarding Awards Terms and Conditions of Entry

By entering the Inaugural Indigenous Boarding Awards, Award entrants ('Entrants') agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions. Failure to abide by these terms and conditions may render an entrant ineligible for the Awards.

All text and images submitted by the Entrants must be a true and accurate representation of the nominee. Misleading or inaccurate submissions may be disqualified.

Entries close 12noon (CST) Monday 25 February, 2019. Entries received after this time cannot be accepted.

All entries must be submitted via the online awards entry form at the advertised URL. Entries submitted by other means will not be accepted. It is the Entrants responsibility to obtain permission from all parties that appear in photographs submitted for the use of the image for judging and promotional purposes including print and distribution via the world wide web. Award winners may be asked to make themselves available for media and communications activities following the awards.

Boarding Australia reserves the right to not present an award if insufficient entries are received in a particular category.

The judge's decision is final. No correspondence or discussion will be entered into regarding the judging process or outcomes.

Entrants must have a significant connection with Indigenous boarding in Australia.

Boarding Australia may choose to extend the timelines or alter the terms of entry at any time for any reason at its sole discretion.

The Indigenous Boarding Awards Dinner is a licensed event. Entrants under 18 years of age participating in the Awards ceremony will need to remain under the supervision of an adult throughout the event.

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The **National Indigenous Education and Boarding Symposium** is an annual event that brings together school leaders and educators, boarding managers, policy makers and Indigenous community leaders from across Australia.

The 2019 theme of **Whatever it takes!** shapes the urgency of the need to address the challenges of providing relevant, safe and quality education and boarding experience for Indigenous students.

The **2019 National Indigenous Education and Boarding Symposium** will feature an exciting program of keynote presentations, interactive workshops, the inaugural Indigenous Boarding Awards dinner, a rich cultural program and a special announcement at the opening night function.

OUR AIM – About Boarding Australia

Boarding Australia sees the challenge of education for remote and regional Indigenous secondary students being addressed through residential boarding to provide the best opportunity for academic achievement, personal growth and future opportunities, with skills to walk in both worlds. Our primary focus is to see the Indigenous educational gap close through boarding.

Boarding Australia aims to advance Indigenous education through:

- The promotion of quality improvement in educational boarding and residential care for Indigenous students
- Improving access to education for Indigenous Australians from rural and remote areas
- Initiatives that enhance the health and wellbeing of Indigenous students in educational boarding and residential care
- Improving the skills and knowledge of those working in educational boarding and residential services for Indigenous children and young people
- Giving voice to Indigenous boarding students, their families and communities.