

2026 Queensland *Volunteering Awards*

Nomination Guide



volunteering
queensland



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Key dates:

05

December 2025
**Nominations
Open**

31

March 2026
**Nominations
Close**

1 – 14

April 2026
**Assessment &
Selection**

15

May 2026
**Awards
Ceremony**



About the Queensland Volunteering Awards:

Every year we come together to shine a spotlight on the remarkable accomplishments of individuals and organisations across Queensland who lead the way in making a positive contribution to community through volunteering. Every single volunteer, whether in a formal or informal setting, deserves celebration and gratitude and it is the Queensland Volunteering Awards that highlight the people behind this immense wave which embodies the spirit of change for the greater good.

Volunteers give their time, effort, and skills in various capacities. Whether organised or ad-hoc, formal or casual, in-person or online, the contribution of over two and a half million Queensland volunteers (64% of adults) has provided unparalleled assistance to people and causes across our beautiful state. Volunteering Queensland remains committed to nurturing sustainable practices and driving increased volunteer involvement.

We invite you to embark on this journey as we recognise and elevate the outstanding people and programs that shape a brighter future for so many Queenslanders.

Join us on 15 May 2026 at Brisbane City Hall to celebrate Queensland's volunteers!

Contact Us


If this guide does not answer your queries, please contact Volunteering Queensland if you need assistance in deciding the appropriate category for your nomination, or how to complete your entry, at any stage.

For enquiries, please email awards@volunteeringqld.org.au or call 07 3002 7600

Award categories:

The Queensland Volunteering Awards celebrate the incredible contributions of individuals and organisations across our state.

Individual Awards recognise the dedication, leadership, and impact of volunteers at every stage of their journey. From new and emerging volunteers to those who have devoted a lifetime to service. *There are five individual award categories.*



Organisation Awards honour the programs and initiatives that create meaningful volunteering opportunities and strengthen communities. *There is one organisation award, presented across three subcategories: Community, Government, and Corporate.*

Awards for Individuals:

Queensland Volunteer of the Year Award

Presented in honour of an individual who has made an exemplary voluntary contribution (over 5+ years) and who through their volunteering has made a significant impact towards Queensland's wellbeing.

Award-specific criteria

An individual must demonstrate two (2) or more of these criteria:

- Development and implementation of a unique or original approach to volunteering which benefits a specific organisation or organisations.
- Development and implementation of new concepts, products or services that strengthen and broaden access to an organisation for individuals from minority cohorts, including but not limited to first nations peoples, newly arrived migrants, people with disability, vulnerable women, young people, unemployed people, remote or regional volunteers.
- Contribution to reviewing and establishing more inclusive systems or procedures that enhance the operational effectiveness of an organisation.
- Promotion or leading the advancement of the vitality and enrichment of the broader community through branding, events or other activities.
- An outstanding commitment of time and effort to an organisation or organisations which has led to significant growth, funding, or awareness for the organisation.

Queensland Youth Volunteer of the Year Award

Presented in celebration of an individual aged between 12 and 24 years, who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to volunteering in Queensland and who, through their volunteering, has positively impacted the lives of others.

Award-specific criteria

An individual must demonstrate two (2) or more of these criteria:

- 
- Be aged between 12 – 24 years.
 - An outstanding commitment to volunteering, by involving themselves in one or more organisations in Queensland in key roles for a minimum of five years total.
 - Promoting the benefits of volunteering to others, resulting in the inclusion of more young people into volunteering.
 - Contribution to reviewing and establishing more inclusive systems or procedures that enhance the operational effectiveness of an organisation.
 - Promoting or leading the advancement of the vitality and enrichment of the broader community through branding, events, or other activities.
 - An outstanding commitment of time and effort to an organisation or organisations which has led to significant growth, funding, or awareness for the organisation.


Queensland New to Volunteering Award

Presented in acknowledgement of an adult volunteer who has between six (6) months to three (3) years of volunteering service. This individual shows exceptional dedication to volunteering in Queensland and has made a positive impact on the lives of others through their efforts.

Award-specific criteria

An individual must demonstrate two (2) or more of these criteria:

- An adult with six (6) months to three (3) years volunteering experience in Queensland.
- Demonstrates exceptional commitment to volunteering by involving themselves in key roles.
- Actively promotes the benefits of volunteering to others, resulting in the inclusion of more people into volunteering.
- Contributes to the development and implementation of more inclusive systems or procedures enhancing the operational effectiveness of the organisation.
- Leads or promotes initiatives that significantly enrich the broader community through branding, events, or other activities.

- 
- Demonstrates an outstanding commitment of time and effort to an organisation, resulting in significant growth, funding or awareness for the organisation.

Queensland Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award

Presented in honour of an individual who has made an exemplary life-long contribution to volunteering (15+ years) and who throughout their volunteering has contributed to the betterment of the community in Queensland.

Award-specific criteria

An individual must demonstrate two (2) or more of these criteria:


- an outstanding commitment to volunteering, by involving themselves in one or more organisations in Queensland in key roles for a minimum of 15 years total.
- development and implementation of a unique or original approach to volunteering which benefits a specific organisation or organisations.
- contribution to reviewing and establishing more inclusive systems or procedures that enhance the operational effectiveness of an organisation.
- promotion or leading the advancement of the vitality and enrichment of the broader community through volunteer leadership.
- an outstanding commitment of time and effort to an organisation or organisations which has led to significant growth, funding, or awareness for the organisation.
- development of inclusive practices to ensure the sustainability of an organisation and its volunteer experience.

Queensland Excellence in Volunteer Management Award

Presented in acknowledgement of an individual salaried or non-salaried volunteer manager who has demonstrated outstanding best practice in the management of volunteers and the delivery of volunteer programs.

Award-specific criteria

An individual must demonstrate two (2) or more of these criteria:

- 
- implementation of a significant and outstanding improvement or initiative that contributed to creating an exceptional volunteer experience.
 - consistently provides outstanding and exceptional quality of service to volunteers.
 - significant contribution to building the professional standing and reputation of the organisation amongst volunteers and volunteer professionals.
 - adherence to or implementation of the National Standards for Volunteering within the organisation.
 - broadened access to volunteering for individuals from minority cohorts, including but not limited to first nations peoples, newly arrived migrants, people with disability, vulnerable women, young people, unemployed people, remote or regional volunteers.

Awards for organisations:

Queensland Volunteering Impact Award

This award is broken into three categories being Community, Government (State and Local) and Corporate.

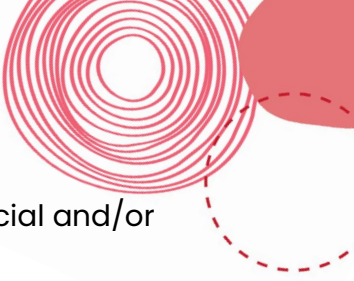
Community

Presented in recognition of a community volunteering program or activity by a not-for-profit organisation that has made a positive, measurable and sustainable social and/or economic impact on the Queensland Community.

Award-specific criteria

A team must demonstrate two (2) or more of the following criteria:

- Implementation of an innovative project, program, or activity that actively fosters a sense of community in Queensland.
- Contributes to positive cultural change by promoting equity, diversity or inclusion within the Queensland volunteering community.
- Establishes inclusive practices or initiatives that increase access, representation, and a sense of belonging for volunteers from disadvantaged or underrepresented groups.
- Shows leadership in fostering and modelling supportive behaviours in the workplace, learning environments, or community.

- 
- Provides qualitative evidence of the program's impact on the social and/or economic outcomes in Queensland or on its participants.
 - Enhances the reputation or visibility of one or more community organisation/s.

Government (Local or State)

Presented in recognition of a government organisation that has made a positive, measurable and sustainable social and/or economic impact on the Queensland Community.

Award-specific criteria

A government organisation must demonstrate two (2) or more of the following criteria:


- Implementation of an innovative project, program, or activity that actively fosters a sense of community in Queensland.
- Contributes to positive cultural change by promoting equity, diversity or inclusion within the Queensland volunteering community.
- Establishes inclusive practices or initiatives that increase access, representation, and a sense of belonging for volunteers from disadvantaged or underrepresented groups.
- Shows leadership in fostering and modelling supportive behaviours in the workplace, learning environments, or community.
- Provides qualitative evidence of the program's impact on the social and/or economic outcomes in Queensland or on its participants.
- Enhances the reputation or visibility of one or more community organisation/s.

Corporate

Presented in recognition of a for-profit organisation that has made a positive measurable and sustainable social and/or economic impact on the Queensland community through volunteering.

Award-specific criteria

A corporate organisation must demonstrate two (2) or more of the following criteria:

- 
- Development and implementation of a philanthropic project, program, or activity that integrates volunteering into the workplace culture.
 - Delivers a project or initiative that enhances staff well-being and work experience through volunteering.
 - Provides diverse online and offline opportunities that reduce barriers for staff to engage in volunteering.
 - Implements inclusive practices and procedures that increase access, representation, and opportunities for volunteering among disadvantaged or underrepresented groups in the workplace or sustainable corporate social responsibility programs across various community sectors.

Benefits of nominating an individual or organisation:

Entering the Queensland Volunteering Awards offers a multitude of benefits that extend beyond award recognition.

For Individuals:

- They will be recognised as an inspiring volunteer and trailblazer.
- Celebrate their efforts and achievements.
- Share their story and contribute to Queensland's volunteering narrative.
- Opportunity to connect with other volunteers and like-minded individuals.

For Organisations:

- Showcase your organisation as a leader in volunteering and innovation.
- Boost your reputation with partners, investors, and the community.
- Recognise and reward your staff, team, and volunteers.
- Gain insights from the evaluation process to strengthen your programs.
- Reflect on achievements and refine your communication.
- Build connections with other organisations for collaboration and growth.



Nomination Information

Who can nominate or be nominated?

Eligibility criteria

- All individuals and organisations are eligible to be nominated if most of their volunteering is Queensland based.
- A recipient of a Queensland Volunteering Award is only eligible to receive the award for a particular category once. The nominee can apply for a different category in subsequent years.
- An individual or team may be nominated by another person known to them. We are unable to accept self-nominations in the case of individual nominations.
- Nominees in the Youth Volunteer of the Year category must be aged between 12–24 years.
- Nominees in the Volunteer of the Year category must have volunteered for a minimum of five (5) years.
- Nominees in the New to Volunteering category must have volunteered for a minimum of six (6) months and maximum of three (3) years.
- Nominees in the Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering category must have volunteered for over 15 years in one or several organisations. The voluntary service does not need to be in 15 consecutive years.
- Any applicant who is currently in a paid role for the organisation they have previously volunteered for is unfortunately ineligible to be considered for an award, with an exception for nominees in the Excellence of Volunteer Management category.
- Posthumous nominations will be accepted for recognition of a person's volunteering service within the past two years.

Not sure which category is the most appropriate?

If you need assistance in deciding the appropriate category for your nomination or how to complete your entry, please email us at awards@volunteeringqld.org.au



Nomination process

1. **Prepare to complete the online form**

Read the nomination guide, use the questions within the Award Selection Criteria, to draft answers for the nomination.

2. **Complete the online form**

The nomination form automatically saves your progress. To continue your saved form, you must use the same device and browser you started with. For example, if you began your nomination on your phone using Google Chrome, you'll need to open it there again to access your saved work. Once completed you will receive a confirmation email. We suggest bookmarking your form so it is easy to return to later.

3. **Shortlisting and endorsement**

When nominations close, the Review Committee will reduce the nominations to a maximum of 15 for the Selection Panels consideration. Shortlisting will be guided by strict marking guidelines based on the selection criteria, and cross marked by a second Review Committee member. The average mark for each nomination will be used to establish the shortlisted 15 nominations.

4. **Review**

All shortlisted nominations will be subject to extensive review and moderated deliberation by three Selection Panellists in each category, who will ultimately decide one recipient and two runners-up for each category. In special circumstances, more than one recipient may be chosen for a category.

5. **Awards ceremony**

Nominees will be invited to attend the Queensland Volunteering Awards. All individual volunteers will receive one complimentary ticket to attend the awards. Organisations will receive two complimentary tickets to attend the awards. This correspondence will be sent to the nominees once ticket sales are open, please check with your nominee regarding attending with them. Finalists will be invited to the stage before the recipient is announced.



Award selection

Your entry will be evaluated based on your answers to each of the nomination questions. Selection panellists cannot assume any information that has not been clearly documented in your entry. Be sure to have someone read over your nomination to ensure that your application tells the full story and is well written. It should identify and emphasise what makes your application stand out from the rest.

Please refer to the **Award Selection Criteria** document if you would like to view the questions before beginning the nomination.

Selection Panel/committee

Volunteering Queensland manages the Volunteering Queensland Awards. Staff members who serve on the Review Committee are not eligible for an individual or team award during the year they serve. Committee members must declare any conflict of interest in the review process.

Volunteering Queensland appoint the Queensland Volunteering Awards Selection Panel. They shall include members of the Volunteering Queensland Board, previous recipients of a Queensland Volunteering Award, senior leaders of volunteer-involving organisations or other key dignitary. The selection committee will be supported by a secretary, appointed by the Review Committee.

The selection committee's recommendation and the CEO and President's endorsement of an award are not subject to internal appeal or review.



Terms and Conditions

1. Selection Panellist decisions are final.
2. The organisation or individual must not have been prosecuted for a violation of environmental, social, or commercial law in Australia or overseas in the past 5 years.
3. The organisation or individual must operate primarily in Queensland for the purposes of these awards.
4. Claims made in your entry must be true and correct. Volunteering Queensland reserves the right to declare your entry ineligible if, in the reasonable opinion of the judging process, the information provided in your entry is deficient, false, or misleading in any way.
5. Finalists must have at least one representative to attend the Awards Presentation.
6. Entries are not registered as submitted until the submission email is received by the nominee.
7. Volunteering Queensland reserves the right to withdraw a category and cancel the award if an insufficient number of entries has been received, the quality of entries does not meet the criteria, or the entries are deemed inappropriate for any reason.
8. All entries for the Queensland Volunteering Awards should reflect the work being carried out over the previous year. However, this initiative can be running for longer than the last one year. Entries can include relevant information prior to this year that is pertinent to the entry.
9. Volunteering Queensland accepts no responsibility for entries that are not received, delayed, incomplete, or are lost due to a technical problem.
10. Volunteering Queensland reserves the right to reallocate a nomination to an alternate category should the judging panel deem it more relevant to the nomination.
11. Volunteering Queensland reserves the right to use entry photos and overview submissions for the Queensland Volunteering Awards marketing and promotion.
12. By entering the Queensland Volunteering Awards, you consent to ongoing communication from Volunteering Queensland, including newsletter updates. You may unsubscribe at any time.
13. Entries remain the property of Volunteering Queensland and are not returned.