AUSTRALIAN
EVALUATION
SOCIETY

2021 AES AWARDS
for
Excellence
in Evaluation

Information on nominations

CONTENTS

About the AES

The Australian Evaluation Society (AES) is a member-based organisation which exists to improve the theory, practice and use of evaluation.The AES aims for these improvements to benefit people involved in evaluation including evaluation practitioners, managers, teachers and students of evaluation, and other interested individuals. The AES undertakes a range of activities to improve the theory, practice and use of evaluation, including the annual Awards for Excellence in Evaluation.The Awards for Excellence in Evaluation align with the vision, mission, values and aims of the Society. Specifically, the Awards for Excellence advance the following AES aims:

→ promoting ethics and standards in evaluation practice

→ encouraging advances in the theory and practice of evaluation

→ increasing understanding of evaluation and advocating for quality evaluation, and

→ being inclusive of Indigenous and all other cultural perspectives.

About the Awards

The AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation aim to recognise and share excellence in evaluation theory, practice and use by:

→ motivating people to come into and stay in the field of evaluation

→ promoting the use of evaluation for positive impact and social good, for example supporting positive outcomes for Indigenous communities

→ promoting advances in the field of evaluation.

The six AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation are each focused on specific areas of the evaluation field such as the development of evaluation systems, enhancing the social good and evaluation publications.

The annual Awards recognise leading evaluators, leading evaluations, evaluation best practice and emerging evaluators. Receiving an Award offers significant peer recognition that has often proven an important contributor to professional and commercial success, and academic career progression.

The AES views evaluations as a partnership between the commissioner, the evaluator and the participants of the project. The Awards recognise the role of all the partners to an evaluation project, not just the evaluators.

The AES encourages all Award recipients to play an active role in promoting excellence in evaluation. Award recipients will be asked to consider ways in which their knowledge and experience may be shared with others and may be asked to contribute to articles and other promotions about the Award.

The AES publishes a summary of each Award recipient on the AES website.

VIEW AES AWARDS RECIPIENTS SINCE 1994
www.aes.asn.au/awards-recipients

About the Awards

Eligibility

A nominee must have been a member of the AES for a minimum period of 12 months prior to the nomination closing date.

Specific exceptions to this requirement are detailed below:

→ A nominee for the Emerging New Talent Award must have been a member at the time of nomination but is exempt from the 12-month minimum membership requirement.

→ In the case of a group nomination, at least one nominee must meet the 12-month minimum membership requirement.

→ For the Evaluation Journal of Australasia Publication Award and in the case of joint authorship of the *Evaluation Journal of Australasia* article at least one of the authors must meet the 12-month minimum membership requirement.

Timeline

Nominations close	Friday 2 July 2021
Award recipients notified	Mid-August
Awards presentation	Mid-September as part of a week of virtual activities celebrating evaluation

Confidentiality

All nominations and supporting documentation are treated as commercial-in-confidence and are confidentially handled and stored, and all copies appropriately destroyed at the conclusion of the Awards process by the AES and the Awards assessors.

About the Awards

Documents and forms required for your nomination

Note: Hard copy nominations will not be accepted

1. NOMINATION

There is no prescribed format for the nomination, but it must cover all the following areas:

The nomination is a summary explanation of why the team, organisation or individual should be given the Award.

It must not exceed **seven [7] pages**.

Please include information about the contribution the nominated project, organisation or person has made to attaining the objectives of the Award for which the nomination is made.

Please address the relevant assessment criteria and attributes, under each of the headings set out on page 8 of this document and refer to evidence to support the claims made.

Nominees should be confident that the evaluation team/person has not caused any major negative effect on stakeholders or agencies through their evaluation work or products.

Accepted formats: Word, PDF

PLUS:
EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE NOMINATION

Evidence to support the nomination should be provided, preferably via a link (URL) to electronic forms of documents.

Where relevant, the nomination should also refer to particular locations, e.g. page numbers, in supporting documents.

The evidence presented in support of the nomination will demonstrate excellence in its conceptualisation, design, implementation and reporting, along with exemplary professionalism and explicit adherence to the AES Code of Ethics and Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluations.

In all but the most exceptional cases, evidence in support of the nomination will include statements of support by third parties such as the commissioners of the evaluation and/or representatives of the evaluand.

2. NOMINATION FORM

The online nomination form collates basic contact and nomination details. It also allows for upload of the nomination and authorisation documents. The form can be accessed via the nomination portal.

A guide to completing the form is included in Appendix C. It is advisable to consult this offline form first, as the online form cannot be saved progressively.

ACCESS ONLINE NOMINATION PORTAL
www.aes.asn.au/awards-nomination

3. AUTHORISATION FORM

Depending on the Award, the nomination must be signed by a number of authorised signatories.

The authorisation form can be downloaded in PDF format and forwarded to the the signatories. A guide to completing the form is included in Appendix B.

Note: The completed form can be uploaded as several documents. Accepted formats: PDF, png, jpg

DOWNLOAD AUTHORISATION FORM

Award categories

There are six AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation which may be awarded each year:

1	**EVALUATION SYSTEMS AWARD**
2	**INDIGENOUS EVALUATION AWARD**
3	**EVALUATION JOURNAL OF AUSTRALASIA PUBLICATION AWARD**
4	**PUBLIC SECTOR EVALUATION AWARD**
5	**EMERGING NEW TALENT AWARD**
6	**AWARD FOR ENHANCING THE SOCIAL GOOD**

A project can be nominated in **only one category**. If you are unsure as to which category and criteria best fit your project, please email the AES Awards and Recognition Working Group Chair to seek their advice in confidence: awards@aes.asn.au

1. Evaluation Systems Award

This Award recognises the development of an exemplary integrated evaluation system and/or implementation of the evaluation system.

The work should be designed to be sustainable; and be undertaken in partnership with clients or users.

Nominees who have only developed an evaluation system will be considered for this Award. Nominees who can demonstrate excellent development and implementation will be assessed more highly than those who have only developed a system.

2. Indigenous Evaluation Award

This Award recognises Indigenous evaluation practice. This includes evaluations led by Indigenous peoples, and/or conducted in partnership with Indigenous peoples. It also recognises evaluation capacity building with Indigenous peoples in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Pacifica. Work nominated for the Award should:

→ generate positive impacts for the Indigenous communities

→ nurture Indigenous self-determination and sustainability[#]

→ empower Indigenous people in evaluation practice

→ strengthen the accountability of Indigenous evaluation.

Empowerment may include work in building evaluation capacity, building a culture of evaluation, and/or an awareness and interest in evaluation, and evaluation policy development. Nominations are assessed by a panel of Indigenous peers.

[#] The underlying intent of this point is to encourage a conceptual shift in practice from doing evaluations on Indigenous peoples towards doing evaluations with, and/or by, Indigenous peoples. For further guidance on the meaning of Indigenous self-determination and sustainability in this context, please refer to the descriptions in the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research – Consultation Draft, 2019.

Award categories

3. Evaluation Journal of Australasia Publication Award

Note: EJA editors make and are responsible for nominations for this Award.

This Award recognises the best article published in the *Evaluation Journal of Australasia (EJA)* published in the last 12 months. The Award is a joint initiative of the *EJA* editors and the AES Awards and Recognition Working Group. The *EJA* editors make the selection based on a review of all eligible articles in relation to professionalism, ethical conduct and the quality of the publication.

A quality publication will contain the following attributes:

→ sound use of evaluation theory and approaches

→ includes a literature review to substantiate the relevance of the evaluative study and context

→ contributes significantly to scholarship, research, and/or pedagogy

→ demonstrates originality of thought and careful investigation

→ is well-written and engaging for its intended audience.

4. Public Sector Evaluation Award

This Award recognises exemplary evaluation work conducted within the Australasian public sector that has been used to effect real and observable changes in policies or programs. It recognises the work of all the partners of the evaluation: those who commissioned it, conducted it and implemented its findings.

For the purposes of this Award, the Australasian public sector is defined as the executive branch of government (including quasi-autonomous bodies) at the local, state and national levels, or the administrative arm of the judiciary.

Nominations for this Award must demonstrate that at least one of the following elements was conducted within the Australasian public sector:

→ design of the evaluation and evaluation instruments

→ fieldwork

→ data analysis

→ reporting.

Nominations focusing on evaluation systems within public sector agencies will not be considered for this Award; they should be submitted under the Evaluation Systems Award.

Work conducted by contractors, consultants or academics employed and managed by a public sector agency is eligible for nomination. However, work conducted wholly by external consultants, academics or contractors without management or oversight by a public sector agency is not eligible.

Nominations need to explicitly demonstrate how the evaluation work has created observable changes in public sector policies and/or programs.

Nominations need to include evidence showing how the changes have occurred as a result of the process of evaluation or as a result of the evaluation's findings. Although the changes need not have occurred immediately, nominations will demonstrate a probable causal link between the evaluation process or products, on the one hand, and the changes in policies and/or programs, on the other.

Nominators' assertions about the extent and nature of the changes created by the evaluation must be supported by documentary evidence, including statements from third parties who are familiar with those changes in policies or practices.

Award categories

5. Emerging New Talent Award

This Award recognises emerging evaluators who have been working in the field of evaluation for fewer than five years. In this time, they will have made a made a significant contribution to the profession or practice of evaluation and will have demonstrated both quality and effectiveness in their work. Contributions may include evidence of leadership in professional activities or substantial accomplishments in their work.

6. Award for Enhancing the Social Good

This Award recognises exemplary evaluation work that has substantially enhanced the social good. Social good is defined as benefits that are experienced by the community. This Award is particularly focused on evaluation work which both recognises and helps to redress inequalities in society. It is concerned with promoting access and equity for communities or groups which experience disadvantage and marginalisation. The evaluation work may, for example, focus on issues such as poverty, deficits in health or education and geographic or social isolation. The disadvantage and marginalisation experienced may also intersect with issues such as race, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical or intellectual ability or ethnic background.

The evaluation work which is recognised may reflect a range of activities. This includes, for example, the conduct of program and policy evaluations, evaluation education, advocacy, sponsorship of particular kinds of evaluation, and efforts to promote the use of evaluation.

Assessment criteria

The Awards are assessed using three high criteria:

1. Professionalism

2. Ethical conduct

3. Excellence of the evaluation work

The first two criteria – professionalism and ethical conduct – mainly apply to the role of the evaluator and/or the evaluation team and must be clearly demonstrated. The principle of excellence is mainly concerned with evaluation practice, theory and products. Excellence is assessed on a scale against the attributes relevant to the category of Award.

1. Professionalism

The evaluation team/person demonstrates high professional standards in both evaluation and relevant domains, especially in dealing with challenges presented in their work. Nominations should reference statements of applicable professional standards from relevant professional bodies, where appropriate.

2. Ethical conduct

The evaluation team/person demonstrates high standards of ethical conduct, including adherence to the AES Code of Ethics and AES Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluations. In particular, nominations will demonstrate, where appropriate, an understanding of the special ethical considerations involved in evaluation work with Indigenous people.

3. Excellence of the evaluation work

The evaluation work (or person) should demonstrate attributes of excellence in ways relevant to the Award category – see descriptions for each Award on pages 5–7:

3.1.   Sound use of evaluation theory and approaches

3.2.   High quality and effective practice in consultation, design, planning, data collection, analysis and reporting

3.3.   Stakeholders highly satisfied with the evaluation work and its use or impact

3.4.   Significant contribution to utility and knowledge in the domain in which the evaluation is conducted

3.5.   Innovative approaches that contribute to, or that have the potential to contribute to evaluation knowledge and practice

3.6.   Significant contribution to evaluation work which both recognises and helps to redress inequalities in society.

The attributes of excellence apply to the Award categories as outlined in the list below and again in the table in Appendix A:

Evaluation Systems Award
Attributes 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.5

Indigenous Evaluation Award
Attributes 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.5

Evaluation Journal of Australasia Publication Award
Attributes 3.1 | 3.4 | and those listed under the Award description on page 6

Public Sector Evaluation Award
Attributes 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.5

Emerging New Talent Award
Attributes 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.4

Award for Enhancing the Social Good
Attributes 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.6

Assessment process

→ Assessors are provided with a summary of nominations and are required to declare any potential conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest is declared, the assessor will not be involved in any deliberations or adjudication relating to that nomination.

→ Each nomination is reviewed by at least two assessors, based on their experience/skills.

→ In the event that the selected assessors are unable to agree on the relative merit of a nomination, an additional assessor reviews the nomination before a final decision is made.

→ In the event that no nominations in an Award category meet the required standard, no Award will be given in that category.

→ Commendations are not given in any category.

→ Recommendations are submitted to the AES Board for approval.

→ The Board's decisions will be communicated to Award recipients prior to formal announcement of the Awards each year.

Further information

In the 'Awards' section of the AES website, you can find the following additional information:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE AES AWARDS AND RECOGNITION WORKING GROUP

Enquiries

AES Awards and Recognition
Working Group Chair
awards@aes.asn.au

How to nominate

Note: Hard copy nominations will not be accepted

1 Review Awards categories on pages 5–7 and decide which category is most suitable for your nomination. If unsure, contact the AES Awards and Recognition Working Group Chair for asssistance.

2 Prepare your **nomination** document (maximum 7 pages) together with your **evidence to support your nomination**. Refer to page 4 for details.

3 Download the **authorisation form** from the nomination portal and obtain signatures as required. Refer to Appendix B for guidance.

4 Go to the online nomination portal and complete your contact and nomination details, as applicable. Refer to Appendix C for guidance.

5 Upload the **nomination** and **authorisation** documents using the 'upload' buttons at the bottom of the online form. Note that the authorisation form can be uploaded as multiple files. You will receive an email confirmation of your submission.

ACCESS NOMINATION PORTAL

Appendix A: Mapping the attributes of excellence to the Award

AWARDS	ATTRIBUTES					
	3.1 Sound use of evaluation theory and approaches	3.2 High quality and effective practice	3.3. Stakeholders highly satisfied	3.4 Significant contribution to utility and knowledge in the domain	3.5 Innovative approaches that contribute or have the potential to contribute to evaluation knowledge	3.6 Significant contribution to evaluation work which both recognises and helps to redress inequalities in society
Evaluation Systems Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Indigenous Evaluation Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Evaluation Journal of Australasia Publication Award #	✓			✓		
Public Sector Evaluation Award	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Emerging New Talent Award	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Award for Enhancing the Social Good	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Additionally, the Evaluation Journal of Australasia Publication Award is assessed using the attributes listed under 'Awards categories' on page 6:

- sound use of evaluation theory and approaches
- includes a literature review to substantiate the relevance of the evaluative study and context
- contributes significantly to scholarship, research, and/or pedagogy
- demonstrates originality of thought and careful investigation, and
- is well-written and engaging for its intended audience.

Appendix B: Completing the authorisation form

Download the authorisation form from the nomination portal and obtain signatures as required.

DOWNLOAD AUTHORISATION FORM (PDF)

Upload the authorisation document using the 'upload' buttons at the bottom of the online form.

Accepted file formats for upload: PDF, png, jpg

The completed form can be uploaded as several documents if signatories are signing separately.

For the Emerging New Talent Award, there is no need to obtain the signature of any evaluation partners.

Online nomination form

AWARD CATEGORY

Please select for which Award category you are nominating (ONE only): *

- ○ Evaluation Systems Award
- ○ Indigenous Evaluation Award
- ○ Public Sector Evaluation Award
- ○ Emerging New Talent Award
- ○ Award for Enhancing the Social Good

TITLE OF NOMINATED PROJECT / PAPER / PERSON *

Name of nominator *

First

Last

Nominator's postal address *

Nominator's email *

Best phone number to contact nominator on *

--- Details of nominee/s (evaluator/s) ----

Name of nominated organisation

Nominee contact person (only if different from nominator)

First

Last

Nominee's postal address

Nominee contact email

Best phone number to contact nominee on

Names of other members of the project team

--- Details of evaluation partners (eg Commissioner) ----

Contact person for evaluation partner(s)

First

Last

Evaluation partner(s) postal address

Evaluation partner(s) contact email

Best phone number to contact evaluation partner(s) on

Names of other evaluation partners

Upload nomination document (.pdf, .doc, .docx)

[Choose file] No file chosen

Upload authorisation document(s) (.png, .jpg, .pdf) ❓

[Choose files] No file chosen

[SUBMIT]

If unsure which Award category to select, email awards@aes.asn.au

EJA editors make and are responsible for nominations for the Evaluation Journal of Australasia Publication Award.

For the Emerging New Talent Award, there is no need to include details of any evaluation partners.

The nomination is limited to seven [7] pages.

The signed authorisation form can be uploaded as multiple files.

Make sure you click the "submit" button. The nominator and nominee will receive a confirmation email of nomination.