



Australasian **Housing** Institute

Supporting Housing Professionals

Australasian Housing Institute

Excellence in Housing Awards 2010

The Australasian Housing Institute Awards recognise and reward excellence in housing professional practice.

Purpose

- To reward great work and achievements by individuals and teams
- To recognise best practice and high standards of service
- To promote and celebrate innovation
- To develop and increase the profile of our profession
- To promote the Australasian Housing Institute

Overview

The sixth annual AHI Awards have six categories. A category winner will be selected in each participating jurisdiction. Finalists from each jurisdiction will automatically be entered in the Australasian Awards, presented every second year to coincide with the Australian National Housing Conference.

Awards will go to housing professionals who are judged to have made a significant and lasting difference: to tenants or service users, to their community, to their colleagues and to their profession.

The Awards recognise the contributions and achievements of our colleagues in the many disciplines which make up the housing profession.

Categories

The AHI will present awards in six categories.

Individual Awards

1. Inspirational Colleague
2. Outstanding Achievement

Team Awards

3. Leading Innovation
4. Leading Practice
5. Leading Housing Solutions

Individual or Team Award

6. Tenant Led Initiative

Category Descriptors

Individual Awards

Inspirational Colleague

The winning candidate will be a person who consistently shows a willingness to add value over and above their official role, and who motivates others by the approach they take to their work. They will demonstrate a commitment to developing the effectiveness of others and to building better futures through leadership, partnership and involvement. They will, either formally or informally, act as a mentor to others engaged in social housing.

Outstanding Achievement

The winning candidate will be a housing professional who has made a strong impact on social housing over a number of years of committed professional service. Their work will demonstrate the enormous difference one person can make to the profession, a place or an issue. They will uphold the highest standards in social housing delivery and management, and have an exceptional capacity to effect change, in policy directions and/or practice, to increase the wellbeing of clients and colleagues.

Team Awards

Leading Innovation

This Award is for groups or teams who have undertaken an initiative or project that has led to significant change in their own organisation or community, with lessons that could be applied more broadly to other housing.

Leading Practice

Appropriate, safe and affordable housing makes a quantifiable difference to people's lives. This award is for housing professionals, who have shown a particular commitment to developing and delivering real benefits for clients. They will work creatively and efficiently to achieve long-term positive results for people in housing need.

They will find practical housing (and support) solutions that ensure that tenancies for clients with special needs are readily available and no more likely to fail than any others. Their partnerships and housing practice will engage housing managers, asset managers, support workers and other professionals in a team approach to meeting needs and maximising the quality of the housing response.

Leading Housing Solutions

Housing Practitioners contribute not only to direct client outcomes but also to outcomes for communities, including amenity, physical environment, social mix and sustainability. The winning group or team will have undertaken or been a major participant in significant work to deliver positive and lasting outcomes for communities through a housing response. The scale of the work need not be large but the ideas behind it should be. The winning candidates will be able to demonstrate that they have made a difference for a whole community in one or more of the following areas: sustain or regenerate neighbourhoods; integrate communities; make neighbourhoods safer; build the capacity of the community; invigorate the community through the development of services and employment; environmentally sustainable development; and/or environmentally sensitive housing management.

Individual or Team Award

Tenant Led Initiative

The winning candidate will be an individual or a group of residents or tenants who have undertaken a project or initiative to benefit others in their community. They will have involved others in identifying issues, making plans and taking action. Their project or initiative will have achieved real outcomes (such as creating networks, empowering and/or involving a community) and provide a model for other resident or tenant groups to learn from . They will be effective in finding an appropriate balance between the needs of individual clients, the needs of their community and the sustainability of their housing service.

Selection Criteria

Each category of Awards will be judged using the following broad selection criteria:

- The extent to which the person, group or team has reflected the intent expressed in the category descriptor
- Evidence of sustainable benefits for the community, the environment or the workplace
- Ideas that are transferable and can be adapted for use in other places and settings
- A clear commitment to developing skills and building capacity through tenant participation, team work, multi-disciplinary partnerships and/or interagency collaboration
- The achievement of excellence in practice through the application of strategic thinking, innovation, consistently high standards and/or continuous improvement
- Make a significant difference to the standing and profile of our profession

Eligibility for Nomination

Everyone who works in the housing sector, whether in a paid or volunteer role, is eligible for entry. Nominees need not yet be a member of the Australasian Housing Institute themselves, but they must be nominated by an AHI member.

Rewards for award recipients

Winners will be rewarded by:

- Public appreciation and recognition by their peers
- Promotion of their achievements and ideas through AHI publications and networks
- An article on their work in HousingWORKS (written by themselves or others)
- An opportunity to further promote and explore their ideas through presentations as part of the AHI seminar and workshop programs
- One year subscription to Housing Works for each person who receives an award
- One year's free membership of the AHI for the winners of individual awards

Conditions of Entry

1. Entries are invited from all housing professionals. All individuals or teams nominated must be nominated by a member of the AHI.
2. Entries must be submitted on the prescribed Entry Form and be accompanied by a photograph of the individual or team for display at the Awards Reception. Digital photographs must be clear enough to print at 300 dpi.
3. Entries should contain a
 - Summary statement of 10-15 words summarising why the individual or team is being nominated.
 - Responses against the Criteria for Selection outlining in greater detail how the individual or team has satisfied the requirements of the award
 - Two written references of no more than 500 words, using the format on the entry form
4. Nominations will be accepted only if the nominee has agreed for their name to be put forward.

5. Full details of the Awards, including what the winners will receive are contained within the Awards Brochure and on the AHI's web site.

Assistance for nominees

A guide to completing an award application is on the AHI's website. The Institute is unable to assist award recipients meet travel costs or to attend a presentation.

Entry Form

The awards entry form may be obtained from the AHI website.

Closing Date

NSW Monday 3rd May 2010

WA Wednesday 19th July 2010

Awards Presentations

NSW 20th May 2010

WA September 2010 (tbc)