



Royal Life Saving

130 years

THE AQUAS AWARDS GALA 2025

Nomination Guide



WELCOME TO THE AQUAS AWARDS GALA 2025!

The Aquas is Royal Life Saving's premier event, a night of celebration that honours the extraordinary contributions and dedication of individuals and organisations working to prevent drowning and promote aquatic participation across NSW/ACT. This year is particularly special as we mark our 130th anniversary, expanding our award categories to reflect not only our rich history but the incredible diversity of the people, programs, and services that shape our mission today.

In 2025, we broaden our scope to recognise excellence across the Community, Government, Industry, Lifesaving Sport, and Corporate sectors. These awards celebrate remarkable achievements, innovations, and leadership that drive the ongoing efforts to make aquatic environments safer and more inclusive for all.

The Aquas is more than an awards ceremony—it's a reflection of our shared commitment to water safety, community engagement, and fostering a culture of excellence. We encourage you to get involved in this year's nomination process, which is now simpler than ever. It's your chance to recognise and celebrate those who consistently go the extra mile, making a meaningful impact in our communities every day.

This guide will walk you through the nomination process, judging criteria, and details of each award category. Let's celebrate those who inspire, innovate, and lead in the aquatic industry.



KEY DATES

Nominations Open	Monday 10 February 2025
The Aquas Ticket Sales Open	Monday 24 February 2025
Nominations Closing	Friday 4 April 2025
Judging	Early April
The Aquas Ticket Sales Close	Thursday 17 April 2025
Presentation	Thursday 1 May 2025

WHY NOMINATE?

Nominating for The Aquas offers numerous benefits for both individuals and organisations:

- **Recognition:** Shine a spotlight on the outstanding efforts of your team, peers, or colleagues, giving them the acknowledgment they deserve for their dedication to water safety and aquatic participation.
- Promotion: Winners and finalists receive valuable exposure across Royal Life Saving's networks, amplifying their impact and promoting their achievements to the broader community and industry.
- **Leadership:** Elevate your standing within the aquatic industry by showcasing your commitment to excellence, innovation, and safety. Being recognised at The Aquas positions you or your organisation as a leader and role model.
- **Motivation:** Highlighting the hard work and achievements of your staff or partners is a powerful way to boost morale, encourage continued excellence, and foster a culture of recognition within your team.
- Networking: The Aquas Gala brings together key figures from across the aquatic industry, creating a platform for valuable connections and potential collaborations.
- **Legacy:** Contribute to the legacy of Royal Life Saving's 130-year mission to save lives and promote aquatic participation, while being part of a prestigious event that celebrates industry innovation and community impact.

By nominating, you're not only celebrating excellence, but also building a stronger, more connected aquatic industry. **Don't miss this chance to elevate your impact - nominate today!**



WHO CAN NOMINATE?

The great news is **everyone** can be part of The Aquas Awards Gala! Whether you're an individual, organisation, industry professional, or community member, you have the opportunity to nominate someone who inspires you. From dedicated pool lifeguards and swim teachers to innovative organisations and industry leaders, anyone who is making a positive impact in water safety and aquatic participation can be recognised.

This is your chance to celebrate those who go above and beyond—because in the Aquas Awards, **everyone's voice matters!**

HOW TO NOMINATE

Nominating for The Aquas Awards is easy! Follow these simple steps to submit your nomination:

- 1. Visit the website: Go to https://www.drowningprevention.org.au/theaquas
- 2. **Select your category:** Choose the award category you wish to nominate for.
- 3. **Complete the mandatory fields:** Fill out the required information, including details about the nominee.
- 4. **Submit your nomination:** Attach your awards submission, ensuring you address each of the essential criteria.
- 5. **Include supporting documents:** Attach any additional materials such as photos, media coverage, references, or other relevant documents to strengthen your nomination.
- 6. **Review and submit:** Double-check all the information you've provided, then hit submit!

Your nomination will be reviewed as part of the selection process—thank you for recognising excellence in water safety and aquatic participation!



SELECTION PROCESS



Once nominations are submitted for The Aquas Awards, they will first be reviewed to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria.



Eligible nominations will then proceed directly to the judging round, where they will be evaluated based on the information provided in the submission.



Each award category will be carefully assessed by judging panels composed of Royal Life Saving experts and respected representatives from the aquatic industry. These panels will review all nominees against the specific criteria for their respective categories, considering their achievements, contributions, and overall impact.

The process is designed to be thorough and fair, ensuring every nominee has an equal opportunity to be recognised for their efforts.



All nominees will be notified of the outcome, whether they have been selected as a finalist or not.



Finalists and winners will be celebrated at The Aquas Awards Gala, where we honour those making a significant difference in water safety and the aquatic industry.





AQUAS

Awards Gala

Sarah Grand Ballroom, Le Montage 38 Frazer Street, Lilyfield

01.05.2025

Tickets on sale 24 Feb 2025

AWARD CATEGORIES AND DESCRIPTIONS

LIFESAVING SPORT AWARD CATEGORIES

These awards recognise the dedicated athletes and officials whose remarkable efforts have defined the sport, showcasing skill, dedication, and sportsmanship. These awards serve as a tribute to their unwavering commitment to lifesaving proficiency and their significant impact on the sport.

INDUSTRY AWARD CATEGORIES

Honouring distinction in the aquatic industry, these prestigious awards celebrate individuals and organisations that exemplify the highest standards and practices, inspire their peers, significantly advance the safety and quality of aquatic environments, and make a profound impact on our community.

AQUATIC EXCELLENCE CATEGORIES

Our pinnacle awards, the Aquatic Excellence categories, recognise individuals and organisations that demonstrate exemplary practices within their specific subcategories. Whether through nomination or the discerning selection of Royal Life Saving, these awards highlight exceptional commitment, innovation, and leadership, setting the highest standards in the field.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

President's Award recognises clubs, partner organisations and schools for their continued and significant contributions or service to the activities or operations of Royal Life Saving. This Award is not available to individuals. There is no limit to the number of President's Awards that may be presented annually.



LIFESAVING SPORT AWARDS

LIFESAVING SPORT AWARDS COMPETITOR OF THE YEAR

DESCRIPTION

Celebrating a top-performing athlete who has achieved remarkable success and exemplified sportsmanship in Pool Lifesaving competitions.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- > Level of Competitions Participated In: List the levels of competition the nominee has participated in during the nomination period, including State, National, and/or International events.
- > Outstanding Achievements: Describe the nominee's outstanding achievements in Pool Lifesaving Sport during the nomination period. Include specific accomplishments at Interclub, State, National, and/or International levels.
- > **Significance of Achievements and Contribution to the Sport:** Explain the significance of the nominee's achievements and their overall contribution to the development and promotion of Pool Lifesaving Sport. Highlight how these achievements have positively impacted the sport and inspired others.
- **Commitment to Pool Lifesaving Sport:** Illustrate how the nominee has demonstrated a strong commitment to Pool Lifesaving Sport. This could include dedication to training, participation in community events, mentoring other athletes, or advocating for the sport's growth and recognition.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open to current Royal Life Saving competitive members.

Submissions should include supporting documents, competition results, and any relevant evidence to demonstrate the nominee's achievements and contributions to Lifesaving Sport.

LIFESAVING SPORT AWARDS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO LIFESAVING SPORT

DESCRIPTION

This award recognises an exceptional non-competitive member within the Lifesaving Sport community, including coaches, officials, administrators, and other dedicated club members. The recipient will have demonstrated outstanding skill, leadership, and commitment to the development and support of pool lifesaving as a sport, fostering growth and inclusivity within their lifesaving club or the wider community.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- > **Roles and Contributions:** Detail the nominee's roles and contributions to lifesaving sport during the nomination period. Include involvement in officiating, coaching, administration, or other support roles.
- **Leadership and Mentorship:** Demonstrate how the nominee has provided leadership and guidance within their role. Highlight mentorship of athletes, officials, volunteers, or other members of the lifesaving sport community.
- **> Promotion of a Positive and Inclusive Environment:** Describe how the nominee has cultivated a supportive, inclusive, and fair environment emphasising their dedication to fostering engagement and growth of the sport within the community.
- > Impact and Achievements: Showcase the nominee's impact on lifesaving sport, including contributions to events, programs, or initiatives. Highlight any notable achievements or milestones reached during the nomination period.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open to current Royal Life Saving non-competitive members, including coaches, officials, administrators.

Submissions should include supporting documents, testimonials, and any relevant evidence to demonstrate the nominee's achievements and contributions to Lifesaving Sport.



INDUSTRY AWARDS

INDUSTRY AWARDS POOL LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR

DESCRIPTION

Recognising an individual lifeguard who has demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and professionalism in their duties.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- **Skill and Dedication:** Describe specific instances where the nominee has demonstrated exceptional lifeguarding skills and dedication.
- **Professionalism**: Provide examples of how they have maintained professionalism and leadership in challenging situations and/or exceptional customer service.
- > **Safety and Facility Improvements:** Outline how they demonstrate a strong commitment to safety and overall contribution to the facility.
- **Achievements in Rescue Application and/or Professional Development:** Detail any significant achievements in aquatic or CPR rescues or a proactive approach to training and professional development. Include relevant dates, outcomes, and any recognition received.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are for currently licenced and working Pool Lifeguards who display a high level of diligence to their role.

INDUSTRY AWARDS POOLIE OF THE YEAR

DESCRIPTION

Honouring an Aquatic Technical Operator and/or Duty Manager who has excelled in managing pool water quality, ensuring safety, and leading their team effectively.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- **Pool Water Quality Management:** Explain the nominees' approach to managing and maintaining pool water quality. Provide specific examples and outcomes.
- **Team Leadership:** Describe how the nominee has effectively led their team. Include examples of initiatives or changes they have implemented to improve team performance.
- > **Safety Measures:** Detail the safety measures the nominee has put in place and their impact on the facility.
- Ongoing Education: Outline the efforts the nominee has made to educating and upskilling the next generation of pool operators and their commitment to their own professional development. Include details of courses taken/delivered, certifications earned, and how these have improved the operations of the facility.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open to qualified Aquatic Technical Operators and/or Duty Managers currently employed in an aquatic facility, who displays significant expertise in pool plant operations, workplace health and safety, supervision and leadership.

INDUSTRY AWARDS SWIM TEACHER OF THE YEAR

DESCRIPTION

Celebrating a swim teacher who has shown outstanding commitment to teaching swimming skills and promoting water safety.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- **Commitment to Water Safety Education:** Describe the nominees' commitment to teaching swimming skills and promoting water safety. Provide specific examples.
- > **Innovative Teaching Practices:** Provide examples of innovative teaching practices they have implemented. Describe their impact on students.
- **Inclusion**: Detail the ways in which the nominee guarantee that each student can engage in activities tailored to their individual level of knowledge, skill, and comprehension.
- **Professional Development:** Outline the efforts of the nominee to professional development. Include courses taken, certifications earned, and how these have improved your teaching.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open to currently qualified and experienced Swim Teachers, including those who teach speciality streams and have significant experience in water safety education.

INDUSTRY AWARDS INDUSTRY LEADER OF THE YEAR

DESCRIPTION

The Industry Leader of the Year award recognises an outstanding individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership, innovation, and dedication within the aquatic industry. This prestigious award celebrates those who have made significant contributions to their organisation, advocated for water safety and drowning prevention, and inspired others through their commitment to excellence and education.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- **Leadership and Positive Work Environment:** Provide evidence of initiatives or practices you have implemented that have improved team morale and productivity.
- > Advocacy for Water Safety and Drowning Prevention: Detail your efforts in promoting for water safety and drowning prevention within the community and industry. Include specific campaigns, programs, or partnerships. Explain the impact of your advocacy work on raising awareness and promoting water safety practices.
- > Contribution to the Aquatic Industry/Facility Mangement: Highlight your significant contributions to the aquatic industry and/or aquatic facility. This could include innovative projects, leadership roles, or industry recognition. Provide examples of how you have influenced or advanced the industry/aquatic through your work.
- Knowledge Sharing and Education: Detail how you have shared your knowledge and expertise to educate the next generation of aquatic professionals. This could include mentoring, training programs, or public speaking engagements. Provide examples of the impact your educational efforts have had on individuals or the community.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations may be from a person that currently hold a leadership position within the aquatic industry, such as Facility Manager, Swim School Coordinator/Manager, Area Manager, Recreation Manager, Industry Supplier, or a similar leadership-based role.

INDUSTRY AWARDS SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR

DESCRIPTION

Recognising a supplier who has excelled in maintaining or supporting aquatic facilities, ensuring safety, and enhancing user experience.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- > **Support to Aquatic Facilities:** Describe how the organisation has supported aquatic facilities. Provide specific examples and outcomes.
- > **Safety and User Experience Enhancement:** Explain the organisations contributions to enhancing safety and user experience through innovative products and/or services for aquatic facilities.
- **Customer Satisfaction**: Demonstrate how the organisation provides high levels of customer satisfaction, including testimonials or feedback from clients within the aquatic industry.
- **Sustainability Practices:** Outline the organisations commitment to sustainable practices and environmental responsibility in their operations and products.
- > **Promotion of Water Safety:** Detail the organisations efforts in promoting water safety. Include specific initiatives and their impact.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open to industry suppliers that are actively involved in supplying products, services, or solutions to the aquatic industry.

INDUSTRY AWARDS AQUATIC FACILITY OF THE YEAR

DESCRIPTION

This award recognises exceptional aquatic facilities and swim schools that demonstrate excellence in safety, community impact, innovative programming, and operational management. It celebrates facilities that provide outstanding service, promote water safety education, and enhance accessibility, user satisfaction, and environmental sustainability.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- > Operational Excellence Demonstrate excellence in managing your facility or swim school, including safety standards, programming, and alignment with the Royal Life Saving Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations (GSPO).
- **Community Impact:** Highlight initiatives, events, or partnerships that have positively impacted your local community. Provide examples of measurable outcomes and benefits.
- **Commitment to Water Safety** Detail your facility's or swim school's contributions to promoting water safety education, training, and awareness, including any unique approaches or programs.
- **Environmental and Sustainability Practices:** Highlight sustainability and environmental practices your facility/swim school has implemented, with examples of how these contribute to operational efficiency and community wellbeing.
- > Innovative Programming and Services: Highlight any innovative programming or services your facility/swim school offers that set it apart from others. Provide examples of how these programs have been received by the community and their impact on patronage and engagement.
- **Staff Development and Retention:** Detail your efforts in staff development and retention. Include training programs, professional development, and any initiatives aimed at supporting staff growth and satisfaction. Explain how these efforts have contributed to a high-quality, motivated, and well-trained team.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations may be from an owner or operator of an aquatic facility or Swim School (both public and private).



AQUATIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN CULTURAL DIVERSITY

DESCRIPTION

This Award recognises individuals or organisations who have made a difference or innovative approach to culturally diverse communities within a swimming, lifesaving or drowning prevention context. This may be a one-off or ongoing initiative/program.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- > Community Engagement and Outreach: Describe how the nominee has engaged with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) or Indigenous communities to promote water safety. Provide examples of outreach programs, partnerships, or community events specifically targeting these groups.
- > **Culturally Sensitive Programs and Initiatives:** Detail any culturally sensitive programs or initiatives the nominee has developed or implemented. Explain how these programs have been tailored to meet the needs and preferences of the community they are engaging with. Provide evidence of the success and impact of these programs.
- > **Education and Awareness:** Illustrate how the nominee has contributed to increasing education and awareness about water safety within CALD or Indigenous communities. Alternatively, detail any cultural awareness training implemented for staff about the community/ies they are engaging. Highlight any innovative approaches used to effectively communicate these messages.
- Challenges and Solutions: Identify the specific challenges faced in engaging with these communities in water safety initiatives. Explain the strategies and solutions the nominee has implemented to overcome these challenges.
- **Impact and Outcomes:** Provide evidence of the positive impact and outcomes of the nominee's initiatives on their communities. Include testimonials, feedback, or data that demonstrates the effectiveness of these efforts.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations may be from a person from a diverse or disadvantaged background or an individual or organisations who has contributed to diverse and/or disadvantage communities within an aquatic context.

EXCELLENCE IN ACCESS AND INCLUSION

DESCRIPTION

This Award recognises individuals or organisations who have made a difference or innovative approach to Inclusion for people with different abilities, the LGBTQIA+ community or other underrepresented groups within a swimming, lifesaving or drowning prevention context. This may be a one-off or ongoing program/service.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- Inclusive Programs and Services: Describe how the nominee has developed or implemented programs and services that are inclusive. Provide examples of specific initiatives designed to meet the unique needs of these groups.
- Accessibility Enhancements: Detail any enhancements or modifications made to facilities, programs, or services to improve accessibility. Explain how these changes have facilitated greater participation and inclusion.
- **Advocacy and Support:** Illustrate how the nominee has advocated for the inclusion and support of specialised groups within the aquatic community. Highlight any partnerships or collaborations with organisations made in this process.
- > **Challenges and Solutions:** Identify the specific barriers faced in creating inclusive environments for specialised groups. Explain the strategies and solutions the nominee has implemented to overcome these challenges.
- Impact and Outcomes: Provide evidence of the positive impact and outcomes of the nominee's inclusion initiatives on specialised groups. Include any data that demonstrates the effectiveness of these effort.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations may be from a person from of different abilities, the LGBTQIA+ community or other underrepresented group or an individual or organisations who has contributed to people of different abilities, the LGBTQIA+ community or other underrepresented group within an aquatic context.

EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING AND EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

This Award recognises individuals, local governments or organisations who have made a difference or innovative approach to a Swimming or lifesaving training or education program that has been implemented.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- **Engagement**: Describe how the nominee has provided a contribution to their community and/or industry in Training & Education.
- > **Training Program Design:** Describe the nominees' approach to designing training programs. Include specific examples of programs they have developed.
- > Implementation and Delivery: Provide examples of how the nominee has effectively implemented and delivered training programs. Describe (and provide evidence) of improvements and/or achievements made in Training and Education over the past 12-18 months.
- > Impact on Skills and Knowledge: Detail the impact of your training programs on the skills and knowledge of participants.
- **Commitment to Royal Life Saving:** Describe how the nominee has shown commitment to Royal Life Saving values through the Training and Education program.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations may be from an owner or operator of an aquatic facility, its developer, trainer, teacher, or education specialist who are part or fully responsible for education within the aquatic industry.

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION

DESCRIPTION

Celebrating innovative solutions, technologies, or methodologies that have significantly advanced the field of drowning prevention, the aquatic industry or aquatic safety, demonstrating creativity and impact.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

- > Innovative Solutions or Technologies: Describe the innovative solutions, technologies, or methodologies you have developed or implemented. Provide specific examples of these innovations and the outcomes they have achieved.
- Impact on Drowning Prevention or Aquatic Safety: Detail the impact of your innovations on drowning prevention, the aquatic industry, or aquatic safety. Include measurable outcomes and evidence of how these innovations have contributed to improved safety and prevention efforts.
- > **Creativity and Implementation:** Explain the creative process behind your innovations, including the inspiration, research, and development phases. Describe how these innovations were implemented, and highlight any challenges faced during the process and how they were overcome.
- **Achievements:** Detail the key outcomes that have directly resulted from the introduction of this innovative product or program. Include specific achievements, recognition, or awards received as a result of these innovations.
- Sustainability and Scalability: Describe the sustainability of your innovations and their potential for scalability. Explain how your innovative solutions can be maintained over time and adapted or expanded to benefit a larger audience or broader range of applications.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations may be from an owner or operator of an aquatic facility, organisations, suppliers or individuals who have developed a new or improved upon existing product, program or service that has enhanced aquatics.

EXCELLENCE IN DROWNING PREVENTION

DESCRIPTION

This Award recognises individuals, community groups, government or organisations who have made a difference or innovative approach to Drowning Prevention at a community level.

AWARD CRITERIA

For entry into this category submissions should answer the following:

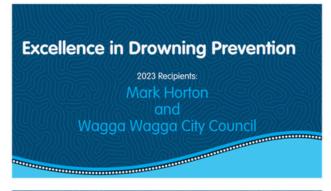
- Community Impact: Describe the nominee's contributions to their community in the area of drowning prevention. Include specific examples of initiatives, programs, or actions taken that have made a significant impact.
- **Enhancements and Achievements:** Provide a detailed account of the improvements and/or achievements the nominee has made in drowning prevention over the past 12-18 months. Include any evidence or data that supports these accomplishments.
- **Commitment to Drowning Prevention:** Illustrate how the nominee has demonstrated a strong commitment to drowning prevention through their initiatives. Highlight ongoing efforts, dedication, and any recognition received for their work.
- > **Challenges and Solutions:** Identify the challenges the nominee has faced in their efforts to prevent drowning and explain how they have successfully addressed and overcome these obstacles.
- Innovation and Creativity: Describe any innovative approaches or creative solutions the nominee has implemented to enhance drowning prevention efforts. Provide examples of how these innovations have been effective.
- > **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Highlight any collaborations or partnerships the nominee has formed to advance drowning prevention. Describe how working with other organisations or community members has contributed to their success.

NOMINATIONS

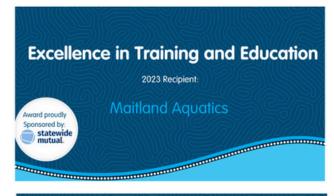
Nominations may be from an owner or operator of an aquatic facility, local government, community groups, government agency or individual who have made a significant contribution to drowning prevention.

2023 THE AQUAS RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to all of our 2023 Agua Award Winners.

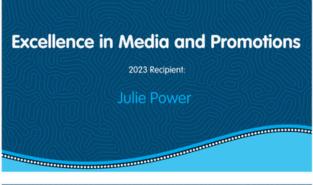




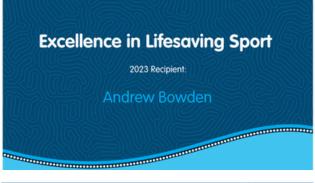
















NOMINATE TODAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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drowningprevention.org.au