Nominated Social Workers must be eligible for Membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers.

The AASW recognises the special place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians. We are committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social workers and communities, turning our good intentions into actions wherever possible.

SOCIAL WORK PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

‘Head, Heart & Hands Award’ recognises the outstanding career of a social worker with more than four years’ experience who has demonstrated sustained commitment to best practice, makes an outstanding positive difference and a significant impact in their work for clients, community and/or the social work profession.

Eligibility: Qualified social worker with more than 4 years’ experience across direct practice, (individual and community) advocacy work, policy development, research, education and or management where the application of social work philosophy, skills and values has been evident.

Achievement: Describe how this social worker has demonstrated qualities of excellence, vision, innovation and communication to make an outstanding positive difference and a significant impact in their work for clients, the community and/or the social work profession. Describe how this social worker has contributed to the leadership development of others.

Professionalism: Describe how this social worker uses professional skills, knowledge and values in the work undertaken.

INSPIRING SOCIAL WORK LEADER OF THE YEAR

‘Inspiring Social Work Leader’ of the Year Award recognises excellence and innovation by a social worker in a leadership or management position. Someone who inspires and guides others; serves as a role model for innovation and creative thinking; provides a clear vision of the future; and leads to achieve significant improvements and change.

Eligibility: The social worker holds a leadership position in a paid or voluntary capacity; manages people and resources and is responsible for achieving outstanding outcomes that distinguish them above the ranks of everyday successful managers.

Achievements: Demonstrate how this social worker has displayed their leadership qualities (for example: drive and integrity; productive relationship building and mentoring; inspires a sense of purpose and direction and harnesses opportunities and resources; increases inclusion; communicates with influence) to achieve specific outcomes; describe any barriers or difficulties they encountered; and what is the impact of their efforts.

Professionalism: Describe how this social worker uses professional knowledge, skills and values for effective leadership, management and innovation.
RISSING SOCIAL WORK STAR OF THE YEAR

‘Rising Star’ Award recognises the outstanding performance of a recently qualified social worker (less than three (3) years), demonstrating potential leadership within the industry and making an outstanding positive difference to individuals, families or communities.

Eligibility: Qualified social worker with up to 3 years’ experience across direct practice, (individual and community) advocacy work, policy development, research, education and/or management where the application of social work philosophy, skills and values has been evident.

Achievement: Describe how this social worker is demonstrating potential leadership and making an outstanding positive difference to individuals, families or communities.

Professionalism: Demonstrate how this social worker uses professional knowledge, skills and values to work effectively

RURAL AND REMOTE SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR

‘Rural & Remote Award’ recognises the outstanding performance of a social worker who works with a rural or remote community in South Australia, working creatively with the resources and assets of a rural or remote context.

Eligibility Criteria: The Awards Program defines rural and remote as those areas with South Australian postcodes external to the metropolitan Adelaide area (Specifically excluding: 5000 – 5006, 5131 – 5254, 5061 – 5150, 5006 – 5730, 5034 - 5173 and 5007 – 5950). The nominee’s place of employment needs to be outside these areas.

The social worker has contributed to making an outstanding positive difference to individuals, families or communities living in rural or remote communities.

Achievements: Demonstrate how this social worker has made an outstanding positive difference to individuals, families or communities in a rural and remote context.

Professionalism: Demonstrate how this social worker has been creative and used professional knowledge, skills and values to make an impact in rural and remote practice (This may also include how knowledge about the local community has been an asset to the social workers’ professionalism).
SOCIAL WORK CHANGE AGENT OF THE YEAR

‘Agent of Change Award’ recognises the outstanding contribution by a social worker who makes transformative difference to individuals, families or communities through organisational or systems change.

Eligibility Criteria: The social worker has contributed to systemic change through good practice in policy practice, planning, education, research, advocacy, community development and/or management of change processes.

Achievements: Demonstrate how this social worker works within or outside the system to be changed, and uses a variety of change strategies including but not limited to policy practice, advocacy, community development, planning, research, education and management of change processes. Include details of the impact of the changes.

Professionalism: Demonstrate how this social worker uses professional knowledge, skills and values to effect positive systemic change.

For details of the nomination process:


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