

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS GUIDELINE

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RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS UNIT	Economic Development
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Manager Economic Development
LEGISLATION	
RELEVANT DELEGATIONS	
RELATED POLICIES MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FRAMEWORKS	Civic Recognition Policy - 871794
COUNCIL RESOLUTION	899.2
DATE ADOPTED	9 June 2026
REVIEW DATE	9 June 2030
PREVIOUS REVISIONS	October 2025

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Rural City of Murray Bridge's Australia Day Awards is to publicly acknowledge and celebrate contributions to the community and outstanding achievements of individuals, groups or organisations.

2. SCOPE

The objectives of the Guideline are to provide a framework for Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB) to recognise, together with the Australia Day Council of South Australia, these contributions to the community and outstanding achievements of individuals, groups or organisations.

3. AWARD CATEGORIES

The Awards are provided by the Australia Day Council of South Australia and administered by RCMB.

Nominations will be considered in the following award categories:

- **Citizen of the Year** - This is presented to someone making an extraordinary contribution to the community and may recognise outstanding service over a number of years.
- **Young Citizen of the Year** - This is presented to a young emerging leader who is making a real difference in their community.
- **Community Event of the Year** - This is presented to the person or group who has staged the most outstanding event for their community.
- **Award for Active Citizenship** - This is presented to a person or group delivering outstanding work on an event or project for the community during the past calendar year.

In addition to the Australia Day Awards, RCMB may recommend nominees who are not Award recipients in any of the four categories to receive a certificate of Community Commendation from RCMB to formally

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acknowledge those nominees who have positively contributed to the community.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Citizen of the Year Award: to be eligible, the person must be an Australian citizen.
2. Young Citizen of the Year Award: to be eligible, the person must be an Australian citizen under 30 years of age on January 26, 2022.
3. Community Event of the Year Award: To be eligible, the person or group must be Australian Citizens.
4. Sitting state and federal politicians, current vice-regal officers, current elected members of Council and current Council staff are not eligible.

5. NOMINATION PROCESS

- The call for nominations will be advertised in October each year.
- Nominees should be those persons who have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.
- Nominees should be residents of the RCMB Council area or have provided significant community service to the residents of the Rural City of Murray Bridge.
- Nomination opening and closing dates will be determined by the Australia Day Council of South Australia and will be advertised on RCMB website.
- Each nomination must be made on the Citizen on the Year Awards Nomination Form.
 - The online form can be accessed here: [Nomination Form](#)
 - Hard copies of the Nomination Form will be available from the Local Government Centre.
 - Hard copies need to be returned to Australia Day Council of South Australia, Office 18, 240 Currie St, Adelaide SA 5000 or via email to adcsa@adcsa.com.au
- Nominations should address the selection criteria for the nominated category and provide details of the nomination by answering the questions contained within the Nomination Form.
- Council officers may contact the nominator or referees to seek further information.

6. SELECTION CRITERIA

The Selection Criteria of the Award Categories are determined by the Australia Day Council of South Australia and may be subject to change.

[Criteria | The Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards](#)

7. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1. In choosing the recipients of the Citizen of the Year Awards, regard is given to the nominee's achievements in the year immediately prior to receiving the award, as well as their past achievements and ongoing contribution to the community.
2. All nominations received are provided by the Australia Day Council to the RCMB for consideration and selection.
3. Administration will appoint a Selection Panel for the purpose of assessing nominations.
4. The Selection Panel will comprise of:
 - a. Two(2) Administration staff appointed by Administration each year; and
 - b. One (1) community member selected by the RCMB Community Advisory Committee for a term

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of two years.

5. Members of the Selection Panel are not eligible.
6. The Selection Panel shall declare a conflict of interest and remove themselves from assessment of any family members that are nominated.
7. Each nomination will be assessed on the Selection Criteria as provided by the Australia Day Council of South Australia. [Criteria | The Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards](#)
8. The Selection Panel may transfer a nomination between the award categories in consultation with the nominator.
9. Each nomination will be scored according to Selection Criteria on a scale 0-5. A maximum score of 15 points can be awarded for each nomination.

Assessment of Selection Criteria	Score
Does not meet criteria	0
Criteria poorly met	1
Just fails to meet criteria	2
Meets criteria	3
Meets criteria well	4
Meets criteria at a high level	5

10. The Selection Panel will make recommendations to Council for the Award recipients.
11. The Selection Panel may recommend remaining nominees in any of the categories to receive a certificate of Community Commendation to formally acknowledge contribution to the community.
12. The recommendations for Award recipients will be presented to Council in a confidential report, annually to the December Council meeting for endorsement.

8. AWARD CEREMONY

- The Citizen of the Year Award recipients and Community Commendation recipients are announced at a public Award Ceremony.
- The Award Ceremony is held annually on 26 January.
- Council will notify all Award nominees and extend an invitation to attend the Award Ceremony.
- The Award recipients will be notified prior to the event.

9. REVIEW

This guideline will be reviewed every Council term, or more frequently if legislation, relevant standards or organisational needs change.