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# 2022 Education and Care Awards Gala

The Early Childhood Australia ACT Branch proudly presents the 2022 Education and Care Awards Gala.

This event promotes, recognises and celebrates the incredible effort of all who work within the children’s education and care sector across the ACT. The evening includes a three-course meal, lolly bar, photo booth, live entertainment and much more.

The awards component of this event showcases the commitment, innovation and achievement of individuals and services within our sector. Each finalist receives a complimentary ticket, with additional tickets available for purchase.

We request that all finalists attend the gala evening—please consider this when choosing to nominate.

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) is working in conjunction with the Hellenic Club and [ACT Health](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/) to ensure the 2022 Education and Care Awards Gala is a COVID-safe event. The health and wellbeing of all participants is our priority.

## Key dates

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| **2022 Selection process** | **Key date** |
| Nominations open and ticket sales begin | 26 July 2021 |
| Nominations close | 29 July 2022 |
| Finalists notified and announced | 26 August 2022 |
| Interviews for finalists at ECA National Office | 7–8 September 2022 |
| Ticket sales close | 16 September 2022 |
| 2022 Education and Care Awards Gala | 30 September 2022 |

Award categories

* Sector Support
* Rising Star
* Sector Advocacy
* Innovation in Pedagogy and Practice
1. Family day care
2. Birth to three
3. Three to five
4. Out of School Hours Care (OSHC).
* Educator or Early Childhood Teacher
* Director
* Educational Leader.

## How to submit a nomination for an award

1. Review the eligibility criteria.

2. Ensure you are nominating in the correct category.

3. Read and agree to the conditions of entry.

4. Gather relevant details and start building your application.

5. Address the selection criteria.

## Completing and submitting your nomination

Nominations must be submitted electronically to awards@earlychildhood.org.au

## General eligibility for nominations

* An individual can only be nominated for one award—please note, this does not mean they cannot be part of a service award. For example, a service may be nominated for an Innovation in OSHC Award as well as an educator for the Educator of the Year Award, however they cannot then nominate that educator for any other award.
* All nominations must be supported by the individual’s employer.
* All finalists must be prepared to attend an interview with the judging panel on Wednesday 7 or Thursday 8 September at ECA National Office.
* All finalists must be in attendance on the night of the 2022 Education and Care Awards Gala on Friday 30 September 2022.

## Evidence

* You may attach evidence supporting your nomination.
* A maximum of three single A4 page attachments are allowed per nomination. Any material exceeding this will not be provided to the judging committee.
* This evidence must be limited to text and still images—links etc. provided will not be viewed or provided to the judging committee.
* Consider how the children, families and team at the service can help to support the nomination in your evidence.

## Conditions of entry

**By submitting a nomination, you agree:**

* to attend the interview with the finalist judging panel on Wednesday 7 or Thursday 8 September at ECA National Office
* to attend the 2022 Education and Care Awards Gala on Friday 30 September
* that all content and claims in your nomination are true and correct
* that any decisions relating to the awards process are final and that ECA nor ECA ACT Branch will not enter into justification for the selection of successful nominees and will not debate the evaluation process
* that failure to adhere to the Education and Care National Law, Education and Care National Regulations or the removal of your Working with Vulnerable People Card registration will result in instant disqualification/removal
* to participate in future promotion of the event in the following years
* to being photographed and filmed while participating in the gala event and all processes leading up to it; for example, at the finalist interviews
* that information surrounding your application and images or quotes from you at the gala event will be used by ECA and ECA ACT Branch on social media platforms and publications
* to present on the information included within your nomination as requested by ECA ACT Branch in 2022/2023.

## Privacy

Only the ECA ACT Branch, appointed members of the judging committee and appointed finalist judging panel members have access to a nominee’s information. Personal information will not be disclosed to any other party without the nominee’s consent, unless authorised or required by law. All judging committee members and finalist judging panel are required to sign confidentiality and conflict-of-interest statements.

## Judging process

All applications will be received by the official email for the event: awards@earlychildhood.org.au

Each nomination will then be distributed to members of the judging committee.

All applications will be assessed against the selection criteria to determine the finalist. **Each finalist will be notified on Friday 26 August 2022.**

The finalist judging panel will receive three finalist nominations for each category. They will conduct an interview with each finalist to assist in making the final decision.

As previously stated, each member of the committee and panel will sign a privacy and conflict-of-interest statement that includes a clause in which they agree to only make a judgement based on the selection criteria and that they will remain ethical in their decision-making at all times.

## Disclaimers

* No member of the finalist judging panel, or their service or colleagues, are eligible to nominate for the awards.
* While members of the judging committee are eligible to nominate for an award, as are their service/employer/colleagues, they will not judge within their nominated category as part of the conflict-of-interest agreement signed.
* **If you were the recipient of an individual award at the 2019 gala, you are ineligible to apply for an award this year. Your service may still apply.**
* **If you were the recipient of a service award in the Innovation category last year, you are ineligible to apply under this category this year. You may still apply for individual awards.**

## Tips for preparing an application

* A successful applicant will stand out from the crowd.
* A quality application will be clear and concise and address all selection criteria.
* Remember that the judges do not know the nominee and your task is to convince them that this nominee is a worthy choice.
* Consider what the nominee has achieved, how it was achieved it, what practical examples you have to support it and what gives them the edge over other nominees.
* Start today—give yourself enough time to write the application and do not leave it until the last minute.
* Keep your language clear and concise.
* Show the first draft of your application to someone who will provide you with critical and honest feedback. Ask someone to check the final draft—it makes a difference and is a worthwhile investment of time.
* Make sure any attachments are of high quality and that evidence provided has been referenced in the application.
* Think big, the only limitation is your imagination.
* Simply tell your story.
* Applications close at **5.00pm Friday 29 July 2022**, so make sure you allocate enough time to write your response to each criterion and get your application submitted by this date.

## Submission checklist

* I have not submitted an application for more than one award.
* I meet the eligibility criteria for the award.
* I have addressed all assessment criteria.
* I have completed all mandatory sections and questions.
* I have read and understood the conditions of entry and privacy requirements.
* I have not exceeded the word count or attachment limit.

**Director Award**

### Eligibility

* The nominee must be currently working in an approved education and care service as a director/coordinator and has been so for longer than 12 months.
* Nominee organisations must hold a current approval to operate an education and care service in the ACT.
* The nomination must be supported by the service’s Approved Provider/employer. This can be in the form of a reference/supporting statement from the employer, which can be attached to the application. This is separate to the additional three pages of evidence you are entitled to submit.

### Overview of nominee

Please provide a short overview (200 words) explaining who the nominee is, their background, how and when they came into working as part of, or alongside, the children’s education and care sector. This information will not be considered for judging but will be used in the awards process as an identity summary.

### Selection criteria

### Criterion 1: Leadership with and for others (300 words)

* How does the nominee maintain and develop their own knowledge and skills?
* How does the nominee support others to do the same?
* How does the nominee support the diverse needs of their team?

### Criterion 2: Leadership within the wider education and care sector (300 words)

* What level of engagement does the nominee have with the wider sector and professional bodies?
* How has the nominee exhibited leadership and provided inspiration to others?
* How has the nominee shared their knowledge and positively influenced the wider sector?

### Criterion 3: Going above and beyond (300 words)

* What examples are there of how the nominee has taken initiative to go above and beyond in their role?
* What examples are there of how the nominee’s pedagogical practice and commitment have improved outcomes for children and families?

**2022 Education and Care Awards**

**Director Award**

**NOMINATION FORM**

When completing this form please comply strictly with the guidelines, completing each field.

**Closing date for applications: 29 July 2022**

**1. Information about the Nominator**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Service name |       |
| Name of Contact |       |

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| --- | --- |
| Mailing Address |       |
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| Telephone | Home |       |
|  | Mobile |       |
|  | Other |       |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Email |       |

**2. Information about the Nominee**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Nominee |       |
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| Mailing Address |       |
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| Telephone | Home |       |
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| Email |       |

Privacy statement

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**3. Details of Workplace**

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| --- |
| Name of service/preschool/other where working |
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| --- | --- |
| Manager/supervisor |       |

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| --- | --- |
| Manager’s phone |       |

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| Manager’s email |       |

**4. Overview of the Nominee**

Please provide a short overview explaining who the nominee is, their background, how and when they came into working as part of, or alongside, the children’s education and care sector.

***Maximum 200 words***

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|       |

*This information will not be considered for judging but will be used in the awards process as an identity summary.*

**6. Criterion 1:** Leadership with and for others (300 words)

* How does the nominee maintain and develop their own knowledge and skills?
* How does the nominee support others to do the same?
* How does the nominee support the diverse needs of their team?

***Maximum 300 words***

|  |
| --- |
|       |

**7. Criterion 2:** Leadership within the wider education and care sector (300 words)

* What level of engagement does the nominee have with the wider sector and professional bodies?
* How has the nominee exhibited leadership and provided inspiration to others?
* How has the nominee shared their knowledge and positively influenced the wider sector?

***Maximum 300 words***

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| --- |
|       |

**8. Criterion 3:** Going above and beyond (300 words)

* What examples are there of how the nominee has taken initiative to go above and beyond in their role?
* What examples are there of how the nominee’s pedagogical practice and commitment have improved outcomes for children and families?

***Maximum 300 words***

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| --- |
|       |

Please send your completed application to awards@earlychildhood.org.au.