

2013 AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation

Nomination information sheet

ABOUT THE AES

The Australasian Evaluation Society (AES) is the primary Australasian professional organisation for people involved in evaluation including evaluation practitioners, managers, teachers and students of evaluation, and other interested individuals. The AES undertakes a range of activities to improve the theory, practice and use of evaluation, including the annual Awards for Excellence in Evaluation. These awards are designed to encourage and recognise outstanding contributions to the theory and practice of evaluation, and are an important indicator of the Society's quality standards. For more information about the AES go to <http://www.aes.asn.au>.

ABOUT THE AES AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EVALUATION

The AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation recognise exemplary evaluation practice, evaluation systems or evaluation capacity building in Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Pacifica). Awarded annually, the awards provide significant peer recognition for leading evaluators, leading evaluations and evaluation best practice. The award recipients represent best-in-class for each Award category.

The AES views evaluations as a partnership between the commissioner, the evaluator and the participants of the project. For evaluative projects, the awards recognise the role of all the partners, not just the evaluators.

The AES encourages all Award recipients to play an active role in promoting excellence in evaluation. Award recipients will be asked to consider ways in which their knowledge and experience may be shared with others (download *Tips and Advice* at <http://www.aes.asn.au/awards-nomination-information.html>).

OBJECTIVES OF THE AES AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EVALUATION

To recognise, promote and encourage exemplary evaluations, evaluators and evaluation practice in Australasia which adhere to the following principles:

- excellence
- professionalism
- ethical conduct.

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The principles of professionalism and ethical conduct mainly apply to the role of the evaluator and/or the evaluation team. The principle of excellence is mainly concerned with evaluation practice and products.

THE EIGHT AES AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EVALUATION

There are eight AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation which may be awarded each year. They are divided into two main categories:

- (a) Two awards that recognise individual evaluators (nominated by their peers)
 - 1. Emerging New Talent Award
 - 2. Outstanding Contribution to Evaluation (ET&S) Award
- (b) Six awards that recognise evaluative projects: e.g. evaluations, evaluation products or system and policies
 - 3. Best Evaluation Publication (Caulley Tulloch) Award
 - 4. Best Evaluation Study Award
 - 5. Best Evaluation Policy and Systems Award
 - 6. Community Development Evaluation Award
 - 7. Indigenous Evaluation Award
 - 8. Best Public Sector Evaluation Award

ELIGIBILITY

A nominee must have been a member of the AES for a minimum period of 12 months prior to the nomination closing date:

- except that a nominee for the Emerging New Talent Award must have been a member at the time of nomination but is exempt from the 12-month minimum membership requirement.
- in the case of a group nomination, at least one nominee must meet the 12-month minimum membership requirement.

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CLOSING DATE

Friday 28 June 2013

CONFIDENTIALITY

All nominations and supporting documentation are treated as commercial-in-confidence and are confidentially handled and stored, and all copies appropriately destroyed at the conclusion of the awards process by the AES and the Awards Panel judges.

AWARDS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Nominations will be assessed against the objectives of the category for which they are nominated and the assessment criteria that apply to that award.

The assessment criteria for 'professionalism' and 'ethical conduct' are defined as:

- **professionalism** – demonstrated quality and adherence to professional standards especially in dealing with challenges presented in their work;
- **ethical conduct** – demonstrated high standards of ethical conduct as individuals (including a demonstrated understanding of the vulnerability or disempowerment of disadvantaged groups) and adherence to the AES Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluations and the AES Code of Ethics.

Excellence in evaluation is assessed using some or all of the six assessment criteria outlined below:

- **quality** – of the evaluation or in the application of evaluation theory, principles, methods and practice – this involves appropriateness, fitness for purpose and technical quality;
- **leading edge** – clearly an example of innovation and good practice in this class of evaluation (the specific award category);
- **contribution to knowledge** – to improving/refining one or more of evaluation theory, scholarship, principles, methods and/or evaluation practice;
- **effectiveness** – in achieving client/project objectives, in its response to context, in partnering and/or cross training with the client/s or in making a difference/delivering better client outcomes through the application of evaluation theory, principles, methods and practice;
- **equitable** – inclusiveness through the advancement of the prospects, demonstrating fairness, social justice, equity and involvement of key stakeholders, including the effective engagement of special interest groups (culturally and linguistically diverse, Indigenous, youth, etc.); and

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- **sustainable** – providing continuity and sustainability of evaluation and/or the integration of evaluation as an ongoing component of client, agency or sectoral policy, programs, projects or services.

Check the awards section of the AES website at <http://www.aes.asn.au/awards-nomination-information.html> for tips and advice in submitting your nomination.

AES AWARDS DESCRIPTIONS

a) Two awards that recognise individual evaluators (nominated by their peers)

AWARD	DESCRIPTION
<p>EMERGING NEW TALENT AWARD</p> <p><i>(Nominations must not exceed 5 pages)</i></p>	<p>This award recognises emerging new evaluators who have demonstrated a significant contribution to the field of evaluation, or to a major evaluation project in the short period of time they have been working in the evaluation area. Evidence should be provided about the specific contributions made by the nominee.</p>
<p>OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO EVALUATION (ET&S) AWARD</p> <p><i>(Nominations must not exceed 10 pages. Relevant attachments may be included)</i></p>	<p>AES member, Anona Armstrong, initiated this award in the name of her company 'Evaluation Training and Services.' The award recognises an AES member for his/her outstanding career contribution to the objectives of the AES, to evaluation theory and to the evaluation profession in Australasia.</p>

(b) Six awards that recognise evaluative projects: e.g. evaluations, evaluation products or system and policies

AWARD	DESCRIPTION
<p>BEST EVALUATION PUBLICATION (CAULLEY TULLOCH) AWARD</p> <p><i>(Nominations must not exceed 5 pages)</i></p>	<p>Initiated by AES member Darrel Caulley this award recognises the best journal article, conference paper, research paper, undergraduate or postgraduate thesis or other peer reviewed publication in evaluation.</p>

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AWARD	DESCRIPTION
<p>BEST EVALUATION STUDY AWARD</p> <p><i>(Nominations must not exceed 7 pages. Relevant attachments must include an Executive Summary)</i></p>	<p>This award recognises an individual or team that has conducted a specific evaluation study which has made or has the potential to make, a significant contribution to the practice or use of evaluation in Australasia.</p>
<p>BEST EVALUATION POLICY AND SYSTEMS AWARD</p> <p><i>(Nominations must not exceed 10 pages. Relevant attachments must include a two page summary of the policy/system/framework/ methodology)</i></p>	<p>This award recognises the work of an individual or team in developing the best evaluation policy, integrated evaluation system, evaluation program, framework and/ or implementation of evaluation policies, systems, programs or frameworks.</p> <p>It is expected that the award will recognise work undertaken in partnership with clients or users who have championed the evaluation and can attest to increased value for their business or endeavour arising from the evaluation process or specific evaluation findings.</p> <p>The scope of the evaluation includes policies, programs, products, services, personnel, management strategies and other initiatives.</p>
<p>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION AWARD</p> <p><i>(Nominations must not exceed 5 pages)</i></p>	<p>This award encourages evaluations and evaluation processes that contribute to and have made a demonstrable impact on community development.</p> <p>For the purposes of this award, community development is considered to be a process of collective effort in which individuals and/or groups act together to effect change in their own life or within their community and the decisions affecting them.</p> <p>The award recognises evaluation work that addresses the needs of specific interest groups and/or those often not included or not effectively engaged in evaluation studies (e.g. culturally and linguistically diverse, Indigenous, youth, women). It also covers evaluations of overseas aid and/or development initiatives.</p>

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<p>INDIGENOUS EVALUATION AWARD</p> <p><i>(Nominations must not exceed 5 pages)</i></p>	<p>This award recognises evaluation practice and evaluation capacity building with Indigenous peoples in Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Pacifica).</p> <p>For the purposes of the award, 'Indigenous peoples' refers to the 'first peoples' in the place where the work is being conducted. The Indigenous peoples of Australasia include the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, the Maori peoples of New Zealand, people from Papua New Guinea and Pacifica.</p> <p>Work nominated for the award should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support positive outcomes for the Indigenous communities; • promote sound, respectful and appropriate practice of evaluation; • engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Maori and Pacific peoples in evaluation practice; • enhance ethical evaluation processes; and • strengthen the evaluation capacity of Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Islander, Maori and Pacific peoples. <p>Capacity building may include work in building evaluation capacity, building a culture of evaluation, and/or an awareness and interest in evaluation and evaluation policy development.</p>

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AWARD	DESCRIPTION
<p>BEST PUBLIC SECTOR EVALUATION AWARD</p> <p><i>(Nominations must not exceed 5 pages)</i></p>	<p>This award recognises evaluation work conducted within the Australasian public sector that has been used to effect real and measurable change in policies or programs. The changes may have occurred as a result of the process of evaluation or as a result of the evaluation reporting process. The changes need not have occurred immediately as long as there is a demonstrated probable causal link back to the evaluation.</p> <p>Nominations for this award must demonstrate that at least one of the following elements was conducted within the Australasian public sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • design of the evaluation and evaluation instruments • fieldwork • data analysis • reporting <p>For the purposes of this award, the Australasian public sector is defined as the executive branch of government (including quasi-autonomous bodies) at local, State and National¹ levels or the administrative arm of the judiciary.</p> <p>Work conducted by contract staff employed and managed by a public sector agency is eligible for nomination. Work conducted wholly by external consultants, academics or contractors is not eligible.</p> <p>This award recognises the work of all the partners of the evaluation: those who commissioned it, conducted it and implemented its findings.</p>

¹ Australia or New Zealand