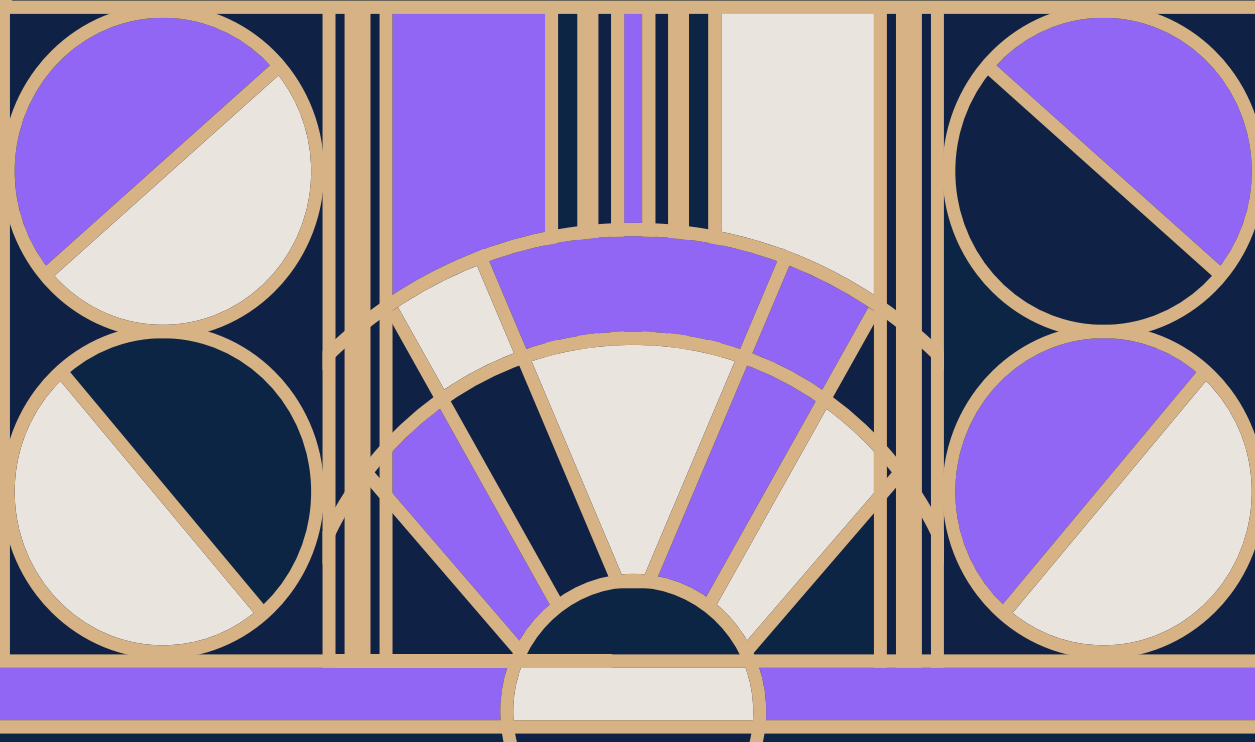


**YMCA South Australia
Awards for Excellence**

2025

Nomination Pack



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INTRODUCTION

Our people are not only employees, but also co-heirs of the purpose and legacy of the YMCA. When we each joined the Y, we were effectively grafted into a much bigger story, the “long arc of history” as Martin Luther King Jr. put it. Not only the 175 years gone by, but the history yet to be made in the life of our State, communities and the individuals within them. As in a relay race, we now hold the baton.

We work together every day to create opportunities for people and communities grow in body, mind and spirit. The Awards for Excellence are the perfect way to celebrate our achievements from the past year and acknowledge the valuable work we do for the community.

YMCA South Australia Awards for Excellence encourage, promote and recognise excellence and innovation. Participating in the Awards program allows you and your team to highlight your most outstanding qualities, successes and initiatives over the past year.

The 2025 Awards for excellence are related to achievement from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

The awards will be presented at a party to be held on **30 August 2025** at the **Piccadilly Cinema, 181 O’Connell Street, North Adelaide, 5006**.

AIM OF AWARDS

The overall aim of the YMCA South Australia Awards for Excellence is to:

- Highlight the exceptional staff working in our organisation showing leadership and management qualities
- Recognise excellence demonstrated by YMCA South Australia programs and services
- Create public awareness of the level of expertise and excellence in the industry.

AWARD CATEGORIES

SERVICE AWARDS

To recognise the service of employees and volunteers over 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 years.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Community Partnerships
- Engaging Future Minds
- Excellence in Operational Management
- Outstanding Contribution by a Young Person
- Emerging Leader of the Year
- George Williams Award – Employee of the Year

INDIVIDUAL / GROUP AWARDS

- Excellence in Innovation

GROUP AWARDS

- Program of the Year
- Jack Massey Award - Team of the Year

An independent selection panel of 4 individuals will be responsible for the judging of all entries. Each category will be judged on its merits. All applications will be considered on the criteria of each category as detailed in the online e-Awards portal.

ENTRIES

All nominations for the YMCA South Australia Awards for Excellence must be submitted by close of business 17 July 2024 via e-Awards.

If you are uncertain about eligibility or have any questions in relation to the information provided, please email awards@ymcasa.org.au or contact Komala Champion on 8200 2500.

E-AWARDS

Our online e-Awards portal provides entrants with a secure user-friendly, web-based interface to guide you through the submission process.

- One single account to enter into multiple entries
- Automatic confirmation email is sent to entrants upon submission completion
- Edit / re-upload submission until entries close
- One attachment per submission will be accepted.
- Nominations must include a photo of the nominee.

The portal will be open from 24 June 2025. An email will be sent with instructions on how to register and create an e-Awards account.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS!

- Discuss the nomination with your Manager first, this will help with ideas and also to ensure that you are not doubling up with another nomination.
- Don't leave your submission to the last minute
- Write your submission in Word first to assist with formatting, spell check and word count. You can then cut and paste into the portal.
- You have the ability to upload a powerpoint, photograph, audio or video file to enhance your application. This is not a way to add additional words to the word count but some visual evidence of the submission.

KEY DATES

Entries open: 24 June

Entries close: 17 July

Judging closes: 31 July

Party: 30 August

2025 finalists announced 9 August

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q.

Can I nominate someone who was nominated, or was the recipient or finalist of the same award last year?

A.

Yes. All staff and volunteers are eligible to be nominated regardless of previous nominations or awards. However, it is only the nominee's contribution throughout the period of 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025 that will be considered.

Q.

Can you nominate someone who has not been employed for the entire year?

A.

Yes. All staff that have been employed during the year can be nominated.

Q.

Can volunteers be nominated in all categories?

A.

Volunteers can be nominated in all individual categories.

Q.

Will there be an interview?

A.

There are no interviews. Entries are judged solely on the written submission and supporting attachment.

Q.

How do I purchase tickets for this year's awards evening?

A.

Tickets can be purchased through TryBooking with a link being sent via mail chimp. Tickets go on sale 17 June 2024 and places are strictly limited so you are encouraged to purchase your tickets early.

Q.

I am not nominated, can I still attend the Awards Party?

A.

Yes, all YMCA staff and volunteers are encouraged to attend.

Q.

Can I bring a friend or partner to the Awards Party?

A.

Yes. You can purchase a guest ticket at the same time as you buy your ticket.

Q.

I am nominated for an award. Do I need to buy a ticket?

A.

No. All nominees and service recipients will receive a complimentary ticket.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

AWARD CATEGORY

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Eligibility

Any individual who was an employee or volunteer of YMCA South Australia between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

Award Outline

This award recognises an individual who has developed meaningful and continuing collaboration between themselves, their service, their program or YMCA SA and the local community.

The nominee's actions have meant that YMCA South Australia has become a more integrated and vital part of their community.

The partnership may be with the community, sporting groups, other nonprofits, local Government, State Government agencies or even internal groups within the Y.

Nomination Questions

1. Nominee's name, role and program
2. Explain how the nominee is strengthening the impact on the local community. Provide examples. (max 250 words)
3. How has the nominee shown skill and dedication in cultivating meaningful connections and fostering strong relationships? (max 250 words)

AWARD CATEGORY

ENGAGING FUTURE MINDS

Eligibility

Any individual who was an employee or volunteer of YMCA South Australia between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

Award Outline:

This award recognises outstanding achievement, initiative and support by an individual in developing a caring and nurturing environment that builds happy children, young people and strong families.

The award celebrates exceptional care, practices and partnerships that improve the health, learning, development and wellbeing of South Australian children and young people aged 0 to 18 years.

The nominees actions will have strengthened their community and made a difference to one or more children or young person.

Nomination Questions

1. Nominee's name, role and program
2. Explain how the nominee has helped to engage and inspire children and young people in the community. Provide examples (max 250 words)
3. How has the nominee shown skill and dedication in cultivating meaningful connections and fostering strong relationships? (max 250 words)

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

AWARD CATEGORY

EXCELLENCE IN OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Eligibility

Any individual who was an employee or volunteer of YMCA South Australia between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

Award Outline:

This category is for an individual who demonstrates dedication to best practice, customer service and striving for the highest standards in the delivery of our business. The award will celebrate operational innovations, improved practices and operational excellence within their program, service or team.

Nominees for this Award must have demonstrated excellence in their field, and displayed dedication and commitment to YMCA South Australia and/or the broader community over and above what their role requires.

Nomination Questions

1. Nominee's name, role and program
2. Describe how the nominee has helped to inspire the people they work with. Consider areas such as developing self and others, dedication and commitment to YMCA and the local community, innovation in leadership and management practices (max 250 words).
3. In what ways does the nominee exemplify exceptional support and collaboration within their team, ensuring their colleagues feel valued and empowered? (max 250 words)

AWARD CATEGORY

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY A YOUNG PERSON

Eligibility

Any individual aged between 15 and 25 years who was an employee or volunteer of YMCA South Australia between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

Award outline

This award recognises a young person who is making an outstanding contribution to the organisation and who displays a positive attitude to work and learning.

The award aims to encourage young people employed with the YMCA to develop their skills and gain valuable experience.

The nominees actions will show a willingness to go above and beyond to support their team, program or service, upholding the Y culture.

Nomination questions

1. Nominee's name, role and program
2. Describe the nominee's most significant achievements during the submission period. Outline why you believe these were significant, how they were achieved and how this actively contributed to business improvement (max 250 words).
3. In what ways does the nominee exemplify exceptional support and collaboration within their team, ensuring their colleagues feel valued and empowered? (max 250 words)

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

AWARD CATEGORY

EMERGING LEADER OF THE YEAR

Eligibility

Any individual who was an employee or volunteer of YMCA South Australia between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025. Nominees must not currently be or have previously been in a senior management or management role.

Award Outline:

A key desire of YMCA South Australia is to develop a pipeline of emerging leaders who can take our centres, programs and organisation forward into the future. These people live out the mission in an authentic way that others want to be part of.

They have demonstrated a capacity for leadership and maintain the highest ethical and professional standards at all times.

The nominee will show the self-awareness, confidence and emotional intelligence that positively impacts on others and their roles.

Nomination Questions

1. Nominee's name, role and program
2. Specify the nominee's most significant achievements during the submission period. Outline why you believe these were significant, how they were achieved and how this actively contributed to business improvement (max 250 words).
3. How has the nominee demonstrated the power to inspire and uplift those around them, fostering a culture of motivation and positivity? (max 250 words)

AWARD CATEGORY

GEORGE WILLIAMS AWARD-EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Eligibility

Any individual who was an employee or volunteer of YMCA South Australia between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

Award outline

This is our peak award for individual performance, named in honour of the YMCA's founder, Sir George Williams. This award recognises an individual who exemplifies the Mission, Vision and Values of YMCA South Australia, and clearly demonstrates "the Y Factor" in how they interact with others.

It recognises exceptional service and the achievement of outstanding results for YMCA South Australia and the community.

Nominees should demonstrate a passion for the Y and their future career.

Nomination questions

1. Nominee's name, role and program and the reason for choosing to nominate them for the Employee of the Year
2. Specify the nominee's most significant achievements during the submission period. Outline why you believe these were significant, how they were achieved and how this actively contributed to outstanding results for YMCA South Australia and the local community (150 words).
3. Describe how the nominee has helped to inspire the people they work with. Include meaningful partnerships and exceptional contributions to community activities (150 words).
4. Specify the nominee's most exceptional achievements during the submission period (150 words).
5. Provide two examples of how the nominee exemplifies the Mission, Vision and Values of the Y and clearly demonstrates and role models "the Y factor" in their interactions with their team (150 words).

INDIVIDUAL / GROUP AWARDS

AWARD CATEGORY

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION

Eligibility

Any employee / volunteer / group of YMCA South Australia between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

Award outline

Innovation is an important part of YMCA South Australia in providing the best for our communities in our ongoing growth and development as an organisation.

This Award specifically recognises the use of innovative thinking or practices to achieve outstanding benefits for the organisation, planet and/or community.

Nominee's actions should demonstrate innovation as it applies to process improvements, management practices, environmental responsibility and/ or community projects and initiatives.

Nomination questions

1. Nominated team, service, program or person.
2. Describe the innovation and its purpose.
Consider why it is innovative and what it is trying to achieve (eg what issue/problem is it solving). The innovation can relate to a new product or service or reflect innovative changes to process, workflow or department. Consider the impact or potential impact of the innovation on YMCA SA and its broader impact (250 words).
3. How did the nominee foster engagement and collaboration to drive the innovation forward? (max 250 words).

GROUP AWARDS

AWARD CATEGORY

PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

Eligibility

New or established programs that have run at any time between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

Award outline

This award recognises excellence in a program developed or delivered within YMCA South Australia.

This high-quality program will exceed the expectations of the participants/community it serves and be well-regarded by peers within the industry.

The awards recognise leadership where an individual, team or group has developed a concept or practice that significantly improves the community in which they work.

Nomination Questions

1. Brief overview of the initiative or program
2. Describe the impact the program has had on the community and how the program advances YMCA SA's mission of "Creating opportunities for all people to grow in body, mind and spirit." Please provide an example. Consider the extent to which the program promotes and supports equity, diversity and inclusion (max 250 words).
3. How has the program team demonstrated exceptional commitment to the long-term sustainability of their program, implementing strategies that not only ensure current success but also contribute to future viability and positive impact? (max 250 words)

AWARD CATEGORY

JACK MASSEY AWARD - TEAM OF THE YEAR

Eligibility

Any team (including business units, centres, or services) within YMCA South Australia between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

Award outline

This award recognises a team that has worked exceptionally well together to strengthen the YMCA's impact in their community and embodied the "Y Factor" culture that represents the essence of what makes the YMCA so different from its competitors.

The team of the year will have made a difference to their community and shown why every community in South Australia deserves to have a Y.

Nomination Questions

1. Describe the team and explain how they have made an outstanding contribution to YMCA South Australia and the community. Please provide examples. Consider how this outstanding and exceptional achievement or success exceeds normal expectations of performance. (150 words)
2. Explain how the team has engaged and fostered collaboration between different teams, departments, or organisations (internal or external). Please provide examples. (150 words)
3. Explain how the team embodies the "Y Factor" - those deeper qualities we want to see in our people that bring our mission to life in their day-to-day interactions with each other, our partners and members of the public. Please provide examples.(150 words)
4. Explain how the team promotes and supports equity, diversity, and inclusion among peers, clients, and the broader community. Please provide an example.(150 words)
5. Explain how the team has demonstrated creativity, imagination, and innovation in addressing issues faced by the organisation or the community. Please provide an example. (150 words)



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