

2027 Citizen of the Year Awards



Categories, Eligibility and Guidelines

Do you know someone who makes a difference in your community?

The Citizen of the Year Awards are proudly presented by the Australia Day Council of South Australia in partnership with the Coorong District Council.

Nominations are now open and close at **5pm on Wednesday 28 October 2026**. The Awards acknowledge the unsung heroes of our community who through their contributions make our district a better place. These individuals and organisations offer outstanding service each day and enable our communities to be stronger as a result of their tireless efforts.

Their noteworthy contribution may have occurred during the current year and/or they may have given outstanding service over a number of years, to a local community over and above normal employment duties.

Outstanding contribution and community service includes areas such as; education, health, fundraising, charitable and voluntary services, business, sport, arts, the environment, or any other area that contributes to the advancement and wellbeing of a community.

Nominate someone who makes a real difference in your community and give them the opportunity to be celebrated and recognised for their important contribution.

Award Categories Open to Nomination

Citizen of the Year

This award is presented to individuals who operate within our community and inspire us through their achievements. They may be someone making an extraordinary contribution to the community and may be recognised for their outstanding service over a number of years.

For example: a teacher, a friend or a neighbour who has somehow made a difference to the lives of those people who live, work, play or study in our community.

To be eligible, the person must be an Australian Citizen.

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Young Citizen of the Year

This award is presented to young emerging leaders who operate within our community and inspire us through their achievements. They may be a work colleague, a friend or a neighbour who has somehow made a difference to the lives of those people who live, work, play or study in our community.

To be eligible, the person must be an Australian Citizen aged over 16 years and under 30 years of age on January 26, 2027.

Community Event of the Year

This award is presented to an individual or group responsible for staging the district's most outstanding community event of the year. This event will have had a positive impact on members of our community and as a result, will have made our district a better place to live, work, play, study and/or visit.

To be eligible, the person or group must be Australian Citizens.

Community Project of the Year

This award is presented to the individual or group responsible for the district's most outstanding community project(s) of the year. This project(s) will have had a positive impact on members of our community and/or environment and as a result will have made our district a better place to live, work, play, study and/or visit.

To be eligible, the person or group must be Australian Citizens.

Procedure

Nominate someone who makes a real difference in your community by filling out this nomination form and give them the opportunity to be rewarded and recognised for their important contribution. Successful recipients will be presented with their awards at a ceremony scheduled within the council area on or within a couple days either side of Australia Day 2027.

2027 Citizen of the Year Awards



Eligibility criteria

- Nominees must be Australian citizens.
- Awards will not be granted posthumously
- Self-nominations will not be accepted.
- Nominees must be at least 16 years of age in the year of the award presentation
- Nominees for the category of Young Citizen of the Year must be 30 years of age or less on 26 January in the year of the award presentation.
- Sitting state and federal politicians, current vice-regal officers and elected members of Council are not eligible.
- Retired politicians, elected members and vice-regal officers will be considered for work undertaken in addition to their official duties.
- Unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated in subsequent years.
 - Councils may choose to re-submit nominations that do not receive an award for future consideration in subsequent years of the program.
- Groups of people, organisations or couples will not normally be eligible for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year, though in exceptional cases the selection panel reserves the right to consider such nominations.
- Both Individuals, Organisations and groups of people should be considered for the Community Project(s) or Community Event of the Year as this recognises the organising body or committee responsible for the event.
- Absolutely NO weight is given to the number of times a person or organisation is nominated.
- Previous recipients of award categories may receive the award in the future, however the work that this person or organisation made in receiving the original award may not be considered.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE:

WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2026 AT 5PM.

No further nominations will be accepted after the submission deadline.



Other Award Categories (not open to nominations)

Mayor's Award

The Mayor's Award recognises a community member, project, or event that has made an outstanding contribution to the community over many years and is likely to continue making a positive impact in the future.

The Mayor's Award is selected by the Mayor and Coorong District Council's Elected Members, so nominations are not required.

Current and former Council employees, elected members, and mayors are eligible for consideration where their contribution has gone beyond their official role and responsibilities.

As this is a special recognition awarded at the Mayor's discretion, it may not be presented every year.

Mayor's Award eligibility criteria

- Recognises a community member, project or event that has made a significant contribution to their community over an extended period of time & shows potential for the future.
- Awards within this category are granted at the discretion of the Coorong District Council.
- Nominees for this category are automatically considered if nominated as either a Young Citizen or Citizen of the Year. Members of the community who have not been nominated as Young Citizen or Citizen of the Year may also be considered.
- The Mayor's Award is also open to current or past employees, former elected members and former mayors of the Coorong District Council and will be considered for work undertaken in addition to their official duties, provided they are nominated in the categories listed above.
- The Mayor grants this award at their discretion, it may not be presented every year.