

**2026 HORSHAM AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS**

Awards Eligibility and Judging Guidelines

# 1. AWARDS OVERVIEW

The Horsham Australia Day Awards program is held each year to recognise and honour the achievements of individuals and community groups who do outstanding things within the Council.

Members of the community are encouraged to nominate those who make them proud to be Australian.

Nominations close 21 November 2025.

Winners are announced at the Horsham Australia Day Ceremony event held on Australia Day Monday 26 January 2026.

# 2. AWARD CATEGORIES

Council provides the opportunity to recognise individuals and community groups for the outstanding work they do in the community. There are three award categories available for nomination.

The award categories are listed below:

* Young Citizen of the Year (Must be under 25 years as of 26 January 2026)
* Citizen of the Year
* Community Event of the Year

# 3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for an award, the following criteria applies. All nominations will be checked against the criteria before the judging process commences.

* Nominees must be Australian citizens.
* Nominees must either live, work or volunteer in the Horsham municipality.
* Self-nominations will not be accepted.
* Nominators must have the permission of person/group they are nominating prior to submitting an application.
* Awards will not be granted posthumously.
* Previous recipients of the Horsham Australia Day Awards are ineligible to receive the same Award within a 10-year period.
* Current local Councillors and Members of Parliament are not eligible.
* Retired Members of Parliament and former Councillors will only be considered for work undertaken in addition to their official duties.
* Nominations cannot be accepted by current Councillors or Members of Parliament
* Council staff and their immediate family are not eligible.
* Unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated in subsequent years.

**Note:**

* Nominees can only be nominated once. However, multiple supporting letters to be attached to the nomination.
* To be eligible for the Young Citizen of the Year Award, the person must be under 25 years of age as at 26 January 2026.

# 4. SELECTION CRITERIA

In scoring the nominations, regard is given to the nominee’s achievements in the year immediately prior, alongside their past achievements and ongoing contribution to the Horsham community.

The selection criteria includes**:**

1. Level of contribution to the community.

2. Inspires the community as a role model.

3. Level of voluntary contribution beyond paid employment.

4. Length of activity or service.

5. Degree of difficulty of task and sacrifices made.

In ensuring the Horsham Australia Day Award, recipients are representative of our diverse community, consideration may be given to gender, age and ethnicity.

# 5. WINNERS

Award winners will be determined by the overall highest total score per award category.

The nomination that scores the highest overall points from all individual award categories (excluding Community Group of the Year) will be deemed the Citizen of the Year.

Award winners will be informed by a phone call from the Mayor and will be asked to keep this confidential.

Winners will be announced at the Horsham Australia Day Ceremony held on Australia Day Monday 26 January 2026.