

QUICK LINK



# 2026 South Australian Child Protection & Family Support Awards

## Nomination Guide



Government of South Australia  
Department for Child Protection

**NAPCAN** PREVENT  
CHILD ABUSE  
& NEGLECT



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# KEY DATES

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Nominations open	Monday 18 May
Nominations close	Friday 31 July
Shortlisting	August
Finalists announced	National Child Protection Week 6–12 September
Awards ceremony	Friday 9 October

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# THE AWARDS

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The South Australian Child Protection & Family Support Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of children and young people, carers, volunteers, staff and organisations from across the child protection and family support sector.

Delivered by the Department for Child Protection (DCP), in partnership with the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), the event will be held on Friday 9 October at Adelaide Oval's, William Magarey Room.

These Awards bring together our sector and community leaders and acknowledge the valuable contribution individuals, groups and organisations make to provide a safe and thriving environment for children, young people and families across the child protection and family support system.



# TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR NOMINATION

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## USE CLEAR AND CONCISE LANGUAGE

To help the Selection Committee evaluate the nominations, it is important to provide clear and concise information. Avoid using jargon or technical language that may be difficult for other people to understand.

When writing your nomination, make sure to focus on the key points and achievements of the nominee. This means the information should be easy to read, and the details should be relevant to the nomination criteria.

## STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

The Selection Committee will be looking for exceptional candidates that have truly made an impact for children, young people, families and carers across the child protection and family support sector.

To increase the chances of your nominee being selected, it is important to emphasise the nominee's accomplishments and how they have exceeded expectations.

Take the time to carefully read and understand the selection criteria and provide a thorough and thoughtful response. Use the full word count provided.

## ADDRESSING THE SELECTION CRITERIA

Addressing the selection criteria is an important step, as it helps to demonstrate that the nominee deserves recognition for their efforts.

Here are some tips on how to effectively address the nomination criteria:

1. Carefully read the explanation of the award category and the selection criteria. Before you begin writing, make sure you understand what the Selection Committee is looking for.
2. Provide specific examples of the nominee's accomplishments. These examples will help to illustrate the nominee's experience and make a stronger case for their selection.
3. Highlight the nominee's impact on children and young people, families, carers, the community, organisation or the broader sector. This will help the Selection Committee to understand the nominee's value and the impact of their contribution to the broader child protection and family support system.

## FINALLY

It is important to present the nomination in a clear, professional, and easy-to-read format.

Take the time to ensure that the nomination is polished and presents the nominee in the best possible light.

## ASK FOR HELP

The Awards Team is available to provide guidance and answer any questions you may have throughout the nomination process.

If you have questions, email us at [dcp.events@sa.gov.au](mailto:dcp.events@sa.gov.au).

For more information and to nominate,  
visit: [childprotection.sa.gov.au/awards](https://childprotection.sa.gov.au/awards)

# ACTIVE EFFORTS AWARD

Recognises an individual or organisation that has demonstrated excellence through active efforts to implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.

*Active efforts include purposeful, thorough, and timely actions to uphold one or more of the elements of Prevention, Partnership, Placement, Participation and Connection.*

AWARD SPONSOR



COMMISSIONER FOR  
ABORIGINAL CHILDREN  
& YOUNG PEOPLE

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The nomination:

- Explains the role of the individual or organisation.
- Describes how the individual or organisation has made active efforts to implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.
- Provides details of how the nominee has gone above and beyond what is expected to implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.

## EXAMPLES

We welcome nominations on a variety of achievements. Some examples include an individual or organisation:

- Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination and cultural safety to achieve the best outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and their families or carers.

- Embedding the development and implementation of policy, programs or practice honouring connection to family, community, culture and Country.
- Advocating for the safety, welfare and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and their families.
- Providing culturally safe practice that embeds Aboriginal-led decision making, supporting connection to culture and promoting self-determination.
- Listening to Aboriginal voices and demonstrating respect for Aboriginal people's knowledge of culture and community.
- Working alongside Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to ensure Aboriginal children and young people and their families get the right support at the right time.
- Engaging in active and dedicated efforts to meet obligations under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

# MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Honours an individual whose long-standing dedication and commitment has made a lasting impact on child protection and family support over 15 years or more.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

The nomination:

- Provides an introduction to the individual.
- Outlines the timeframe that the nominee has contributed to child protection and family support (minimum 15 years).
- Gives examples of the exceptional dedication and contribution to child protection and family support provided by the individual.

## EXAMPLES

We welcome nominations on a variety of achievements. Some examples include an individual who:

- Has shown an exceptional commitment to positively impacting the lives of children, young people and their families.
- Demonstrates a deep commitment to child protection and family support, and is an ambassador for the work of the sector.
- Has shown steadfast dedication to shaping a child protection and family support sector that will equip us for the future.
- Has achieved sustained positive change throughout their career.

# POSITIVE IMPACT AWARD



Recognises an individual or team that has had a meaningful and positive impact on children or young people in care, or with a care experience.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

The nomination:

- Describes the role of the nominee within the child protection and family support system.
- Provides a specific example of outstanding service.
- Explains the impact and reach of the nominee's service on the care and protection of children and young people in care.
- Demonstrates how the nominee's contribution is unique or innovative.

## EXAMPLES

We welcome nominations on a variety of achievements. Some examples include an individual or team:

- Demonstrating exceptional care, applying a child-centred approach to their work led and shaped by the experiences of children and young people.
- Meeting the ever-changing needs of the children and young people they support and finding ways to support their development and wellbeing wherever possible.
- Embracing relationship-based practice in the interests of children and young people.
- Demonstrating exceptional care and/or using innovative practices to engage young people with gaining access to the support they need (this may include life skills, independent living, employment pathways, education-based support, culturally-appropriate care, mental health).

# REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD

Recognises outstanding service by an individual or team supporting children and young people in rural or remote communities.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

The nomination:

- Describes the role of the nominee within the child protection and family support sector.
- Explains the impact and reach of the nominee's service on the care and protection of children and young people in care in a regional or remote area.
- Provides specific examples of outstanding service.
- Demonstrates how the nominee's contribution is unique or innovative.

## EXAMPLES

We welcome nominations on a variety of achievements. Some examples include an individual or team:

- Delivering regional or remote system reform leading to sustained improvement in the lives of children, young people and their families or carers.
- Influencing the practice of others, through leadership, advocacy and mentoring, to better respond to the unique needs and experiences of rural or remote communities.
- Providing expert, strategic advice to improve support and decision-making for children and young people in care in a regional or remote context.
- Developing and implementing programs that improve outcomes for children and young people in regional areas.
- Championing the rights of children, young people, and carers through the development and delivery of training or new innovative models of care in regional or remote areas.

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOSTER CARER OF THE YEAR

AWARD SPONSOR



Celebrates an approved foster, specific-child only or long-term guardianship carer/s who has made an exceptional contribution to the lives of children and young people in care.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

***Nominees' status as an approved foster, specific-child only or long term guardianship (specified person) must be verified by DCP.***

The nomination:

- Introduces the carer/s.
- Clearly indicates the role they have played in the lives of children and young people.
- Demonstrates how their dedication and commitment make a significant contribution to improving the lives of children and young people in their care.

## EXAMPLES

We welcome nominations on a variety of achievements. Some examples include a carer who:

- Provides exceptional care, support and stability to a child or young person.
- Overcomes challenges to advocate for children and young people's needs and creating a positive effect on young lives.
- Demonstrates an exceptional understanding of, and enables connection to, culture and kin for children and young people in care.
- Is proactive in nurturing and encouraging children in their care while ensuring they get the assistance they need to thrive.

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN KINSHIP CARER OF THE YEAR

AWARD SPONSOR



Celebrates an approved kinship carer/s who has made an exceptional contribution to the lives of children and young people in care.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

***Nominees' status as approved kinship carers must be verified by DCP.***

The nomination:

- Introduces the kinship carer/s.
- Clearly indicates the role they have played in the lives of children and young people.
- Demonstrates how their dedication and commitment make a significant contribution to improving the lives of children and young people in their care.

## EXAMPLES

We welcome nominations on a variety of achievements. Some examples include carers who have:

- Provides exceptional care, support and stability to a child or young person.
- Overcomes challenges to advocate for children and young people's needs and creating a positive effect on young lives.
- Demonstrates an exceptional understanding of, and enables connection to, culture and kin for children and young people in care.
- Is proactive in nurturing and encouraging children in their care while ensuring they get the assistance they need to thrive.

# THRIVING SECTOR AWARD

AWARD SPONSOR



Recognises innovation that grows sector knowledge, capability and collaboration to improve outcomes for children, families and carers.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

The nomination:

- Describes the nominee's role in strengthening the child protection and family support sector, including their contribution to shared knowledge, capability and collaborative practice.
- Provides a clear example of innovation led by the nominee that has improved sector practice or addressed a gap in knowledge or capability.
- Demonstrates the impact and reach of the nominee's contribution, showing how their work has influenced practitioners or services and improved outcomes for children and families.
- Explains what makes the nominee's approach unique or forward thinking, highlighting how it supports collaboration and sustainable sector improvement.

## EXAMPLES

We welcome nominations on a variety of achievements. Some examples include an individual or team/organisation responsible for research, resources or service models:

- Applying a holistic approach that fosters active collaboration and communication across the sector.
- Transcending boundaries in the best interest of children, young people and families.
- Showcasing new evidence and insights about where to target interventions.
- Progressively transferring service delivery to the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector.
- Promoting practices that address the unique needs of children and young people with a care experience.

# VOICE OF CHILD AWARD

AWARD SPONSOR



Recognises an individual or organisation championing the voices of children and young people in care, in decision-making.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

The nomination:

- Introduces the individual or organisation, including the nominee's role working with children and young people in care.
- Provides one or more examples of the nominee's contribution to supporting children and young people to be heard in decisions that impact them.
- Describes the impact of the nominee's contribution, and how the support they have provided is unique or innovative.

## EXAMPLES

We welcome nominations on a variety of achievements. Some examples include an individual or organisation:

- Using innovative approaches to promote children and young people's participation in any decisions or actions that impact them.
- Showing innovation or excellence in advocacy for the voices of children and young people in care and their right to meaningfully participate in matters affecting them.
- Amplifying the voices of children and young people in consultation, policy, programs or practice.

# VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

AWARD SPONSOR



Recognises the outstanding dedication and community service of a volunteer supporting children and young people in care.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

The nomination:

- Introduces the volunteer.
- Details the nominee's volunteering role.
- Describes the impact of the volunteer's voluntary work to children or young people in care.
- Provides an example of the invaluable contribution the nominee has made to the child protection and family support sector.

## EXAMPLES

We welcome nominations on a variety of achievements. Some examples include a volunteer who:

- Establishes connection to promote safety and comfort.
- Has experienced general or specific interactions through volunteering that have had a positive impact.
- Has provided a significant length of volunteer service.

# YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD

AWARD SPONSOR



Recognises the achievement of a child or young person with a care experience, aged up to 25.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

The nomination:

- Provides a comprehensive introduction to the child/young person (or a group of children/young people).
- Describes the achievements of the child/young person (or group of children/young people).
- Provides insight into the impact or outcome of the outstanding achievement/s for self or others.

## EXAMPLES

We welcome nominations on a variety of achievements. Some examples include a child or young person who:

- Inspires others through sharing their lived experience.
- Effects positive change through championing and advocating for other children and young people with a care experience.
- Displays an ability to push through adversity and grow through challenges while remaining ambitious.

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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The Department for Child Protection (DCP) and the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) are inviting nominations for the 2026 South Australian Child Protection & Family Support Awards (the Awards).

A person who submits a nomination (nominator) for an individual, group or organisation (nominee) is deemed to have agreed to the terms and conditions outlined below. If a nominator or nominee fails to accept these terms and conditions or fails to comply with the screening process, that nomination will be ineligible to be considered for the Awards.

## PRIVACY NOTICE

Personal information is collected from the nominations for the purpose of selecting award winners. The information will be reviewed by the 2026 South Australian Child Protection & Family Support Awards Selection Committee (Selection Committee).

Nominations, including the nominee's contact details, may also be provided to the DCP Strategic Communications team. Consent for media and promotion will be requested during the nomination process.

If an individual is nominating a person other than themselves, they must obtain the nominee's informed consent to provide personal information to the Selection Committee prior to submitting the nomination. Failure to obtain a nominee's consent may result in the nomination being ineligible. All nominations will automatically be sent to the nominee for consent and approval once completed.

Anonymous nominations will automatically be deemed ineligible.

Finalists who accept the nomination may be asked to consent to a criminal history check, provide evidence of a current valid Working with Children Check, and any additional checks deemed as appropriate. At the time of being notified as a finalist, the nominee will be required to provide their date of birth and residential address to facilitate required checks.

By submitting a self-nomination, it is agreed that any personal information can be used in accordance with the above. By submitting a nomination for another person, it is agreed that appropriate consent has been obtained from the individual, group or organisation being nominated for their personal information to be used in accordance with the above.

The information collected for the purpose of the Awards will be managed in accordance with the Government of South Australia's Information Privacy Principles (IPPs).

## NOMINATION PROCESS

In all award categories, the child protection and family support services informing nominations must have occurred in South Australia.

Individuals cannot be nominated in the same category they were the winner of for any previous year's Awards.

For submission of multiple nominations, a separate nomination form must be completed for each.

The Selection Committee assessment will focus on the information provided in the nomination form.

Nominations close on 31 July. Unfortunately, nominations received after this time are not able to be considered by the Awards Selection Committee.

Following submission, both the nominator and the nominee will receive a confirmation email acknowledging receipt of the nomination.

DCP staff may be in contact with either the nominator or nominee/s regarding a nomination if any further information or clarification is required.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The Awards Selection Committee will assess nominations and determine finalists and Award winners. All shortlisted nominations will undergo due diligence checks conducted by DCP.

The Selection Committee reserves the right to:

- Not present an Award in a category where there are no suitable nominations.
- Change the Awards category under which the nomination is being considered, if it is deemed to be more aligned to another category.
- Revoke a nomination if mandatory requirements are not met.
- Withdraw a nomination where the nominator has not obtained relevant consent.
- Prohibit a nomination based on the outcome of the due diligence check.
- Withdraw a nomination if events occur after lodgement that make the nomination ineligible.

- Withdraw a nomination if the child protection and family support services informing the nomination have occurred outside of South Australia.
- Finalists will be asked to participate in the recording of a video, which highlights and celebrates their achievements. Award winners' videos will be played at the Awards ceremony and all recorded videos may be shown on relevant social media channels.

## AWARDS PRESENTATION AND CEREMONY

The Awards ceremony will be held on Friday 9 October 2026, where the winners will be announced and presented with their Award.

Finalists will be invited to attend the Awards ceremony and a single event ticket will be provided to them. In the case of a dual nomination (carers), two tickets will be provided.

Award finalists under 18 years of age will automatically receive an additional complimentary ticket as they will be required to be accompanied by either their nominator, a carer or legal guardian.

Team, group or organisation Award finalists will receive a single ticket to the Awards ceremony, which will be communicated to the contact provided by the nominator at the time of submission. Members of the team, group or organisation are encouraged to purchase additional tickets or a group table to attend the Awards ceremony.

All travel costs or other related costs associated with an Award finalist, their nominator, a carer or legal guardian (if applicable) attending the Awards ceremony are the responsibility of the attendee and not DCP.

All attendees, Award winners and finalists may be filmed and photographed at the event and be asked to be a part of the Awards promotion. Should Award winners or finalists not want their images used for these purposes, they should discuss this with the Awards team.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the Awards project team at **[dcp.events@sa.gov.au](mailto:dcp.events@sa.gov.au)** for any queries.

For more information, visit the 2026 South Australian Child Protection & Family Support Awards page on the DCP website: **[childprotection.sa.gov.au/awards](http://childprotection.sa.gov.au/awards)**.



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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

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**CHILD PROTECTION  
& FAMILY SUPPORT  
AWARDS 2026**

For more information and to nominate,  
visit: [childprotection.sa.gov.au/awards](https://childprotection.sa.gov.au/awards)

May 2026