

# PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE IN HOUSING AWARDS

SHOWCASING SOCIAL HOUSING SUCCESS STORIES



## Selection Criteria for Members of the AHI Awards Committee

### Introduction

The Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) Awards provide an opportunity to showcase social housing success stories. The AHI Awards formally recognise and reward excellence in professional practice, from the grass roots to the most senior levels. They promote to our colleagues and the community at large the difference that social housing professionals make to people's lives. The Institute has run an awards program since 2004. This program has become increasingly popular with members and other housing professionals. Awards will go to housing professionals who are judged to have made a significant and lasting difference: to tenants or service users, to their community, to their colleagues and to their profession. The Awards recognise the contributions and achievements of our colleagues in the many disciplines which make up the housing profession.

The AHI awards program runs bi-annually leading to awarding winners in each jurisdiction (All states, territories and New Zealand) on eight categories. This is followed by the Australasian Awards Gala Dinner held at the coinciding Housing Conference. Nominators can submit applications from October 2018 to February 2019. The Awards Committee has the task of selecting the most deserving nominations from the multitude of entries and this Job Description sets out the requirements of members of that committee.

### Requirements of Award Committee Members

#### General

All members are required to demonstrate: honesty and integrity; the ability to exercise sound judgement; appropriate experience and professional qualifications; absence or acknowledgement of conflicts of interest; willingness to devote the required time; and availability to attend Award Committee meetings.

The committee as a whole needs to:

- Have at least one representative from each jurisdiction on the committee;
- Read and mark all submissions in each jurisdiction and award winners for each category;
- When all of the districts have been awarded, to pick the overall award winners for each of the eight categories in time for the corresponding Housing Conference in August 2019.
- Strategic expertise – the ability to review awards and apply the criteria set for each one
- Industry knowledge – experience social housing organisations or industries.

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While different members can bring different technical skills and knowledge to this committee, there are personal qualities that are desirable in all members:

- **Integrity** – fulfilling a members duties and responsibilities, putting the committees interests before personal interests, acting ethically
- **Curiosity and courage** – a member must have the curiosity to ask questions
- **Interpersonal skills** – a member must work well in a group, listen well, be tactful but able to communicate their point of view frankly
- **Genuine interest** in the Awards and the committees business
- **Instinct** – good instincts and acumen, ability to get to the crux of applications
- **An active contributor** – the need to be a constant and informed contributor on picking the award winners
- **Adequate time** to devote to the committees business

### Considerations

- Balance jurisdictional interests (states, territories and New Zealand)
- Balance sectoral interests (Indigenous, community, public, private, academic, homelessness)
- Balance discipline interests (assets, finance, development, service delivery, policy, place making, advocacy)
- Balance housing, professional development and public interest

### Priority Selection Criteria

**We are keen to recruit Award Committee members who demonstrate the criteria listed below**

- At least 2 years experience in social housing and/or related services with exposure to a number of service functions (tenancy, asset and development, community engagement etc) highly regarded;
- Availability to attend teleconferences (9+) to decide jurisdiction and Australasian Award winners over July 2018 to August 2019;
- Ability to read applications and mark them according to the score and criteria set for each category (in 2017 the Institute received more than 140 awards entries);
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to effectively use communication skills to come to a considered decision.