



Awards overview

What are the Australian Awards for Teaching Excellence?

The Australian Awards for Teaching Excellence celebrate teaching and its contribution to our nation. They are the peak national awards for the teaching profession, supported by the Australian Government.

The Awards recognise the pivotal role of the teaching profession in delivering high quality education for young Australians. They honour exceptional teachers, including teacher leaders and beginning teachers, principals and support staff who work creatively and tirelessly to make a difference to the lives and opportunities of young people.

The national awards were introduced in 2003 and renamed this year. The new imagery is celebratory, spreading out to eight external rings, across the eight state and territories of the nation.

Teaching Australia, in partnership with the Australian College of Educators, has had a central role managing the awards on behalf of the Australian Government.

The nomination and selection process directly involves members of the teaching profession from all sectors, states and territories, and levels of schooling across Australia.

The Australian Government provides more than \$1 million annually to reward outstanding individuals and schools in six categories. Individual winners receive a cash prize, with a further cash prize for their school. Winners in the school category receive a cash prize for their school.

The Awards for Teaching Excellence categories are:

- Excellence by a Teacher
- Excellence in Teacher Leadership
- Excellence by a Principal
- Excellence by a Beginning Teacher
- Excellence by a Support Staff Member
- Excellence by a School and its Community

A seventh award, for Excellence in ICT, is made by the Minister for Education.

An important aspect of the awards from their inception has been raising the status of the teaching profession and schools by:

- recognising and celebrating teachers, principals, support staff and schools who in different ways make an exceptional contribution to their students, their school and/or the wider community;
- developing a better understanding and greater appreciation among Australians of the skills and quality of the teaching profession; and
- providing professional learning by giving award recipients opportunities to share their knowledge and experience with their peers.