

Awards Program 2026

📍 WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Recognising the outstanding contributions made by women in planning and allied professions.



The Women in Planning Network (WA) is once again delighted to seek nominations for the 2026 Awards Program.

The WPN(WA) awards seek to promote the positive contributions made by women in planning and allied professions in Western Australia, and to acknowledge their achievements.

The 2026 Awards Program includes two award categories:

- **Leadership Award** - celebrates holistic and long-term commitment to diversity within planning and allied professions.
- **Achiever Award** - targeted at women in their early- to mid-stage career*, who are delivering outstanding achievements and building a profile as a future leader.

Self-nominations, and re-nominations, are strongly encouraged. Individuals may only nominate for one award category each year.

* All age groups are welcome to apply. Eight years of full-time experience (cumulative and not necessarily continuous) indicates early- to mid-stage career levels. This includes part-time or casual work arrangements.

Why you should nominate



Nominating a colleague, or *yourself*, for an award is not just an act of recognition, but also a powerful affirmation of contributions, dedication, and positive impact. It highlights the nominee's achievements, showcasing their excellence in the workplace, community, and planning industry.

By nominating, you help to inspire others, set standards of excellence, and encourage a culture of appreciation, and celebration. Awards not only acknowledge the hard work and talent of the recipient, but also inspires others to strive for similar success.

Winner benefits

- Recognition as a WPN(WA) Award Winner.
 - Unlock opportunities to appear as a guest speaker at future WPN(WA) events and build your profile.
 - Complementary registration at all WPN(WA) events for 12-months.
 - Complementary registration at the PIA WA State and Regional Conferences.
-

Selection criteria

The WPN(WA) Awards recognise and promote the positive contributions made by women that demonstrate a commitment to diversity within planning and allied professions.

Nominees should be a member of PIA and/or eligible for Full / Registered Planner / Graduate Membership. PIA membership is preferred, but not essential to be eligible for nomination.

Each award category has the following selection criteria:

- An outstanding commitment to professional work, either project or operational, and either paid or as a volunteer.
- An outstanding contribution to planning and allied professions in the State, including regional Western Australia, either in a leadership or operational role, volunteer work, or mentoring.
- Support and advocacy for women in planning and allied professions.



Judging criteria



Demonstration of the following judging criteria can be proven through the nominee's contribution to a particular project or role generally. If the nomination is in relation to a project, the project must have been in either its planning, implementation, or operational phase at some point during 2025 - 2026.

Supporting information may be attached separately and will not be counted in the word limit. This must include no more than three testimonial / references, with at least one provided by an Emerging Planner or planning student.

Judging criteria

Leadership

Achiever

Criteria 1 - Introduction

Maximum 200 words

Introduce the nominee and their role within the team, organisation, or professional sector. State their current PIA membership status and/or eligibility to be a PIA member.

Criteria 2 - Contributions and achievements

Maximum 500 words [50%]

Describe how the nominee demonstrates leadership and has made an important contribution to, or achievement in advancing the planning profession. Describe their contribution, and how they have worked towards achieving it. This may include challenges they have faced and how they have overcome them.

Describe the nominees emerging leadership qualities and how they demonstrate leadership amongst their peers. Describe an important contribution to, or achievement in advancing the planning profession, and how they worked towards achieving it. This may include challenges they have faced and how they have overcome them.

Criteria 3 - Impact

Maximum 500 words [50%]

Describe the impact the nominee has had in working towards more diversity and inclusivity for women, and/or other underrepresented groups, in the planning profession. Some examples may include:

- Encouraging and empowering women in the planning profession by establishing an organisation policies or initiatives, initiating legislative changes, or other changes to an organisational structure benefiting women;
 - Making the built environment sector better for women and more inclusive for all through leadership and action;
 - Successfully breaking barriers with a 'first' for women in the planning profession;
 - Demonstrating a significant commitment to, and making a lasting impact on, the planning profession; or
 - Influencing planning outcomes in the built environment that demonstrate gender inclusivity.
-

Key dates

5

Award nominations open

SEP 2025

19

Award nominations close

JAN 2026

6

Winner's announced at International Women's Day Breakfast

MAR 2026



How to make a nomination

Nominations are to be made online through the Planning Institute of Australia website, during the nomination period. Late submissions are not able to be accepted.

- Coordinate the preparation of testimonials.
- Prepare nomination, including the form, and a letter responding to the selection and judging and selection criteria, and biographical information.
- Include any images and supporting attachments.
- Submit nomination via the PIA website.
- If nominating a colleague, let them know they have been nominated.
- Talk to your workplace about purchasing tickets to the International Women's Day Breakfast, where the winners will be announced.

Nomination checklist

- Completed and signed nomination form.
 - Two high-quality profile images (maximum of six).
 - Statement addressing each judging and selection criteria.
 - Short biography of the nominee (i.e., 150 - 200 words)
 - Three testimonials, with one from an Emerging Planner.
 - Other attachments.
-

Next steps

Confirmation Email

After submitting the nomination, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive an email, please contact the PIA(WA) for assistance.

Notifying Nominees

The WPN(WA) and the PIA(WA) will contact all nominees to inform them of their nominations for the WPN(WA) Awards. The WPN(WA) and the PIA(WA) reserve the right to publicly announce the nominees.

All nominees are strongly encouraged to attend the International Women's Day Breakfast, where the outcomes of the award are announced.

Request for Further Information

Nominees may be contacted for additional information, if required. If you are nominating on behalf of someone else, it is highly desirable that they are made aware of the nomination to assist the judging process.

Judging Process

The WPN(WA) Awards Convenor will convene the judging panel who will review all nominations and select the shortlisted finalists. The WPN(WA) and the PIA(WA) reserve the right to publicly announce the shortlisted finalists.

If you are shortlisted as a finalist, you may be required to undertake an interview with the judging panel in February 2026. The date and location (online, or in-person) can be negotiated. Nominees are encouraged to make themselves available for this process.

Announcement of the Winners

The outcomes of the WPN(WA) awards will be announced at the International Women's Day Breakfast, to be held Friday, 6 March 2026. The WPN(WA) and the PIA(WA) reserve the right to publicly announce the winner.

Conditions of entry

- Entry into the WPN(WA) awards program is free.
 - WPN(WA) Leadership Group members are ineligible for the awards program.
 - Self-nominations and third-party nominations are welcomed.
 - Renominations by past award nominees who were unsuccessful are welcomed.
 - All entries must be submitted via the online nomination form on the PIA(WA) website.
 - Nominees for the **Achiever Award** category must be within early- to mid-level stages of their career. A period of approximately eight years should be used as a guide.
 - Entries must comply with the word limit on the online nomination form. Nominees are reminded that formatting or presentation does not have any weighting, but should be of a sufficient standard to assess the nomination.
 - Nominees must include a minimum of two high-resolution profile images to support their submission. Other material relevant to support the application may also be uploaded as attachments / supporting information.
 - All nominations and contents will remain the property of the WPN(WA) and the PIA(WA).
 - Nominations are confidential and will only be shared to persons within PIA(WA), the judging panel and the select members of the WPN(WA) Leadership Group, as required.
 - The judge's decision is final, and no communication will be entered into concerning the final decision.
 - The WPN(WA) and the PIA(WA) reserves the right to publish the names and images of nominees, shortlisted finalists and the winner.
 - The finalists are strongly encouraged to attend the WPN(WA) International Women's Day Breakfast.
 - All entries must be submitted by 9:00AM (AWST) on **Monday, 19 January 2026**.
-

Award Sponsors

The WPN(WA) **Leadership Award** category is proudly sponsored by



Shape Urban

The WPN(WA) **Achiever Award** category is proudly sponsored by



Department of **Planning,**
Lands and Heritage

the Department of Planning, Lands and
Heritage
