



Multicultural Queensland Awards 2026

Nomination Guide

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About the Multicultural Queensland Awards

The Multicultural Queensland Awards celebrate everyday champions who bring people together, strengthen connections, and create real impact across Queensland.

The Awards ceremony is part of Multicultural Queensland Month (MQM), held in August each year.

The 2026 award categories are:

- Volunteer of the year
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- Social Cohesion and Community Impact Project of the Year
- Grassroots Not-for-Profit
- Lifetime Achiever
- Minister's Multicultural Award.

Nominations for 2026 will open on 13 April and close at 11:59 pm on 17 May.

Nomination requirements

1. Complete the [SmartyGrants](#) online nomination form.
2. Provide written responses for the selected category (maximum of 200 words per question).
3. Provide two referees to support the nomination. These referees may be contacted by the judging panel or Multicultural Affairs Queensland. Referees cannot be related to the nominee and must be familiar with the activities undertaken by the nominee.
4. Provide proof of consent if the nominator or nominee is under 18 years of age.
5. If available, provide links containing the social media details of the individual or group being nominated so we can promote their success on social media. This can include Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Nominate in your language

To give everyone the opportunity to nominate, Multicultural Affairs Queensland accepts nominations in your language.

If you are planning to submit your nomination in your language, please email MQM@maq.qld.gov.au for further information at least one week before nominations close.

Key selection criteria

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. **Impact:** Shows clear, positive outcomes and results that have helped multicultural communities
2. **Leadership:** Shows strong leadership in inspiring others, driving change, or making a difference in multicultural communities.
3. **Innovation:** Shows creativity or new ideas to solve problems or create opportunities for multicultural communities
4. **Outstanding:** Shows how their efforts stand out and go above and beyond in supporting multicultural communities.

When filling out your nomination, you will be prompted to select an award category and answer questions to help the judging panel in assessing your entry. Please read the award category descriptions carefully to ensure the nominee is eligible for the selected award category.

Volunteer of the Year Award

Recognising individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who generously volunteer their time and skills in Queensland.

1. How has the nominee demonstrated significant contributions to the well-being, inclusion, or empowerment of multicultural communities through voluntary efforts?
2. How has the nominee shown strong leadership in inspiring others, driving change, or making a difference in multicultural communities?
3. How has the nominee shown creativity or new ideas to solve problems or create opportunities for multicultural communities?
4. In what ways do the nominee's efforts stand out and go above and beyond in supporting multicultural communities?

Entrepreneur of the Year

Recognising a multicultural organisation or individual from a culturally diverse background for an entrepreneurial endeavour that has created new economic opportunities for Queensland.

1. Describe the economic benefits that the nominee's entrepreneurial endeavours have delivered for Queensland.

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2. How has the nominee demonstrated strong leadership in their entrepreneurial efforts?
3. What creative or original ideas, products, services, technology, or business models has the nominee developed to create new economic opportunities for Queensland?
4. In what ways does the nominee stand out in their entrepreneurial endeavours to create new economic opportunities for Queensland?

Women's Economic Empowerment Award

Recognising a woman who is advancing and strengthening economic security for women from culturally diverse backgrounds by championing opportunities, reducing barriers, and supporting long-term financial independence.

1. How has the nominee contributed to improving the economic security, employment opportunities, or financial independence of women from culturally diverse backgrounds?
2. How has the nominee acted as a role model and advocate for women's economic empowerment, inspiring others to take action or follow her lead?
3. What is innovative, creative or unique about the approach the nominee has taken to address barriers to economic participation for women from multicultural communities?
4. In what ways are the nominee's efforts and achievements transformative or groundbreaking in advancing women's economic empowerment?

Social Cohesion and Community Impact Project of the Year Award

Recognising an organisation or a community group that has undertaken a project that delivered measurable social, cultural and community benefits through intercultural or interfaith initiatives that build bridges between communities.

1. Describe the project and its purpose.
2. What clear and measurable benefits to social cohesion, cultural understanding, or community well-being did the project deliver?
3. How has the nominee shown strong leadership in engaging diverse stakeholders, fostering collaboration, and/or driving the project's success?
4. How has the project used creative or unique approaches to intercultural or interfaith engagement, addressing challenges or creating new opportunities for connection?
5. In what ways does the project stand out as a model of excellence, going above and beyond to create lasting positive change for multicultural communities?

Grassroots Not-for-Profit Award

Recognising a small not-for-profit organisation (turnover less than \$1 million) for its outstanding achievements in serving multicultural communities in Queensland.

1. How has the nominee demonstrated significant and measurable outcomes in addressing the needs or improving the lives of multicultural communities?

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2. How has the nominee shown strong leadership in mobilising resources, engaging stakeholders, building partnerships and/or advocating for multicultural communities?
3. What are some examples of creative or innovative solutions, programs, or services the organisation has delivered to address challenges faced by multicultural communities?
4. In what ways does the nominee stand out as a leader among grassroots organisations in supporting multicultural communities?

Lifetime Achiever Award

Honouring an individual whose lifetime commitment has significantly strengthened social cohesion across multicultural communities. This award recognises sustained leadership in interfaith and intercultural engagement, fostering dialogue, understanding respect and creating lasting impact for current and future generations.

1. What contributions and achievements have the nominee made that have significantly strengthened social cohesion, cultural understanding, or community well-being?
2. How has the nominee shown leadership in strengthening social cohesion over an extended period?
3. How has the nominee used innovative approaches to address challenges or create opportunities for multicultural communities?
4. In what ways is the nominee leaving a lasting impact on multicultural communities for current and future generations?

Eligibility for nomination

To be eligible to receive a Multicultural Queensland Award the following criteria must be met:

- The nominee must be a resident of Queensland (individuals) or be a Queensland based entity (organisations).
- The nominee must be of good name and character and have not engaged directly or indirectly in any conduct which might discredit the Multicultural Queensland Awards.
- The nominator must have the consent of the nominee to submit a nomination.
- Nominators and nominees under 18 years of age must have the consent of a parent/guardian to nominate or be nominated.
- The nominator must verify that the information about the nominee contained in the nomination is true and correct.
- All nominees agree that their name and photograph can be used in any promotional activities conducted by Multicultural Affairs Queensland.

Please note:

- Self-nominations are accepted (i.e. individuals or organisations may self-nominate).
- Nominators may nominate a family member.

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- Referees cannot be family members of either the nominee or nominator.
- Nominations should be submitted under one category only (the same nomination should not be submitted under multiple categories).
- The assessment panel reserves the right to consider a nomination under a different category if it is deemed appropriate.
- Sponsors of Multicultural Queensland Month 2026 and/or the Multicultural Queensland Awards 2026 and their immediate family are ineligible to nominate or be nominated for the Multicultural Queensland Awards.
- Employees of the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism involved in the administration and judging of the Multicultural Queensland Awards 2026 and their immediate family, and any other people involved with the administration and judging of the Multicultural Queensland Awards 2026 and their immediate family, are ineligible to nominate or be nominated for the Multicultural Queensland Awards.

Need help?

Get in touch with us at MQM@maq.qld.gov.au

Multicultural Affairs Queensland

Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism