



NESA
2026
**AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE**

AWARD CRITERIA

Employment
Consultant of the Year

Employment Consultant of the Year

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION:

This Award recognises employment services professionals who demonstrate excellence in helping disadvantaged Australians to achieve employment inclusion.

CATEGORY ELIGIBILITY:

Covers all applicable elements of the Overarching Award Eligibility Criteria.

In addition, open to individuals who provided employment assistance to Participants and employers in the qualifying period.

NOMINATION RESPONSE:

Please ensure your nomination response includes:

- Nominating Organisation Name and contact details
- Name of the contact in the organisation submitting the Nomination
- Nominee Name (full name and preferred name)
- Photo of Nominee (Required)
- Selection criteria responses

Note the response must focus on the Employment Consultant (rather than the organisation). The Employment Consultant must be aware of their nomination and consent to its submission in these awards. NESA recommends that completion of the submission occur in partnership with the nominated Employment Consultant and they provide consent to share information.

INTRODUCTION TO THE NOMINEE – UP TO 500 WORDS UNSCORED BUT ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDING BACKGROUND TO JUDGES

Provide a brief overview of the nominated Employment Consultant's:

- role and duties; work history, educational background and/or recognitions
- organisation and program(s) they work for
- site/location/community in which they are based, including a snapshot of local demographics, socio-economic context, and number of staff
- contribution to community and employer engagement
- personal or professional challenges they have successfully overcome

Note: All other responses must relate to the achievements and outcomes of the nominee

CRITERION 1 – UP TO 500 WORDS – WEIGHTED 30%

Describe how the contribution and approach to work of the Employment Consultant or Team reflect the values of employment services. Highlight examples of teamwork, innovation, and community or place-based strategies that have supported disadvantaged participants. Explain how these practices demonstrate excellence and commitment to inclusion.

CRITERION 2 – UP TO 500 WORDS – WEIGHTED 40%

Provide a specific de-identified case study showcasing how the nominated Employment Consultant or Team used creativity, innovation, and excellence in community engagement to deliver an activity, experience, or outcome for a participant. Include evidence of the impact achieved and how the approach went beyond standard practice to create meaningful change.

CRITERION 3 – UP TO 600 WORDS – WEIGHTED 40%

Share a personal statement about your journey as an employment consultant. Reflect on what you have learned, what you consider most important in your role, and how you invest in your own professional growth and development to better support participants.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL (REQUIRED) – UP TO 1 A4 PAGE

Provide a statement from the nominee's employer indicating the reasons they support the nomination of this individual for this Award.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL (OPTIONAL) – UNSCORED

You may provide up to five A4 pages of evidence to support the claims made in the nomination. Please cross-reference supporting material in the criteria response. Supporting information may include, but is not limited to, photos, data, graphs, and copies of commendations or other letters of recognition.