



Australasian Housing Institute Awards for Excellence 2008

The Australasian Housing Institute Awards for Excellence recognise and reward excellence in social housing professional practice

Purpose

- To reward great work and achievements by individuals and teams
- To recognise best practice and high standards of service
- To promote and celebrate innovation
- To develop and increase the profile of our profession

Overview

The fourth annual AHI Awards have ten categories. A category winner will be selected in each jurisdiction. The Australasian winners will be chosen from these finalists by a panel convened by the AHI.

Awards will go to social 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 will recognise the contributions and achievements of our colleagues in:

- Housing management
- Asset management
- Working with challenging clients
- Meeting support needs
- Community renewal
- Tenant involvement
- Partnerships
- Environmentally sustainable development
- Supporting professional development in the workplace

Categories

Outstanding Achievement Awards (individuals)

1. Outstanding achievement in social housing
2. Inspirational colleague
3. Member of the Year

Excellence in Practice Awards (individuals or teams)

4. Housing management practice
5. Asset management practice
6. Delivering support solutions

Outstanding Contribution to Change Awards (groups or teams)

7. A resident led initiative
8. Delivering community renewal or urban regeneration
9. Increasing environmental sustainability

Professional Development

10. Supporting professional development in the workplace

Category guidelines

Outstanding Achievement Awards

These Awards are for individuals who have made a significant difference to the standing and achievements of our profession. Categories 1 & 3 are open to Members only.

1. Outstanding achievement in social housing *Members only*

The winning candidate will be a member of the AHI who has made a strong impact on social housing over a number of years of committed professional service. Her/his work will demonstrate the enormous difference one person can make to the profession, a place or an issue. S/he will uphold the highest standards in social housing delivery and management, and have an exceptional capacity to effect change, in policy directions and/or practice, to increase the wellbeing of clients and colleagues.

2. Inspirational colleague

The winning candidate will be a person who consistently shows a willingness to add value over and above their official role, and who motivates others by the approach they take to their work. S/he will have a commitment to developing the effectiveness of others and to building better futures through leadership, partnership and involvement. S/he will, whether formally or informally, act as a mentor to others engaged in social housing.

3. Member of the Year *Members only*

The winning candidate will be a Member of the AHI who has wholeheartedly supported the development of our professional association. S/he voluntarily contributes their time and energy to our services, networks, publications and governance, and is seen by colleagues as a driving force in the AHI.

Excellence in Practice

These Awards are for individuals, groups or teams who have shown a particular commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in core social housing practice, and achieved lasting benefits for our clients and our communities.

4. Excellence in housing management practice

The winning candidate(s) will deliver exceptional housing management services that provide choice, quality and affordability to social housing tenants and clients. They will work creatively and efficiently to achieve long-term positive results for people in housing need. They will be effective in finding an appropriate balance between the needs of individual clients, the needs of their community and the sustainability of their housing service.

5. Excellence in asset management practice

The winning candidate(s) will excel in their work in the planning, management, maintenance and development of social housing assets. They will seek asset management solutions that maximise both the economic and the social value of social housing assets. Their systems and practices will ensure tenants and communities get the best from the social housing infrastructure we have now and will be able to offer in the future.

6. Excellence in delivering support solutions

The winning candidate(s) will play a leading role in sustaining successful tenancies for tenants with complex and challenging needs. They will find innovative, adaptable and practical support solutions that ensure that tenancies for clients with special needs are readily available and no more likely to fail than any others. Their partnerships and support practices will engage housing managers, asset managers and support workers in a team approach to meeting complex needs and maximising the quality of the social housing response.

Outstanding Contribution to Change

These Awards are for groups or teams who have undertaken an initiative or project that has led to significant change in social housing practice in their own organisation or community, with lessons that could be applied more broadly to other social housing. Category 7 is open to resident or tenant group members only.

7. Outstanding contribution to a resident-led initiative *Resident or tenant group members only*

The winning candidates will be an individual or a group of residents or tenants who have undertaken a project or initiative, with or without formal support, to benefit others in their community. They will have involved others in identifying issues, making plans and taking action. Their project or initiative will have achieved exciting change for their community (for example new services, new resources, new networks, empowering and involving a community) and provided a model for other resident or tenant groups to learn from.

8. Outstanding contribution to delivering community renewal or urban regeneration

The winning candidates will have undertaken or been a major participant in a significant renewal or regeneration project in an area of social housing. Their project will have been to sustain or regenerate neighbourhoods, integrate communities, make neighbourhoods safer, build the capacity of the community or invigorate the community through the development of services and employment. The outcomes of the project (or an early stage of the project) will have been monitored and evaluated and shown evidence of outstanding results for the wellbeing of the community.

9. Outstanding contribution to increasing environmental sustainability

The winning candidates will have implemented a new approach to environmentally sustainable development and/or environmentally sensitive management in social housing. Their project may have focused on a single issue or a range of issues, such as energy or water efficiency, passive solar heating and cooling, the use of renewable resources, waste reduction, recycling, environmental awareness or regenerating habitats for native fauna and flora. The scale of the project need not be large but the ideas behind it should be.

Professional Development

10. Supporting professional development in the workplace (New category 2008)

The winning candidate will value and support both individual and organisational learning development and demonstrate a culture of learning and improvement. They will demonstrate new and innovative approaches to training and development and inclusive opportunities for all staff and will demonstrate their contribution to meeting wider organisational objectives.

Nominations

Nominations for Awards can be made by any AHI Member. Members can nominate themselves if they wish. Nominees do not have to be AHI Members (other than for categories 1 & 3), and they do not have to live or work in the same jurisdiction as the person who nominates them.

The Awards Nominations Kit contains full instructions about what to include in your nomination and the closing date for when you should submit this to the AHI.

Nominations will be accepted only if the nominee has agreed for their name to be put forward.

Selection criteria

The Australasian winners will be chosen from the winners of the category in each jurisdiction and any additional nominations of colleagues whose achievements cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Each category of Awards will be judged using the following broad selection criteria:

- The extent to which the person, group or team has reflected the category guidelines
- Evidence of sustainable benefits for the community, the environment or the workplace
- Ideas that are transferable and can be adapted for use in other places and settings
- A clear commitment to developing skills and building capacity through tenant participation, team work, multi-disciplinary partnerships and interagency collaboration
- The achievement of excellence in practice through the application of strategic thinking, innovation, consistently high standards and continuous improvement

Rewards for winners

Branch and Australasian winners will be rewarded by:

- Public appreciation and recognition by their peers
- Promotion of their achievements and ideas through AHI publications and networks
- An article on their work in HousingWORKS (written by themselves or others)
- An opportunity to further promote and explore their ideas through presentations as part of the AHI seminar and workshop programs
- One year subscription to Housing Works for each person who receives an award
- One year's free membership of the AHI for the winners of the Australasian Outstanding Achievement, Inspirational Colleague and Member of the Year awards

Closing date

All jurisdictions- 5pm, Friday 17th October 2008

Timeline

Nominations close -all jurisdictions

17th October



Awards presentations – all jurisdictions

1st week December



Australasian Awards Presentation

Chosen from the winners of jurisdiction awards.
To be presented at the Future of the Social Housing
Workforce Conference, February 2009

Late February 2009