



MEDIA RELEASE

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2016 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

16 APRIL 2016

The finalists for the 43rd 2016 Western Australia of the Year Awards have been announced recognising many Western Australians who have demonstrated excellence in their field combined with making a positive impact in our community.

The 20 finalists are across seven categories, including arts and culture, business and community (see full list of finalists on the following page). An overall Western Australian of the Year will be selected from the winners of each category.

The award winners will be announced at the commencement of the WA Day long weekend on Friday 3 June 2016 at a Gala Dinner at Crown Perth. Musician and star of *Deadline Gallipoli* and *Peter Allen: Not the Boy Next Door*, Joel Jackson, will return to West Australia to host the awards ceremony alongside Channel 7 presenter Angela Tsun.

Dr Robert Isaacs OAM JP PhD, a Noongar Elder who has dedicated his life to improving the lives of Aboriginal Australians, received the winning accolade last year.

“Being named Western Australian of the Year is an honour I hold dear to my heart – because it comes from the people who I have worked alongside all my life, the people of this State,” said Dr Isaacs.

“For me, the award has given me an important platform to promote my key messages in my work towards bridging the gap and reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people,” Mr Isaacs said.

Celebrate WA Chairman, Michael Anghie, said the Awards recognise the achievements of Western Australians from all backgrounds and professions who have made a significant contribution to the State.

“The Western Australian of the Year Awards recognises excellence combined with making a positive contribution to Western Australia.”

The Awards Ceremony mark the official start of the WA Day long weekend. Celebrate WA will present seven separate FREE family events on Monday 6 June, extending celebrations from Elizabeth Quay Perth, where the State of the Art Music Festival will be free for the first time, to events in Esplanade Park in Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Mandurah, Geraldton and Port Hedland.

A long list of well-known and widely respected individuals are part of a diverse alumni that includes David Flanagan, Professor Fiona Stanley AS, Michael Chaney AO, The Hon Chief Justice Wayne Martin AC QC and Adam Gilchrist AM.

Members of the public and those associated with award finalists are invited to attend the prestigious gala dinner awards ceremony at Crown Perth. Tickets are available via www.celebratewa.com.au.

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The finalists for the 2016 Western Australian of the Year Awards:

- **Aboriginal Award** – *Sponsored by Wesfarmers*
 - Rishelle Hume
 - Denise Smith-Ali
- **Arts and Culture Award** – *Sponsored by Woodside*
 - Amber Hasler
 - Warwick Hemsley
 - Jennifer Simpson
- **Business Award** – *Sponsored by Telstra*
 - Alan Cransberg
 - Adrian Fini
 - Chris Taylor
- **Community Award** – *Sponsored by Alcoa of Australia*
 - Lynne Bradshaw
 - Norman Hammond
 - John van Bockxmeer
- **Professions Award** – *Sponsored by St John of God Healthcare*
 - Bill Bunbury
 - Arlene Chan
 - Stephen Wilton
- **Sport Award** – *Sponsored by Hardy Brothers Jewellers*
 - Caitlin Bassett
 - David Carr
 - Nathan Fyfe
- **Youth Award** – *Sponsored by BHP Billiton*
 - Scott Corbett
 - Ashley Harrison
 - Nicholas Maissey

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Photo/interview opportunities available on request.

About Celebrate WA

Celebrate WA is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for promoting and organising the annual WA Day celebrations; promoting excellence and achievement by Western Australians in all fields of endeavour; and encouraging pride in all things Western Australian.

Celebrate WA's Major Supporters include BHP Billiton, the State Government and Lotterywest.

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