



MEDIA RELEASE

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2017 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

24 APRIL 2017

The finalists for the 2017 Western Australian of the Year Awards have been announced, recognising a diverse range of talented Western Australians who demonstrate excellence in their field and make a positive contribution to our community.

The 27 finalists are across seven categories: Aboriginal, Arts & Culture, Business, Community, Professions, Sport and Youth (see full list of finalists on the following page).

The overall Western Australian of the Year will be selected from the 7 category winners.

The winners will be announced at the start of the WA Day long weekend on Friday 2 June 2017 at a Gala Dinner at Crown Towers, hosted by Matt Tinney, Perth correspondent from Channel 7's breakfast program, Sunrise.

Award ceremony guests will dine on a specifically curated menu of fresh Western Australian produce while enjoying a spectacular program of entertainment from Western Australia's most talented artists.

Performers will include Lucy Durack, a well-known Perth performer who played a major role in the Australian musical theatre show, *Wicked*. The West Australia Ballet, renowned for their impressive mix of superior classical and contemporary ballet, will also be taking the stage to entertain guests during the evening.

The Western Australian of the Year Awards alumni include David Flanagan, Dr Robert Isaacs AM JP, Professor Fiona Stanley AS, Michael Chaney AO, The Hon Chief Justice Wayne Martin AC QC and Adam Gilchrist AM. A full list of alumni can be found at waday.com

Last year's Western Australian of the Year, Adrian Fini OAM said the Award had given him the opportunity to speak to many people throughout the year and discuss the state's success and the opportunities ahead.

"As the son of migrants to this state, being named Western Australian of the Year was a great honour that has meant a lot to me and my family. It is really recognition of the hard work and contribution of more than one generation of my family to this state, as well as for the team of people who have helped us build our businesses and have a positive impact on both city and regional areas."

"I look forward to handing on the title to the next Western Australian of the Year and there are many, many worthy winners among the finalists – each of whom has made a significant contribution to the state in their field of expertise."

Celebrate WA Chairman, Michael Anghie, said the Awards are the highest honour for Western Australians and recognise those who contribute to Western Australia and their many achievements across our vast state.

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“These Awards recognise people making positive contributions to Western Australia that we all ultimately benefit from, and which truly deserve to be publicly acknowledged and celebrated.”

“The Awards evening is the beginning of a long weekend of celebrating all that is great about WA and celebrations will be held throughout the state to recognise WA Day.”

Members of the public and those associated with award finalists are invited to attend the prestigious gala dinner awards ceremony at Crown Towers and can be purchased at waday.com

The finalists for the 2017 Western Australian of the Year Awards:

- **Aboriginal Award** – *Presented by Wesfarmers*
 - Olive Knight
 - Angela Ryder
 - Phillip Walley-Stack
 - Gina Williams
- **Arts and Culture Award** – *Presented by Woodside Energy*
 - Marcus Canning
 - Alec Coles OBE
 - Jenny Davis OAM
 - Lynda Dorrington
- **Business Award**
 - Julie Adams
 - Marion Fulker
 - Andrew Forrest AO
- **Community Award** – *Presented by Alcoa of Australia*
 - Fay Alford
 - Peter Lyndon-James
 - Catia Malaquias
 - Angie Paskevicius
- **Professions Award**
 - Prof. David Blair
 - Dr. James Fitzpatrick
 - Prof. Jessica Meeuwig
 - Prof. Peter Thompson
- **Sport Award** – *Presented by Hardy Brothers Jewellers*
 - Renee Baker
 - Dennis Cometti
 - Jan Cooper
 - Natalie Medhurst
- **Youth Award** – *Presented by BHP Billiton*
 - Shelley Cable
 - Tash Dale
 - Ryan Morich
 - Melissa Northcott

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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.

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