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MEDIA RELEASE

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ABORIGINAL CHAMPIONS FOR WA'S HIGHEST AWARDS

High achieving Western Australians from Aboriginal communities are being sought to receive the state's highest honours, with nominations for the prestigious 2018 Western Australian of the Year Awards now open.

The Awards celebrate inspirational role models in the Aboriginal community; excellence in business leadership, social entrepreneurship and innovation; making a positive difference to the vibrancy of our state through arts and culture; positive social, scientific and economic impact; achievement in sport; and improving the lives of Western Australians and the community as a whole.

Members of Aboriginal communities are asked to suggest outstanding individuals for both the specific Aboriginal Award category sponsored by Wesfarmers, as well as individuals who are relevant to the other categories of: Arts & Culture sponsored by Woodside, Business, the Community Award sponsored by Alcoa, the Professions Award, the Sports Award and the Youth Award.

Gina Williams was among the highly accomplished and deserving winners in 2017. Gina was awarded the prestigious Aboriginal award in recognition of her commitment to keeping the Noongar language alive through song and music. Among other things, Gina has been the winner of WA Music Industry Aboriginal Act of the Year 5 times, has helped establish Noongar Radio, and her welcome song, Wanjoo, has been taught to more than 40,000 children through school workshops across Australia.

Aboriginal nominees have a strong overall track record of success in the Awards, including two of the past six Western Australians of the Year - Dr Robert Isaacs AM in 2016 and Kim Scott in 2012. All other Aboriginal winners can be viewed at www.waday.com

An easy-to-use online nomination process at www.waday.com should only take 5 - 10 minutes to complete and simply requires people to say what category their nominee should be in; what makes that person truly remarkable and why they should win. To be nominated, a person must either have been born in WA or have made Western Australia their home.

The category winners will be announced on the evening of Friday, 1 June 2018 at the start of the WA Day weekend, with the overall winner declared as Western Australian of the Year.

Celebrate WA Chair Michael Anghie hopes that in 2018 we will see exciting new nominations from exceptional Western Australians who are helping to transform our community and make our state a global leader in many fields of endeavour.

"It is vital for the future of Western Australia that we continue to recognise and celebrate

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people who make extraordinary contributions in their areas of expertise, as this will guide and inspire current and future residents of this great state. I strongly urge Aboriginal communities and organisations to nominate their high achievers so they can receive the recognition they richly deserve” said Mr Anghie.

Anyone can make a nomination for the Western Australian of the Year Awards and the nomination period is open now and closes on Friday 16 February 2018.

If you have any questions about the Awards or the nomination process people can contact Celebrate WA on 08 9324 5000 or celebratewa@celebratewa.com.au

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Other images of Gina Williams and images of all 2017 winners are available.

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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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