



19 November 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

ABORIGINAL ROLE MODELS SOUGHT FOR STATE'S HIGHEST HONOURS

Nominations are open once again for the prestigious Western Australian of the Year Awards, with the search on for extraordinary Aboriginal Western Australians from around our state.

The Awards celebrate 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; inspirational role models in the Aboriginal community; and improving the lives of Western Australians and the community as a whole.

Western Australians are asked to nominate, not only outstanding members of Aboriginal communities for the Aboriginal Award, supported by Wesfarmers, but also individuals who are relevant to other Award categories.

The seven Award categories are:

- **Aboriginal** Award supported by Wesfarmers
- **Arts & Culture** Award supported by Woodside
- **Business** Award supported by Perdaman
- **Community** Award supported by Alcoa
- **Professions** Award supported by APM
- **Sport** Award supported by Channel 7
- **Youth** Award supported by BHP

Gail Allison JP was the highly deserving winner of the Aboriginal Award in 2018. An Elder, nurse and teacher, Gail received the Award for her dedication to improving the lives of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Gail was the first female chair of the Western Desert Community Development Training Program. She has been a board member of the National Aboriginal Health Organisation for two decades and is a dedicated campaigner against petrol sniffing.

Another recent winner of the prestigious Aboriginal Award is Gina Williams (2017). Gina is an Aboriginal singer/songwriter dedicated to the survival of the Noongar language. The translation of her welcome song, Wanjoo, that promotes the ideas of inclusiveness and reconciliation, has now been taught to over 80,000 children through school workshops. A full list of Aboriginal Award winners can be viewed at www.waday.com

Celebrate WA Chairman, Michael Anghie, said he looked forward to learning about the 2019 Award nominees and how they demonstrate the best qualities of the Western Australian community.



BHP

Major Supporters





“These Awards celebrate the very best achievements of Western Australians, whether they have had an impact locally or further afield. Every year the quality of our Award nominees is exceptional. I strongly urge people from Aboriginal communities and organisations to nominate someone who has made an extraordinary contribution to our state, so they can receive the recognition they deserve.” Mr Anghie said.

Members of the public can nominate friends, family and colleagues or can self-nominate online at www.waday.com. The simple process should take 5 minutes to complete. It only requires people to select a category for their nominee, describe the nominee’s achievements, and explain why they should win. Any person born in WA or who has made Western Australia their home is eligible.

Nominations are open until Friday 15 February 2019.

A gala dinner to announce the winners will take place on the evening of Friday 31 May 2019 to mark the beginning of the WA Day weekend, with the overall winner declared as Western Australian of the Year.

Any questions about the awards nomination process may be directed to Celebrate WA on (08) 9324 5000 or celebratewa@celebratewa.com.au

ENDS

Photos of previous winners are available. Gail Allison JP and Gina Williams (2017) and other Award winners are available for interviews.

Media contacts

Anthony Hasluck
Clarity Communications
P: 0438 522 194
E: Anthony.hasluck@claritycommunications.com.au

Julia Watts
Clarity Communications
P: 0407 646 178
E: Julia.watts@claritycommunications.com.au

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.



BHP

Major Supporters

