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MEDIA RELEASE

NOMINATIONS CLOSING SOON FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

There is less than a month left for people to nominate outstanding members of Aboriginal communities for the Western Australian of the Year Awards, with the online nomination process closing on Friday, 1 March.

Western Australians of Aboriginal descent are encouraged to take 5 minutes to self-nominate or nominate an Aboriginal person they know who is doing extraordinary work in their specialist field and in the community at large, acting as a role model for others.

The online nominations process can be completed at www.waday.com and simply requires people to select the Award category their nominee should be in; and say what that person's achievements are and why they should win. To be nominated, a person must only have been born in WA or have made Western Australia their home.

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

The finalists for each category are announced in April with the winners being named on the evening of Friday, 31 May 2019 at a Gala Dinner marking the start of the WA Day weekend. An overall winner will be declared as Western Australian of the Year 2019.

Gina Williams was the highly deserving winner of the Aboriginal Award in 2017. Gina is an Aboriginal singer/songwriter dedicated to the survival of the Noongar language. Her welcome song, Wanjoo, that promotes the ideas of inclusiveness and reconciliation, has been taught to over 80,000 school children. A list of previous Aboriginal Award winners can be viewed in the Hall of Fame at www.waday.com

Dr Robert Isaacs AM JP is another alumni of the prestigious Aboriginal Award, (2015). Dr Isaacs, who also won the overall Western Australian of the Year Award, is a Noongar Elder who has dedicated his life to improving the lives of Aboriginal Australians through initiatives in social justice, health, employment and community service.

The Awards were created to 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;

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and improving the lives of Western Australians and the community as a whole.

Celebrate WA Chair Michael Anghie said he encouraged all Western Australians to consider the outstanding people they had encountered in their lives, and to nominate them before the closing date.

“Every year the calibre of finalists never ceases to amaze me, and I am sure 2019 will produce another group of high calibre individuals who are pursuing important goals in a dedicated and selfless way. The Awards allow us to appreciate the fantastic work people do in our communities, inspiring young Western Australians to continue striving to improve our great State. I ask everyone from Aboriginal communities and organisations to nominate their role models for an Award, so they can receive the recognition they deserve,” said Mr Anghie.

The WA Day celebrations and events are proudly supported by the Government of Western Australia, Lotterywest and BHP.

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

ENDS

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

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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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