

2024 Far West Excellence in Business Awards

Guidelines



"The Awards put exceptional business people in the spotlight, acknowledging their hard work and commitment in building great businesses within their communities."

The Awards exists to reward the drive, persistence and determination shown by so many, and to put regional business on the map"

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Far West Excellence in Business Awards is the region's most prestigious and celebrated annual business event. Established in 2014, they recognise and celebrate the achievements of people and businesses in the region, the Awards offer an important opportunity to showcase the achievements and capabilities of the businesses that form the backbone of the region's economy.

The Far West Excellence in Business Awards;

- Provide inspiration to local businesses.
- Set benchmarks for best practice.
- Celebrate outstanding achievements.
- Encourage business to innovate and plan for the future.
- Recognise exceptional staff.
- Recognise the commitment and achievement of the region's apprentices and trainees.

Since 2014, the outstanding achievements of a wide range of organisations have been acknowledged, regardless of the size of the industry or business.

Outback Spirit Award

This award is chosen by the judging panel and will be selected from all winners of the business categories. It recognises an organisation that demonstrates overall excellence in their field and across all categories.

* This category cannot be applied for

Dates to Remember

Entries Open:	01 July 2024
Entries Close:	Midnight, 30 September 2024
Gala Awards Event:	Saturday 23 November 2024

Nominating in the Awards

The Far West Excellence in Business Awards consist of 2 different sections.

Business Awards consisting of;

1. **Excellence in Business** - This category recognises a business with 20 or more employees that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the specific strategies implemented to achieve business success and/or resilience.
2. **Excellence in Customer Service** - Awarded to a business that recognises and demonstrates that their customers are the core of their business.
3. **Best Small Business** - Recognising a business with less than 20 employees that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the strategies implemented to achieve business success and/or resilience.
4. **Best New Business** - This category recognises a new business (less than 2 years old) that has effectively driven growth and is able to demonstrate the potential to achieve future success.
5. **Outstanding Employee of the Year** - The Outstanding Employee Award recognises an inspirational employee who has demonstrated a passion for their role and a commitment to their workplace and community.
6. **Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality** - This award recognises a business that has achieved significant growth (market share, sales volume, turnover, profitability) and is able to demonstrate the specific strategies and plans implemented to achieve sustainable growth in the previous financial year.
7. **Excellence in Social Enterprise / Outstanding Community Organisation** - This award recognises an organisation that works to improve the social, cultural or environmental wellbeing of the community.
8. **Employer of Choice** - This award recognises a business that has implemented strategies and initiatives to create stimulating and supportive workplace environments for its employees.
9. **Excellence in Innovation** - This award recognises a business that has implemented innovative solutions for new and existing business needs through the introduction or improvement of an idea, product, method, technology, process or application.
10. **Excellence in Presentation and Marketing** - Awarded to a business that demonstrates a focus on sound marketing principals and development of a strong business image.
11. **Apprentice or Trainee of the Year** - Awarded to an apprentice or trainee that has gone above and beyond the call of duty and made a valuable contribution to the success of the business they work for.

All nominations for the Business Awards must be submitted online at

<https://www.farwestbusinessawards.com.au/>

You must nominate your business and complete the nomination form to enter the Business Awards categories above.

The public can nominate you and your business in the People's Choice categories.

The People's Choice Awards consisting of;

1. **The Region's Most Popular Business** - Awarded to the region's most popular business as voted by the public.
2. **Service with a Smile** - Awarded to the region's most popular employee as voted by the public.
3. **Community Organisation** - Awarded to the region's most popular Community Organisation as voted by the public.

Nominations for the People's Choice can be made;

1. Online at <https://www.farwestbusinessawards.com.au/>
2. In paper format – Paper nominations can be found at many local businesses or collected at the RDA Far West Office, 353 Blende Street. Paper nominations must be lodged at the RDA Far West Office by the close date
3. Online through QR code to access the form.

The Judging Process

The Business Awards categories are judged by an independent panel of experts. None of the panel have visited our region and their assessment will be based purely on the information you include in your nomination. They are not aware of your business or the outstanding achievements of your business or team, if you don't tell them they won't know. The Tips and hints document provides additional information that may assist you.

The People's Choice Awards are judged locally by RDA Far West by a simple count, the nominees in each category with the highest number of votes will be declared the winner.



HOW THE AWARDS GROW YOUR BUSINESS

You have the opportunity to reconnect with your business vision, grow your business knowledge and review your goals and aspirations.

Nominating provides the opportunity to:

- Critically review your current position and reconnect with your business vision.
- Strategically review your business and growth.
- Benchmark your business against others and identify key areas where current processes can be improved.
- Celebrate the journey of your business by taking the time to reflect on your achievements.
- Recognise those who have contributed to your success and their role in supporting you and your business.
- Obtain recognition in business excellence at a local, regional and/or state level.
- Build a reputation for excellence and be recognised inside and outside of your industry.
- Improve employee engagement by involving your employees in the nomination process.
- Recognise your incredible team and the staff that go above and beyond in their work.

IS MY BUSINESS ELIGIBLE?

Nominated business will be eligible to enter the Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards, providing the following criteria is met.

The nominated business must:

- Reside in Far West NSW; which is classified as the RDA Far West regional footprint as shown in the map to the right
- Be a registered trading business



Conditions of Nomination

1. All entrants or nominations must operate in the Far West of NSW, as defined by the RDA Far West regional footprint, and the map on page 4.
2. The Judging Panel reserves the right to place your entry into a category it feels most appropriate.
3. The Judging Panel reserves the right to create or delete categories based on the number of entries received.
4. The applicant acknowledges that if they win an Award, that the Award is personal to the winner and is not assignable to another person or business.
5. Awards will be presented to the organisation, or the person named on the nomination form.
6. No alterations to nominations will be accepted after the published closing date for nominations.
7. A finalist **MUST** have a representative present at the gala event on 23 November 2024
8. The winner of the **Outback Spirit Award** will be required to deliver a brief acceptance speech.
9. Nomination for the Awards is free.
10. Your privacy is protected, and all entries are regarded as CONFIDENTIAL, all individuals involved in the judging process are required to complete a 'Confidentiality Agreement.'
11. Entries must be submitted in the official entry format, online or People's Choice as an online or paper copy. All questions must be addressed in full to be eligible.
12. All entrants or nominations must be registered with the ATO as a business and hold a current ABN number, except People's Choice.
13. Sponsors may enter the Awards but may not enter the category that they are sponsoring.
14. New Business category – defined as operating less than 2 years.
15. Best Small Business category – defined as 20 or less Employees.
16. Best Business category – defined as more than 20 Employees.
17. People's Choice – entrants must act honestly, fairly and in good faith in participating in the Awards. Entries must be submitted in the official entry format online or People's Choice paper copy, – no photocopies accepted.
18. No responsibility is accepted for late, lost, incomplete, incorrectly submitted, or misdirected entries or due to technical malfunctions that result in an individual being unable to submit an entry online.
19. The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Celebrating Success in the Far West