



SEEKING VOLUNTEER ASSESSORS: 2017 PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION AWARDS

The Institute of Public Administration Australia, ACT Division (IPAA ACT), and the PSIN are seeking volunteer assessors from the network for the 2017 Public Sector Innovation Awards.

The Public Sector Innovation Awards aim to recognise, celebrate and share innovative approaches to public administration. These Innovation Awards will be run annually by IPAA ACT in partnership with the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, and the PSIN.

The Awards aim to help:

- Highlight the innovation happening within the public sector
- Spread the good ideas that have been put into practice, and the lessons learnt, and
- Foster a culture that supports and celebrates people and agencies doing things differently.

Nominations for the Awards are open from **1 March until 13 April 2017**. Individuals, work groups and teams employed by a Commonwealth or ACT Government entity are eligible to nominate.

Applications will be considered against three Award categories: **Innovative Solutions; Culture and Practice;** and **Digital and Data**. This year there will also be a **Judges' Award** for a nomination from the above three categories that stands out from the crowd.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A panel of assessors will assess and shortlist nominations against agreed criteria. Assessment will be made against the Awards criteria through our new Awards software, which will have the advantage of providing a community of practice for assessors and will assist in managing your allocated nominations. You will be asked to rate each nomination assigned to you, make brief comments against the assessment criteria. Your assessment will allow us to create shortlist of applications.

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to give a presentation to a panel of judges, with winners announced at a presentation ceremony on **27 July 2017 (tbc)**.

To minimise the risk of bias, we require that each nomination be independently assessed by at least two assessors, neither of whom will be asked to assess a nomination from their agency.

WHY VOLUNTEER AS AN ASSESSOR?

Assessors play a crucial role in the success of the Awards by providing impartial evaluations of the work of their peers, based on their shared experience of the public sector.

Being an assessor is a challenging and rewarding experience that will enhance the skills of those individuals that participate, by exposing them to the innovative work of agencies or bodies within the Commonwealth and ACT Governments. There are no formal qualifications or experience required of assessors but we warmly encourage assessors from the 2016 Awards to re-apply.

Assessors will be asked to undertake a 90-minute workshop on how to assess the Awards against agreed criteria. Assessor training intends to ensure that a consistent and comprehensive approach is taken to the assessment of all initiatives.

HOW TO BECOME AN ASSESSOR

Send a brief expression of interest to innovation@act.ipaa.org.au by **24 March 2017**. For more information, contact Paulette Paterson on 02 6154 9800. We warmly encourage assessors from the 2016 Awards to re-apply.