

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**When do entries close?**

The closing date for all awards is **Friday 6 September 2019**. Please submit your award entry on our online platform by this date. Entries submitted after this date will not be considered.

**How do I submit my entry?**

Download the submission guide from the website for the category or categories you are interested in entering, from the individual [category pages](https://www.fiaawards.org.au/categories). This guide will let you know the questions you'll be asked and the supporting documents you will need to complete your submission.

When you are ready, visit our new and improved online submission platform to enter <https://fia.awardsplatform.com/>. You'll be asked to create an account in Awards Force and once you've done that, you'll be able to enter as many categories as you like. Don't forget to hit the 'submit' button when you've finished. You may still edit your entry after submitting, up until the closing deadline, Friday 6 September.

Allow yourself plenty of time, so you don't miss the closing deadline of Friday 6 September.

If you have any questions on the entry process, please contact FIA by email to training@fia.org.au or call 02 9411 6644.

**Categories**

**What are the categories?**

**Campaign Awards**

* **Most Innovative Campaign**  
  This award recognises campaigns that challenge the status quo and show courage in trying a different or revolutionary approach to drive fundraising success. Innovation may include use of new or groundbreaking ideas; use of new technology; or the use of previously untried or untested strategies/activities to achieve fundraising success.
* **Best Supporter Experience**

This award recognises the successful development and implementation of best-practice donor or supporter experiences. The supporter experience should offer donors deeper engagement with beneficiaries, impact and outcomes; bring them closer to the cause; maintain their interest; extend their support; or increase their lifetime value – just to name a few. These experiences should reflect a deep understanding of donor insights integrated with organisational strategy. This award also recognises the use of effective donor experiences through multi-channel engagement.

* **Fundraising Impact through Creativity**This award recognises the implementation of effective creative to drive fundraising success. Creativity in fundraising can be demonstrated through the application of powerful creative such as compelling messaging, imagery or branding to achieve strategic fundraising impact. Creativity can be expressed through various channels, including video, visual storytelling and online/offline integration.
* **Impact on a Shoestring**This award recognises fundraising that achieves significant impact when limited investment is available. This includes limited operational budgets and human and other resources that deliver fundraising success. Ideally suited to smaller charities, this award is for campaigns or activities with a campaign budget of up to $50,000.
* **Best Strategic Partnership**This award recognises highly successful partnerships that achieve mutual benefit and fundraising success. This includes partnerships between charities and groups such as companies, trusts, foundations, community groups, media outlets, individuals, ambassadors and other NFPs.​
* **Impact through Events**  
  This award recognises outstanding achievement in fundraising through conducting a special event. Special events should show exceptional development of strategy, efficient execution, clear event uniqueness and significant ROI for the organisation.
* **Supplier Team of the Year**This award recognises suppliers who have delivered significant outcomes for member organisations through fundraising campaigns and activities. Nominated by member charities, the relationship, ethics, management and fundraising outcomes will be considered.

**State Awards**The following will be awarded on a state basis with the winners going on to national judging:

* **Young Fundraiser of the Year**  
  The Young Fundraiser of the Year Award rewards a fundraiser aged 30 years or younger who has made a significant contribution to fundraising. The fundraiser should have shown consistent excellence and best practice through their actions, leadership and intellect.  
  + State Award  
    Nominations are invited for Young Fundraisers to compete for this award within their own state. Winners will be announced at the End of Year Christmas function in each state. Each state winner will receive a registration to attend the 2020 FIA Conference in Brisbane (26-28 February 2020), including a ticket to the Gala Awards Dinner on Thursday 27 February.
* National Award  
  The winner from each state will automatically go through to the national judging level to determine the FIA National Young Fundraiser of the Year and this will be presented at the FIA Gala Awards Dinner on Thursday 27 February 2020 during the FIA Conference in Brisbane. The national winner will receive a scholarship to an international fundraising conference, including flights and accommodation.
* Award Requirements:
  + The nominator must be a member of FIA who has a current full professional or organisational membership held for a 12-month period.
  + The nominee must be a member of FIA who has a current full professional membership held for a 12-month period.
  + The nominee must be 30 years or younger.
  + The nominee must have made a significant contribution to the sector.
* **Volunteer of the Year**  
  This award acknowledges the significant and highly valued contribution made by volunteers to the fundraising profession. It honours a volunteer who has assisted through their efforts and dedication of time to an organisation and fundraising cause.

A winner will be selected from each state and will be pronounced as the Volunteer of the Year for that state. The winner from each state will go through to the national judging level to determine the FIA National Volunteer of the Year. The national winner will be announced at the FIA Gala Awards Dinner on Thursday 27 February 2020, during the FIA Conference in Brisbane on 26-28 February 2020.

* Award Requirements:
  + Organisations submitting an entry must employ at least one 2019/2020 professional member of FIA (minimum MFIA). Alternatively, the submitting organisation or consultancy must be a 2019/2020 organisational member of FIA.
  + The nominee must have made a significant contribution to the sector.
* **Fundraising Team of the Year**The Fundraising Team of the Year category recognises internal fundraising teams working across a variety of campaigns to support the ongoing work of the organisation. The focus of the award is on teamwork and leveraging internal resources to achieve the organisation's fundraising objectives.

A winner will be selected from each state and territory will be announced as the Fundraising Team of the Year for that state/ territory. Winners from each state will go through for national judging to determine the FIA National Fundraising Team of the Year.

* Award Requirements:
  + Organisations submitting an entry must be a current (2019-2020) organisational member of FIA.

**Individual Awards**

* **Arthur Venn Fundraiser of the Year**  
  The Arthur Venn Fundraiser of the Year Award rewards a fundraiser who has made an outstanding contribution to fundraising in Australia. The fundraiser should have shown consistent excellence and best practice through their actions, leadership and intellect.
* Award Requirements:
  + - The nominator must be an FIA member with a current, full professional or organisational membership (held for a 12-month period).
    - The award nominee must be an FIA member with a current, full professional membership (held for a 12-month period).
    - The nominee must hold an EMFIA or FFIA credential, and a CFRE credential is highly regarded.
    - The nominee must have made a significant contribution to the sector.

**Principal Award**

* **Most Outstanding Fundraising Project**Only Campaign Award winners are eligible for this award, the winner being the most outstanding entry across all categories.

**Key Dates**

**Entries open:** Monday 16 July 2019

**Entries close:** Friday 6 September 2019

**Finalists announced:** (campaign awards): State End of Year Events throughout December

**State winners announced:** (Young Fundraiser of the Year, Volunteer of the Year & Fundraising Team of the Year only): State End of Year Events throughout December

**National winners announced:** Fundraisers’ Gala Awards Dinner, Thursday 27 February 2020 in Brisbane.

**Who is eligible to enter**

The FIA Awards are open to 2019/2020 financial members of FIA only. Check the individual award categories for specific requirements. Full terms and conditions of entry for each category are included in the individual submission guides.

**Individual & State Awards**

Nominees for the Arthur Venn Fundraiser of the Year and Young Fundraiser of the Year must be current members of FIA.

Volunteers do not need to be members themselves but the charity with which they volunteer must be.

Organisations entering the awards for Fundraising Team of the Year must be a current (2019-2020) Organisational Member.

**Entry Fee**

There is no charge to enter the 2020 Awards, thanks to our Award Sponsors Precision Fundraising and MonDial Telephone Fundraising

**Announcing the winners**

**When are the winners announced?**

Each state holds an annual end of year celebration which includes the announcement of the campaign finalists and state winners in that state. These events occur in December. Visit the [FIA Awards website](https://www.fiaawards.org.au/finalist-and-winners-announcement) for more information on your local end of year event.

The Award Winners are announced as part of FIA’s Fundraising Conference. The 2020 award winners will be announced on Thursday 27 February 2020 at the Fundraisers’ Gala Awards Dinner in Brisbane.

**Judging**

**How are judges selected?**

Campaign awards: Judges are selected by the FIA Awards Committee.

State awards: Judges are selected by the individual state committees

**What is the judging process?**

**Campaign awards**: a panel of judges consisting of a panel Chair and three other members will judge the campaign awards. Entries will be assessed according to the criteria listed in the submission guide.

The **State Awards** are judged by a panel from within the State Committee, and the winners from each state will go on to be judged by a national panel.

**What is the judging process for the Principal Award?**

Winners of each Campaign category will be considered for the Principal Award:

* Most Outstanding Fundraising Campaign

At the national level the panel shall compromise of four judges being the FIA Chairman, FIA Deputy Chairman, CEO and an independent person.

**What are the judges looking for?**

Each section of the awards is judged differently and will have points/criteria allocated to differing areas. It’s essential to consider the point weighting when you are preparing your entry. Entries are considered against a prepared marking schedule and points are awarded on how well the criterion has been met. Judges then meet to discuss and determine the entries. The decision of the judges is final.

You must submit your entry via our new online entry platform at <https://fia.awardsplatform.com/>. No hard copies will be accepted.

FIA’s awards promote ethical and effective fundraising practices based on the [FIA Code](https://fia.org.au/fiacode/). The award criteria has been divided into various sections and judges will award a maximum point score to each section. The website and submission guide for each award contain details for each section as to what to include. The clearer you are able to explain your plan, strategy and results the easier it will be for the judges.

**Content of your entry**

**What happens if I leave something out?**

Point weightings are given to each criterion, so if you leave something out you will lose points.

You can edit your submission up until Friday 6 September but not after that.

**My campaign is multi-year, when is the right time to enter the Awards? Do you have to wait until the campaign is over?**

The campaign must have been conducted or partially conducted during the 18-month period proceeding (1 March 2018 - 31 August 2019). Income up to this point may be included in results. It is not compulsory that the campaign be over before entering.

**What do winners get?**

**Finalists:**

Finalists will receive a certificate at their state end of year event

**Winners:**

Winners will receive a certificate and trophy at the Fundraisers’ Gala Awards Dinner on 27 February 2020, in Brisbane. Winners will also receive an FIA Awards winners seal to use how they wish.

**Highly Commended:**

Highly Commended finalists will receive a certificate at the Fundraisers’ Gala Awards Dinner on 27 February 2020, in Brisbane.

**National Young Fundraiser of the Year:**

Winner of the National Young Fundraiser of the Year award receives a certificate and trophy at the Fundraisers’ Gala Awards Dinner on 27 February 2020, in Brisbane. The National Young Fundraiser of the Year also receives a scholarship to an international conference including flights and accommodation.

**State Winners – Young Fundraiser of the Year**

State winners of the Young Fundraiser of the Year award receive a certificate at their state end of year event. They also receive a scholarship to attend FIA Conference 2020 as well as a complimentary ticket to the Fundraisers’ Gala Awards Dinner on 27 February 2020, in Brisbane where the national winner is announced.

**What are the benefits of winning an award?**

**There are many benefits of winning an FIA Award, including:**

* To celebrate your, and your team’s, hard work and achievements during the year
* Show your organisation’s leadership and your Board and stakeholders that you excel in fundraising and how your achievements compared with others in the sector
* The FIA Awards for Excellence in Fundraising provide a benchmark for excellence. By entering, you can align your organisation’s work with the best in the sector and reward your staff for the creative, impactful and innovative work that they do.
* Use the application process as a best-practice review of the campaigns you have undertaken over the past year
* Showcase innovation and best practice to your peers and provide others with an insight on why they would want to work with your organisation
* Take pride that you, or your organisation, are finalists and/or winners in the most prestigious awards for our sector.

**Terms and Conditions of Entry**

See [website](https://www.fiaawards.org.au/) or submission guides for individual terms and conditions of entry.