



NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN FUNDRAISING

Frequently Asked Questions

When do entries close?

The closing date for all awards is **Friday 1 September 2023**. 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](#). 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 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 1 September.

Allow yourself plenty of time, so you don't miss the closing deadline of Friday 1 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, within your organisation or outside, in trying a different or revolutionary approach to drive fundraising success. Innovation may include: use of new or ground-breaking ideas; or the use of previously untried or untested strategies/activities to achieve fundraising success.

For innovative campaigns that primarily use technology, we suggest submitting them under the 'Fundraising Impact through Technology' category.

➤ **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 story telling 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, human and other resources that deliver fundraising success.

Providing smaller charities the opportunity to highlight and celebrate their fundraising successes, the eligibility criteria for this category is:

- Organisations with annual fundraising turnover of up to \$2,000,000
- A campaign budget of up to \$30,000 (not including staff costs)

➤ **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.

➤ **Best Pivot Campaign or Initiative**

This award recognises fundraising campaigns or initiatives that have been pivoted in response to a critical fundraising challenge. The 'pivot' can be the change or adaptation of an existing campaign or initiative due to an internal / external challenge that poses significant risk to future income growth and sustainability within the fundraising program. e.g. responding to a high rate of attrition within a Regular Giving program, dwindling attendance at events by going digital, drop in corporate sponsorship by changing the case for support and donor segmentation of a direct mail campaign.

Note: this category is **not** about fundraising for a crisis or emergency appeal (e.g. bushfire appeal) instead focusing on how fundraisers respond to a critical fundraising challenge.

➤ **Fundraising Impact Through Technology**

This award recognises the exceptional use of technology to create or strengthen campaigns and drive powerful fundraising outcomes.

Campaigns acknowledged in this category must focus on the use of technology to drive fundraising. This could include technology that is new or previously unused by their organisation, or the refinement or adaptation of existing technology to achieve fundraising success. Technology examples include, but are not limited to, digital technology, AI, CRM, NTFs, cryptocurrency and social media.

➤ **Supplier Team of the Year**

This award recognises suppliers who have established significant relationships and delivered significant outcomes (financial or other) for member organisations through fundraising activities and campaigns. Nominated by an FIA Member non-profit/charity, 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 function in each state. Each state winner will receive a registration to attend the 2024 FIA Conference in Brisbane (28 February – 1 March 2024), including a ticket to the Fundraisers' Gala Awards Dinner on Thursday 29 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 Fundraisers' Gala Awards Dinner on Thursday 29 February 2024 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 and award nominee must be members of FIA who have a current full professional or organisational membership held for a 12-month period.
- The nominee must have made a significant contribution to the sector and be no older than 30.

➤ **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 (2023/2024) organisational member of FIA and the submission must be approved by the CEO/ Head of Fundraising or equivalent.

Individual Awards

➤ **Fundraising Champion of the Year**

Established in 2021, this award acknowledges the importance and highly valued contribution of 'non-traditional' fundraising advocates and supporters within your organisation. Designed to recognise that effective fundraising doesn't happen in isolation, the award honours a member of your organisation who does not hold a specific fundraising role, but whose efforts contribute to, facilitate, grow and support your fundraising success.

In searching for the fundraising champion of the year, look beyond your fundraising teams. These champions will be found on your board, at the leadership table, in your finance team or amongst those responsible for program delivery. They will provide critical support to fundraisers, but they won't recognise themselves as such.

- Award Requirements:
 - Organisations submitting an entry must be a current (2023-2024) Organisational Member of FIA.
 - The 'champion' must have made a significant contribution to the fundraising success of the organisation within the past 18 months.

➤ **Fundraiser of the Year**

The Fundraiser of the Year Award recognises an FIA Member who has made an outstanding contribution to fundraising best practice and to FIA over the period of 5 years. The fundraiser should have shown outstanding fundraising performance, best practice through their actions, uncompromising commitment to ethics, contribution to sector improvement and impact on the fundraising profession.

- 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 or organisational membership (nominated or additional staff) held for a 24-month period.
 - The nominee must have fundraised continuously and held a professional fundraising position over a 5 year- period with a charity, not-for-profit organisation or specialist charity supplier. The nominee may have held different positions at different organisations over this time, however, all must have been in professional fundraising.
 - The nominee must be over the age of 30.
 - EMFIA, FFIA and CFRE credentials will be highly regarded
 - The nominee must have had significant organisational fundraising success in the 5 year-period and contributed to the fundraising profession.

➤ **Arthur Venn Lifetime Achievement Award**

The Arthur Venn Lifetime Achievement Award recognises an FIA Member who has made an outstanding contribution to FIA and the fundraising sector in Australia. The fundraiser should have shown consistent excellence and best practice through their actions, leadership and intellect.

- Award Requirements:
 - The nominator must be a member of FIA who has a current full professional or organisational membership (nominated or additional staff) held for a 12-month period.
 - The nominee must be at least an EMFIA or FFIA credential who has held a current full professional or organisational membership (nominated or additional staff) held for a 10-year period.
 - 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: Tuesday 27 June 2023

Entries close: Friday 1 September 2023

Finalists announced: (campaign awards): State End of Year Events throughout December. [Click here](#) to see when your End of Year event is held in your state.

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 29 February 2024 in Brisbane.

Who is eligible to enter

The FIA Awards are open to 2023/2024 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.

Nominees for the Volunteer of the Year and Fundraising Champion of the Year Award do not need to be members themselves but the charity or not-for-profit with which they volunteer must be.

Entry Fee

There is no charge to enter the 2024 Awards, thanks to our Award Sponsors [Xponential](#) 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](#) for more information on your local end of year event.

The Award Winners are announced as part of FIA's Fundraising Conference. The 2024 award winners will be announced on Thursday 29 February 2024 at the Fundraisers' Gala Awards Dinner in Brisbane.

Judging

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 FIA Fellows representing each state, then 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 comprise of four judges being the FIA Chairperson, FIA Awards Committee Chair, CEO and an independent person (TBC for 2024)

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 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](#). 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 1 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 2022 - 31 August 2023). 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 29 February 2024, in Brisbane. Winners will also receive an FIA Awards winners seal to use how they wish.

High Commendation:

High Commendation finalists will receive a certificate at the Fundraisers' Gala Awards Dinner on 29 February 2024, 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 29 February 2024, 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 2024 as well as a complimentary ticket to the Fundraisers' Gala Awards Dinner on 29 February 2024, 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](#) or submission guides for individual terms and conditions of entry.