

Darebin Community Awards 2026 Nomination Guidelines



About the Awards

The Darebin Community Awards celebrate individuals, groups and organisations that make a positive difference in our community. The awards recognise leadership, service, participation and community action that strengthen connection, inclusion, wellbeing and belonging across Darebin.

The awards highlight the contributions of community members who inspire others and help make Darebin a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive place to live, work, study and participate.

Key Dates

Activity	Date
Nominations Open	25 August 2026
Nominations Close	22 September 2026
Community Awards Ceremony	12 November 2026

Award Categories

Community Leader of the Year

- Recognises an individual aged 21 years or over.
- Demonstrates leadership and service that strengthens the Darebin community.
- Contributes to community wellbeing, participation and social connection.
- Has made a significant positive impact through leadership, service or advocacy.

Young Community Leader of the Year

- Recognises a young person aged 21 years or under.
- Demonstrates leadership, initiative and a commitment to making a positive difference.
- Contributes to community, cultural, environmental or civic life.
- Encourages participation, connection and belonging within the Darebin community.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Leadership Award

- Recognises an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person or group who demonstrates leadership and commitment to community.
- Contributes to culture, wellbeing and self-determination.
- Supports positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

- Has made a significant and positive impact within the Darebin community.

Multicultural Community Leadership Award

- Recognises an individual or group who demonstrates leadership within or in support of culturally diverse communities.
- Promotes inclusion, participation and intercultural understanding.
- Strengthens community connection, belonging and social cohesion.
- Has made a significant and positive contribution to Darebin's multicultural communities.

Community Group of the Year

- Recognises a community group that delivers meaningful outcomes for the Darebin community.
- Demonstrates strong community engagement and participation.
- Strengthens community connection, belonging and local identity.
- Has made a positive and lasting impact through its activities, services or initiatives.
- Community groups must consist of four or more members.
- This category is intended for community-based groups. Large, funded organisations are not eligible.

Climate & Sustainability Award

- Recognises an individual or group demonstrating leadership in environmental sustainability and climate action.
- Delivers positive environmental outcomes relevant to Darebin.
- Encourages community awareness, participation or behaviour change.
- Contributes to a more sustainable future for the local community.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Award

- Recognises an individual, group or organisation advancing equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Supports access, participation and belonging for people facing barriers or discrimination.
- Helps create a welcoming, inclusive and connected Darebin community.
- Demonstrates meaningful impact through leadership, programs, services or initiatives.

General Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, nominees must:

- Live, work, study, volunteer, participate in community activities, or have made a significant contribution within the City of Darebin.
- Demonstrate a positive contribution to the Darebin community through leadership, service, advocacy, participation or community action.
- Meet any specific eligibility requirements outlined for the relevant award category.

The following are not eligible to receive a nomination (however they may nominate others):

- Current Darebin Councillors.
- Current State or Federal Members of Parliament.

- City of Darebin employees

Who Can Nominate?

- Nominations can be submitted by any individual, community group, organisation, colleague, friend, family member or community member.
- Self-nominations are not permitted.
- Nominees must consent to being nominated and participating in the awards process.

Nomination Requirements

Nominations must include:

- Nominee name and contact details
- Nominator name and contact details
- The award category being nominated for
- A description of the nominee's contribution and achievements
- Examples demonstrating the impact of the nominee's contribution
- Information explaining how the nominee meets the award criteria
- Contact details for at least two referees who can support the nomination.

Optional supporting material may also be provided, including:

- Testimonials or letters of support
- Photographs
- Media coverage
- Reports, publications or other supporting evidence

Assessment Process

Following the close of nominations:

1. Nominations will undergo an eligibility review.
2. Nominees will be contacted by Council to confirm their willingness to participate in the awards process and proceed to assessment.
3. Referees may be contacted to verify information provided in the nomination.
4. Council will undertake appropriate background, probity and media checks as part of the assessment process.
5. Eligible nominations will be assessed by the Community Awards Selection Panel against the award criteria. The Selection Panel will make recommendations to Council regarding award recipients.
6. The Selection Panel will make recommendations to Council regarding award recipients. Final award recipients will be determined by Council. No correspondence will be entered into regarding award outcomes.

Letters of support may be provided by individuals or organisations with direct knowledge of the nominee's contribution. Council officers involved in the administration, assessment or decision-making processes for the awards are not permitted to provide letters of support or act as referees.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Selection Panel may, at its discretion, recommend a Lifetime Achievement Award.

This award recognises an individual who has made an exceptional and sustained contribution to the Darebin community through leadership, service, advocacy or community action over many years.

The Lifetime Achievement Award:

- Is not open for direct nomination.
- May be considered from nominations received across all award categories.
- May not be awarded every year.

Community Awards Ceremony

All eligible nominees and nominators will be invited to attend the Darebin Community Awards Ceremony.

- The event will be free to attend
- The ceremony will be held within the City of Darebin
- The event will be open to the public, subject to venue capacity
- Places may be limited and registration will be required.

Award recipients will be formally announced at the Community Awards Ceremony.

Privacy and Consent

By submitting a nomination, nominators confirm that the information provided is accurate to the best of their knowledge.

Council may contact nominees and referees to verify information provided as part of the assessment process.

Personal information collected through the awards process will be managed in accordance with Council's privacy obligations and applicable legislation.

Successful nominees and award recipients may be featured in Council publications, promotional materials, social media, website content and media releases.



Further Information

For more information about the Darebin Community Awards, please contact:

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