

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) Creative Futures Awards 2008

Autism Spectrum Australia's Creative Futures Awards celebrate the outstanding contributions and achievements of extraordinary people and organisations in the autism spectrum community and in the wider community who support Autism Spectrum Australia.

The Awards recognise the actions and achievements of people who go far beyond what might be reasonably expected. Through this award program, Autism Spectrum Australia celebrates these people and encourages others to achieve and excel.

Award Categories

Autism Spectrum Australia will be presenting 7 categories of Creative Futures awards in 2008:

- Award Category 1:
Individual
Achievement Awards** The Individual Achievement Award recognises significant personal achievement. Nominations are open to any person with an autistic spectrum disorder who excelled or overcame significant barriers to achieve in a particular field or area of life during 2007.
- Two awards may be presented:
- For children and young people aged less than 16 years old at 31 December 2007
 - People aged 16 or more at 31 December 2007
- Award Category 2:
Parent and Carer
Award** The Parent and Carer Award will be presented to an individual who is a parent or carer of a person with an autism spectrum disorder. The award recognises the essential role parents and carers play in the care and development of people with an autism spectrum disorder.
- Award Category 3:
Professional
Achievement Award** This Professional Achievement Award recognises an exceptional professional contribution made by an individual professional working in the field of autism spectrum disorders to improving the quality of life of people with an autism spectrum disorder or their families and carers.
- The award recipient will have a demonstrable record of professional excellence in their chosen discipline.
- Award Category 4:
Exemplary Service
Award** The Exemplary Service Award acknowledges exemplary service to Autism Spectrum Australia and will be made to an employee who has made an outstanding contribution to the achievement of Aspect's vision of overcoming the isolation of autism.
- Award Category 5:
Patronage Award** The Patronage Award recognises an individual, group of individuals or organisation which has provided Autism Spectrum Australia with outstanding patronage or philanthropic support.
- Award Category 6:
The David Foster
Award for Volunteer
Service** The Volunteer Award acknowledges an outstanding contribution made by a volunteer to Autism Spectrum Australia by an individual. The award recognises the role of volunteers in the life of Autism Spectrum Australia.
- Award Category 7:
Business Partnership
Award** The Business Partnership Award will be made to a business entity which has made an exceptional contribution enabling Autism Spectrum Australia to provide better or more services to people with an autism spectrum disorder and their families in New South Wales

Who can be nominated

Nominations are open to any person with an autism spectrum disorder, parents or carers of such a person, professionals working in the field of autism spectrum disorders and any people or organisations supporting or contributing to the work of Autism Spectrum Australia. Any individual, community organisation, professional organisation or similar group can nominate someone for an award.

Autism Spectrum Australia particularly encourages family members, carers, friends, colleagues and service providers to make nominations.

Making a nomination

Nominations for an Autism Spectrum Australia's Creative Futures Award must be made on an official nomination form. In completing the form, it is important to provide specific examples of how the nominee's contribution or achievement has been outstanding as well as examples that show how the nominee has gone above and beyond what might reasonably be expected of someone in a similar position and why you think the nominee is worthy of recognition by Autism Spectrum Australia. Include copies of photos, testimonials, certificates, reports or other material if you think these might strengthen the nomination.

You may nominate someone for more than one award however each nomination must be made on a separate nomination form.

You must ensure that the person you are nominating has given his or her permission to share the nominee's personal details with Autism Spectrum Australia and is willing to allow Autism Spectrum Australia to use their details to promote these and future awards.

Referees

It is helpful to provide the names and contact details of individuals who are in a position to comment directly on the nominee's contributions and achievements

Where to send your nomination form

Completed nominations should be sent to
Creative Futures Awards 2008
Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)
PO Box 361 Forestville NSW 2087

Nominations must be received by Autism Spectrum Australia no later than 5 pm on 2 May 2008

What will the judging panel consider

The judging panel will consider nominations that best fit the award categories and criteria with strong, clear reasons and evidence that supports the nomination.

Special commendation

In addition to awards, the judging panel may elect to make special commendations.

Additional guidelines

Nominations may not be altered after the nomination form has been received by Autism Spectrum Australia

Autism Spectrum Australia reserves the right to use any of the material or information submitted in the nomination form or in support of the nomination to promote the Autism Spectrum Australia Creative Futures Awards

Autism Spectrum Australia will not accept any responsibility for lost or misdirected nominations

Further information

For further information, please check the Autism Spectrum Australia Creative Futures Award 2008 website at www.aspect.org.au/creativefuturesaward or contact Anthony Perl, Autism Spectrum Australia's Communications Manager on 02 8977 8383 email aperl@aspect.org.au.