



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS AND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Originated Date: Adopted – Min No. 59/16

Amended Date/s: Replacing Volunteer Recognition Policy (original Policy 34)

Amended 12 December 2016 – Minute No. 352/16

Reviewed 21 February 2022 – Minute No. 22/53

Reviewed 16 September 2024 - Minute No. 24/0308

Reviewed 21 September 2026 – Minute No. 26-0274

Applicable Legislation:

Objective To establish a selection criteria for the presentation of Councils Australia Day and Volunteer Recognition awards.

Administration: Governance

Review Cycle/Date: Every 4 years. Next review 2030.

BACKGROUND

Each year the Northern Midlands Council presents three awards at its annual Australia Day Event – Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year.

The Northern Midlands Council acknowledges the significant contribution that volunteers and volunteer organisations make to the Northern Midlands Community. Council considers it important to recognise these volunteers on an annual basis. In 2016, Council agreed to incorporate Volunteer Recognition into its annual Australia Day Event.

RECOGNITION

Council will, at its annual Australia Day Event recognise the following categories of awards, providing eligible nominations have been received:

- Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Volunteer service to the Northern Midlands Community
- Business Presentation Award

NOMINATIONS

Council officers are to advertise for nominations for volunteer recognition from August in the year preceding the award presentation, with a closing date in mid to late November.

Nominations received will be considered by the Council Executive, and a winner in each category determined. Councillors are to be notified of the award winners prior to Australia Day at either the December or January Council meeting.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

- The nominee is to have made a significant contribution to the Northern Midlands community; and
- is, or has the potential to be a role model for the Northern Midlands community.



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Consideration is given to the nominee's achievements in the year immediately prior to receiving the award, as well as their past achievements and ongoing contribution to the Northern Midlands community. The following will also be taken into consideration:

- Personal, academic, sporting or professional achievements;
- Previous awards and recognition;
- Voluntary work; and
- Nature and length of activity/service.

Nominees must be:

- A resident of the Northern Midlands;
- At least 25 years of age or older as at 26 January of the Awards year.

SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

- The nominee is to have made a significant contribution to the Northern Midlands community; and
- is, or has the potential to be a role model for the Northern Midlands community.

Consideration is given to the nominee's achievements in the year immediately prior to receiving the award, as well as their past achievements and ongoing contribution to the Northern Midlands community. The following will also be taken into consideration:

- Personal, academic, sporting or professional achievements;
- Previous awards and recognition;
- Voluntary work; and
- Nature and length of activity/service.

Nominees must be:

- A resident of the Northern Midlands;
- At least 65 years of age or older as at 26 January of the Awards year.

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

- The nominee is to have made a significant contribution to the Northern Midlands community; and
- is, or has the potential to be a role model for the Northern Midlands community.

Consideration is given to the nominee's achievements in the year immediately prior to receiving the award, as well as their past achievements and ongoing contribution to the Northern Midlands community. The following will also be taken into consideration:

- Personal, academic, sporting or professional achievements;
- Previous awards and recognition;
- Voluntary work;
- Nature and length of activity/service.

Nominees must be:

- A resident of the Northern Midlands;
- Aged 24 years of age or younger as at 26 January of the Awards year.

COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR

- The community event is to have attracted a broad cross section of the Northern Midlands community; and
- Been a community event attracting widespread publicity for the Northern Midlands.

Consideration is given to the following:

- The number of people who attended the event;
- The media coverage of the event;
- Previous awards and recognition received by the event;



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- The longevity of the event and whether or not it is an annual event or a one off event.

The event must have been:

- Held within the Northern Midlands; and
- Held within the last calendar year.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

- The volunteer is to have made a significant contribution to a community group and/or organisation within the Northern Midlands, in an unpaid capacity.

BUSINESS PRESENTATION AWARD

- The nominated business is to be located within the municipality, and
- The shopfront is consistently tidy and well presented, and
- The business contributes positively to the presentation of the municipality.

REVIEW

This Policy is ordinarily reviewed every four years. An earlier review has been conducted to incorporate new award categories and updated selection criteria.