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EXCELLENCE

AWARDS 2026

The 2026 Excellence Awards

In 2026, Engagement Australia continues to recognize excellence in engagement through the Engagement Australia Excellence Awards. These awards identify and celebrate the most exciting and impactful engagement activities undertaken by Australian and New Zealand Universities

Award Categories

Excellence in Community Engagement

Recognising outstanding collaborations between communities, higher education, and industry for societal benefit. Emphasis placed on partnerships that engage rural, regional, urban, disadvantaged, or marginalised groups within Australia and New Zealand.

Excellence in Indigenous Engagement

Recognising outstanding collaborations between tertiary education and Indigenous communities in Australia, New Zealand and beyond, that empowers and give voice to First Nations peoples.

Excellence in Industry Engagement

Recognising outstanding collaborations of mutual benefit between tertiary education and industry that enhances the quality and impact of tertiary education.

Outstanding Engagement for Student Learning

Recognising partnerships and engagement practices that enhance the quality of learning and teaching in tertiary education and outcomes for students.

Outstanding Engagement for Research Impact

Recognising excellence in research that makes a substantial difference to the community, or Australian or New Zealand prosperity, undertaken jointly by researchers in tertiary education institutes and partners in community, business, or industry contexts.

Excellence in Student and/or Alumni Engagement

Recognising outstanding international collaborations that raise the profile of tertiary education and make a substantial difference to communities both overseas and in Australia and New Zealand.

Excellence in International Engagement

Recognising outstanding international collaborations that raise the profile of tertiary education and make a substantial difference to communities both overseas and in Australia and New Zealand.

Outstanding Leadership in Engagement

Recognising an individual who has made notable contributions to engagement above and beyond that expected for their role, resulting in sustained partnerships for longer term impact.

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The 2025 Awards night

Engagement Australia 2025 Excellence Awards celebrated and profiled eight universities and individuals across five states for their exceptional university community-building and economic advancement initiatives.

The Awards dinner was held at The Refectory, University of Sydney, Tuesday 12 November 2025. Winners were celebrated during the evening, and each of the Award winners provided a video case-study which was profiled on the night and integrated into an ongoing social media campaign promoting the university-industry-community engagement.

Projected social media statistics over the six-month campaign period

- 1,800 social media followers
- 89,000 people reached on social media
- 100,000+ impressions
- 15,000 unique video views
- 12,100 unique website visitors to the EA Awards page

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Sponsorship Packages

Engagement Australia Excellence Awards,

11th November at Customs House, Brisbane

Proposed are four levels of sponsorship for the Awards as major partners:

Package	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	SUPPORTER
Cost (excl GST)	N/A	$15,000	$10,000	$5,000
Benefits	• Role for a Key Speaker at Awards • Naming ("EA Awards supported by …) • Logo Prominence in all collateral for the awards • 'Hero' partner branding in the bespoke email to all VCs and senior leaders of Australian universities announcing the finalists and announcing the awards event. • Table of ten the Awards Gala Dinner • Prominent role at the Award Ceremony • Branding on the curated video case-studies of all finalists, which will be used in a six-month post-award online campaign	• Naming ("EA Awards supported by…) • Logo Prominence in Web and email material for the awards • Branding in the bespoke email to all VCs and senior leaders of Australian universities announcing the finalists and announcing the awards event. • Five individual tickets to Awards Gala Dinner • Prominent role at the Award Ceremony • Branding on the curated video case-studies of all finalists, which will be used in a six-month post award online campaign	• Logo Prominence in Web and email material for the awards • Logo presence and acknowledgement in the Awards online event • Access to curated case studies of all Award Winners • Three individual tickets to Awards Gala Dinner • Branding in the bespoke email to all VCs and senior leaders of Australian universities announcing the finalists and announcing the awards event.	• Logo presence and acknowledgement in the Awards online event • Access to curated case studies of all Award Winners • Two individual tickets to Awards Gala Dinner • Branding in the bespoke email to all VCs and senior leaders of Australian universities announcing the finalists and announcing the awards event.

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Engagement Australia - Leading The Engagement Agenda

Engagement Australia champions the unique role universities have with society to address contemporary global challenges and trends through teaching, learning, research and partnerships.

We do this by:

- **Providing and inspiring leadership;**
- **Developing capacity and future leaders;**
- **Enabling peer-learning;**
- **Providing practical tools and tips; and**
- **Providing a platform for collaboration and knowledge creation.**

Engagement Australia supports the wider contextual standard definition of community engagement, previously developed by the US-based Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which has succeeded in codifying the core characteristics and principles of community engagement.

It defines Community engagement as a method of teaching, learning and research that describes interactions between universities and their communities (business, industry, government, NGOs, and other groups) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

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