

**Bigger, better and more sought after than a Hollywood Oscar...
the Network OOSHCA!**

OOSHCA

2024

The search is on again for nominations for the NSW OOSHCA Awards.

These awards are back for the 2023 Network of Community Activities OOSH Conference and draw nominees from across the state. Nominations close Friday 5 July, 2024.

Nominations are considered from Network members and associate members and their stakeholders, both individuals and organisations, who strive for excellence in practice and innovative approaches to working with children in Out of School Hour organisations. to service delivery and a commitment to collaborative and creative approaches to working with children 5-14 years.

Nominations should be supported with evidence and 2 referees that support the nomination.

Recognising Outstanding Achievements in the NSW Out of School Hours Sector

It's Out of School Hour's time to shine through Network OOSHCA's award ceremony. The awards offer a chance to celebrate and showcase the outstanding work taking place in OOSH across NSW.

Celebrating OOSH

At Network our vision remains the same: a society that values and celebrates the great work that takes place in Out of School Hours every day across NSW. We want OOSH Educators to feel appreciated, celebrated and proud of the work they do and the difference they make. Nominate now - we all know people who deserve special recognition!



Five Big Reasons to Nominate:

1. Winners are showcased at our state conference gala dinner.
2. Recognition for every eligible nominee on National OOSH Educators Day. Giving your whole community another great reason to come together and celebrate.
3. Award recognition can elevate your Out of School Hours services reputation and increase opportunities to share your exceptional stories of good practice.
4. Become part of our Network legacy. For 50 years we have been celebrating and connecting our OOSH communities.
5. Supports your services quality journey.

Help us share your stories by nominating today!

We are here to support you, so if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at network@networkofcommunityactivities.org.au and who knows, 2024 could be your year!

We are calling for nominations in the following 6 categories:

- Judy Finlason - Special Recognition of Lifetime Achievement Award
- Excellence in OOSH Award
- Unsung Heroes
- OOSH Volunteers Award
- OOSH Play Award - Educator who goes above and beyond to support Article 31
- OOSH Leadership Award

You can nominate for more than one category, as long as it is a different person. You cannot nominate the one person in multiple categories

Award Descriptions:

1. Judy Finlason - Special Recognition of Lifetime Achievement Award

Leaving a long-lasting legacy, these are individuals who have made a significant positive impact on the profession. Their commitment to and passion for OOSH is exemplary to all.

2. Excellence in OOSH Award

This award is in recognition of Educators who demonstrate a significant and sustained commitment to excellence in pedagogy practice. These unique and committed Educators are constantly supporting children to thrive and go that extra mile to support families. They have a deep understanding of the importance of OOSH and what can be achieved.

Submissions should demonstrate how the nominee's practices contribute to one or two of the following strategic themes:

- Collaborating with children
- Building relationships with children
- Excellence in teamwork
- Outstanding Leadership
- Excellence Inclusive practices and reconciliation
- Educational Leadership
- Flexible & creative programming and delivery

OOSHCA's

3. Unsung Heroes

Primarily aimed at all the people who support your OOSH, the backbone of service. This could be a volunteer on your parent management committee, a young person who volunteers or someone that makes a difference to your OOSH operations - your OOSH administrator. Tell us about the positive impact your 'Unsung Hero' has on those around them.

4. OOSH Volunteers Award

The OOSH Volunteer award is for those exceptional people who have made an outstanding contribution to an OOSH organisation. It could be a parent on your management committee, a young person who makes a contribution through volunteering or anyone else who has made an exceptional difference to your organisation through their volunteering.

5. OOSH Play Award - Educator who goes above and beyond to support Article 31 - The Child's right to Play

This will be awarded to an Educator who actively promotes, advocates and supports children's play. They are your play champions.

Play is recognised as a right of all children in the UN Convention on the rights of the Child.. OOSH Educators know the benefits of play to be long-lasting, extensive, and essential Play is integral to children's development and support children's psychological wellbeing, resilience and social competence, imaginative and creative thinking, and problem-solving

6. OOSH Leadership Award

Strong leaders are vital to our sector. They are critical and also often go unrecognised. We are looking for the leaders who shine even in challenging circumstances. The leaders who drive positive change along with nurturing and supporting their team to thrive. We want to hear about leaders who are purposeful, confident and inspiring and achieve extraordinary things.

Making a Nomination

- Please provide a clear structure when making a nomination. A brief summary at the beginning providing an overview of the main reasons for the nomination is useful.
- Give examples of excellent practice related to the specified award type.
- Describe the context to give our judges a feel for the nominee in their school context.