

# HESTA Early Childhood Education and Care Awards



## What are the HESTA Early Childhood Education & Care Awards?

The HESTA Early Childhood Education & Care Awards is a national awards program that recognises the achievements of people working with children in the early childhood sector.

## What are the award categories?

There are two award categories – Individual Excellence and Innovation.

### Category one: Individual Excellence

This award recognises the achievements of individuals in the provision of outstanding early childhood education and care. The pursuit of excellence in early childhood education and care professionals is vital to ensure that early childhood services in Australia are World's Best Practice and are focused on putting the needs of the children above all else.

#### Who can nominate?

Nominations for this award can be made by early childhood education and care practitioners, the families of children attending early childhood services, operators and colleagues who wish to acknowledge the provision of early education and care by an individual they consider to be exceptional and who demonstrates high quality practice.

#### Who can be nominated?

Nominees must be:

- legally eligible to work in Australia
- a resident of Australia
- currently working in an early childhood education and care setting.

#### On what criteria are nominations for the Individual Excellence category judged?

Nominations for this category are judged on their ability to demonstrate the nominee's achievements in **one** of the following four areas:

1. supporting children's learning and development, or
2. supporting child diversity and inclusive practice, or
3. involving parents, families and the community, or
4. exceptional distinction – acting above and beyond their role as an early childhood education and care practitioner.

### Category two: Innovation

This award recognises the achievements of individuals or teams who have created innovative products, services or processes that in some way benefit children by enriching their experience or improving the quality of their care whilst in attendance at an early childhood service in Australia.

#### Who can nominate?

Nominations for this award may be made by individuals or teams, seeking support in further developing an innovative product, service or process that has not yet been commercialised (i.e. not yet been sold).

Early childhood education and care practitioners, the families of children attending early childhood services, operators and colleagues may also nominate an individual or team who has developed an innovative product, service or process, they believe deserves extra funding and recognition.

#### Who can be nominated?

Nominees must be:

- legally eligible to work in Australia
- a resident of Australia
- if an individual, currently working in an early childhood education and care setting or, if the nomination is for a team or group of individuals, a member of the team must be such a person
- the initiator of the innovation outlined in the nomination.

## On what criteria are nominations for the Innovation category judged?

Nominations for this category will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate **all** of the following:

1. the individual or team has initiated and/or developed a product, service or process themselves and,
2. how the product, service or process has had a positive impact on children in the early childhood education and care setting and/or their families and,
3. the importance of the need/s the product, service or process has fulfilled and,
4. how the prize money of 1 x \$10,000\* grant will enhance and assist in the further development of the product, service or process together with a clear plan of how the innovation will be implemented.

## What is the nomination period?

Nominations open on 1 June 2010 and close on 8 August 2010.

## How do I nominate?

Nominations are made via the online nomination and judging system.

1. Simply go to [www.earlychildhoodawards.com](http://www.earlychildhoodawards.com)
2. Read the information about the award you wish to nominate for.
3. Click on the button for the award you wish to nominate for and complete the online nomination form.
4. You will receive confirmation that your nomination has been received to your email address.

## How do I promote the awards in my workplace?

If you would like a nomination kit which includes posters you can put up around your workplace, email us at [ecawards@hesta.com.au](mailto:ecawards@hesta.com.au)

## When will the award winners be announced?

The finalists for each category will be announced on the awards' website and to the media on 20 September 2010.

The finalists will attend the HESTA Early Childhood Education & Care Awards gala dinner in Adelaide on Friday 1 October 2010 when the winners will be announced.

## What are the prizes?

- Everyone nominated will receive a certificate in recognition of their nomination.
- Finalists will receive full registration for one person to attend the Early Childhood Australia National Conference, to be held in Adelaide from 29 September 2010 until 2 October 2010.
- Finalists will be flown from their nearest capital city, to Adelaide, and accommodation for the duration of the conference will be provided.
- Finalists will receive two tickets to attend the HESTA Early Childhood Education & Care Awards gala dinner, to be held in Adelaide on 1 October 2010.
- The overall winner of the Individual Excellence category will receive \$5,000\* towards further education and a \$5,000\* travel voucher, courtesy of ME Bank.
- The overall winner of the Innovation category will receive \$10,000\* towards further education/development of their innovation, courtesy of ME Bank.

## Want more information?

Contact us at [ecawards@hesta.com.au](mailto:ecawards@hesta.com.au)

## The HESTA Early Childhood Education & Care Awards



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