

Important information about nominating for the 2010 Innovation In Early Childhood Education & Care Award

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

This award recognises the spirit with which individuals or teams currently operating or working in the early childhood education and care (ECEC) sector embrace their profession and aims to provide assistance in further developing the innovation described in the nomination. The award also seeks to recognise the hard work and dedication of those nominees who have successfully implemented a product, service or process described in the nomination.

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).

Tips for preparing your nomination

1. Nominations are to be made by electronic submission.
2. For nominations submitted online, the nominator will receive an acknowledgement and receipt via the email address provided.
3. Ensure you thoroughly read and understand the nomination criteria, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions for nomination.

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must:

- exemplify the highest standards of early childhood education and care, and professional practice in their role, working with children
- enhance the image and status of early childhood education and care in Australia
- have undertaken the achievements described in the nomination to support outcomes for children in an early childhood education and care setting.

Nominations:

- may be made by the general public, staff, managers, operators in early childhood services, academics, policy makers and officials, peak bodies and advocacy organisations

- may be for an individual, group or team
- self-nomination for this category is encouraged
- the product, process or service described in the nomination must be current and have been initiated between 1 July 2008 and 30 July 2010 and not yet commercialised (i.e. not yet sold), to be deemed eligible for nomination.

The judging panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the *Innovation In Early Childhood Education & Care Award*, the nominee must be:

- legally eligible to work in Australia
- a resident of Australia
- the initiator of the innovation outlined in the nomination.

In addition to the above eligibility criteria:

- if the nomination is for an individual, they must currently be operating or working in the ECEC sector
- where the nominee is a team or group of individuals, a member of the team must be such a person.

Selection Criteria

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

1. the individual or team have 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 further development of the product, service or process, together with a clear plan of how the innovation will be implemented.

Terms and conditions of nomination

1. The information provided in your nomination will be used to determine the nominee's eligibility for the ***Innovation in Early Childhood Education & Care Award***.
2. Attendance by the individual nominated (or in the case of a team/group nomination, a nominated 'Team Leader'), is required at the award ceremony — on Friday 1 October — in order to be a finalist and/or winner of the award.
3. The Judging Panel can only perform a review of all nominations based on the information provided. Therefore it is very important that the entry is fully completed and all relevant information is included.
4. All criteria in the nomination form must be completed including clear examples of the nominee's accomplishments.
5. In determining finalists and overall category winners, a representative of the HESTA Early Childhood Education & Care Awards may contact the nominator and their nominee(s) to verify any information submitted in the nomination, and the eligibility of the nominee(s).
6. To maintain the privacy of the person/people you are nominating and integrity of the judging process, when referring to the nominee(s) throughout the body of your submission, only refer to the person's first name. Only include the nominee's full name where requested on the nomination form.
7. To maintain integrity of the judging process, do not refer to the name of the nominee's employer in the body of your submission. Only include this information where requested in the nomination form.
8. Nominations must be fully completed. Incomplete nominations will not be considered.
9. Finalists, category winners and nominators may be requested to speak with the judging panel, the media and/or other groups about the nomination.
10. By participating in this competition, the nominators and nominees agree that H.E.S.T. Australia Ltd, Early Childhood Australia and ME Bank shall be permitted to use the submitted entries and any photographs/media/copyright of the nominators or nominees for promotional purposes, without any reference, payment or compensation.
11. The nomination may be submitted for one category only. If you are unsure of the category to select, please email ecawards@hesta.com.au
12. No responsibility will be taken for lost, incomplete, or delayed nominations.
13. Current H.E.S.T. Australia Limited staff, ME Bank employees, Early Childhood Australia Inc., HESTA Early Childhood Education & Care Award Judging Panel members, or their immediate family are ineligible for an award and may not nominate or endorse a candidate for an award.
14. The Judging Panel's decision is final and made at its sole and complete discretion. No correspondence will be entered into. The Judging Panel and organisers of the HESTA Early Childhood Education & Care Awards retains full discretion in the awarding of prizes.



Nominations are now closed.
Thank you to everyone who nominated.



The HESTA Early Childhood Education & Care Awards

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