



2017 Play Your Part Awards for Inspiring Prevention Initiatives

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

These are the questions that NAPCAN is most frequently asked about the Play Your Part Awards. The answers may help you to get a better understanding of the Awards, and can assist in filling in the nomination form. If you have any questions that aren't answered below, please contact NAPCAN directly – contact details are provided at the end of this document.

1. What is a 'prevention' initiative?

Prevention is an action or a set of actions designed to stop something before it actually occurs. In general, prevention includes a wide range of activities aimed at reducing risks or threats to health and wellbeing. For example: a lunchtime weekly walking group organised for sedentary office workers can be seen as a primary prevention initiative for the prevention of obesity.

In the context of the Play Your Part Awards, NAPCAN seeks to identify and highlight initiatives that focus on preventing child abuse and neglect. This means any initiatives that increase safety and/or promote [protective factors](#) (see page 4, Table 1) within communities and families. Primary prevention activities encourage positive supports for children, young people and their families to increase the likelihood of children growing up safe and well.

The prevention initiatives can be from a wide range of fields (such as health, housing, education, emergency services, cultural inclusiveness or the arts!), as long as they can demonstrate a commitment to increasing the safety and wellbeing of children and young people thus reducing their risk of abuse and neglect.

2. Who can receive a Play Your Part Award?

Any individual or collective can nominate for an Award, including those working in partnership with others. The Play Your Part Award will be given to the actual initiative or individual(s) identified on the nomination form.

The two streams for nominations are:

- An Independent Group or Individual refers to any group or individual undertaking an initiative separate to an official organisation, often in a voluntary capacity. E.g. A group of parents who run a regular athletics group as a social activity for young people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.
- An Organisational Group or Individual refers to any group or individual who are undertaking an initiative as part of their role within an official organisation. E.g. A teacher who runs creative workshops within their school to assist young people in changing the school culture

to prevent bullying.

The above streams are there to reflect the significant difference in resourcing, expertise, funding and support that may be available to an individual or collective operating at a community level versus an established organisation or group of professionals.

There is only one nomination process and form for both these categories.

To get an idea of the sorts of initiatives and individuals who are eligible to receive a Play Your Part Award, you can read about previous recipients of the Play Your Part Awards at <http://napcan.org.au/ncpw/play-your-part-awards/>.

3. Are there National as well as State and Territory Play Your Part Awards? What is the difference?

Yes, there is the potential for both National and State and Territory Play Your Part Awards to be presented each year, at the discretion of the NAPCAN Awards Selection Committee.

A National Play Your Part Award may be presented to individuals or initiatives that have – or have the potential to have – impact on a national level. The initiative does not need to already be operating on a national scale – for example, it could be a local initiative from a small town in South Australia but if the initiative can demonstrate its relevance and impact, it may be considered worthy of showcasing at a national level.

This decision is at the discretion of the Play Your Part Awards Selection Committee, following the receipt and assessment of all nominations. The National Play Your Part Award/s are selected from the overall pool of nominations across all States and Territories.

State and Territory Play Your Part Awards recognise the most inspiring initiative/s or individual/s who are nominated from that State or Territory in a given year. Nominations are only assessed against other nominations from the same State or Territory.

If there are multiple worthy nominations, multiple awards may be presented.

4. Can I nominate myself?

Yes, but you will just need to provide two referees who can verify your achievements.

5. Can I nominate someone else for an initiative I'm not involved with?

Yes - but please confirm with the nominee that they are willing to accept your nomination.

Any person nominated, who works directly with children and young people, must have undertaken a Working With Children Check in their jurisdiction. For any successful nominee we will request a declaration regarding their Working With Children clearance, criminal history and consent for media interviews.

6. What are the selection criteria?

There are no strict selection criteria but the Awards Selection Committee are looking for initiatives that have a primary focus on:

- the prevention of child abuse and neglect, through the promotion of the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.



Initiatives that are sustainable and can demonstrate the active involvement of children and young people will have an advantage.

The initiatives that can best demonstrate to the Play Your Part Awards Selection Committee that they are making a difference to children, young people or their families (in other words they have some proof, findings or an evaluation that shows their initiative works) have a better chance of receiving the award.

See also: Questions 1 and 2.

7. When will the Awards be announced? How will they be presented?

The awards will be presented in National Child Protection Week, 3 – 9 September 2017. The Awards are usually presented at an event organised by NAPCAN and partners, with a dignitary such as the Federal Minister for Social Services, the National Children's Commissioner or a State or Territory Minister for Community Services presenting the Award.

Therefore being showcased as a Play Your Part Award recipient is a unique opportunity to present inspiring prevention work to key decision makers across the country.

All Play Your Part Award recipients, and their initiatives, will be highlighted through NAPCAN's website, social media and where possible through the broader National, State and Local media.

8. Is there a prize or cash grant?

Not currently.

NAPCAN acknowledges the effort and time involved in nominating for award programs, particularly those with no attached cash benefit, so we are keen to support organisations and individuals to make a nomination. To be showcased as a Play Your Part Award recipient is a unique opportunity to present inspiring prevention work to key decision makers across the country, so we want to ensure that all interested individuals or organisations are able to nominate.

The Play Your Part Awards are presented at National Child Protection Week events across the country by high profile dignitaries and decision makers on children's policies such as the Federal Minister for Social Services; National and State and Territory Children's Commissioners; or a State or Territory Minister for Community Services.

For the past three years the National Play Your Part Awards have been presented by the Governor General, His Excellency, Sir Peter Cosgrove.

Other benefits include:

- Being officially recognised as an inspiring prevention initiative;
- Media opportunities for the successful organisation and/or community;
- The ability to share the initiative nationally to inspire other communities to increase their prevention efforts.

If you are in need of support with completing your nomination, NAPCAN staff are happy to help fill it out, just give us a call or send us an email requesting assistance. Details are at the end of this document.

9. What if I have won an award for the nominated initiative in the past?

If the initiative or individual being nominated has been the recipient of a NAPCAN Play Your Part Award or any other State or National Award within the last 4 years (after February 2013), based on

the same work that they are now nominated for, they may not be eligible for a Play Your Part Award in 2017. Final eligibility will be at the discretion of the Play Your Part Awards Selection Committee.

10. What if the person I want to nominate is not part of an organisation but just doing something on their own – are they eligible for the award?

Yes. Please see question 2.

11. Is only one Award given out per State or Territory?

The number of Play Your Part Awards presented each year is at the discretion of the Selection Committee and will depend on the volume and standard of nominations. If in any given year there are multiple worthy nominees, multiple Awards may be presented.

Alternatively if in a given year there are no nominations received from a particular State or Territory or the nominations don't meet the selection committee's standards - no Play Your Part Award will be presented in that State or Territory for that year.

More questions?

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Table 1: Protective Factors

Common protective factors for reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect	
Ecological level:	Protective factors:
Individual/child factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● good health ● positive peer relationships ● strong, positive social networks ● hobbies/interests ● high self-esteem ● independence ● secure attachment with parent/s ● social skills ● positive disposition
Family/parental factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● secure attachment with child ● positive parent-child relationship ● supportive family environment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● extended family networks ● high level of parental education ● parental resilience ● concrete support for parents ● sound parental coping skills ● awareness of stages in child development
<p>Social/environmental factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● strong, positive social networks ● stable housing ● employment ● family expectations of pro-social behaviour ● well-resourced schools available in neighbourhood ● access to health and social services

SOURCE: AIFS, 2013; “Risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect”
<https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/risk-and-protective-factors-child-abuse-and-neglect>