

2021 Local Government Policy Award Categories

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child and Young Persons Health

The health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is overall poorer than that of other Australians. Due to the unique cultural, social and historical factors, specific solutions and partnerships to address health issues are required. While there have been improvements in the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in recent years, some long-standing challenges remain.

This award focuses on how local government (LG) implement culturally relevant policies, partnerships, programs or services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders children and their families to support their health and development, while strengthening an understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Describe how you consulted and collaborated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to define and implement these policies and programs.

2. Diversity, Inclusion or Multicultural Child and Young Persons Health

Children from a diverse variety of vulnerable backgrounds can have poorer health, wellbeing and developmental outcomes. Please describe how your local government has implemented relevant policies, partnerships, programs or services for children that are focused on enabling children who experience challenges due to disability, or their cultural and/or linguistic diversity, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression LGBTQIA+, homelessness, or other social or economic issues to reach their potential.

3. Consulting with Children (sponsored by the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA)

Involving children and young people in discussions on issues supports them to make informed decisions about their own lives and ensures resulting strategies meet their needs. This award assesses how LG's consult with children and looks for innovative strategies and engagement methods that ensure children and young people have the opportunity for input in ways that are appropriate and appealing to them.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People WA's [Participation Guidelines](#) provide guidance on this category.

4. Young People Making a Difference in Communities (sponsored by the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA)

This award specifically targets teenagers and young adults aged 13 to 24 years to highlight the work they are doing in addressing issues within their community that affect them and their futures. The focus is on how LG's encourage and support their young people to help give them a platform and a voice to address topics that concern or affect them. Examples can include youth councils, advisory groups, support/mentoring or inspirational young people making a difference in the community.

5. Mental Health and Wellbeing for Children and Young People (sponsored by Mentally Healthy WA)

This new award aims to highlight how LG's are promoting mental health and wellbeing for children and young people in their communities, at home or at school. Applications can include strategies, environments and/or policies through to events and activities that promote mental wellbeing and resilience, support social connectedness, and address mental health inequities.

6. COVID Recovery and Response for Children and Young People

This new award aims to capture the way LG's responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions to promote public health. Applications can include how you modified, observed, updated or implemented strategies as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic that directly affected or influenced children and young families. You can include either response and/or recovery during the initial stages of the pandemic or new ways you manage overall LG preparedness for future outbreaks and/or new pandemics.

7. Creating Healthy Environments for Children and Young People

Children and young people's health is a direct reflection of the environment that they live and play in and LG's play a significant role in creating these environments. This award looks at how LG's shape healthier community environments for children and young people. Applications may include overarching strategies, plans or policies that impact the physical, built, natural, social, or economic environments. The focus on the higher-level strategies, policies, and planning considerations. Entries may influence any public health priority or issue that affects children and young people in your local government including (but not limited to) shade, smoking, healthy eating, physical activity, alcohol and other drugs, pollution, climate change. Example strategies include urban design, infrastructure, advertising/marketing control, masterplans, signage, alcohol action groups and local policies etc.

LG's can enter multiple times for different environmental strategies targeting different issues or outcomes. This category is about supporting the environments surrounding children to be as conducive as possible to make the healthy choice the normal choice.

8. Promoting Healthy Behaviours for Children and Young People

Children and young people who develop healthy behaviours early in life are more likely to maintain them and are at reduced risk of poor health throughout life. Assisting children and young people to develop healthy behaviours supports the wellbeing of individuals, families, and society overall. LG's are in a good position to offer programs/projects or services that engage and include children and young people to guide, educate and encourage healthy habits and behaviours. The focus of this award is LG activities that support healthy lifestyles among children, young people and their families, and the numbers that participate. Entries can relate to public health issues including alcohol, sun safety, early childhood development, smoking, nutrition and health eating, physical activity, climate change, sexual health or any other health issue focusing on children and young people that the LG has identified.

LG's can enter multiple times for different programs and services targeting different issues and outcomes.

9. Trailblazers Award

This new award is to recognise innovative applications, those that step outside the comfort zones of what is generally considered 'the way LG do things'. It will recognise LG policies or programs or work that 'think outside the box', outside the traditional way LG's work or tackle issues. We are looking for LGs who have begun to tackle the hard issues, stepped out, been brave, and / or created something new or innovative. Let us know about some of the 'courageous conversations' that LGs are having behind the scenes to improve public health. This may be the start of something new, starting a conversation with stakeholders or the community, or implementing an entirely new policy that no other LG has yet done.

LGs have the opportunity to nominate any of their entries as 'trailblazers' by adding a short simple explanation of why are trailblazing and / or innovative.

