



neca

APPRENTICE
AWARDS
2026



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EXCELLENCE
AWARDS
2026



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SMALL BUSINESS
AWARDS
2026



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AWARDS
2026

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

The NECA Awards are the electrical and communications industry's highest accolade and one of the most prestigious awards programs in Australia. These Awards recognise outstanding achievement across the industry nationally.

Entering the awards program provides an opportunity for your company to be acknowledged for outstanding commitment to excellence and professionalism.

ABOUT THE AWARDS PROGRAM

The NECA Awards program celebrates the achievements of all NECA members and their apprentices across the entire industry.

- NECA Apprentice Awards
- NECA Small Business Awards
- NECA Excellence Awards

The submissions are judged at state level, with each state hosting a gala event between July and September. State winners then progress to the National Awards as finalists.

The 2026 NECA National Award winners will be announced at a black-tie industry gala dinner held on Friday, 20 November 2026 in Adelaide.

NECA STATE AWARDS

Queensland

Friday, 17 July 2026

Western Australia

Friday, 31 July 2026

Tasmania

Friday, 7 August 2026

Victoria

Friday, 28 August 2026

New South Wales

Friday, 4 September 2026

South Australia / Northern Territory

Friday, 11 September 2026

Australian Capital Territory

Friday, 18 September 2026

NATIONAL AWARDS

Adelaide

Friday, 20 November 2026



TAKING PART IN THE AWARDS PROGRAM CREATES A POWERFUL MARKETING OPPORTUNITY, RECOGNISING YOUR BUSINESS AS AN INDUSTRY LEADER.





EXCELLENCE AWARDS



1. Leaders in Diversity (Business)

A recognition award for businesses who are industry leaders in diversity and inclusion, with demonstrated actions, policies or strategies that have resulted in positive diversity-related outcomes.

2. Women in Energy (Individual)

A recognition award for an individual who is championing change for women in the electrical and communications industry. Their demonstrated actions and efforts have resulted in positive outcomes for women in their business and/or the wider industry. (Open to applicants of all genders)

3. Innovation

A custom designed and produced service, product, tool, system, technology (or similar) that required outstanding problem-solving, innovation and creativity. This innovation may be a physical product, digital platform/system or any other format - but must be directly relatable to the electrical/communications industry or specifically designed to support an electrical/communications project or business.

4. Domestic Residence

A single residence project in the domestic sector (as described in AS/NZS 3000, clause 1.4.53) where the contractor has worked with the homeowner or designer to deliver an electrical installation of outstanding quality and use of technology.

5. Work Health & Safety – Excellence in Action

Recognition for companies who have demonstrated an 'above and beyond' commitment to Health and Safety management within their business and/or for major innovative new hazard controls, safety improvements or safety solutions.

6. Sustainable Energy

A project where the applicant's direct and proactive influence on design, product selection, lighting, processes or technologies resulted in a substantially improved and more sustainable energy efficient installation than the original design or concept.

7. Voice/Data Communications & Audio Visual

An information, voice/data, communications & audio-visual project of any contract value, where the applicant's influence on the project resulted in a higher or improved level of performance and technical excellence than the original design or concept.

8. Lighting Design & Installation

A commercial, industrial, residential, hospitality, retail, entertainment or sports project of any value, where the applicant's influence on lighting resulted in a higher or improved creative and aesthetic design, and/or technical excellence than the original design or concept.

9. Industrial Small

An industrial project which may also include, but is not limited to, undertakings of a civil, mining, high voltage, manufacturing or process nature, where the applicant's contract value is less than \$2 million.

10. Industrial Large

An industrial project which may include, but is not limited to, undertakings of a civil, mining, high voltage, manufacturing or process nature, where the applicant's contract value is greater than \$2 million and less than \$20 million.

11. Industrial X-Large

An industrial project which may include, but is not limited to, undertakings of a civil, mining, high voltage, manufacturing or process nature, where the applicant's contract value is greater than \$20 million.

12. Commercial X-Small

A commercial project where the applicant's contract value is less than \$1 million, which may include multiple domestic and residential electrical installations (as described in AS/NZS 3000 clauses 1.4.54 and 1.4.55).

13. Commercial Small

A commercial project where the applicant's contract value is greater than \$1 million and less than \$3 million, which may include multiple domestic and residential electrical installations (as described in AS/NZS 3000 clauses 1.4.54 and 1.4.55).

14. Commercial Medium

A commercial project where the applicant's contract value is greater than \$3 million and less than \$10 million, which may also include multiple domestic and residential electrical installations (as described in AS/NZS 3000 clauses 1.4.54 and 1.4.55).

15. Commercial Large

A commercial project where the applicant's contract value is greater than \$10 million and less than \$25 million. Which may also include multiple domestic and residential electrical installations (as described in AS/NZS 3000 clauses 1.4.54 and 1.4.55).

16. Commercial X-Large

A commercial project where the applicant's contract value is greater than \$25 million, which may also include multiple domestic and residential electrical installations (as described in AS/NZS 3000 clauses 1.4.54 and 1.4.55).



SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS



The NECA Small Business Awards acknowledges NECA members who are making an impact in the industry and deserve to be recognised at the highest level. The NECA Small Business Awards category criteria and submission process has been created specifically around the work delivered by small businesses.

If you are a small business delivering outstanding work in your area of expertise, participating in the NECA Awards creates an opportunity to grow your business and acknowledge your team's success. We encourage you to nominate your business and receive the recognition and opportunities that will come as a result.

As a small business you are not limited to submitting nominations in our Small Business Awards, and we encourage you to put your nominations forward for all applicable excellence award categories too.



CATEGORIES

Emerging Small Business

A small business employing less than 10 technical employees, demonstrating a wide range of skills and excellence in electrical installation and/or service. A recognition award for first time entrants during their first five years of business.

Small Contracting Business of the Year

A small business employing less than 10 technical employees, demonstrating a wide range of skills and excellence in electrical installation and/or service.

Small Business Project of the Year

A small business employing less than 10 technical employees. The project may have been commercial, domestic or industrial, which through its delivery has exceeded the expectations of the client and community.



APPRENTICE AWARDS



NECA has a longstanding commitment to education and training. Through its group training companies, it is currently the largest training provider of electrotechnology apprentices in Australia.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

NECA has led the electrotechnology industry's Apprentices Awards for over three decades and continues to work to achieve an ever-increasing level of awareness and respect for electrical and communications apprentices and their employers. NECA recognises the essential role apprentices play in the future of our industry. The Apprentices Awards showcases the outstanding contribution an apprentice can make to the projects they work on and to their employer's business. The awards also acknowledge achievement in personal development, effort, academic attainment and workplace competency.

ELIGIBILITY

1st, 2nd and 3rd Year applicants must have a minimum of four months experience (at the time of the submission closing date) in the category that they wish to apply for.

4th Year applicants must be in their fourth year of training or have recently completed their apprenticeship (within 12 months of completion of apprenticeship). During their apprenticeship, they must be or have been employed by a NECA member or a NECA Group Training apprentice company.

Applicants may only enter one category and must not have been previously nominated in that category.



CATEGORIES

- 4th Year Commercial/Domestic Apprentice of the Year
- 4th Year Industrial Apprentice of the Year
- 4th Year ELV/Communications Apprentice of the Year
- 1st / 2nd / 3rd Year Apprentice of the Year (WA ONLY)
- Dual Trade Apprentice of the Year (SA/NT ONLY)

JUDGING PROCESS

State

Applicants will initially be assessed at a state level, with finalists being invited to an interview with a judging panel. Finalists will be invited to receive their award at a state gala awards event. State winners from each category will then be invited to submit a project to be judged for the NECA National Apprentices Awards.

National

State winners will be forwarded application details late-September regarding the project they will be required to submit. They will also be interviewed by the national judging panel. Finalists for each category will be selected following the interview and will be invited to receive their award at the NECA National Awards on Friday, 20 November in Adelaide.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Submissions for the NECA Apprentice, Small Business and Excellence Awards are completed via the Awards online portal.

The category criteria and submission guide documents are available for download from your local NECA Branch website.



Go to necaawards.awardsplatform.com to create a login to begin your submission or scan the QR code.

SUBMISSION DATES

2026 NECA Apprentice Awards (ACT, TAS, NSW, QLD, WA)

- Nominations open: Monday, 12 January 2026
- Nominations close: Thursday, 2 April 2026

2026 NECA Small Business and Excellence Awards (ACT, TAS, NSW, QLD, WA)

- Nominations open: Monday, 12 January 2026
- Nominations close: Friday, 1 May 2026

2026 NECA Awards (SA/NT and VIC)

- Nominations open: Monday, 5 February 2026
- Nominations close: Please refer to submission guide for state specific closing dates.



GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ENTRY (EXCELLENCE AND SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS)

- Entrants must be current NECA contractor members at the time of entry and throughout the award process.
- At the time of submission, the project needs to be beyond practical completion stage. (Projects must be completed between Jan 2025 – April 30th, 2026)
- All entries must be completed online via the awards portal.
- All required questions must be completed for an entry to be valid.
- Entrants must adhere to the criteria of the awards category being entered.
- Projects may be entered into a maximum of two categories. Each entry must reflect the specific criteria of the category, supported by visual evidence specific to that category (with the exception of the Innovation Award category).
- A project may not be entered into the awards over consecutive years.
- Entrants must obtain client permission to submit a project. This includes obtaining written permission from the client to use photographs in the entry and gain site access for the purposes of judging where required.
- By entering a project, you give NECA permission to use project details and photographs on the NECA website, magazine, promotional material, social media and media.
- Entrants must clearly identify in their submission, any connection either the project or the entrant (or its Company) has with any NECA board representative.

*Please refer to the NECA Awards portal for full T&C's.

CONTACT DETAILS

VIC

Ph: 1300 300 031

Email: necavic@neca.asn.au

SA / NT

Ph: 08 8272 2966

Email: neca@necasasa.asn.au

NSW / ACT / QLD / TAS / WA

Ph: 1300 361 099

Email: memberservices@neca.asn.au

PRIVACY POLICY

Information collected by the National Electrical and Communications Association is protected by the Privacy Act 1988 and NECA's Privacy Policy. Information collected from the submissions is for the purpose of obtaining details to assist NECA in the award judging process and awards multimedia presentation material and will not be disclosed to a third party, except where prior written permission is obtained from the individual who supplied the information and to whom the information related. NECA will not retain personal information that is sensitive information. Please contact NECA if you wish to access or correct personal information collected or if you have any queries in regard to information handling procedures. NECA's Privacy Policy is available on our website www.neca.asn.au