

Nomination Information Pack

2026

PILBARA COMMUNITY SERVICES EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Hedland WA



Heart of the PILBARA

Presented by



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Pilbara Community Services Excellence Awards 2026

Pilbara for Purpose (P4P) is excited to bring you the 2026 Pilbara Community Services Excellence Awards.

The theme for this year's Awards '**Heart of the Pilbara**' celebrates the people, organisations, teams and partnerships who make our region stronger, more connected and full of possibility. From volunteers, young leaders and community workers to social enterprises, inclusive organisations, cultural leaders and industry–community partnerships, the Awards recognise those who show heart, create positive change and help the Pilbara thrive. These Awards honour the everyday actions, big impacts and shared commitment that make our communities vibrant, resilient and proud.

Nominating for these Awards provides a fantastic opportunity for Community Service organisations, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, volunteer-led community groups and individuals across the Pilbara to be recognised for their dedication, passion and exceptional purpose-driven work and achievements. It also provides an opportunity to showcase and promote your organisation and services to the wider Pilbara community.

At our Gala Dinner on Saturday 19th September in Hedland we will showcase all the amazing finalists in each of the Award categories and celebrate the winners.

As an Awards winner, you will receive the following:

- Framed certificate and trophy presented at the Gala Dinner
- A Prize valued up to \$500
- Exclusive use of winning title in your communications
- Recognition in local media, social media and any other form of internal communication

NOW is the time to nominate people and organisations who are the *heart of your community* and ensure they are acknowledged and celebrated for the great work they do and the difference they have made to many people's lives.

Categories in the 2026 Pilbara Community Services Excellence Awards

The Award categories and eligibility criteria are outlined in the table on the next page.

Please note:

- You can nominate in more than one category as long as you meet the eligibility criteria for each category.
- A separate nomination needs to be submitted for each category.
- You can self-nominate or be nominated by someone else.

Award Category	Category Description and Eligibility Criteria
ORGANISATION CATEGORIES	
Heartbeat of the Pilbara Small Organisation	<p>This Award is open to any Community Service organisation, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation or community group based in the Pilbara – employing less than 5 FTE or equivalent.</p> <p>An organisation whose dedication, care and every day work strengthen the spirit and wellbeing of their community. An organisation that brings people together, supports those in need and creates meaningful connections, responding to local needs with authenticity and heart. Through their commitment to community, collaboration and positive impact, they help keep the Pilbara’s heartbeat strong and thriving.</p>
Heartbeat of the Pilbara Medium Organisation	<p>This Award is open to any Community Service organisation, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation or community group based in the Pilbara - employing between 5 and 15 FTE or equivalent.</p> <p>An organisation whose dedication, care and every day work strengthen the spirit and wellbeing of their community. An organisation that brings people together, supports those in need and creates meaningful connections, responding to local needs with authenticity and heart. Through their commitment to community, collaboration and positive impact, they help keep the Pilbara’s heartbeat strong and thriving.</p>
Heartbeat of the Pilbara Large Organisation	<p>This Award is open to any Community Service organisation, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation or community group based in the Pilbara – employing more than 15 FTE or equivalent</p> <p>An organisation whose dedication, care and every day work strengthen the spirit and wellbeing of their community. An organisation that brings people together, supports those in need and creates meaningful connections, responding to local needs with authenticity and heart. Through their commitment to community, collaboration and positive impact, they help keep the Pilbara’s heartbeat strong and thriving.</p>
Pilbara Heart of Inclusion	<p>This Award is open to any Community Service organisation, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation or community group based in the Pilbara.</p> <p>An organisation that creates welcoming, accessible and culturally safe spaces where everyone feels valued and able to belong. Recognises those who champion belonging, accessibility, diversity</p>



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	<p>and equity, removing barriers so people from all backgrounds can participate fully in community life. Through their commitment to inclusion, they strengthen the Pilbara's heartbeat by ensuring every voice, culture and story has a place at the heart of the region.</p>
Heart of the Pilbara: Foundations	<p>This Award is open to any Community Service organisation, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation or community group based in the Pilbara.</p> <p>An organisation that is strengthening the region from the ground up. It recognises those who build the skills, relationships, and support systems that help communities grow with confidence and resilience. Through their commitment to laying strong foundations, they contribute to a Pilbara where people feel supported, connected, and empowered to thrive</p>
Heart of the Pilbara: Legacy	<p>This Award is open to any Community Service organisation, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation or community group based in the Pilbara.</p> <p>Minimum 10 years contribution to the Pilbara.</p> <p>An organisation whose long-term dedication has helped shape the region's strength, identity and community spirit. Those who have contributed over many years, building relationships, supporting others and creating lasting positive change. Their enduring impact continues to strengthen the Pilbara's heartbeat, leaving a legacy that inspires and support generations to come.</p>
Heart of the Pilbara Together	<p>This Award is open to a team within any Community Service organisation, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation or community group based in the Pilbara.</p> <p>A team whose unity, collaboration, and shared purpose strengthen their workplace and the community they serve. This award recognises groups who support one another, combine their strengths, and work seamlessly together to create positive outcomes. Their commitment to teamwork helps keep the Pilbara's heartbeat strong and shows the power of people working as one.</p>
Heart of Social Enterprise	<p>A business or enterprise that exists to make a difference. This category celebrates organisations that use business for good and turn purpose into action — addressing social challenges, creating opportunities, reinvesting profits into community and strengthening wellbeing, or improving quality of life in the Pilbara.</p>



	Open to Aboriginal businesses and Corporations, training/employment enterprises, community-run initiatives and community services organisations with a social enterprise arm.
Heart of Partnership for Social Impact	<p>This Award is open to a partnership between a business or industry organisation and a community service organisation or Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation.</p> <p>This category celebrates collaborations that combine strengths, resources and local knowledge to address community needs, improve wellbeing, or create new opportunities. These partnerships show what is possible when sectors work side-by-side with shared purpose — achieving meaningful, positive impact that neither could create alone.</p>
INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES	
Young Heart of the Pilbara	<p>This Award is open to any young person aged 12-25 years old.</p> <p>Young people whose energy, leadership and community spirit help the region to thrive. Someone who gets involved, looks out for others and makes a positive difference – whether through helping out, sharing culture, being creative, standing up for what’s right or simply showing up for others with heart and determination. This recognises young people who bring people together, spark positive change and show what the future of the Pilbara can be: strong, proud and full of possibility.</p>
Pilbara Volunteer Heart	<p>This Award is open to any person living in the Pilbara who volunteers their time to help others in their community.</p> <p>An individual whose generosity, dedication and community spirit help the region to thrive. Those who give their time, energy and heart to support others – strengthening connections, uplifting community wellbeing and contributing to a Pilbara where people feel supported and valued. Their commitment reflects the true heartbeat of the region and inspires others to give back.</p>
Heart of the Community Sector	<p>This Award is open to any individual working within a Community Service Organisation or an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation.</p> <p>An individual whose dedication, compassion and everyday actions strengthen the region’s heartbeat. Those who show up for community with integrity and care – whether guiding teams, supporting individuals or walking alongside people in their moment of need. Their commitment helps the Pilbara to thrive through connection, courage and genuine service</p>



<p>Indigenous Heart of the Pilbara</p>	<p>This Award is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose leadership, cultural strength and community spirit help the region to thrive. This category recognises both Elders, who carry deep knowledge, guidance and long-standing commitment, and emerging leaders, who are stepping forward with courage, creativity and pride.</p> <p>Nominees in this category strengthen culture, connection and community. They share knowledge, support others, stand up for what matters, and help keep Country, culture and people strong. Their actions reflect the heart of the Pilbara — grounded in identity, guided by culture, and full of possibility for future generations.</p>
<p>PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation - Individual 	<p>The organisation or individual must have nominated in one of the above awards categories to be eligible.</p> <p>Awarded to the organisation and individual with the most public votes.</p>

To be eligible to nominate for the 2026 Pilbara Community Services Excellence Awards you must meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Be Pilbara based and working or volunteering in the Community Services Sector.
- ❖ Have been in operation for at least 12 months prior to your nomination.
- ❖ Meet the Eligibility Criteria above for your nominated category.
- ❖ Your nomination must be relevant to the last twelve (12) months ONLY, except for the Heart of Pilbara: Legacy category (see above).

Nomination Process

Stage one – Complete a nomination form

1. Ensure you meet the eligibility criteria for your chosen Award Category.
2. Complete a nomination form for your chosen Award Category. This can be done by completing and emailing the nomination form below to pilbara4purpose@gmail.com
3. Ensure you complete a separate nomination form for each category you wish to nominate for.
4. Ensure you address the selection criteria for the specific award you are nominating for. The specific selection criteria for each award can be found at the end of this document. Make sure you answer all questions as each individual question will be judged and scored. Each question will be marked according to how well you addressed the selection criteria.
5. Make sure that your nomination only contains information relevant to the previous 12 months (except for the Legacy category).
6. Most importantly, **tell your story**.
7. Ensure you provide details for one referee and let them know they may be contacted about the nomination.





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- References and testimonials are strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. These help tell your story and demonstrate positive outcomes.
- Ensure you provide contact information for the nominee and let them know they may be contacted about the nomination.
- Attach supporting documentation if you wish, such as testimonial, media article, award – there is a limit of five (5) attachments or links per nomination.

Stage Two – Nominee and Referee contacted to provide additional supporting information

- The nominee and referee may be contacted by P4P to confirm information provided on the nomination form.
- The nominee may be asked to provide additional supporting information relevant to the Award category they have been nominated for.

Stage Three – Announcements of Finalists

- The nominations will be judged by a panel of independent judges.
- The finalists will be announced upon completion of judging, by mid-July. Each finalist will be notified by email and all finalists will be announced on social media.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Nominations open	Monday 21 April 2026
Nominations close	Sunday 21 June 2026
Gala Dinner/Awards Evening	Saturday 19 September 2026

Make sure you save the date in your diary for the [Awards Gala Dinner](#), where all finalists will be recognised and the winners announced. This will be held in Hedland. Remember to book your accommodation early.

We will also have a number of travel subsidies and Gala Dinner ticket subsidies available. Contact P4P for more information.

Any questions

Contact Karen on pilbara4purpose@gmail.com or call 0456382351



Tips for completing your nomination

- ❖ TELL YOUR STORY. This is not a report. Make your nomination informative and interesting to read with real examples of how you have championed positive change in your community.
- ❖ Provide evidence – such as details of outcomes achieved and how they have been measured, number of people supported, different groups supported, community feedback, partnerships and innovations, testimonials from those you have supported.
- ❖ Your nomination must be based on the last 12 months only, except for the Heart of the Pilbara: Legacy category.
- ❖ Assume that the judges do not know anything about you or your organisation.
- ❖ Once you have completed all questions, re-read what you have written to ensure you have addressed the selection criteria.
- ❖ Have someone else who knows you or your organisation to read through the submission to see if you have missed any important information. Take on all their comments.
- ❖ When preparing a submission, keep the following in mind:
 - Keep it clear and concise
 - Look at the selection criteria and address each question.
 - Show why you/your organisation should be the winner. What makes you special?
 - Tell your story
 - Stay within the word count.

Does my submission have to be a written document?

No. We welcome submissions in different formats.

If you feel more confident sharing your story verbally and/or in video format, then that is acceptable. You can also tell your story with a combination of text and photos or a combination of verbal/video and text. It is up to you. Just choose the format that is the most suitable for you to tell your story.

We do encourage organisations to consider sending a video alongside their written nomination to showcase their organisation/service and share testimonials.

Ngaarda Media has prepared two short webinars to provide guidance on how to prepare a video nomination. This will be shared on our website/facebook page. Please email if you would like a copy.

We will also be organising a webinar on how to prepare a successful award nomination. Keep an eye out on our facebook page for further details.

You can submit additional supporting evidence, no more than 5 attachments or files per nomination. The following are some examples of what you could include:

- Measurement of impact
- Outstanding achievements
- Awards and wins
- Testimonials from your clients
- Media releases
- Support letters, letters of recognition
- Photos

SELECTION CRITERIA

Award Category	Selection Criteria Please make sure you answer each of the three criteria
ORGANISATION CATEGORIES	
Heartbeat of the Pilbara SMALL MEDIUM LARGE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell us about a time your organisation responded to a local community need - What was happening, what did you do and why did it matter? 2. Share an example of how your organisation brings people together or strengthens community connection – what actions did you take and what positive impact did this have? 3. Explain why your organisation is a vital part of the Pilbara’s heartbeat – what difference have you made and why should your organisation be recognised?
Pilbara Heart of Inclusion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell us about a time your organisation removed barriers or made your space or service more welcoming and inclusive – what was the situation, what did you change and how did it help people feel included? 2. Share an example of how you championed diversity, equity or cultural safety – what did you do and what difference did it make? 3. Explain why your organisation is a leader in inclusion in the Pilbara – what impact have you had and why should you be recognised for this work?
Heart of the Pilbara: Foundations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell us about a time your organisation helped build skills, confidence or resilience in the community – what was needed, what did you do and what changed? 2. Share an example of how you strengthened relationships, support systems or community networks – what actions did you take, and what difference did it make? 3. Describe a story that shows how your work has created strong foundations for the future – what did you do and what positive outcomes were achieved?
Heart of the Pilbara: Legacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell us about a long-term commitment or initiative that has supported the community – what was the goal, what did you do and why has it mattered? 2. Share an example of how your organisation has built strong relationships or strengthened community spirit – what actions did you take and what impact did they have? 3. Explain the lasting legacy your organisation has created – how is the Pilbara better because of your long-term dedication and why should this be recognised?



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Heart of the Pilbara: Together	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell us about a time your team worked together to achieve something important– what was the situation, what did you do and what was the result?2. Share an example of how your team supports one another to create positive outcomes – what actions did you take, and what impact did it have on your work or community?3. Explain why your team should be recognised as a model of collaboration in the Pilbara – what makes your teamwork exceptional?
Heart of Social Enterprise	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell us about the social issue or community need your enterprise aims to address – what was happening, why did it matter, what motivated you to act?2. Share a story that shows how your enterprise has created positive social impact – what did you do, who benefited and what changed?3. Explain why your social enterprise is important for the Pilbara – what lasting outcomes have you created, and why should your work be recognised?
Heart of Partnership for Social Impact	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell us about the community need or challenge your partnership set out to address – what was happening, why did you join forces and why was it important?2. Share a story that shows how your partnership created positive social impact – what did each partner contribute, what actions did you take together and what changed?3. Explain why this partnership deserves to be recognised – what makes this collaboration stand out, and what lasting benefits has it created for community?
INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES	
Young Heart of the Pilbara	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell us about a time you made a positive difference for someone or your community – what was happening, what did you do and what changed because of your actions?2. Share an example when you showed leadership, initiative or creativity– what did you take on and what impact did it have?3. Explain why you are a young leader who represents the future of the Pilbara – what makes your contribution stand out?
Pilbara Volunteer Heart	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell us about a volunteer action or contribution where you made a meaningful difference – what was the situation, what did you do and what changed?2. Share an example of how you helped strengthen community connection, wellbeing or community spirit– what actions did you take and what impact did they have?3. Explain why your volunteering contribution deserves recognition – what makes your impact significant?





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Heart of the Community Sector	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell us about a time you supported an individual, family or group in a meaningful way – what was happening, what did you do and what changed?2. Share an example of how you showed leadership, integrity or compassion in your role – what actions did you take and what impact did they have?3. Explain why you are a standout worker or leader in the community sector – what difference have you made and why should you be recognised?
Indigenous Heart of the Pilbara	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell us about a time you shared cultural knowledge or showed leadership to support your community. What was happening, what did you do and how did it help?2. Share a story that shows how you strengthened culture, connection or identity – what actions did you take and what positive difference did it make for people or Country?3. Explain why your contribution is important for your community and the Pilbara – what impact have you made and why should you be recognised?

