



# AFAC Industry Awards





## About AFAC and the awards

For over thirty years, AFAC has played a key role in building a connected and capable emergency management system and sector across Australia and New Zealand. This remains our vision and our focus. We support our members every day to pursue and deliver their agreed and shared goals.

Our Industry Awards are an opportunity for us to celebrate and promote the outstanding work of our members. Presented at our AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ, we use the platform of the premier emergency management conference and exhibition in the region to amplify the collective capability and capacity of emergency management organisations.

The awards are open to all AFAC Emergency Service Members and Affiliate Members and their staff, including service delivery teams and individuals (career and volunteer).

### Award categories

There are 4 award categories:

1. Safer Communities Award
2. Workforce Capability and Wellbeing Award
3. Knowledge Innovation Award
4. Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year Award

### Nomination process

Nominations are to be submitted using the [online application via Survey Monkey](#). Nominations for the 2025 AFAC Industry Awards close **Friday 25 July 2025**.

All nominations must be supported by the agency. AFAC will provide all agencies copies of nominations for endorsement prior to selection.

Multiple nominations can be submitted by a single agency.

Nominations from previous years can be resubmitted, provided the nominee did not receive an award.

### Nomination questions

The following questions will be asked across all categories. There will also be specific questions related to the judging criteria for each Award in addition to the questions below.

*About the nominee (can be a team or an individual):*

1. Nominee name or team name
2. Position within agency
3. Contact email
4. Contact phone number

*About the agency:*

1. Agency name
2. Jurisdiction
3. Name of person completing nomination
4. Contact email of person completing nomination
5. Contact phone number of person completing nomination
6. Head of agency name

*About the nomination:*

1. Provide a short description of the project/work the nominee is a part of.
2. Which award is the nominee being nominated for.
3. Provide responses to the relevant assessment criteria.

## **Selection panel and process**

The successful candidate will be selected by the AFAC Leadership Team. AFAC will confirm agency endorsement with the agency head, prior to selections being finalised.

### **Enquiries**

For more information about the AFAC Industry Awards Program, please contact:

Charlotte Fell | Events Officer

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## Workforce Capability and Wellbeing Award

*Aligned to Strategic Direction Four: safe, capable, and diverse workforce.*

### Context

Fire and emergency services have an Australasian workforce of 288,000. Across the broader emergency management sector, the number exceeds 500,000. This is a significant workforce capability, that is organised, trained, and ultimately provides the nation with a substantial surge capacity in challenging times. This national capability is achieved through substantial volunteer contributions.

Fire and emergency services are working to build an inclusive culture, by embracing the value of bringing people from different backgrounds and different points of view to work together, to cultivate a workforce that reflects the diversity of the community.

### Eligibility

The nominee:

- Leads and demonstrates improvement within their agency or to build a safe, capable and diverse workforce; or
- Has developed an initiative to improve workforce capability or wellbeing that will benefit the agency and has potential to be beneficial to the broader emergency service sector.

### Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on:

1. Improvements and benefits made to the organisation through the work of the nominee.
2. Alignment to the [Strategic Directions](#), specifically Direction 4.
3. The impact, or potential impact, of the nominees work across the emergency management sector.

### Value of the award

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. This registration can be used to attend AFAC25 conference in Perth, 26-29 August 2025 or AFAC26 in Melbourne, 18-21 August 2026 (note: this is registration only, it does not cover travel or accommodation).

The winner of the award will receive a trophy. AFAC will promote the winner across its communication channels, including website and social media.

## Safer Communities Award

*Aligned to Strategic Direction One: supporting resilient communities through risk reduction.*

*Aligned to Strategic Direction Two: providing a trusted response.*

*Aligned to Strategic Direction Three: using credible and timely information and data.*

### Context

Catastrophic disasters disrupt lives and impact our communities economically and socially. Readiness is critical for the industry to ensure that the response and recovery missions are appropriately executed and successful. An improved response capability has the potential to influence the preparation of communities to prevent catastrophic results from hazards, and foster resilience in those communities.

Fire and emergency services agencies are well placed to provide leadership and to collaborate with governments, business, communities, educational institutions, and individuals to develop strategies and take action to reduce disaster risk and support resilient communities, through mitigation, influencing policy and regulatory change, and education and engagement.

By utilising current and emerging technologies across a wide range of systems, sources and capabilities, fire and emergency services can enhance community advice and understanding before, during and after emergency events.

### Eligibility

The nominee:

- has demonstrated improvement to response capabilities of their organisation, or the emergency management sector; or
- has developed an initiative that has directly improved community safety.

### Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on:

1. Improvements and benefits made to the organisation's capability through the work of the nominee. Or, the benefit that this initiative has had on community outcomes.
2. Alignment to the [Strategic Directions](#), specifically Direction 1, 2 or 3.
3. The impact, or potential impact, of the nominees work across the emergency management sector or other communities in Australia and New Zealand.

### Value of the award

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. This registration can be used to attend AFAC25 conference in Perth, 26-29 August 2025 or AFAC26 in Melbourne, 18-21 August 2026 (note: this is registration only, it does not cover travel or accommodation).

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## Knowledge Innovation Award

*Aligned to Strategic Direction Three: using credible and timely information and data.*

*Aligned to Strategic Direction Five: informed by knowledge, innovation and research.*

### Context

Emergency management operates in a dynamic environment with major shifts in technology, demography, and community expectations. The sector anticipates and responds to these challenges, underpinned by robust knowledge, informed by post event analysis, research and innovation.

By utilising current and emerging technologies across a wide range of systems, sources and capabilities, fire and emergency services can enhance community advice and understanding before, during and after emergency events.

Partnerships are established and maintained to deliver pure and applied research and importantly they look beyond the sector to understand how to achieve the path to our goals.

### Eligibility

The nominee:

- demonstrates innovative and creative contributions to the advancement of knowledge, innovation, or research utilisation in their organisation or the emergency management sector.

### Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on:

1. How knowledge, innovation or research utilisation has been applied to improve a problem.
2. The sustainability of the initiative.
3. Alignment to the [Strategic Directions](#), specifically Directions 3 or 5.
4. The impact, or potential impact, of the nominees work across the emergency management sector. Including comments or evaluation from end-users where possible.

### Value of the award

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. This registration can be used to attend AFAC25 conference in Perth, 26-29 August 2025 or AFAC26 in Melbourne, 18-21 August 2026 (note: this is registration only, it does not cover travel or accommodation).

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## **Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year**

Named in honour of AFAC's inaugural CEO, Laurie Lavelle, the Achiever of the Year recognises the efforts of an individual from an AFAC Emergency Service Member organisation who has contributed significantly to enhancing the knowledge or skills, operations, performance or public profile in the emergency services sector in Australia and New Zealand.

### **Eligibility**

The nominee must be acknowledged by their agency as demonstrating a significant commitment to the enhancement of the knowledge or skills, operations, performance and/or public profile in the emergency services sector, in the areas of:

- education and training
- research development and utilisation
- operations
- organisational governance
- technology and innovation
- community education and engagement.

### **Assessment criteria**

Nominations must include:

1. A description of the achievement/innovation in the specified area of development
2. The benefit to the agency, and
3. The impact or potential impact of this achievement/innovation to other AFAC members
4. The nominating officer must also include supporting comments indicating the nominee's level of achievement.

The successful candidate will be selected by the AFAC Leadership Team and Laurie Lavelle.

### **Value of the award**

The winner will receive sponsorship from AFAC to attend the annual AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference, covering a full three-day registration. This registration can be used to attend AFAC25 conference in Perth, 26-29 August 2025 or AFAC26 in Melbourne, 18-21 August 2026 (note: this is registration only, it does not cover travel or accommodation).

The winner of the award will receive a trophy. AFAC will promote the winner across its communication channels, including website and social media.