

2026
POSITIVE
AGEING &
WELLBEING
AWARDS

Nominations close: Monday 9 February 2026

2026 POSITIVE AGEING & WELLBEING AWARDS

WELCOME

The LGPro Positive Ageing & Wellbeing Awards are open to individuals and teams working in Victorian Local Government that have made significant contributions to capacity building in promoting health and wellbeing in striving for an age-friendly society.

Councils are encouraged to nominate in one of the following two categories:

- **Outstanding Program or Project – Grant-based (externally funded)**
- **Outstanding Program or Project – Non-grant (Council funded)**

ABOUT LGPRO

LGPro is the leading voice and member association for people working in Victorian Local Government, providing quality professional development to support them in their work, to advance their careers, and to help them develop strong networks across the sector. The peak body also represents the views and advocates on behalf of this cohort.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The grant-based project category is open to initiatives that are externally funded and non-grant-based category is open to initiatives that are resourced from Council's budget.

Programs or projects nominated for these awards must have been developed and implemented for an ageing population. They can include people with a disability or intergenerational based initiatives that demonstrate a positive outcome for people as they age. Programs/ projects nominated should demonstrate enhanced mental health and wellbeing, improved social connection or increased physical activity and be considered beyond what council would normally provide as business as usual.

The program or project can also be an initiative which has brought about a significant service improvement by using an innovative approach that has helped people in these groups to positively age and maintain their wellbeing. An innovative approach is demonstrated through new ways of thinking, leading, facilitating, administering, managing or ensuring a particular outcome is achieved that is new and original and *above and beyond what is considered business as usual as required under the Local Government Act 2020*.

Projects that have been implemented and have defined outcomes can be nominated. If your project does not have defined outcomes, it may be too soon to nominate, and you might consider holding off until next year. Defined outcomes and innovation are favoured by the judges, and projects without measurable outcomes as well as an element of innovation generally do not score well.

The awards are not restricted to those working in aged and disability services and are open to anyone working towards improved health and wellbeing outcomes for people as they age.

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AWARDS PURPOSE

These awards aim to:

- **Recognise the contribution of individuals and teams working to encourage positive ageing and wellbeing in Local Government**
- **Advance innovation and leadership in the provision of positive ageing and wellbeing**
- **Promote high standards in the design and delivery of Local Government programs and projects that promote positive ageing and wellbeing.**

AWARD CRITERIA

Key judging criteria considered in the Outstanding Program or Project grant-based and non-grant based categories:

- **Program/project objectives and outcomes**
- **Program/project management (inclusive of barriers and costs)**
- **Service improvements and/or health and wellbeing benefits achieved as a result of the project/program**
- **Demonstration of an effective/innovative approach**
- **Sustainability/transferability of the program/project.**

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Finalists and winners of the 2026 Positive Ageing & Wellbeing Awards will be awarded at the 2026 Annual Conference Welcome Reception to be held at Grand Hyatt, Melbourne on 17 June 2026.

FINALISTS

All award finalists will receive a certificate and winning individuals and/or teams will receive a statuette which will be presented at the Awards ceremony.

WINNERS

Winning local governments will also receive a certificate which will be sent after the awards ceremony to the organisation's Chief Executive Officer. A feature article on the winning entries will appear in an upcoming edition of LGPro's Profile magazine in 2026.

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PREPARING YOUR NOMINATION

The following is a copy of the questions you will need to answer in the online portal as part of your nomination. The online portal allows you to pause and continue your nomination at any time, but the below is provided to help you gather the requisite information ahead of time and simplify the process.

PROGRAM/PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

1. Provide a summary of the program/project key aspects **(up to 100 words)**. If successful, this may be read out at the Positive Ageing & Wellbeing Awards ceremony.
2. What stage is the project at? Has it reached pilot, evaluation or ongoing phase? (tick the appropriate box on the online nomination form).
3. What are the project main objectives/outcomes, which have been met and which are still outstanding? **(up to 200 words)**

PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

4. Describe the scope of the program/project in terms of people involved, their role, partnerships developed (include any parties external to Council involved for example, consultants, external organisations, neighbouring Councils and their role)? **(up to 200 words)**
5. What difficulties/barriers were encountered in managing the program for example, lack of resources, tight timeframes,) and what was done to overcome these? **(up to 200 words)**
6. How was funding achieved for this project and what was the cost of the project? Please provide dollar amount, staff time and any other resources required and how project funding was achieved **(up to 200 words)** *(This does not apply to the non-grant category.)*

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AND/OR HEALTH AND WELLBEING BENEFITS ACHIEVED

7. Describe any problems solved by the project and resulting benefits – these can be qualitative or quantitative. Please detail any significant service improvements or health and wellbeing outcomes that have been achieved by the program/project for service recipients/residents/Council? **(up to 200 words)**

DEMONSTRATION OF AN EFFECTIVE/INNOVATIVE APPROACH

8. How does the project demonstrate forward thinking and innovation? Please detail any new/original ways of thinking, leading, facilitating, administering or managing that may have been undertaken in ensuring a particular outcome was achieved.
9. Were any measurables used to evaluate how effectively the program/project was managed and the success of the program/project? If so, please detail these.

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PREPARING YOUR NOMINATION (cont'd)

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFERABILITY

10. Does the approach to the program/project lend itself to be used or adapted for other purposes and if so how? **(up to 100 words)**
11. Is the project ongoing? If so, how will it be sustained in terms of resourcing? **(up to 150 words)**

CONCLUSION

12. Any other comments **(100 words)**
13. Up to five high resolution jpeg to tiff photos must be submitted with your nomination.
14. Please attach a simple and short video **(45 seconds)** that provides a brief overview of the nominated initiative (the video will be viewed by judges to provide them with more context around the awards and it does not have to be a polished production).

SUBMISSION ELIGIBILITY

Nominations will be accepted from teams of both LGPro members and non-members, however at least one nominator must be an LGPro member.

JUDGING

LGPro will appoint a different panel to judge each award category. The panel will comprise a Local Government Chief Executive Officer or an LGPro Board Member and a Local Government representative working in the positive ageing and wellbeing space. Each judge will individually review all nominations and allocate preferences based on how the submission meets the respective criteria. Final scores will be reached through averaging and consensus of the judging panel. In the event of a tied decision, LGPro will assist with the adjudication in each category.

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NOMINATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

Submissions must be completed online by close of business on **Monday 9 February 2026**. When you begin a nomination, you will be required to create a username and password. This allows you to complete the form in stages or add further information prior to the closing date. When submitting your nomination, all questions must be answered in sequential order to progress. Up to five high-definition images in JPEG format must be included with a description of each photograph in the relevant space provided in the online application form. These digital photos must be at least 1MB each but not more than 5MB.

AWARDS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Entrants must tick the declaration on the nomination form as evidence that they accept LGPro's Terms and Conditions and that the information provided is true and correct.
2. Although nominations are accepted from teams of both LGPro members and non-members, at least one nominator must be an LGPro member.
3. Nominations may be submitted in both award categories however the same initiative cannot be nominated in more than one category.
4. The nominator must consent to any written material provided being used to promote the work of Victorian Local Government. The nominator must complete the Written Material Consent Form to this effect.
5. Individual members of judging panels are ineligible to enter the award categories they judge or sponsor.
6. The judging panel's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into in relation to their decision.
7. Only the award recipients and finalists will receive a certificate; named partners will not receive an award certificate.
8. The closing date for nominations is close of business on **Monday 9 February 2026**.

Who do I contact for further information?

Please contact Diana Pawluk, Manager Events on (03) 9268 6404 or email dianap@lgpro.com