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Guidelines for the SmartyGrants 2022 Grantmaker of the Year Award

Recognising innovation, encouraging good practice and rewarding great grantmaking

SmartyGrants
Software & data science for revolutionary grantmakers

Opening date	Entries open at 9:00am (AEST) on March 18, 2021
Closing date and time	Entries close at 4:00pm (AEST) on February 21, 2022
Enquiries	ginac@ourcommunity.com.au
Prize	$5,000 towards personal development

Introduction

Grants are crucial to the Australian economy. Good grants drive innovation, help find solutions to age-old problems, encourage good practice, empower the enthusiastic and reward the effective. Bad grants are poorly thought out, poorly evaluated, and waste millions.

SmartyGrants, a division of Our Community, is leading the movement that seeks greater respect for what grantmakers do.

The Grantmaker of the Year Award is designed to unearth those grantmakers who are leading and developing the field of grantmaking.

All eligible grantmakers are encouraged to apply for this award.

The award is designed to:
- Identify those who lead the way for grantmaking and reward their work
- Unearth grantmaking ideas that deliver solutions to age-old problems
- Identify lessons that can be disseminated to other grantmakers

Key dates

The expected timing for this grant opportunity is below. Our Community may vary the timeframes.

- Applications open on 18 March 2021
- Applications close 21 Feb 2022 (closing date)
- Applicants that have been shortlisted will be notified of the outcome of their application within 30 business days of the closing date
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified within 30 business days after the closing date
- The winner will be informed at least 2 weeks prior to Grantmaking Intelligence Conference 2022
- Winners will be publicly announced at the 2022 Grantmaking Intelligence Conference

Who is eligible?

To be considered for Grantmaker of the Year you must:
- Be a team or individual grantmaker or funder that has been in this role for at least six months
- Use the SmartyGrants platform in the administration of your grants
- Submit a completed application on time

Who is not eligible?

An applicant is not eligible for Grantmaker of the Year if they:
- Do not use the SmartyGrants platform to administer their grants
- Do not complete an application form and/or do not submit their application by the deadline
- Have had less than six months' grantmaking experience at the time of entering the award

What you need to do?

Before applying, the applicant must read and understand these guidelines, if you have any questions, please send them to ginac@ourcommunity.com.au

To apply, an applicant will need to complete an online application form before the closing date.

The lead applicant is responsible for ensuring that the application is complete and accurate.

How you will be notified?

All applicants will receive an email that their application has been received on the day of submission.

- Applicants that have been shortlisted will be notified of that fact within 30 business days of the closing date
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified of that fact within 30 business days of the closing date
- The winner will be notified at least 2 weeks prior to the 2022 Grantmaking Intelligence Conference

Winners will be publicly announced and the award will be presented at the 2022 Grantmaking Intelligence Conference.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed by a panel of SmartyGrants staff. Eligible applicants will be judged against answers to questions in the application form alongside the following assessment criteria.

Applicants will be judged by their ability to demonstrate:
- Problem solving
- Innovation
- The ability to recognise excellence
- Creativity

The panel will also look favourably on applicants that address the kinds of issues we routinely raise in our Grantmaking Intelligence Conference program, the SmartyGrants forum, the Grants Management Intelligence newsletter and the SmartyGrants Grantmaking Manifesto, which states that:

- Grantmaking is an absolutely central element in the global economic system
- The world needs more and better professional grantmakers
- Grantmakers should listen to the communities they serve
- Grantmakers should be efficient
- Grantmakers should be ethical.

More detail about the assessment criteria is provided below:

1. **Problem solving**

   Applicants will be asked to describe what they would like to change about grantmaking. Assessors will focus on:

   - Ability of the applicant to clearly identify current issues that impede effective grantmaking
   - Ability of the applicant to clearly identify a cause for the problem
   - Ability of the applicant to clearly identify what tools/resources/skills/strategies might solve the issue

2. **Innovation**

   Applicants will be presented with 12 of the most commonly known issues within grantmaking and asked to offer solutions to 3. Assessors will focus on:

   - The applicant's ability to describe an issue, identify a cause and cure and translate their idea into action on the ground
   - How likely the applicant's ideas are to address the problem identified

3. **Creativity**

   Applicants are asked to include a short video pitch in their application

   Creativity will also be assessed in relation to the applicant's responses to problem solving. Inventive problem solving and ideas will be highly regarded.

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How we may use your application

Applicants give permission to SmartyGrants (and its publications) to use any ideas submitted as part of this application in its work to improve the practice of grantmaking.

SmartyGrants reserves the right to use material lodged in applications to assist in producing articles and other grantmaking materials to support the sector.

Applicants can expect that they may be invited to speak at networking events and conferences or contacted for further information about the ideas that they submit.

Award winners should be prepared to appear at the Grantmaking Intelligence Conference.

Privacy & Terms

The information an applicant provides in their application form will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

In submitting an application, the applicant agrees to Our Community collecting their personal information, including name, contact details and role in order to assess the application and for the purpose of grants administration.

SmartyGrants is an enterprise of Our Community Pty Ltd. To use the application portal, applicants will be asked to register and agree to Our Community's Privacy Policy and Terms of Use.

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