



STUDENT EXPERIENCE NETWORK

A W A R D S

2026

Entry Guidelines

About the Awards



The annual Student Experience Network (SEN) Awards are a celebration of excellence and success in the Australian and New Zealand tertiary student experience sector.

They are an opportunity to recognise SEN members and suppliers for outstanding achievements, and to showcase exceptional programs and initiatives in many diverse areas of the student experience landscape.

The Awards are presented by Student Experience Network and are supported by our incredible partners.

Who is Eligible to Enter?

To be eligible to submit an entry in the Awards, your organisation must be a current financial member or a supplier/contract holder of SEN.

If you are unsure if your organisation is a financial member, please contact us at info@studentexperiencenetwork.com.au.

Initiatives entered must take place between July 2025 and June 2026 to be eligible.

*Individual award categories are excluded from this timeframe.



Key Dates

Milestone	Date
Award Entries Open	Monday 2 nd March 2026
Award Entries Close	Friday 3 rd July 2026
Judging Commences	Monday 20 th July 2026
Judging Completed	Friday 21 st August 2026
Finalists Announced	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Awards Gala Dinner	Thursday 26 th November 2026

Award Categories

The 2026 Student Experience Network Awards showcase the outstanding achievements of our members across our Professional Networks, as well as individual recognitions, professional development opportunities and an award recognising the contribution of our strategic partners.

There are 17 Awards in total.

Please Note - Organisations may only submit one (1) entry per Award category, and each Initiative may only be entered into one (1) category. Please select your Best Initiative in each category to enter.

Commercial

- Best Commercial Initiative
- Best Food & Beverage Initiative

Clubs & Societies

- The Jacqueline Out Award for Best Clubs & Societies Initiative
- Best Sport & Recreation Initiative

Events & Activities

- Best Event or Activity
- Best Orientation Initiative

Marketing & Communications

- Best Marketing Initiative
- Best Digital Initiative

Student Support

- Best Volunteering Initiative
- Best Welfare & Wellbeing Initiative
- Best Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Initiative

Advocacy

- Best Advocacy Initiative

Individual Awards

- Rising Student Experience Professional (Formerly Best Newcomer Award)
- Joe Curtis Professional Development Scholarship
- Georgeson Torney Industry Leader's Award
- Tom O'Sullivan Memorial Award

Strategic Partner Award

- Strategic Partner of the Year Award



Trophies will be awarded to the Winner and an Award of Distinction in each category, except for the Individual Awards and Strategic Partner Award, which will have just one recipient each.

Commercial Awards

Best Commercial Initiative

An excellent Commercial Initiative will showcase adaptability and outcomes that significantly support positive commercial results. It will incorporate support for its student and campus communities, help maintain relevance, strengthen awareness of its commercial brand, support the changes in consumer needs and identify creative product innovation.

This category awards excellence in Commercial Initiatives and is an opportunity for members to showcase successful developments within the commercial space during 2025/26. Initiatives can be new or established and held on or off-campus, or online.

Initiatives can include but are not limited to; merchandise promotions, membership campaigns, special deals, graduation services, student care packages, childcare services, accommodation, and residential services, etc.



Best Food & Beverage Initiative

Food and beverage operations are the powerhouses of many campus service organisations, providing the sorts of gathering spaces and nourishing offers integral to hungry campus communities! Members must continually adapt, evolve, and challenge the norms of these operations to accommodate the ever-changing environment and meet the ongoing needs of their students and customers.

An excellent Food and Beverage Initiative recognises the opportunities presented to adapt and evolve any offer or outlet and responds accordingly. It will be creative and collaborative, provide access to appropriate forms of sustenance, and be engaging and supportive of its campus activities, customers, and communities.

This award celebrates excellence in Food & Beverage Initiatives being delivered by a member organisation in 2025/26. Initiatives can be new or established and held on or off-campus, or online.

Initiatives can include but are not limited to: student support packages, product awareness or development, adaptations to changing consumer needs, maintaining presence and relevance, meeting consumer requests, reinvigorating an outlet offer or offering special deals, and supporting campus community engagement activities.



Clubs & Societies Awards

The Jacqueline Out Award for Best Clubs & Societies Initiative

The Best Clubs and Societies Initiative Award is proudly named in honour of Jacqueline Out from RMIT University Student Union, recognising her extraordinary 30-year dedication to students and student organisations, most of which was spent at RUSU. For 15 years as Clubs Officer, Jacq championed student clubs with passion, integrity and unwavering care, mentoring thousands of student leaders and empowering them to build vibrant, inclusive communities. She was especially committed to enhancing the international student experience, supporting cultural and spiritual clubs and helping lead major celebrations such as Chinese Cultural Week (Mid-Autumn Festival), Indian Independence Day and RUSU's Multicultural Festival. A fierce advocate for women in STEM and a tireless innovator, Jacq's legacy lives on through the confident, capable leaders and thriving clubs she helped shape.

Successfully run Clubs and Societies provide a vital link to a connected student experience. They offer opportunities to develop extracurricular skills and help create vibrant, healthy student communities. They can be like a family away from home, bring students closer to like-minded people, and often become an important part of their university experience. They are also the perfect platform to learn lifelong skills.

This award recognises excellence in a Club or Society Initiative, run by a SEN member organisation, that supports the essential and critical elements of running and maintaining a successful club or society, as listed above. It can be a new initiative or a recurring one that has been held on or off-campus, or online during 2025/26.

Initiatives can include but are not limited to; Clubs and Societies' training & development programs, executive socials, networking or other events, or the introduction of tools and processes to further enable clubs and societies to activate the student community and ensure their continuity.

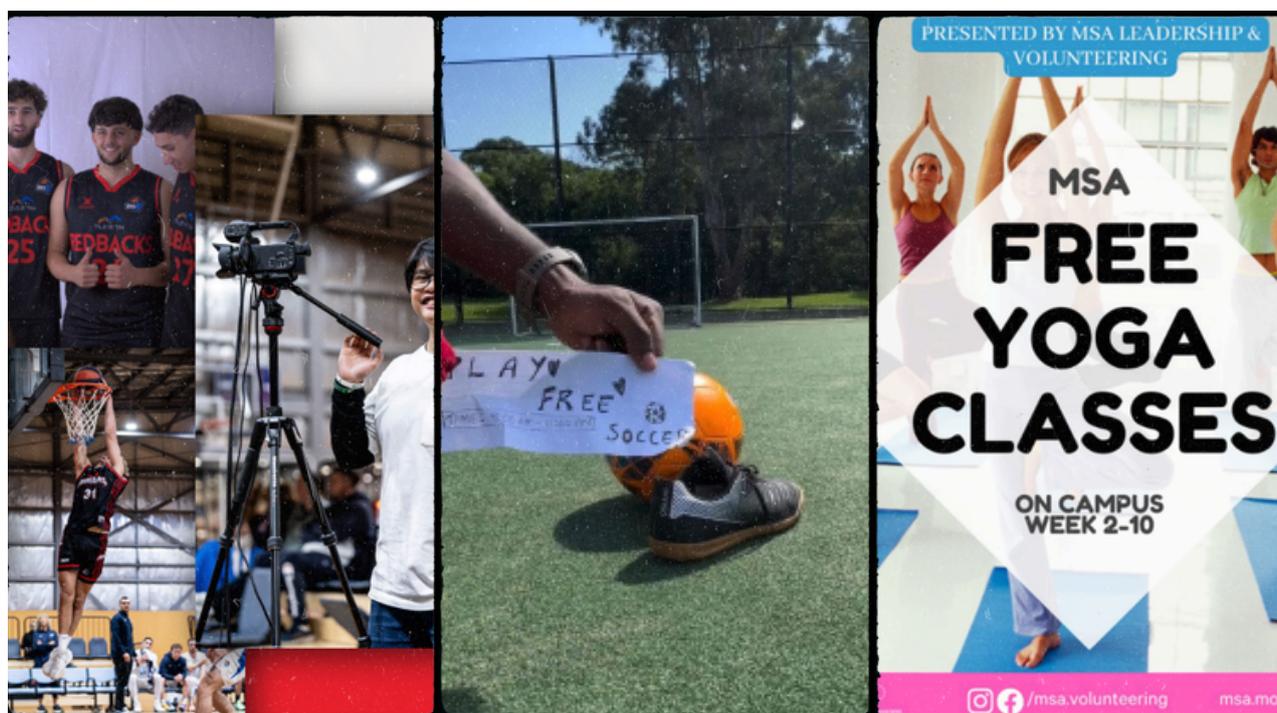
Best Sport & Recreation Initiative

Successful Sporting and Recreation initiatives are an integral part of student engagement. They represent a healthy, vibrant, and supportive campus experience and can provide students with a vital link to friendships with other like-minded people.

Successful initiatives will provide opportunities for all students to participate and engage at multiple levels, to have fun, improve their health and wellbeing, and feel connected to their campus community. An excellent initiative will also showcase adaptability to the current needs of student cohorts, and provide students with a positive lasting experience and meaningful outcomes.

This award recognises excellence in a campus Sports or Recreation Initiative run for students by a member campus during 2025/26. Initiatives can be new or established and held on or off-campus, or online.

Initiatives can include but are not limited to; sports and recreation programs or initiatives, sporting events or activities, gym and fitness activities, provision of support for sporting codes, sporting camps etc.



Events & Activities Awards

Best Event or Activity

Excellent and successful events and activities are the pinnacle of student engagement. They represent the outward sign of a healthy, vibrant, supportive campus life and a positive student experience. They provide students with opportunities to connect with each other and their student service organisations, try activities they may not have experienced before, or challenge their own comfort zones and get out there! Successful events are inclusive, fun, accessible, safe, sometimes educational, and always memorable!

The ever-changing environment of campus life requires SEN members to evolve and challenge the norms of their Event strategies to keep students connected and engaged and feel like they're an integral part of their campus community.

This category awards excellence in Successful Events and Activities and is an opportunity for SEN members to showcase their adaptability at hosting on or off-campus, or online, events throughout 2025/26.

Examples can include but are not limited to: support and welfare events, on-campus or online competitions, varsity review seasons, quiz events, end-of-semester parties, sporting events, movie nights, showcase days, cultural markets, music events etc.



Best Orientation Initiative

Nothing conveys the all-encompassing feeling of “campus life” better than a great Orientation Experience! Whether it’s for a whole day, a whole week, or a specifically targeted experience, it’s usually the first opportunity for students to meet and get involved with their student life organisations.

Excellent and successful orientation initiatives introduce students to a myriad of facets of campus life. From support services to programs, clubs and societies, campus venues, local supporting businesses, and more. It’s the first opportunity to formally welcome students and ensure they feel orientated and connected to campus life.

This category awards excellence in the delivery of Orientation Initiatives held on campus, or online during 2025/26. It is an opportunity for SEN members to showcase their flexibility and adaptability to the changing needs of our student communities.

Initiatives can include but are not limited to: on-campus or online campus tours, orientation events, ‘get to know each other’ events, ‘get to know your organisation’ events, clubs and society market fairs, artistic presentations by existing students ie: plays, music, nature walks, student cultural activities and events, etc.



Marketing & Communications Awards

Best Marketing Initiative

Keeping our customers and students engaged, and ensuring our services and activities are seen and heard on noisy communication highways pushes us to continually innovate and adapt our marketing strategies.

Changes to student cohorts, on-campus services, and learning formats also challenge us to keep adapting and evolving the way we maintain relevance and connect and communicate with our student and campus communities.

This award category recognises excellence in a SEN member Marketing Initiative. It will showcase engaging, eye-catching, and clever designs. It will encourage the viewer to want to know more and encourage them to take part in the call to action it speaks to. It will be adaptive to the ever-changing market, use creative techniques, effectively raise awareness, and leave the viewer intrigued to know more!

This award celebrates excellence in Marketing Initiatives delivered by a SEN member organisation in 2025/26. Initiatives can include but are not limited to; membership drives, student publications, product awareness, programs or initiatives, promotions etc.



Best Digital Initiative

In our ever-changing world, organisations must stay up to date on developments and trends in the digital arena. Digital platforms keep our organisations connected and engaged with our student cohorts, staff members, and campus communities.

Every organisation is different and faces unique digital challenges that require specific goals and objectives to meet desired outcomes. There isn't a cookie-cutter approach for building the perfect digital game plan, however there are key components that point to an excellent initiative.

An excellent Digital Initiative comprises ease of user functionality, strong user engagement, and clever, user-centric design. It will showcase adaptability in evaluating and determining the right technology, choosing market trends, practices, and content tools that support creativity, consistency, and the outcomes the initiative is aiming for. It will consider device application, location, and preferences of the target user and present agile, relevant content that also supports a clear brand identity and strong brand experience.

Ultimately it will create a memorable user experience that converts your digital goals into your desired outcomes. It will also need to showcase keeping students and campus communities supported and connected.

This award celebrates excellence in Digital Initiatives delivered by a SEN member organisation in 2025/26. Initiatives can include but are not limited to: campus tour videos, digital signage, educational support programs, new apps, new or upgraded websites, podcasts, social media campaigns, webinars, etc.

Student Support Awards

Best Volunteering Initiative

Excellent Volunteering Initiatives enable students to extend their education by accessing opportunities to develop skills and beneficial relationships outside of their degree. These initiatives are often a mutually beneficial collaboration between students and staff and can sometimes involve external community organisations.

A successful initiative will facilitate active student learning through participation in specific volunteering activities. It will show evidence of developing a student's skills in a particular area or a group of areas, that better prepares them for life and work both on and off-campus. It will showcase adaptability to the needs of students, providing them with opportunities for engagement at multiple levels, and a positive lasting experience with meaningful outcomes.

An initiative being submitted in this category can be a new initiative or a recurring one that has been held on or off-campus, or online. This award celebrates excellence in Volunteering Initiatives and must have been run for students by a member campus during 2025/26.

Initiatives can include but are not limited to: volunteer programs, corporate volunteering initiatives, programs, peer-to-peer support development programs, internships etc.



Best Welfare & Wellbeing Initiative

The radical disruptions to our everyday lives over the past few years have shown us how critical it is to maintain a healthy level of mental, emotional, physical, and financial well-being to weather the constant fluctuations of life.

Now more than ever, members need to be actively offering Wellbeing and Support Initiatives that provide ongoing opportunities for students to connect with others in safe and supportive ways, and help to facilitate and promote good health, well-being, and resilience.

Successful initiatives can be broadly or specifically focused. They will provide a welcoming, safe, and caring environment, with opportunities to access tools, skillsets, education, and practical necessities. They will leave participants feeling motivated, supported, and connected enough to keep making positive changes in their own lives.

An initiative being submitted in this category can be a new initiative or a recurring one that has been held on or off-campus, or online. This award celebrates excellence in Welfare and Wellbeing initiatives and must have been actively run for students by a member campus during 2025/26.

Initiatives can include but are not limited to: financial services, mental health and wellbeing programs, equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives, international student welfare programs, stress management or resiliency education, etc.



Best Equity, Diversion and Inclusion Initiative

Championing and celebrating traditionally underrepresented demographics helps to create safe and inclusive environments. It builds a culture that supports students to maintain positive social relationships, and develop a sense of belonging within their peers, their university, and the community. Submissions in this category will be about education, support of inclusivity, and the celebration of diversity. Therefore, intervention programs will be considered part of the 'Wellbeing and Support Program' category rather than the EDI Category.

Underrepresented demographics include (but not limited to):

- Culturally & Linguistically Diverse / English as a Second Language
- LGBTQIA+
- Lower Socio-Economic Status
- Indigenous / First Nations
- People with Disabilities and Carers
- Other demographics (e.g. mature-age students/ non-school leavers)

An excellent EDI Initiative at its core will focus on uplifting others and celebrate inclusivity. It will raise awareness of the challenges experienced by those in our communities, foster allyship of related causes and build our cultural capacity to support and celebrate the differences of others. It will also foster enquiry, open communication, and safety, and may even provide a lifeline for those feeling excluded or struggling to understand their place in the world.

Initiatives can include but are not limited to: social connection initiatives, advocacy programs, Disability Peer Support, resiliency education programs, diversity and inclusion plans, education and awareness training, mardi gras events, EDI specific cultural competency training for club execs, ally training, lower SES initiatives, events and inclusions, ESL support programs and events, Culture Festivals, International Night Markets, Indigenous Strategy initiatives, NAIDOC Week celebrations, etc

An initiative being submitted in this category can be a new initiative or a recurring one that has been held on or off-campus, or online. This award celebrates excellence in EDI initiatives and must have been actively run for students by a member campus during 2025/26.

Advocacy Award

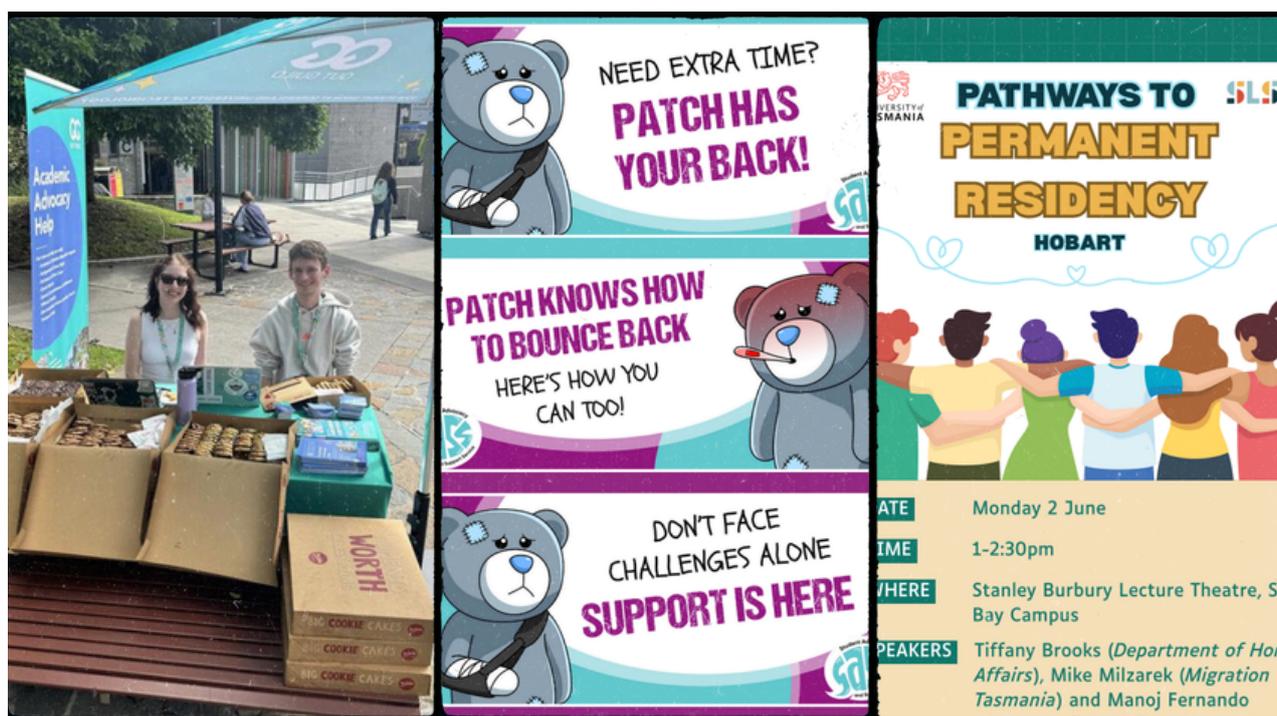
Best Advocacy Initiative

Advocacy in universities plays a crucial role in promoting social justice, empowering students, addressing campus issues, fostering civic engagement, enhancing critical thinking skills, supporting research and innovation, and building partnerships for positive change.

SEN member organisations provide services to equip their students with services and resources to empower them to feel and do their best, and ensure that the student voice is heard.

An initiative being submitted in this category can be a new initiative or a recurring one that has been held on or off-campus, or online. This award celebrates excellence in Advocacy Initiatives and must have been run for students by a member campus during 2025/26.

Initiatives can include but are not limited to: academic and exam support, protecting student rights, legal assistance, discrimination and harassment, complaints, reviews and appeals processes etc.



Academic Advocacy Help

**NEED EXTRA TIME?
PATCH HAS YOUR BACK!**

**PATCH KNOWS HOW TO BOUNCE BACK
HERE'S HOW YOU CAN TOO!**

**DON'T FACE CHALLENGES ALONE
SUPPORT IS HERE**

**PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY
HOBART**

DATE Monday 2 June
TIME 1-2:30pm
WHERE Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre, SSBay Campus
SPEAKERS Tiffany Brooks (Department of Honorary Affairs), Mike Milzarek (Migration Tasmania) and Manoj Fernando

Individual Awards

Rising Student Experience Professional (Formerly Best Newcomer Award)

The Best Newcomer Award recognises an individual who demonstrates commitment and the potential for long-term excellence within the tertiary services sector.

This person is recognised as:

- Making a significant contribution to positive outcomes at their organisation
- Displaying ongoing genuine support and positive regard for students
- Demonstrating a strong commitment to their organisation and the improvement of student services
- A strong advocate for our sector as viewed by their peers and colleagues

The winner of this Award will receive \$1,000 to spend on Professional Development. We encourage this to be matched by the recipient's organisation to enable them to maximise the impact.

Non-attendance of the professional development will require a refund of the award money.

Nominations may be submitted by a manager or supervisor with the endorsement of their CEO or equivalent. This person must be employed as a current full-time professional staff member of a SEN member institution for no more than three years as of 30th June 2026.

Entries will be reviewed and assessed, and the winner appointed by the SEN Board.

Joe Curtis Professional Development Scholarship

Joe Curtis served at Monash University for almost 20 years, rising from Catering Manager to become CEO of Monash Unicomm. During this time, Joe held a diverse range of roles and responsibilities that in a variety of ways improved the university's operations and public image.

Joe was well respected by his peers and colleagues across many campus service organisations. His personal warmth and down to earth management style made him stand out from the crowd.

Joe's ongoing commitment to staff development was honoured on his passing with the awarding of an annual grant, known as the Joe Curtis Joe Curtis Professional Development Scholarship.

The winner of this Award will receive \$2,000 to spend on Professional Development. We encourage this to be matched by the recipient's organisation to enable them to maximise the impact.

- Nominations may be self-nominated or nominated by another person.
- Nominations must be endorsed by the nominee's CEO or equivalent.
- CEOs or equivalent are not eligible for this award.
- Previous successful applicants are also excluded from applying for this award a second time.
- The awardee must engage in sector-related professional development via programs, conferences or intervarsity tours.
- Preference will be given to someone who has not previously attended or engaged in such events.
- Non-attendance of the proposed professional development will require a refund of the award money.
- Recipients of the Joe Curtis Scholarship must demonstrate a commitment to the shared learning of the Student Experience Network community by presenting at the next SEN Conference. Failure to present at the conference will require a refund of the scholarship money.
- Entries will be reviewed and assessed, and the winner appointed by the SEN Board.

Georgeson Torney Industry Leader's Award

This award is named in honour of Michael Georgeson (UTS Union – 1977-2004) and Michael Torney (La Trobe University) in recognition of outstanding service to the Australian Student Service Profession.

This award seeks to identify and recognise leaders who are; working collaboratively within internal and external avenues within our sector, shaping the future of student services in a positive direction, championing change and innovation, and turning ideas into action. Economic, social, and environmental leadership also feature appropriately in all of their core activities.

This stand-out member of our sector (including CEOs, MDs, or equivalent) has contributed significantly to improving campus services for the members of their respective organisation with strong evidence of success. They have also brought inspiring leadership, dedication, and commitment to the Student Experience Network group as a whole via strong participation and support of SEN member activities over the past 12 months.

The winner of this Award will receive \$2,000 to be spent on Professional Development. We encourage this to be matched by the recipient's organisation to enable them to maximise the impact.

- The submission needs to be nominated by a colleague or peer within or outside the sector. Individuals from any tertiary education institution that are a member of SEN are eligible for nomination.
- Nominators must provide details of their relationship to the nominee addressing key questions relating to how the nominee shows leadership, dedication, commitment, and support to their organisation, the sector, and the SEN member group.
- Previous Nominees not awarded can re-enter in consecutive years.
- Non-attendance of the professional development will require a refund of the award money.
- This award is deeply considered and not necessarily awarded annually.
- Entries will be reviewed, and the winner appointed by the SEN board.

Tom O'Sullivan Memorial Award

This award is named in honour of Thomas Joseph O'Sullivan (1957-2011).

Tom was among the most significant influences on the social life and culture of Australian universities. With over 25 years commitment to the tertiary sector, Tom created great student experiences, lobbied for the rights of student organisations across the nation and at a time of increasing competition between universities, brought student service organisations together.

Tom first began his career in the tertiary sector at the University of Sydney Union where he became General Manager and later as the CEO of UTS Union. He also played a leading role in ACUMA, serving as the Vice President and then President.

As the President of ACUMA, Tom (in conjunction with Australian University Sports (AUS) the National Union of Students (NUS) as well as other universities across the nation) led the lobbying for the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) legislation. He was, as former Australian PM Julia Gillard acknowledged in a letter read at Tom's funeral '...principally responsible for the return of the student union funding in October 2011'.

TAG and ACUMA awarded Tom for his outstanding contribution to the tertiary sector and he was acknowledged for his exceptional service to UTS Union with the university's Distinguished Service Award (an honour experienced by only five people as at 2011).

The Tom O'Sullivan Memorial Award is in recognition of exceptional service to the student services industry such that the influence exerted is long lasting, significant and beneficial.

- Self-nominations will not be accepted.
- Nominations are open to anyone who has worked extensively in the tertiary services sector.
- This award is deeply considered and not necessarily awarded annually.
- Nominations will be reviewed, and the winner appointed by the SEN Board.

Strategic Partner of the Year Award

The Strategic Partner of the Year Award is a prestigious accolade, recognising a SEN business partner of high calibre.

The award is presented to a Contract or Endorsed Supplier of SEN who not only displays the most overall effective engagement with SEN, its members and student populations at a National Level, but also commits to leading-edge, ethical, social, environmental and fair financial outcomes in their business operations.

The Award includes the criteria of excellence in service and delivery, support in the areas of student engagement, promotions and marketing, communications, and an overall understanding of the unique needs of the Tertiary sector.

Successful applications will have demonstrated adaptability, flexibility, and innovation in support of SEN members and their students.

The award recipient will be chosen by the SEN Board.

This award is deeply considered and not necessarily awarded annually.



Judging

Entries in each award category will be judged by a carefully selected panel of judges consisting of experienced professionals from across the sector, as well as industry professionals who hold relevant expertise.

Judges will evaluate each entry based on the answers to each of the questions in the entry form, as well as submitted supporting documentation. Judges cannot assume any information that is not clearly documented in your entry. Please ensure you read through your entry prior to submitting to ensure it tells the full story and provides the judging panel with the information they need to make an informed decision.

Judges will consider all eligible entries and rate against the criteria for each award entry using the assessment scoring matrix on the following page (except for Individual Awards and Strategic Partner of the Year Award).

Entries with the highest combined scores across all criteria will be shortlisted as finalists. The entry with the highest overall score will be Awarded as the Winner of that category, and the second highest score will be awarded an Award of Distinction.

Individual Awards and the Strategic Partner of the Year Award will have only one recipient each. The winner of these Awards will be assessed and chosen by the SEN Board. Board members with entrants from their own organisations will not take part in the decision making for that award.

The judging panel's recommendation on the finalists and winners of each category are not subject to internal review or appeal. Individuals and their representative Member Organisations agree to abide by the decisions of the judges.

While every effort is made by the Award organisers to ensure no conflicts, judges will be required to declare any conflict of interest that may arise as a result of judging their allocated category. Conflicts may arise from the following:

- Judges who have a personal or professional relationship with the entrant. This may include working for the same organisation or institution; or having worked for that organisation or institution previously. It also includes suppliers/partners who have worked with the entrant in any capacity.

Judges, Award Organisers, Third-Party Partners and Sponsors or any other entity providing services to the Awards Program will not enter into or engage in any correspondence, discussion or debate about the outcome of the Awards.



JUDGING CRITERIA - Initiative Awards

Criteria	1 - Basic	2 - Fair	3 - Good	4 - Very Good	5 - Excellent
Description - Need	Basic recognition of the need and reasons for implementing the initiative	Fair recognition of the need and reasons for implementing the initiative	Good recognition of the need and reasons for implementing the initiative	Very good recognition of the need and reasons for implementing the initiative	Excellent recognition of the need and reasons for implementing the initiative
Description - Goals	Goals and objectives of the initiative are basic or do not align with the need	Goals and objectives of the initiative are fair or do not align with the need	Goals and objectives of the initiative are good and somewhat align with the need	Goals and objectives of the initiative are very good and align well with the need	Goals and objectives of the initiative are excellent and align perfectly with the need
Strategy - Technique & Resources	Basic description of technique, resources or stakeholders involved in the delivery of the initiative	Fair description of technique, resources or stakeholders involved in the delivery of the initiative	Good description of technique, resources or stakeholders involved in the delivery of the initiative	Very Good description of technique, resources or stakeholders involved in the delivery of the initiative	Excellent description of technique, resources or stakeholders involved in the delivery of the initiative
Strategy - Timeline	Details of the timeline of the initiative are basic	Details of the timeline of the initiative are fair	Details of the timeline of the initiative are good	Details of the timeline of the initiative are very good	Details of the timeline of the initiative are excellent
Outcomes - Measurable	The initiative demonstrates none or basic measurable positive outcomes in meeting the needs	The initiative demonstrates fair measurable positive outcomes in meeting the needs	The initiative demonstrates good measurable positive outcomes in meeting the needs	The initiative demonstrates very good measurable positive outcomes in meeting the needs	The initiative demonstrates excellent measurable positive outcomes in meeting the needs
Outcomes - Goals	There is none or basic evidence to show that the goals were met	There is fair evidence to show that the goals were met	There is good evidence to show that the goals were met	There is very good evidence to show that the goals were met	There is excellent evidence to show that the goals were met
Financials	Budgets were not met and/or were exceedingly overspent and not used wisely	Budgets were met or slightly overspent however not used wisely	Budgets were met or were slightly overspent and generally used wisely	Budgets were met and used wisely	Budgets were met or were underspent and used wisely

JUDGING CRITERIA - Rising Student Experience Professional

Criteria	1 - Basic	2 - Fair	3 - Good	4 – Very Good	5 - Excellent
Reason Nominee Deserves Award	Basic reasons outlined as to why nominee deserves the award	Fair reasons outlined as to why nominee deserves the award	Good reasons outlined as to why nominee deserves the award	Very good reasons outlined as to why nominee deserves the award	Excellent reasons outlined as to why nominee deserves the award
Contribution to the Student Services Sector	Contribution to the student services sector is basic	Contribution to the student services sector is fair	Contribution to the student services sector is good	Contribution to the student services sector is very good	Contribution to the student services sector is excellent
Nominee's contribution to their organisation	Contribution to the organisation is basic	Contribution to the organisation is fair	Contribution to the organisation is good	Contribution to the organisation is very good	Contribution to the organisation is excellent
Differentiation of individual's success from others	Basic description of differentiation of individual's success from others	Fair description of differentiation of individual's success from others	Good description of differentiation of individual's success from others	Very good description of differentiation of individual's success from others	Excellent description of differentiation of individual's success from others

JUDGING CRITERIA - Joe Curtis Professional Development Scholarship

Criteria	1 - Basic	2 - Fair	3 - Good	4 - Very Good	5 - Excellent
Details	Basic description and relevance of the proposal	Fair description and relevance of the proposal	Good description and relevance of the proposal	Very good description and relevance of the proposal	Excellent description and relevance of the proposal
Benefit	Benefit of the proposal is basic or does not align with the needs of the nominee or the SEN network	Benefit of the proposal is fair or somewhat aligns with the needs of the nominee or the SEN network	Benefit of the proposal is good or aligns with the needs of the nominee or the SEN network	Benefit of the proposal is very good and aligns with the needs of the nominee or the SEN network	Benefit of the proposal is excellent or strongly aligns with the needs of the nominee or the SEN network
Itinerary	Itinerary is basic and does not align with the program	Itinerary is fair and somewhat aligns with the program	Itinerary is good and aligns with the program	Itinerary is very good and aligns well with the program	Itinerary is excellent and aligns perfectly with the program
Budget	Budget is basic or unachievable	Budget is fair and possible	Budget is good and possible	Budget is very good and achievable	Budget is excellent and very achievable

How to Submit an Entry



Read the Entry Guidelines, including the Entry conditions, and review the entry requirements for the awards.



Read each Award category carefully. Make sure the category you choose is the most appropriate for your initiative. Each organisation may submit only 1 entry per Award category and each Initiative may only be entered into one (1) category. Please choose your best initiative to enter into each category.



To maximise the details of your entry, read through the Judging Criteria



Gather all the details you need about the Initiative or Individual and collate to include for the Supporting Documentation. This includes no more than 3 files to support your answers to the entry criteria. This can be in any format you like, ie. powerpoint, video, pdf file etc. It can include facts, figures, evidence based data, images, links to videos, social posts etc. If your file is larger than 19.5MB, please email membership@studentexperiencenetwork.com.au



Go to the [Entry Form](#) and answer all questions relevant to the category you are submitting an entry for on the online form.



Once all information has been entered and uploaded, click Submit. Once submitted you are not able to go back and amend, so please ensure you have all information entered correctly prior to selecting Submit. You may Save your entry and return to it at any stage prior to submitting.

Tips & Advice

- Make sure you understand the criteria the judges will be scoring on.
- Make sure you review each category to ensure you select the most appropriate for your initiative.
- Gather and collate all information prior to sitting down to type out the entry.
- Don't leave your entry submission until the last minute. Allocate enough time to complete the entry to the best of your ability including time to proofread, and ensure you adhere to the word limit.
- Include up to 3 files of supporting documentation to support your answers to the questions. This can be in any format you like, ie. powerpoint, video, pdf file etc. It can include facts, figures, evidence based data, images, links to videos, social posts etc. If your files are larger than 19.5MB each, please email membership@studentexperiencenetwork.com.au.
- We recommend submitting supporting documentation that is easy for the judges to read and see the impact of your Initiative. We recommend submitting a short presentation or video that contains all the relevant information and images to support your application. This also makes it easy for us to showcase your Initiative if names as a Finalist and/or Winner.
- Avoid using jargon or acronyms that the judges may not understand.



Entry Conditions

REQUIREMENTS

1. An organisation must be a current financial member or a supplier/contract holder of Student Experience Network to participate in these awards.
2. The Individual completing the Entry Form must be an authorised representative for their Organisation.
3. By submitting to the SEN Awards you are agreeing to these Entry Conditions and any rules set out in relevant SEN Awards documents.

ENTRY SUBMISSIONS

1. Initiatives which have been awarded as a "Winner" in any SEN Awards in the previous three years are not eligible for resubmission unless evidence can be provided of significant improvement or changes since the last submission. In this instance, entries need to specifically benchmark against the previously recognised entry and highlight the additional achievements and changes. It will be at the judges discretion as to whether they deem the improvements, changes, and outcomes of the submitted entry significant enough to be reconsidered.
2. Initiatives which have been previously submitted but were not recognised as a "Winner" can be re-submitted for the same Award category this year.
3. Initiatives can only be submitted into one category. If you are unsure which category best suits your initiative, please contact us at membership@studentexperiencenetwork.com.au.
4. By inserting the names of nominees, nominators and/or CEO (or equivalent), the individual confirms they have gained permission from those specified to complete the Entry (excluding the Georgeson Torney and Tom O'Sullivan Awards).
5. It is the responsibility of the Individual completing the entry to ensure that their entries comply with the rules and selection criteria of each Award and that all information contained is true and correct.
6. The Organiser of the SEN Awards reserves the right to declare any Entry ineligible if, in their opinion:
 - the Entry does not comply with the Entry Conditions, the rules set out in the selection criteria documents of Entry forms.
 - Information provided is deficient, false or misleading in any way.

7. Completed entries must be received by midnight Friday 3rd July 2026.

8. Late entries will not be accepted.

JUDGING

1. A judging panel will consider all eligible entries and rate against the criteria for the selected Award category.
2. Judges, Award Organisers, Third-Party Partners and Sponsors or any other entity providing services to the Awards will not enter into or engage in any correspondence, discussion or debate about the outcome of the Awards.
3. Individuals and their representative Member Organisation agree to abide by the decisions of the judges. There is no appeal process for these Awards.
4. Judges are required to declare any conflict of interest they have with any entry, and will not be selected to sit on any judging panel where a conflict occurs.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

1. The Organiser of the SEN Awards reserves the right to change these Entry Conditions and general award rules at any time and without prior notice.

CONSENT AND PRIVACY

1. The Organiser collects Individual's personal information (as that term is defined in the Privacy Act 1988 Cth) for the purpose of conducting and promoting the Awards (including, but limited to, determining and notifying Winners).
2. By submitting to the SEN Awards you are giving the Organiser and their third-party partners and sponsors of the Awards permission to use provided material (including images, photographs and/or video) for such promotional purposes as they see fit.
3. By submitting to the Awards, you are giving the Organiser permission to use provided material (including participant names and imagery) to be published on relevant websites and/or in external platforms and publications.

Any Questions?

Contact Us - membership@studentexperiencenetwork.com.au