2018 Australian of the Year
Guidelines

When you fill out the nomination form, there are a few things you should consider to ensure your nomination provides us with enough information about the achievements of the person you are nominating.

Here are some tips to help you get started:

- Fill out as much of the form as possible. Even if you do not know the person you are nominating try to provide as much detail as you can.
- If at all possible please include the age of the person you are nominating. If you are not certain of the person's age then make an educated guess and tick the box marked 'estimate' on the form.
- Include supporting documentation such as newspaper articles, websites, personal references and/or resumes with your nomination.
- Please include a referee if possible. A referee is someone who is also aware of the nominee's achievements and will be able to provide any additional information if required.
- Please do not nominate the same person more than once. Recipients are selected based on selection criteria, rather than the number of times they are nominated.
- You are asked to provide a mail address, phone number and email address for yourself and your nominee. Please include at least one of these details for both yourself and your nominee. This helps us get in contact with both of you if your nominee becomes shortlisted.

The nomination form asks you to tell us about your nominee. How are they an inspirational role model? How have they demonstrated excellence in their field and to the community?

In answering this question, consider the following:

- In what area and/or roles has the person excelled?
- How does the person stand out from the pack? How has their achievement/service been greater than what might be normally expected of a person their age and in their field. Focus on both the quality and quantity of their achievement/service.
- How much of their work has been voluntary, focused on helping others or making Australia a better place?
- Has the person overcome particular challenges or adversities to make their achievement? How difficult has their achievement been?
- How has the nominee shown achievement/service outside of their particular specialty? For example, personal interests and involvement in the wider community.
- How has the nominee's achievement/service been acknowledged elsewhere - other awards, commendations etc.
- How does the person nominated make you proud to be Australian? Is your view shared by others in your community? If so, who?
- What personal qualities make the person inspirational?
- Why should other Australians look to the person as a role model?
- Are there any particular segments of the community who would/should find the person inspirational? For example, children, Tasmanians, other arts practitioners, families, other scientists etc.
- Has the person shown great bravery, vision or particular strengths of character? Provide examples to support your statements for all of the above. Don’t just make a statement - prove it with examples.
An example nomination
To help you get started writing your nomination, here is an example of an answer that provides an ideal amount of information.

At 22 years, Christina is an outstanding young dancer and shares her passion for the arts with the community of Darwin, particularly through the NT Youth Ballet Company. Since 13 Christina has won overall best dancer in the Darwin Eisteddfod, and in 2002 obtained first place in the National Ballet Eisteddfod held in Perth. Christina has been accepted into the Australian Ballet Company but has decided to stay in Darwin to teach dance to the youth of the top end. Throughout her training she has faced the isolation of being a ballet dancer a long way from the big companies based in the southern states. She worked two part time jobs to raise the funds to travel south each Christmas to undertake intensive classes. Christina is the lead dancer for the NT Youth Ballet Company and has recently choreographed two short ballets.

Christina was the driving force behind a tour to Tenant Creek and to Alice Springs in September last year and she is planning a tour to Alice Springs again this year. Christina is not only an exceptional dancer, she is committed to building the arts community in Darwin. All of Christina's work with the NT Youth Ballet has been voluntary. I estimate that she has spent at least 20 hours per week for the past four years working with the younger dancers in the company.

Christina shows that the arts are alive and well in remote Australia. She continues to combine her talents and passion for the arts to promote dance in the top end. Through my son, who is a member of the NT Youth Ballet Company, I can see that she has changed the lives of many young people in Darwin. She has given them the opportunity to express themselves in dance and the company has grown as a result of her involvement.

All of the members and parents are inspired by her passion drive and great skill as a leader and as a dancer. She is a role model to her younger dancers and I believe to all of those associated with the company. Christina has turned her isolation into an advantage and is sharing her passion with the people of the Northern Territory. She is an outstanding young Australian.