

COMMUNITY AWARDS POLICY		
COMMUNITY AWARDS POLICY	Policy No:	
	Adopted:	20 November 2024
	Next review date:	November 2028
Executive Director:	Director Corporate & Community Services	
Responsible Officer:	Community Development Manager	
Functional Area:	Corporate & Community Services	
Introduction & Background		
Introduction & Background	<p>This policy sets out the guidelines of the West Wimmera Shire Council annual awards process, which are awarded to shire residents and public groups for particular achievements.</p> <p>This policy celebrates significant community achievements and milestones. Council will determine that it is appropriate to recognise the achievements of its residents and publicly celebrate those achievements by awarding a formal Certificate, or in the case of birthdays and anniversaries sending a letter joint signed by the Mayor and CEO.</p>	
Purpose & Objectives	The objective of this policy is to recognise and promote significant achievements by shire residents and public groups and to foster pride in West Wimmera Shire community.	
Response to the Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020	<p>Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This policy is in response to the following overarching governance principle/s of the Local Government Act 2020:</p> <p>(a) the community engagement principles (section 56).</p> <p>(b) the public transparency principles (section 58)</p>	
Scope	This policy allows Council to recognise the significant achievements of residents and public groups in the West Wimmera Shire.	
Definitions	<p>Community recognition is the acknowledgement of a notable achievement and brings attention to the contribution made by an individual or group in the community.</p> <p>Certificate of Merit/Recognition/Achievement is an award presented to an individual resident or group by Council in recognition of a significant contribution to the Community of West Wimmera Shire.</p>	

	<p>Significant birthdays are defined as 90 years, 100 years and years thereafter. Significant anniversaries (such as weddings) are 50, 60, 65 and 70 years.</p>
<p>Policy Details</p>	
<p>1.</p>	<p>Certificates of Merit/Recognition/Achievement/Congratulations will be awarded by Council for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Citizen of the Year (Presented at seniors' concert) • Australian Day Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Citizen of the Year ○ Community Group of the Year ○ Community Event of the Year ○ Young Citizen • School Student Citizenship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Edenhope ○ Kaniva ○ Goroke • Certificates will not be awarded to Councillors or their immediate family whilst in office.
<p>2.</p>	<p>Significant birthdays and anniversaries (such as weddings) will be recognised by the Council in accordance with the following administrative guidelines:</p> <p>Upon significant birthdays and anniversaries (such as weddings) of residents of West Wimmera Shire being brought to the attention of Council, a letter of congratulations will be forwarded to the resident under the signature of the CEO or Mayor.</p> <p>Residents requesting congratulatory messages from the Premier, Prime Minister, Governor of Victoria, the Governor General or The Queen will be referred to the office of their local state or federal member of parliament to complete the appropriate application. The Department of Premier and Cabinet is responsible for arranging these congratulatory messages.</p> <p>Residents will be required to apply 2 months before the milestone and provide a copy of the relevant birth certificate or marriage certificate.</p>

3.

Criteria, Decision making & prize

- Senior Citizen of the Year
 - Must be over 60 years
 - Awarded to individuals who (since their 60th birthday)
 - continued to be active in the community and encouraging others to do the same.
 - has made a difference to community wellbeing,
 - having a positive attitude towards ageing
 - Nominations are submitted annually (by community group or an individual)
 - Nominations received in the previous year, will be added to new nominations for presentation to Council
 - The award winner is decided by Council
 - The recipient will receive a framed certificate and bouquet of flowers
 - Nominations in an election year must be received one month before the caretaker period begins.

- Australian Citizen of the Year
 - Receives a framed certificate
 - Bouquet of flowers
 - Award winner is decided by Council
 - Nominations are submitted and received by the community or an individual
 - Individuals who have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years are eligible

- Community Group of the Year
 - Receives a framed certificate
 - Award winner is decided by Council
 - Nominations are submitted and received by the community or an individual
 - Presented to the Community Group which has made the most valuable contributions to the local community through its activities and achievements during the year

- Community Event of the Year
 - Receives a framed certificate
 - Award winner is decided by Council
 - Nominations are submitted and received by the community or an individual
 - Presented to the person/group who has staged the most outstanding community event during the year
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- Young Citizen
 - Receives a framed certificate
 - Award winner is decided by Council
 - Nominations are submitted and received by the community or an individual

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individuals who have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years are eligible ○ Must be 30 years of age or younger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Student Citizenship <p>The Award is made to the VCE / VCAL student who meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Willingness to accept positions of responsibility ○ Willingness to participate in college activities ○ Sets a mature example, interacting well with staff, peers and younger children ○ Willingness to assist in tasks beneficial to the College community ○ Involvement in community activities ○ Sets a positive example regarding sound and responsible attitudes to study ○ Receives a bursary of a total of \$300 donated by Council and other contributions ○ Receives a framed certificate ○ Award winner is decided by the school ○ Councillor to attend ceremony and present award ○ Students on work experience with Council are eligible for awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff internal achievement awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council encourages and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to recognise operational staff achievements and significant milestones.
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Policy Adopted:	Ordinary meeting 20/11/24	Minute Book Page	SRV Governance-Policies, Procedures, Plans Strategies
Policy Reviewed:			
Policy Reviewed:			
Policy Reviewed:			