



2026

QUEENSLAND

**WOMEN IN
STEM PRIZE**

**NOMINATION
BOOKLET**

AWARDS CATEGORIES

The *Queensland Women in STEM Prize* recognises individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and impact to Queensland across three prizes:

THE JUDGES' AWARD

**Proudly supported by Energex
(\$10,000 excl GST total prize money):**

Open to emerging leaders in STEM who identify as a woman and have been working in their field for no more than 10 years in total.

FIRST NATIONS STEM AWARD

**Proudly supported by AECOM
(\$10,000 excl GST prize money):**

Open to emerging leaders in STEM who identify as a woman and have been working in their field for no more than 10 years in total, and:

- are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage;
- identify as an Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander person; and
- are accepted as such by the communities in which live or have lived.

BREAKING BARRIERS AWARD

(\$10,000 excl GST prize money):

Open to emerging leaders in STEM who identify as a woman and have been working in their field for no more than 10 years in total, and:

- are an individual who has settled in Queensland as a refugee (as defined under the *Migration Act 1958*); and/or

- have a disability (as defined under the *Disability Services Act 2006*); and/or
- are a carer (as defined under the *Carers (Recognition) Act 2008*).

Winning recipients must use their Prize Money for professional development i.e., conference attendance, STEM-communication training, career-enhancing courses, research field trips, internships, purchasing new software etc.

Winners and Highly Commended recipients will also receive a promotional package each comprising:

- Access to professional photo/s of the recipients at the Award Ceremony and professional head shots taken at the Award Ceremony.
- A professional video package highlighting the achievements of the winners and highly commended recipients.
- Inclusion in *Queensland Women in STEM Prize* media releases and social media activity distributed by Queensland Museum, the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, and Office for Women following the Awards Ceremony.

HOW TO NOMINATE

- 1 Refer to this nomination booklet and Conditions of Entry.
- 2 Complete your nomination online at qwisps.awardsplatform.com. The nomination must be completed via the online platform. Nominations provided in hard copy or by way of email, USB or cloud storage will not be accepted.

Note: sections from the nomination booklet will also be included online throughout the nomination process as hint boxes which will pop up as the nominator progresses through each stage.

- 3 Nominations must include:

Response to all nomination questions (required)

Address the questions relevant to the selected nomination category – this must be completed to be a valid nomination and assessed by the judges. These responses should not include confidential information as the responses may be made publicly available should the nomination be shortlisted.

Consent (required)

If not self-nominating, the nominator is encouraged to contact the nominee prior to submitting the nomination to seek their consent and feedback prior to submitting the nomination.

A short CV (required)

Please upload a short CV (maximum two pages) that summarises your career experience.

References (required)

Contact details for two referees must be provided. One of the referees must provide a signed letter of reference to be uploaded with the nomination. Only one letter of reference is required, however a letter of reference from both referees may be provided if desired.

References must be written by persons other than the Nominee (the person being nominated).

Letters of reference must be written in relation to the nomination and are to provide further information about the Nominee. As a guide, letters should include the following information:

- referee's relationship to the Nominee;
- referee's interpretation of how the Nominee has contributed to Queensland, including their support to women and girls; and
- if able, provide qualitative and/or quantitative results on the Nominee's successes.

If letters of reference are sent via email, letters must include a signature block from the sender incorporating email address and telephone number.

As part of the standard reference check process, referees may be contacted to verify their reference and provide additional information.

Contact details for a third referee and/or additional letters of reference may also be supplied within your nomination, however this is not mandatory.

Supporting documentation (optional)

You may submit up to five items of supporting documentation with your nomination, such as photos or videos of the nominee engaging with others about STEM, publications or report lists, newspaper articles and additional references. Supporting documentation must be relevant to the nomination. Supporting documentation must be uploaded via the online nomination portal as prompted and will not be accepted by any other means. (Maximum upload limit 3MB per item).

- 4 Nomination process:

Nominations can only be submitted online through the Awards portal.

Receipt of all nominations will be acknowledged via an automatically generated email from Award Force. Please ensure you provide a correct email address on your nomination form. If you do not receive a confirmation email within two business days after submitting your nomination, please notify the Organiser via email at qwisps@qm.qld.gov.au or telephone 07 3153 3000.

No responsibility will be taken for nominations that do not receive a confirmation email.

You may be contacted after submitting a nomination and asked to provide further details.

Nominations must be received by **5pm Tuesday 18 August 2026**. Late nominations will not be considered. No responsibility will be taken for nominations that are not received by the closing date.

For more information about the *Queensland Women in STEM Prize* or how to complete your nomination, please contact the Organiser via email at qwisps@qm.qld.gov.au or telephone 07 3153 3000.

NOMINATION QUESTIONS

SECTION 1:

Nominee introduction and overview (maximum 200 words)

Provide an overview of your / the Nominee's project or area of work, including highlights, facts and examples. Remember to be clear and concise, as this overview is the first impression for the judging panel and may be used to develop finalist profiles for awards materials including but not limited to ceremony audio-visual, media releases and social media.

You must upload a photographic head shot of the Nominee, approved for public distribution at a minimum size of 1MB.

SECTION 2:

Benefit to Queensland (maximum 500 words)

Describe the contribution to or impact of your/ the Nominee's work in STEM for Queensland. Provide demonstrated evidence of achievements and/or contribution to STEM and its benefits to Queensland, including qualitative or quantitative information that is accurate, factual and specific.

SECTION 3:

STEM role model (maximum 500 words)

Outline how you / the Nominee has acted as a positive role model and provided support to women and girls aspiring to work in STEM. Please provide practical examples.

SECTION 4:

Engagement (maximum 500 words)

Detail any STEM promotion or engagement activities that you / the Nominee has undertaken during their career, including both scientific and non-scientific audiences, particularly with women and girls.

SECTION 5:

Upload a short CV (maximum two pages)

Summarise your career experience, noting that your career stage will be taken into consideration by the judging panel. Please clearly indicate the duration of time (months/years) spent in each job/research position to ensure your CV adds to no greater than 10 years in total. All STEM-related work positions (paid and voluntary) will contribute to this total. This does not include career breaks (such as maternity leave or ill health), or time spent in undergraduate or post-graduate training, including PhDs. Your CV will not be published publicly.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY

If eligible for the Breaking Barriers or First Nations STEM Awards, you must indicate how you / the Nominee satisfies the requirements for these categories.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations will be assessed on:

- the Nominee's contribution to or impact to Queensland through STEM;
- how the Nominee has acted as a positive role model and provided support to women and girls aspiring to work in STEM. Please provide practical examples; and
- the Nominee's engagement in promoting STEM to a wider audience.

The nomination must address the questions relevant to the Nominee.

All questions must be completed, and CV uploaded, in order to progress through to judging.

When answering the questions, it is important to provide specific examples of your / the Nominee's achievements, or significant contribution to Queensland through STEM.

Members of the judging panel will be required to declare any conflicts of interest that may arise from a personal or professional relationship with the nominees. Where a direct conflict of interest with a nominee exists, the judging member will abstain from ranking, scoring or voting for the nominee during judging panel deliberations.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 1** The Queensland Women in STEM Prize (“Competition”) is delivered by the Board of the Queensland Museum (“Organiser”) in partnership with the Queensland Government through the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, and the Office for Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism (together Competition Partners).
- 2** In these conditions of entry:
 - a. “Highly Commended” means acknowledgement or recognition of a nomination, given at the discretion of the judges.
 - b. “Emerging STEM Leader” means up to 10 years in total. All STEM-related work positions (paid and voluntary) will contribute to this total. This does not include career breaks or study/training or work in other fields.
 - c. “Nominee” means the person who is the subject of a nomination in the Competition.
 - d. “Nominator” means the person responsible for submitting the nomination in accordance with these Conditions, noting that the Nominee and the Nominator may be the same person.
 - e. “Award Category” means the relevant category described as either “The Judge’s Award”, “Breaking Barriers Award” or “Indigenous STEM Award”.
 - f. “Nomination Questions” means the nomination questions for the relevant Award Category as set out in the Nomination Booklet.
 - g. “Prize Ceremony” means the event held to announce the Winners.
 - h. “Personal Information” means information or an opinion, including information or an opinion forming part of a database, whether true or not, and whether recorded in material form or not, about an individual whose identity is apparent, or can be reasonably ascertained, from the information or opinion.
 - i. “Prize” means the money awarded to Winners as per clauses 21, 21 and 23.
 - j. “Promotional Package” means the photography, videography and public relations activity as per clause 32.
 - k. “Platform” means Award Force a digital, cloud-based software submission portal for awards and grants administration.
 - l. “Winner” means the person(s) deemed the most meritorious in the relevant Category, as determined by the judges, and awarded a Prize.

Entry requirements

- 3** The Competition commences on Tuesday 21 July 2026 (“Opening Date”) and closes at 5pm Tuesday 18 August 2026 (“Closing Date”).
- 4** A nomination will be eligible if:
 - a. a true and complete nomination, which addresses the Nomination Questions, is submitted online via the Platform at qwisp.awardsplatform.com;
 - b. the Nominee meets the eligibility requirements of the relevant Award Category;
 - c. the nomination complies with these conditions of entry;
 - d. the nomination is accompanied by at least one written reference, which must be provided by persons other than the nominator and the Nominee;
 - e. the nomination is accompanied by a CV of no more than two (2) pages that summarises the Nominee’s career experience, including the duration of time (months / years) spent in each job and/ or research position; and
 - f. the nomination is accompanied by a photographic head shot of the Nominee, at a minimum size of 1MB, approved for public distribution in relation to the Awards.
- 5** All nominations must be received by the Closing Date. No responsibility is accepted for lost, misdirected or nominations received after the Closing Date.
- 6** All Nominees must be an or have Australian residency at the time of the Awards.
- 7** Nominees with temporary Australian residency must have a current visa. The visa must remain valid for one year from Closing Date, until the Prize is expended and acquitted.
- 8** Nominees must reside and undertake STEM activities/research in Queensland from the Opening Date up until the Closing Date.
- 9** All Nominees across all Award Categories must
 - a. identify as a woman;
 - b. work in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) field including professionals, scientists (including social sciences), researchers or students from any company, institute, government, university, not-for-profit or educational institution; and
 - c. be an emerging leader in STEM working in their field for no more than 10 years in total. Students are also eligible to apply.

- 10** Nominees in the First Nations STEM Award must also:
- be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage;
 - identify as Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander; and
 - be accepted as such by the communities in which they live or have lived.
- 11** Nominees in the Breaking Barriers Award must also:
- identify as having a disability (as defined under the *Disability Services Act 2006*); or
 - be a carer (as defined under the *Carers (Recognition) Act 2008*); or
 - be an individual who has settled in Queensland as a refugee (as defined under the *Migration Act 1958*).
- 12** Nominees must be 18 years and over, and Nominations must be submitted by persons aged 18 years and over.
- 13** Sitting local, state and federal members of Parliament, and current vice regal officers are not eligible for nomination.
- 14** Persons nominated in previous years who were not named a Winner or Highly Commended may resubmit a nomination.
- 15** The Organiser is not liable for any costs of the nominator or Nominee associated with the Competition including costs incurred in preparing the nomination and travel and accommodation for attendance at the Prize Ceremony.
- 16** The Organiser reserves the right to ask Nominators or Nominees to provide additional information to verify the eligibility of a nomination; and/or the authenticity of the information included in a nomination.
- 17** The Organiser may, in its absolute discretion, reject or disqualify a nomination at any stage, if it considers that the nomination does not comply with the conditions of entry; the information contained in the nomination is false, unverified or misleading; the Organiser has reason to believe the Nominator has tampered with the nomination process; the Nominee has engaged in any unlawful or other improper misconduct; and/or the nomination brings the Competition into public disrepute or ridicule, or offends public opinion or reflects unfavourably upon the reputation of the Competition, the Organisers and/or the Competition Partners.

Intellectual property

- 18** The Nominator acknowledges and agrees:
- that the Organiser and/or the Competition Partners have a perpetual, royalty-free, non-exclusive licence to edit, amend, copy, reproduce, use, publish and communicate to the public, in full or part, the material contained in the nomination;
 - that use of material contained in the nomination by the Organiser and/or the Competition Partners in accordance with these conditions of entry, will not give rise to any infringement or unauthorised use of any third-party intellectual property rights;
 - that they will not make any claim against the Organiser and/or the Competition Partners arising from the exercise of this licence granted to them, including claims in relation to any moral rights that they may otherwise have; and
 - to indemnify the Organiser and/or the Competition Partners against all costs and claims by any third parties arising from a breach of these warranties.

Prizes

- 19** Nominees cannot be named the Winner of more than one Category.
- 20** Winners and Highly Commended will be announced at a Prize Ceremony in South Brisbane on Wednesday 11 November 2026.
- 21** Winner of the Judges' Award will receive a Prize of \$10,000 (excluding GST) in cash.
- 22** The Winner of the First Nations STEM Award will receive a Prize of \$10,000 (excluding GST) in cash.
- 23** The Winner of the Breaking Barriers Award will receive a Prize of \$10,000 (excluding GST) cash.
- 24** Highly Commended recipients will receive a certificate.
- 25** Winners and Highly Commended recipients will also receive a Promotional Package each comprising, but not limited to:
 - a. Access to professional photo/s of the receipts at the Award Ceremony and professional head shots taken at the Award Ceremony.
 - b. A professional video package highlighting the achievements of the Winners and Highly Commended recipients.
 - c. Inclusion in all Queensland Women in STEM Prize media releases and social media activity distributed by Queensland Museum, the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, and Office for Women following the Awards Ceremony.
- 26** Winners must use their Prize for professional development i.e., conference attendance, STEM communication training, career-enhancing courses, research field trips, internships, purchasing new software etc.
- 27** Winners must provide a one-page acquittal report and accompanying receipts to the Organiser by 4 August 2027.
- 28** The Organiser accepts no responsibility for any tax implications and the Nominees must seek their own independent financial advice in regard to the tax implications relating to the Competition or acceptance of Prize.
- 29** Winners must be available to participate in the Prize Ceremony to take place at Queensland Museum Kurilpa, South Brisbane on Wednesday 11 November 2026, or provide a proxy to accept their prize, in person, on their behalf. Winners unable to attend the ceremony may be asked to provide a pre-recorded acceptance speech to be played at the ceremony.
- 30** If any Winner chooses not to accept the Prize; is unable to accept the Prize; does not take or claim Prize by the time specified by the Organiser; or is unavailable to participate in the Prize Ceremony in any way; they forfeit the Prize, including the Promotional Package.
- 31** Winners may be required to sign a legal release as determined by the Organisation its absolute discretion, prior to receiving their Prize. Prize Money will be provided to Winners via direct debit. Winners will be required to provide banking details in order to receive Prize Money.

Promotion

- 32** Winners and Highly Commended must participate in all promotional activity (such as publicity and photography) surrounding this Competition as reasonably requested by the Organiser, free of charge, and sign any additional documents reasonably required by the Organiser to give effect to this condition.
- 33** Subject to law, Nominees must consent to the Organiser and/or Competition Partners using your name, likeness, image and/or voice (including photographs, film and/or recording of the same) in any media for an unlimited period of time without further notification, remuneration or compensation for the purpose of promoting, publicising or marketing the Competition (including any outcome), delivering the Competition.

General

- 34** To the extent permitted by law, the Nominee/ Nominator releases and indemnifies the Organiser, the Competition Partners, judges and agencies associated with the Competition against all liability, cost, loss or expense arising out of acceptance of any Prize or participation in the Competition including, but not limited to, personal injury and damage to property and whether direct or consequential, foreseeable, due to some negligent act or omission or otherwise.
- 35** In no event will the Organiser, the Competition Partners and/or the judges be held responsible for any comment, viewpoint or expression, whether direct or implied, concerning a nomination.
- 36** By submitting a nomination, the Nominator agrees not to bring claims against the Organiser, the Competition Partner and/or the judges.
- 37** The Organiser may change these conditions of entry or cancel or vary the Competition at any time, whether before, on or after the Closing Date.
- 38** If for any reason any aspect of the Awards is not capable of running as planned, including, without limitation, strikes, lock-outs, labour disputes, acts of God, acts of nature, acts of governments or their agencies, fire, pandemics, flood, storm, earthquake, inclement weather, explosion, accident, riots, civil commotion, power shortages or power failure, war, enemy acts, sabotage, or inability to obtain sufficient labour, raw material, fuel or utilities, computer virus, communications network failure, bugs, tampering, unauthorised intervention, fraud, technical failure or any cause beyond the control of the Organiser, the Organiser reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to the fullest extent permitted by law to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Awards and invalidate any affected entries, or suspend or modify the Prize.
- 39** Failure by the Organiser to enforce any of its rights at any stage does not constitute a waiver of those rights, the Organiser's legal rights to recover damages or other compensation from such an offender are reserved.

Personal information and privacy

- 40** Personal Information contained in a nomination will be collected and stored by the Organiser and shared with the Competition Partners and judges for the purposes of administering the Competition and in accordance with the Organiser's Privacy Policy.

Further information about the types of information we collect and store can be found at www.museum.qld.gov.au/privacy-and-security-statement or Contact www.museum.qld.gov.au/queensland-museum/contact.

- 41** If self-nominating, the Nominee agrees to the Organiser sharing your nomination (including any Personal Information) with Competition Partners, the judges and named referees.
- 42** If not self-nominating, the Nominator agrees to the Organiser sharing the Nominator's name and nomination with the Nominee.
- 43** The Competition will be administered on the Platform. Personal Information you provide using the Platform may be stored outside of Australia. By submitting a nomination, you agree to such transfer. Further information on the Platform's treatment of personal information is available at www.awardforce.com/privacy-policy.
- 44** Nominations may be subject to disclosure under the [Right to Information Act 2009](#). Your Personal Information will not be otherwise used or disclosed without your consent unless authorised or required by law.

NOMINATION CHECKLIST

Before submitting your nomination, please review the checklist below to ensure you have complied with all necessary components of the nomination process.

- ☐ Have you reviewed the nomination booklet including the Award categories, Nomination questions and Conditions of Entry to ensure your nomination is in the appropriate category?
- ☐ Have you answered all questions related to the nomination and provided all necessary supporting material, including uploading the nominee's:
 - head shot (minimum 1MB)
 - completed the table detailing years working in STEM
 - short CV
- ☐ Have you provided details for an appropriate point of contact for the nomination?
- ☐ Have you provided contact details for two referees and included at least one written letter of reference?
- ☐ Are your reference letter/s signed and include the referee's contact details, including an email address and telephone number?
- ☐ Ensure your references:
 - have direct knowledge of how the nominee has contributed to Queensland; acted as a positive role model and provided support to women and girls; and their engagement in promoting STEM to a wider audience;
 - have consented to being contacted by the Organiser and judging panel if necessary; and
 - are not written by the nominee.
- ☐ You have obtained the written consent of each person listed in the nomination, for their Personal Information to be collected, used and disclosed in accordance with the nomination booklet.

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SUPPORTED BY
OUR PARTNERS**

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