



Annual Review 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

Auspire - Australia Day Council WA acknowledges our First Australians, the traditional custodians of country throughout Western Australia. We recognise their contribution, their continuing culture and connection to land, waters and community; and we pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging.



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From the Chair

It is my pleasure to present the 2026 Auspire – Australia Day Council WA Annual Review.

Western Australian communities continue to demonstrate remarkable strength, generosity and diversity across our State. People continued to give their time, skills and energy to make a difference, supporting others, creating opportunities and helping Western Australia to be a place where everyone can contribute and belong.

At the heart of Auspire's work is a simple but powerful belief: every Western Australian has the capacity to make a positive contribution to our community. Our role is to recognise, celebrate and encourage that contribution, while creating opportunities for people to connect with one another and participate in the life of our State.

This Annual Review captures that purpose in action: recognising achievement, encouraging participation and strengthening the connections that help communities across Western Australia thrive.

A significant highlight of the year was the WA 2026 Australian of the Year Awards, which shone a light on Western Australians whose achievements, service and leadership inspire us all. The finalists and recipients reflected the breadth of contribution taking place across our State, including leaders in science, health, education, business, sport and culture.

The stories of the finalists and recipients remind us that contribution takes many forms. It can be a lifetime of service, an innovative idea, an act of kindness, a commitment to helping others, or simply the decision to step forward and make a difference. By sharing these stories, the Awards encourage all of us to consider how we can contribute.

Auspire also continued to support and celebrate the spirit of Australia Day, not just for one day but throughout the year. These occasions provide opportunities for Western Australians to come together, reflect on our shared identity and acknowledge the individual stories that help make our State such a vibrant and welcoming place. They create space for connection, bringing together people

of different backgrounds and experiences to celebrate what we share, while recognising the diversity that makes Western Australia unique, from our First Nations people to new Australians.

Our programs and activities have reinforced the importance of participation at every level. Whether through community volunteering, leadership, cultural exchange, professional development or simply understanding our democratic rights and values, active participation strengthens the social fabric of our communities.

As Western Australia continues to grow and change, community connection is more important than ever. Government, business and community organisations all have a role to play, as does every individual. The future of our State will be shaped not only by major projects and economic opportunities, but by the willingness of all Western Australians to engage, contribute and look out for one another.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers, members, partners, participants and attendees who have contributed to and engaged with Auspire's work throughout the year. Your involvement enables us to recognise outstanding Western Australians, create meaningful connections and promote a stronger sense of community across our State.

I also extend my genuine appreciation to all members of the Auspire Board, CEO Morgen Lewis and the team for their dedication and professionalism. Your commitment to our purpose ensures that the stories of Western Australians who contribute so greatly continue to inspire and motivate others.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Auspire throughout the past year and, most importantly, everyone across Western Australia who continues to make a positive difference.

Bradley Woods AM
Chair



From the CEO

Throughout 2026, Auspire continued to honour the achievements and impact of remarkable Western Australians, while creating opportunities for people across our State to connect, celebrate and reflect on what makes Australia such a special place to call home.

Australia Day provided an important opportunity to bring Western Australians together through citizenship ceremonies and community celebrations. These events reflected the diversity of modern Australia, recognised the enduring contribution of First Nations Peoples to our national identity, and encouraged everyone to embrace the spirit of our campaign: Reflect, Respect, Celebrate – We're All Part of the Story.

Through the Australian of the Year Awards, we recognised Western Australians making an extraordinary difference, not only in our State, but in shaping important national conversations. From leaders in their fields to emerging young change makers, their stories remind us that meaningful change often begins with someone choosing to make a difference.

A particular highlight in 2026 was the Australian of the Year WA Tour of Honour, which gave Western Australians the opportunity to meet and hear from Katherine Bennell-Pegg. As Australia's first astronaut, Katherine is an inspiration to generations of Australians and a powerful example of how curiosity, determination and discipline can translate into global achievement.

Over four days in Perth and the WA Goldfields, the tour connected people of all ages and backgrounds with Katherine's story and her message about the possibilities created through STEM education, research and ambition. It reinforced the importance of ensuring opportunities for recognition and inspiration are accessible to communities right across our vast State.

Alongside our Award programs and Australian of the Year thought leadership forums and events, Auspire also continued to grow its social enterprise. Our community development team, together with our First Nations and intercultural facilitators, has worked with great care to

design and refine our capacity building workshops as practical learning experiences that build understanding, confidence and capability, from strengthening awareness of Aboriginal culture and history, to supporting more inclusive, informed and appropriate participation in Australia's democracy.

Together, these key strategic pillars help bring our vision for a socially and culturally inclusive Australia to life, not as an abstract aspiration, but through tangible opportunities that build connection and collective influence for a united national identity.

The activities, initiatives and achievements set out in this review are made possible by the passion, professionalism and deep sense of purpose of our staff, Board, partners, members, sponsors and volunteers.

We are especially grateful for the ongoing support of the WA State Government, along with the collaboration we share with the National Australia Day Council and our state and territory network partners.

Thank you to every nominee, recipient, volunteer, community leader and participant who has shared their story with us. Your contributions give meaning to our work and remind us why recognition, participation and belonging matter so much.

As we look ahead, Auspire remains committed to creating more opportunities to celebrate the people who make a difference, strengthen connection across communities, and inspire the next generation of Western Australians to contribute, lead and make a positive impact.

I am pleased to share this Annual Review as a reflection of what has been achieved, and as an invitation to continue working together to celebrate contribution, deepen understanding, strengthen connection and inspire active citizenship across Western Australia.

Morgen Lewis
Chief Executive Officer



Our story

We think there's a lot to feel great about being Australian. Like our spirit of mateship and making the most of the many opportunities we're given.

As Australians, we're known for our courage, and resilience and our passion. Most importantly, we believe in the idea of a fair go. Not just having one but also giving one in return.

We are vibrant and distinct as one of the most diverse societies in the world and we are blessed to be home to the oldest living culture on earth. And while all of our stories may begin in different places, we're bonded by a common future that we can create together.

At Auspire, we champion inclusion, respect, mateship and fair go, and through our awards, we recognise individuals and groups who are helping build stronger, more resilient communities off the back of these Australian values.



Strategic Alliances

Throughout the year, we collaborate with our Strategic Alliance Partners on various initiatives and events. These are mutually beneficial by enabling us all to achieve our respective goals, while allowing us to remain operationally independent.



The Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is our State's voice on issues affecting WA business. We support its vision to make WA and Australia the best place to live and do business.



Leadership WA is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that brings together leaders to inspire and enhance exemplary leadership, with an objective to build stronger communities and social impact.



The McCusker Centre for Citizenship is building the capacity for future generations to foster caring, connected and socially engaged citizens through its award-winning internship program.



ReconciliationWA

Reconciliation WA's vision is to create a better future for our State, built on respectful relationships which foster social and economic opportunities for First Peoples and the broader Western Australian community.



The United Nations Association of Australia WA Division works to inform, inspire and engage Western Australian communities on the activity, goals and values of the United Nations to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.



Volunteering WA aims to build strong communities through volunteering and provides a range of resources, services and support so that people in Western Australia are aware of, and understand, the nature and scope of volunteer activity.



The Western Australian Council of Social Service drives social change with communities through collective action and policy formulation, strengthening community services and influencing decision makers to ensure justice and equity.



The WA Local Government Association works for local government in Western Australia. The industry body supports WA's 139 local governments and negotiates service agreements for the sector.



Our Purpose

To acknowledge and celebrate Australia's engaged community members, problem solvers and positive change makers who inspire active citizenship in others.

Our Vision

For Australia to be recognised as a socially and culturally inclusive society, where people feel a sense of belonging and a desire to contribute to a unified national identity.

Our Mission

To create pathways and grow capacity through our programs, initiatives and awards; by promoting role models, and engaging with the community to build connections and collective influence.

Impact at a glance



Aussie of the Month

Impact and engagement of primary-aged children with civics and citizenship values

1,591 schools nationally **526,747** students engaged **16,180+** awards presented

Community Citizen of the Year Awards

69 participating councils

242 awards presented

900+ online nominations



Australia Day Ambassadors

Community Support
by our Ambassadors

21 Ambassadors travelled
a collective distance of



3,794km

to attend

23 community
events

Cultural Understanding and Civic Participation



773 participants

29 workshops

Inspiring Australians Events

Corporate, community and
youth events

16 events and
activations



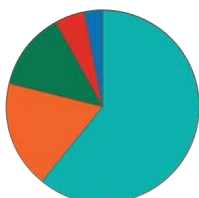
over

4,800
attendees

Income Sources & Expenditure

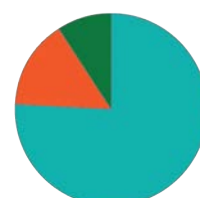
2025 - 2026 Income

61% Grants
18% Service Agreements
13% Sales and Fundraising
5% Subscription Fees
3% Sponsorships



2025 - 2026 Expenditure

76% Programs and Services
15% Administration
9% Fundraising



Developing community capacity for cultural diversity and inclusion

Australia Day Grants Program

Through the Commonwealth Government's Australia Day Community Events' Grant Program, Auspire supported its local government members and not-for-profit community groups to deliver inclusive, accessible and locally relevant Australia Day events. With \$4.65 million in funding available nationally, the program helped create opportunities for people to come together to reflect, respect and celebrate the people, cultures and stories that shape Australia.

Throughout WA, 84 local governments and community groups secured grants of up to \$15,000 each. Auspire's support helped recipients plan events that reflected their local communities, incorporating family entertainment, community awards, citizenship ceremonies and First Nations cultural elements.



Australia Day Smoking Ceremony

As part of its Australia Day program of events supported via the Australian Government's Capital City event funding, early on Australia Day morning Auspire partnered with First Nations Elders and Corrobboree for Life to present a Smoking Ceremony, Welcome to Country and cultural performances followed by an Aussie BBQ community breakfast.

More than 300 people attended Victoria Gardens to participate in the traditional cultural ceremony and be blessed by the smoke from the peppermint leaves. After the performances, guests were invited to stay and enjoy a BBQ breakfast served up by the Rotary Club of Heirisson.



Reflect Respect Celebrate Australia Day Film Dome

The Reflect Respect Celebrate Film Dome returned to Langley Park for its fourth year on Australia Day 2026, as part of a new Multicultural Zone delivered with support from the City of Perth and the Australian Government's Capital City event funding.

Visitors enjoyed movie screenings of 'Koora Koora: A Long Long Time Ago', featuring First Nations' stories and illustrations. Filmgoers received a tote bag full of goodies such as Australian and Aboriginal hand waver flags, an Australia Day cap, cling koalas, and other Aussie flag merchandise.

The Multicultural Zone also featured a Welcome to Country, arts and crafts stalls, music and dancing. This celebration of multiculturalism provided an important opportunity for people from different backgrounds to see themselves reflected in the day and share their traditions with others.

More than 50,000 people visited Langley Park throughout the afternoon and evening to enjoy a sense of community, family-friendly activities and entertainment, culminating in a drone show and fireworks display.



Aboriginal Cultural Awareness and Understanding Workshops

Designed to improve and enhance awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history, culture, perspectives and experiences, Auspire presents Aboriginal Cultural Awareness and Understanding Workshops

Facilitated by First Nations' leaders and educators, these workshops support the development of skills in how to better engage with First Nations' Peoples to grow mutual respect and have more effective relationships.

Over 20 workshops were delivered in person and online for the community and directly with businesses and organisations, during 2026, demonstrating Auspire's commitment to deepening understanding, strengthening respect and supporting more meaningful engagement with First Nations' Peoples.



Intercultural Diversity and Inclusion Workshops

As we are one of the most diverse multicultural nations in the world, Australia's strength and social cohesion depends on our ability to understand, respect and connect well with people from different cultural backgrounds. To help build this capability, Auspire presents Intercultural Diversity and Inclusion Workshops for individuals and groups to engage, lead and collaborate respectfully with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Facilitated by an intercultural competency specialist, these workshops explore cultural tendencies, unconscious bias and intercultural strategies to support stronger, more effective and respectful engagement across diverse cultural contexts.



Australia's Democracy and You Workshops

In collaboration with community leaders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and in partnership with the Office of Multicultural Interests, Auspire co-designed and launched community education program, Australia's Democracy and You, during Harmony Week.

The program aims to support culturally and linguistically diverse communities in understanding their rights and responsibilities as Australian citizens, and to develop confidence and capacity for participation in Australia's democracy. Content covers the role of the Australian Constitution, our three levels of government and how to make your vote count in elections. Co-presented

with the Western Australian Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia, these workshops are delivered in community and at the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia.

The first Australia's Democracy and You workshop was held in June 2026 at the Constitutional Centre for all members of the CaLD community to attend, closely followed by a workshop at the Indian Community Centre for members of the Indian Society of Western Australia.



Fostering thought leadership that helps shape our national identity

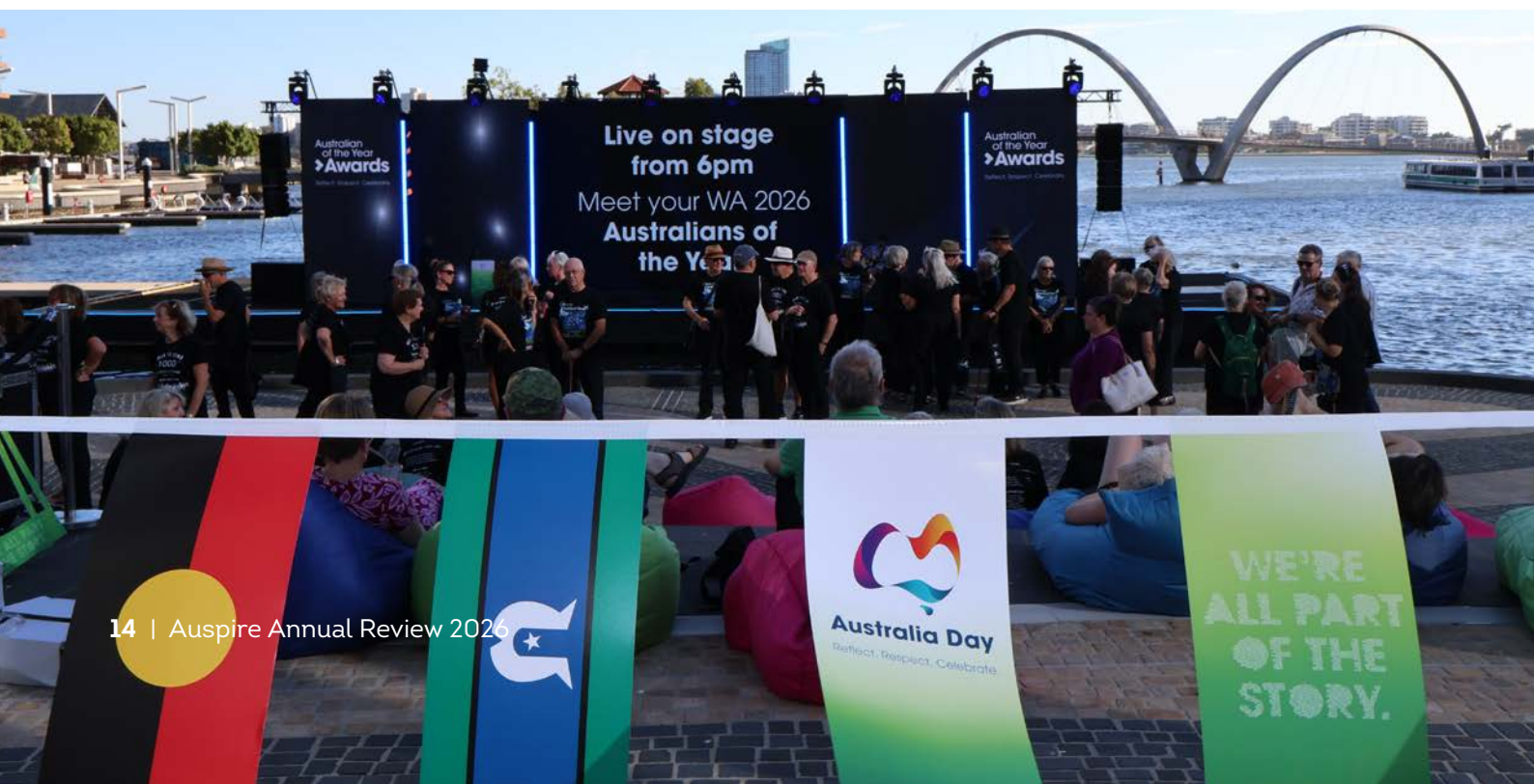
Australia Day Launch

On 20 January, Auspire took over the Floating Stage at Elizabeth Quay to officially launch Australia Day 2026 and send the WA 2026 Australians of the Year to Canberra for the national announcement.

Floating on the Swan River, the event opened with a Welcome to Country and cultural performances from Corroboree for Life musicians and dancers. The WA 2026 recipients then joined emcee, Nadia Mitsopoulos, for an inspiring panel discussion, while viewers looked on waving Australian and Aboriginal flags from bean bag chairs placed around the iconic Paperclip.

The Born to Sing Choir was a fitting end, entertaining the crowds with some classic Aussie songs that everyone could join in with and sing along.

Following the public event, Auspire hosted a small reception to recognise the many sponsors, partners, volunteers and ambassadors whose contribution helps make Australia Day activities possible in Western Australia.



Australia Day Ambassadors

To inspire community members to consider the role they play and contribution they make to Australia, Auspire arranged for our ambassadors within our Inspiring Australians network to visit towns and cities on Australia Day, to share their own stories of courage, perseverance and impact.

In 2026, 21 Ambassadors visited communities around WA as special guests at Australia Day events, often giving a keynote speech, assisting with the announcement of the Community Citizen of the Year Awards, and supporting other community activities on the day.



Australian of the Year WA Tour of Honour with Katherine Bennell-Pegg

Australia's first astronaut to train under our national flag was named 2026 Australian of the Year. Following the announcement, South Australian, Katherine Bennell-Pegg, was invited to Western Australia for four days of public and private appearances at a wide variety of events with a diverse audience for a WA Tour on Honour.

The tour began with a day in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, for Katherine to meet with community members, industry leaders and stakeholders within regional WA. The trip included a visit to Boulder Primary School where Katherine presented the Aussie of the Month award at a whole school assembly and later took questions from Year 5 and 6 students.

Katherine continued to inspire students both young and mature at Curtin University's Kalgoorlie campus, WA School of Mines, where discussion revolved around the alignment between WA's resources and space. She was then the guest of honour at a formal civic reception hosted by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder at Kalgoorlie Town Hall, where Katherine spoke about the possibilities of Australia's part to play in space, followed by meeting guests one-on-one. The trip concluded with a fly over the iconic Super Pit. That evening, Katherine attended Presbyterian Ladies College for an inspiring presentation about her journey to becoming an astronaut.



Day two began early with an Inspiring Australians' Breakfast, which officially launched the 2027 Australian of the Year Awards nominations' campaign in WA. More than 100 guests attended from Auspire's network of alumni, ambassadors and supporters, including WA 2015 Australian of the Year, Professor Lyn Beazley AO; WA 2023 Australian of the Year, Professor Samar Aoun AM; and WA 2026 Australian of the Year, Dr Daniela Vecchio. Katherine joined James Arvanitakis, CEO of Forrest Research Foundation, for a "fireside" chat, followed by questions from audience members.

Later that morning, Katherine was the guest of honour at Scitech for a student forum hosted by the WA Department of Education to inspire yet more young Western Australians about the possibilities of Australia joining the space economy. Over 300 Year 5 and 6 students from STEM focussed schools joined Katherine for a fascinating presentation in the Planetarium, where she shared her journey to become Australia's first astronaut. The event was emceed by WA Teacher of the Year, Christopher Lambe, and Minister for Education, Sabine Winton, introduced Katherine to the stage.

That afternoon, Katherine met with industry and community leaders at a lunch hosted by Committee for Perth, followed by a visit to Government House to meet with His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, along with Auspire Chair, Bradley Woods AM, and Auspire CEO, Morgen Lewis.

Early on day three, Katherine was the keynote speaker at the Nightly Breakfast, attended by over 900 guests in the Crown Towers Ballroom, followed by a number of engagements as part of the WA Defence and Security Conference. Katherine also visited the WA Space Science Education Centre, where she spoke to more than 80 schools that joined in person and online, followed by a tour of the centre including the Mars simulation room.

For the final day, Auspire arranged for Katherine to meet with Premier of Western Australia, Roger Cook MLA; visit the young residents of Ronald McDonald House; and attend the launch of the Female Innovators in Research, Science and Technology (FIRST) Program by the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation, featuring fellow Australian of the Year alumni, 2005 Australian of the Year, Professor Fiona Wood AO, and 2024 WA Young Australian of the Year, Kate Kirwin, on the panel line-up.



UWA Student Forum with WA's 2022 Australian of the Year, Paul Litherland

In September 2025, Auspire introduced 70 scholars and social work students at the University of Western Australia to WA's 2022 Australian of the Year, Paul Litherland, for a Leadership Forum on 'Embracing Opportunities to the Max'.

Cyber safety expert and published author, Paul, was joined by Dr Ness Vaughan, Senior Lecturer Global Health at UWA Medical School. Both spoke openly of challenging

times in their lives that have defined their paths. The students, who joined in person and online, had the chance to ask their own questions before a pizza lunch, where conversation and discussion continued.



Nourish Perth with WA's 2025 Australians of the Year

Following nearly a year as WA's 2025 Australians of the Year, Dianne and Ian Haggerty, who were recognised for their contribution to pioneering modern farming practises that restore landscape ecology and produce optimum health promoting food, celebrated their tenure with an event at The Camfield in Burswood in September 2025, Nourish Perth: The Flavour of Nature. The Natural Intelligence Farming founders were joined by over 300 guests to acknowledge their impact on regenerative farming and nurturing nature.

Auspire supported the event and attended the evening with several members of the Board, the National Australia Day Council, Australian of the Year Alumni, and Auspire's Multicultural Leadership Program participants.



An afternoon with 2026 Australia's Local Hero, Frank Mitchell

The Auspire and National Australia Day Council teams met 2026 Australia's Local Hero, Frank Mitchell, at the headquarters of Kardan Construction – one of the businesses Frank founded as a young Aboriginal business owner creating jobs and training opportunities for mob.

They were joined by WA 2026 Australian of the Year, Dr Daniela Vecchio, to announce a collaboration that sees young people who have participated in Daniela's Gaming Disorder Clinic being offered an apprenticeship with Kardan Construction. The initiative is designed to support young people from gaming addiction into sustainable employment opportunities, for future-proofed recovery, positive contribution to society, and greater wellbeing.

Expanding reach and engagement with our Awards

Australian of the Year Awards

As the Australia Day Council of Western Australia, Auspire has the privilege every year to announce the Australians of the Year for Western Australia – individuals who are role models for us all, who make positive change and inspire us to make our own positive contribution to Australia's national identity.

The WA 2026 Australians of the Year were announced at an awards ceremony at Government House on Thursday 13 November 2025. Following a brief Welcome Reception in the Lady Kyle Garden, the Awards were held inside the Government House Ballroom, with a beautiful ceremony emceed by Nadia Mitsopoulos of ABC Perth. Opening with a warm and heartfelt Welcome to Country from Rosemary Walley, and a performance of the Australian National Anthem by Magda Lisek, the 2026 Australians of the Year for Western Australia were announced by Auspire Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, and Vice Patron, Premier of Western Australia, Roger Cook MLA.

Following the announcements, guests returned to the Lady Kyle Garden for a celebratory soirée that carried the spirit of the WA 2026 Australian of the Year Awards into the evening. Finalists, recipients, families and supporters came together to share stories, offer congratulations and reflect on the extraordinary contributions recognised on the night.

The recipients announced for Western Australia were:

- WA 2026 Australian of the Year, Daniela Vecchio, for supporting young people with gaming addiction as head of the first public online gaming addiction clinic

- WA 2026 Senior Australian of the Year, Professor Kingsley Dixon AO, for his research and impact on Australian native plant conservation

- WA 2026 Young Australians of the Year, Dr Haseeb Riaz and Gareth Shanthikumar, for providing safe spaces for young men to explore identity, masculinity and emotional literacy through their not-for-profit, MAN UP; and

- WA 2026 Local Hero, Frank Mitchell, for creating apprenticeship opportunities and culturally safe work environments for mob.

Western Australia recognised on the national stage

Following the state and territory Australian of the Year Awards, recipients from across the nation gathered in Canberra for three days of activities ahead of the national awards announcement. The program included meetings with the Prime Minister and Governor-General, a visit to the Australian War Memorial, and opportunities to connect with fellow recipients.

On the eve of Australia Day, Western Australia was proudly represented on the national stage, with WA Local Hero, Frank Mitchell, named Australia's Local Hero, alongside Australian of the Year, Katherine Bennell-Pegg; Young Australian of the Year, Nedd Brockmann; and Senior Australian of the Year, Professor Henry Brodaty AO.



Community Citizen of the Year Awards

The Community Citizen of the Year Awards recognise and celebrate local people whose dedication, service and leadership enrich the lives of others and strengthen their communities. Presented in partnership with local governments, the Awards are a cornerstone of Australia Day celebrations, recognising grassroots contributions that foster connection, belonging and community pride, and inspire others to get involved.

The Awards honour individuals and organisations that contribute through volunteering, advocacy, mentorship, community service and initiatives that make a lasting positive impact on their local community.

In 2026, 242 awards were presented across 69 participating local governments from more than 900 public nominations.



Aussie of the Month Awards

Aussie of the Month is a national primary school awards program recognising students who demonstrate our Australian values of fair go, mateship, respect and inclusion within their school and wider community.

Considered the younger sibling to the Australian of the Year Awards, Aussie of the Month celebrates personal endeavour and positive contribution, supporting the civics and citizenship curriculum and complementing a school's merit system that may otherwise focus on academia and sports. To recognise one student per month during the school year, registered schools receive a complimentary kit with certificates, lapel badges, stationery gifts and year-round assistance for program delivery made possible with support from program partners, the National Australia Day Council, the Australian Department of Home Affairs, Pilot Pen Australia, and Westcare Incorporated.

This year, more than 1,590 primary schools presented the program, with recipients announced at assemblies, in newsletters and on social media. When recipients are announced at the assembly, schools can play a congratulations video message from Australia's Local Heroes recognised in the Australian of the Year Awards, with more than 30 videos now available. Where possible, the Aussie of the Month program also arranges for Australian of the Year Alumni to visit schools in person to announce the monthly recipient, with seven school visits taking place this year around the nation.



Community engagement and outreach

Government House Open Day

In April 2026, Auspire was invited by our Joint Patrons, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, to participate in the Government House Autumn Open Day, which sees the prestigious House open its gates and gardens for visitors to experience the history and elegance of one of Australia's most historic homes.

As part of this family-friendly event, Auspire hosted a marquee in the garden with activities and information on our programs. We brought along life-size cutouts of the 2026 Australians of the Year, for visitors to have their photo taken with them. We also ran an Australian of the Year Awards themed treasure hunt featuring hidden questions on past Australians of the Year for the chance to win prizes.



Westcare Open Day

In December 2025, Auspire attended an Open Day at Westcare in recognition of the International Day of People with Disability. The day featured games, a sausage sizzle and an opportunity to see firsthand the roles and responsibilities that Westcare provides to people living with a disability, as well as the passions and microbusinesses that employees enjoy outside of the printing and fulfillment social enterprise.



Diversity and Inclusion Awards

Auspire attended the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA 2025 Diversity and Inclusion Awards in November 2025. The Awards' ceremony was an opportunity to catch up with and celebrate Auspire's Ambassadors, Cultural Advisors and program participants and partners, all of whom play their part to promote inclusion and belonging in business, including Auspire's 2025 Multicultural Leadership Program Graduate, Ashara Wills, who received the LGBTQI+ Inclusion Award for Let's Queer the Air.



UNAAWA 80th Anniversary

In November 2025, Auspire joined the 80th anniversary celebrations of the United Nations Day Gala with the United Nations Association of Australia (WA). Auspire Manager Community Programs, Neha Shinghal reconnected with Auspire Ambassador and UNAAWA immediate past president, Dr Sandy Chong, and current UNAAWA president Randhir Amoganthan, before the official proceedings of speeches, performances and the announcement of the UN Day Awards, which saw WA 2024 Australian of the Year finalist, Dr Paola Magni awarded with the Environment 80th Anniversary Award.



Western Australian Multicultural Awards

On the eve of Harmony Week 2026, Auspire attended the Office of Multicultural Interests' 2026 Western Australian Multicultural Awards, to celebrate WA's multicultural community and honour the people and organisations that make it the strong and diverse place that it is.

WA 2026 Young Australian of the Year finalist, Rodrigues Niyongere, was recognised with the Youth Award, and Multicultural Leadership Program Graduate, Michael Elwan, was presented with the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award.

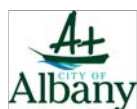


Our Members

Corporate



Local Government





Associate - Community



Associate - Individual

Abid Imam

Asha Bhat

Ashlee Harrison

Ashleigh Dickson

Britta Regli-von Ungern-Sternberg

Catrina Aniere

Caro Duca

Conrad Liveris

Craig Challen

Craig Hollywood

Cristiana Anca

Darryl Davenport

Dean Morris

Diane Avice

Fatima Faqiri

Grace Mugabe

Dianne Haggerty

Harpreet Kaur

Holly-ann Martin

Ian Haggerty

Jacinta Vu

Jack Anderson

Janine Wood

Jawaria Mahmood

Jeffrey Effendi

Jennifer Ball

John Newnham

Julian Pace

Katarzyna Stawarz

Kendall Whyte

Kenneth Gibbons

Kieran Mulroney

Krista Dunstan

Lueth Garang

Maryann Tsai

Michael Elwan

Nahrel Dallywater

Naveed Ahmed

Neelima Davuluri

Nick Hudson

Nilesh Makwana

Paul Litherland

Pedus Eweama

Priya Cooper

Ralph Martins

Richa Joshi

Rishelle Hume

Robert Geersen

Samuel Thomas

Sandy Chong

Stephanie Jackson

Suzy Urbaniak

Syeda Maisara Muzaffar

Thea Kurniawan

Theresa Kwok

Vincenzo Garreffa

Yogesan Kanagasingam

Yu Dong

Our Partners

Principal Partners Australian of the Year Awards (WA)



Program and Event Partners



State Supporters



Meet the Board



Bradley Woods AM

Chair

Bradley is recognised as one of Australia's leading advocates for protecting jobs and businesses in the hotel, hospitality and tourism

industries. In 2026, Bradley was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday Honours.

Bradley has been the CEO of the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) since 1998. Bradley is also Chair of Business Events Perth, Chair of Hospitality Group Training, Chair of the Ronald McDonald House WA - Capital Campaign Taskforce, co-founder of mental health charity Healthy Mind Menu Inc. and is a former Board Member of Tourism Australia.

Bradley has a degree in International Business Relations and was founding President of the United Nations Youth Association Australia (Queensland).



David Hinton

Finance Director

David has over 25 years of experience in senior financial management and governance roles.

He has worked in a diverse range

of industries both in Australia and overseas and has specialised in the ICT space with roles including CFO and Company Secretary of the ASX listed global IT services provider, Empired Ltd, and prior to that the national telecommunications provider Amcom Telecommunications Ltd. David is a Non-Executive Director of HeraMED Limited, a data and technology company focused on maternity care and digital women's health. He is also a member of the Audit Committee of the Australian Institute of Marine Science. David is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Peter King

Deputy Chair

Peter is the Chief Executive Officer of Ronald McDonald House Charities WA with over 30 years leadership experience across Western

Australia's community and not-for-profit sector. He has held several Board positions within non-government organisations and, in 2008 his contributions to community received national recognition through the Australian Honours system.

Peter is widely regarded for his leadership in uniting business, government and not-for-profit sectors in shared initiatives and outcomes for the wider WA community.

Peter has a Graduate Certificate in Business, studied at the London Business School and Stanford University.



Morgen Lewis

Chief Executive Officer

Morgen has been CEO and Executive Director since 2016, with over 30 years' senior leadership experience across

strategic partnerships, marketing communications, stakeholder engagement, business strategy, governance, organisational development and corporate services.

Prior to joining Auspire, Morgen was Partner and Group Business Director with The Brand Agency, providing strategic marketing, brand positioning and communication services to a diverse portfolio of clients.

Morgen has a Bachelor of Arts and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business. She's a Fellow of both the Australian Institute of Management and Australian Marketing Institute, a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a McKinsey Executive Leadership alumna.



Clive Bingwa

Clive Bingwa has been a prominent face in the WA media landscape for more than 25 years.

As Managing Director of Nine Entertainment in Perth, Clive has

been instrumental in ushering in the new era of cooperation and cross-promotion of Nine brands (Nine, Nine News, WAtoday, Stan and The Australian Financial Review).

Prior to taking the role at Nine, Clive was Managing Director of Initiative Media and IPG Media Brands Perth, and a partner at 303LOWE, which he was instrumental in growing from a Perth office of 20 staff, to Australia's largest independent advertising agency.

Clive has been on the Board for Triathlon WA, held advisory roles with Pentanet and Murdoch Business School, and has fundraised for the Royal Flying Doctors Service, Ronald McDonald House and Youth Focus. In 2023, Clive was named Campaign Brief's ad person of the year. He also became a non-executive board member with the Western Force and is Chair of the Aquinas School Advisory Council



Priya Brown

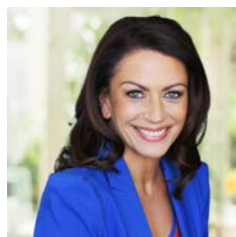
Priya Brown is a Partner at GRA Partners, a specialist government relations and strategic communications firm. She has more than a decade of experience

across government, politics and the private sector, with a particular focus on public policy, political strategy and strategic communications.

Priya has served as a Chief of Staff and Special Adviser in the Western Australian Government, as well as a senior adviser to Ministers in Western Australia and Victoria, including in Treasury, transport and energy portfolios. Her experience spans a broad range of policy areas including energy, resources, climate change, infrastructure, finance, education, sport, lands and multicultural affairs.

She has extensive experience in public policy development, political campaigns, government decision-making and stakeholder engagement, and has worked across both State and Federal political environments.

Priya holds a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Western Australia.



Rabia Siddique

Rabia Siddique brings more than three decades of global experience as an international humanitarian and criminal lawyer, former British Army officer, hostage survivor,

best-selling author, media commentator, and leadership consultant. She was awarded a Queen's Commendation for her humanitarian work in Iraq and was a WA Finalist in the 2016 Australian of the Year Awards. In 2026, Rabia was inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame.

Rabia has worked with governments, militaries, and organisations worldwide, advocating for justice, equality, and human rights. She is also a highly sought-after keynote speaker and trusted advisor to leaders across sectors, specialising in building trust, resilience, psychological safety, and values-based cultures. Her passion for social impact and her commitment to empowering communities align strongly with Auspire's vision of inspiring and enabling active citizenship.



Jeremy Chetty

Jeremy Chetty is a South African-born Australian entrepreneur, advisor and passionate advocate for the next generation of founders.

He is best known as the Co-

Founder of Student Edge, one of Australia's largest student communities with more than 1.5 million members and partnerships with over 100 education institutions. In 2025, Student Edge was acquired by Year13.

Today, Jeremy works across entrepreneurship, aviation and investment, with a particular focus on building businesses and initiatives that create meaningful social and economic impact.

He is the Founder and Host of the Young Entrepreneurs Show with JC and the Young Entrepreneurs Showcase (YES), connecting young people with entrepreneurs, industry and government while creating opportunities for the next generation to turn their ideas into reality. He is also a Director of Altura Airlines, a majority Indigenous-owned aviation business focused on connecting people and Country across regional and remote Australia..



Meg Coffey

Meg Coffey is an internationally recognised social media and digital marketing strategist, hailing from Texas and now proudly based in Australia. Known as the

'Texstralian,' Meg combines her exceptional work ethic, calculated risk-taking, and remarkable communication skills to lead the way in digital empowerment.

With a deep understanding of how digital marketing works in today's business landscape, Meg's expertise extends far beyond the hospitality and tourism sectors she works with through her agency Coffey & Tea. She specialises in transforming the fear of social media into confidence and excitement about leveraging technology for tangible results.

In 2013, Meg established SMPerth, WA's first social media resource and community where marketing novices and experts alike came for digital and social marketing news, workshops and masterclasses. In 2018, it became the launch pad for State of Social, APAC's largest digital marketing conference.

Meg actively contributes to the digital marketing community as a sought-after speaker, lecturer and panellist. She was recognised as one of Australia's Top 50 Small Business Leaders in 2017 and has been a finalist for Campaign Brief's prestigious Ad Person of the Year award multiple times.



Richard Ellis

Richard Ellis is the Director Western Australia for national gas industry association, Australian Energy Producers. He has extensive experience in corporate

strategy, government relations, communications and issues management. Richard previously served as a Senior Member of the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal. He has worked as a Director at EY, in a senior management role at ExxonMobil Australia, and in various advisory positions in Commonwealth and State government. Richard served on the selection panel for the WA division of the 2025 Australian of the Year Awards.



Nick Sloan

Nick Sloan has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) since 2019. Prior to joining WALGA, Nick was

the Executive Director, Planning and Service Delivery at the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Nick has worked in Ministerial offices at State Government levels as Chief of Staff to the Minister for Local Government; and Principal Policy Advisor to the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Racing, Gaming and Liquor. Nick has extensive experience in the Senior Executive in State Government, including roles in regional Western Australia. During this time, Nick managed complex policy agendas at both State and Local Government level.

Nick is a Director on a number of Boards including LGIS, an industry based Mutual Indemnity Scheme for Local Government in WA; Auspire (Australian Day Council WA); and is Chair of Nature Play WA, an NFP established to increase the time Western Australian children spend in unstructured play outdoors and in nature.



Barry Winmar

Barry Winmar is the CEO at the Institute of Indigenous Wellbeing and Sport, Deputy Mayor at the City of Kwinana, Deputy Chair of the State Emergency Management

Committee, and Managing Director of Winmar Enterprises. He also serves on the WA State Government's Aboriginal Cultural Centre Cultural Authority – the steering committee to oversee the planning and stakeholder engagement for the new Aboriginal Cultural Centre, which will provide space for art, performance, education, research, community and commercial activities, and is planned to become a major tourist and events attraction. Barry also held senior policy roles across WA State Government specialising in Emergency Management and Response, after almost fifteen years as a Police Sergeant in the WA Police Force.





Australia Day
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Auspire - Australia Day Council WA
PO Box 33 Nedlands WA 6909
0499 111 944
info@auspire.org.au

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