

Best Business Awards

These awards recognise the achievements of locally owned and operated small to medium businesses that form the backbone of the Onslow economy.

The categories are designed to celebrate business excellence across a range of industries, with a strong focus on locally based operations, ownership and contribution to the Onslow community.

Eligibility Criteria for categories 1-7 below

- Be an Onslow-based registered business operating under its own ABN
- Be Australian-owned and responsible for key management decisions
- Not be a publicly listed company
- Have operated for a minimum of 2 years prior to entry
- Be a financial member of the Onslow Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Demonstrate a strong focus on Onslow-based operations in their submission
- Meet the judging criteria for the nominated category

	Award Category	Eligibility Criteria
1	Best Community Organisation (For Purpose)	This organisation must be a registered Incorporated Association and must run at a not for profit capacity.
2	Best Business – Sole Trader	The business has 0 direct employees apart from themselves as an individual or a couple at the time of applying to their local awards.
3	Best Business – 1 to 5 Employees	The business employs 1 to 5 employees (full-time equivalent) at the time of applying to their local awards.
4	Best Business – 6 to 20 Employees	The business employs 6 to 20 employees (full-time equivalent) at the time of applying to their local awards.
5	Best Business 21+ Employees	The business employs 21+ employees (full-time equivalent) at the time of applying to their local awards.
6	Excellence in Tourism & Hospitality	The business sets a benchmark and demonstrates excellence in the Onslow tourism and/or hospitality sector.
7	People’s Choice Award	This award will be given to the business with the most public votes. The business must have completed a submission for any of the business categories listed above to be eligible.

Workforce & Industry Recognition Awards

These awards recognise individuals, teams and organisations that contribute to the broader Onslow community and local economy.

Unlike the core business categories, these awards are open to organisations of all sizes, including large employers, contractors and publicly listed companies with a demonstrated local presence or residential workforce in Onslow.

Nominees must be employed by an active member of the Onslow Chamber of Commerce & Industry and meet all the criteria outlined in each category below.

8	Best Employee of the Year	<p>Recognises an outstanding employee who demonstrates excellence in their role, strong workplace values and a positive contribution to the Onslow community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a current resident of Onslow • Must be employed in a paid role (full-time, part-time or casual) • Open to employees from organisations of all sizes and industries, including mining, contracting, small business and community organisations • Nominations may be submitted by employers, managers or peers
9	Best Team of the Year	<p>Recognises a team whose collaboration and performance have delivered an exceptional project or initiative in one of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovation - Workplace Culture & Wellbeing - Safety Leadership - Community, Environment & Place - Inclusion & Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to teams from organisations of all sizes and industries • All team members must be current Onslow residents • Teams may be operational, project-based or departmental • Nominations may be submitted by employers, managers or peers
10	Training & Apprenticeship Pathways Award	<p>Recognises individuals undertaking training, apprenticeships or professional development who are building skills and contributing to their workplace and industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a current resident of Onslow • Currently undertaking an apprenticeship, traineeship, or formal training program • Open to participants across all industries and organisation types • Must demonstrate application of skills in the workplace



Key Submission Information

- Please submit your interest for your desired category/categories in the first instance to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria prior to starting your submission.
- Information to be included in the submission can only be information relevant up until the submission date.
- Businesses can enter more than one category, if you meet the eligibility criteria for each category.
- OCCI reserves the right to withdraw a category if there are less than 3 eligible entries for that category.
- OCCI reserves the right to move entrants into other categories if they do not meet the criteria of their nominated category, or if categories are amalgamated.
- There will be no time extension granted for submissions.
- Use of AI is permitted when writing your submissions, however we are asking you to acknowledge this in the submission process. Our judges want to get to know you and your business by reading your submission so please ensure it is a true personal reflection of your business.