



Category Questions and Criteria

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Core Purpose Categories

Best Licensed RSL and/ Services Club

This award recognises a RSL and/or Services Club for the standard of the facilities it provides for members as well as its outstanding service to returned servicemen, women and the general community.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Welfare & support to returned servicemen
Q2	Participation in memorial services
Q3	Facilities and services

Question 1: Welfare & support to returned servicemen - What support does the club give to the RSL community to enable them to provide welfare and other support to returned servicemen and women and their families? Please give examples of your initiatives.

Question 2: Participation in memorial services - Detail your club's participation in memorial services both within and external of your local community since **1 June 2024**.

Question 3: Facilities and services - List the range of facilities and services your RSL/Services club offers members and guests.

Best Bowls Club

Is your club all about bowling? Do you provide superior bowling and social facilities for your members and guests to enjoy? Do you promote the game of bowls to the community and offer development programs to support this? This category recognises a bowls club that has taken their interest in bowling to the next level.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Grounds and facilities
Q2	Participation in development programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Activities organised for members and the community b) Milestones c) Junior development

Question 1: Grounds and facilities - List the range of greens and facilities provided by your club for bowls outlining any that have multi-uses.

Question 2: Participation and development programs

- a) **Activities organised for members and the community** – List any activities of participation, on a social and professional level, that your club has offered and organised for bowls since 1 June 2024. Detail how you involve your members and the community and promote general sportsmanship. Examples could include how many divisions are offered, competitions run, sporting demonstrations, etc.
- b) **Milestones** – Did any members of your club achieve any major milestones in bowls during the last year, in order of importance.
- c) **Junior development** – Please provide details of any junior development programs your club runs for males, females, schools (primary and/or secondary), inclusive specialty or other programs that you offer for bowls.

Best Football Club

This award recognises a football club that encourages and supports any code of football (e.g. football, soccer, rugby), including junior and senior footballers, with an outstanding standard of sporting and social facilities available to members and guests. Clubs will also need to have a large emphasis on junior development and an active presence in their community.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Grounds and facilities
Q2	Participation & development programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Activities organised for members and the communityb) Milestonesc) Junior developmentd) Development of women in sport

Question 1: Grounds and facilities - List the range of grounds and facilities provided by your club for football, outlining any that have multi-uses.

Question 2: Participation & development programs

- a) Activities organised for members and the community** – List any activities of participation, on a social and amateur/professional level, that your club has offered and organised for football since 1 July 2024. Detail how you involve your members and the community and promote general sportsmanship. Examples could include how many divisions are offered, competitions run, sporting demonstrations, etc.
- b) Milestones** – Did your club achieve any milestone in football during the last year?
- c) Junior Development** – Please provide details of any junior development programs your club runs for males, females, schools (primary and/or secondary), inclusive speciality or other programs that you offer for football.
- d) Development of women in sport** – Please provide details of any development programs your club runs for females, how many female teams competing in local/state competitions and any other milestones you have achieved in women's football.

Best Surf Life Saving Club

Applicants will be assessed on the range and quality of facilities they provide to their members along with their community participation, junior development programs and their involvement with major milestones.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Facilities and equipment
Q2	Participation & development programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Activities organised for members and the communityb) Milestonesc) Junior development

Question 1: Facilities & Equipment - List the range of facilities and equipment provided by your club for surf life saving.

Question 2: Participation & development programs

- a) Activities organised for members & the community** – List any activities of participation, on a social and professional level, that your club has offered and organised for surf life saving since 1st June 2024. Detail how you involve your members and the community and promote general sportsmanship. Examples could include how many divisions are offered, competitions run, sporting demonstrations, etc.
- b) Milestones** – Did any members of your club achieve any major milestones in surf life saving during the last year? If so, please provide details of up to four major milestones your members have achieved in the last year.
- c) Junior Development** – Please provide details of any junior development programs your club runs for males, females, schools (primary and/or secondary), inclusive speciality or other programs that you offer.

Best Sports Club

This award recognises sporting clubs that concentrate their core business activities on one or more sports (other than Bowls, Football and Surf). For example, Golf Clubs, Cricket Clubs, etc. These clubs have a consistently high standard of facilities for those sports.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Grounds and facilities
Q2	Participation & development programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Activities organised for members and the community b) Milestones c) Junior development d) Development of women in sport
	TOTAL

Question 1: Grounds and facilities - List a range of grounds and facilities provided by your club for your identified sport/s outlining any that have multi-uses.

Question 2: Participation & development programs

- a) **Activities organised for members & the community** – List any activities of participation, on a social and professional level, that your club has offered and organised for your sport/s since 1st June 2024. Detail how you involve your members and the community and promote general sportsmanship. Examples could include how many divisions are offered, competitions run, sporting demonstrations, etc.
- b) **Milestones** – Did any members of your club achieve any major milestones your identified sport/s during the last year? If so, please provide details of up to four major milestones your members have achieved in the last year.
- c) **Junior Development** – Please provide details of any junior development programs your club runs for males, females, schools (primary and/or secondary), inclusive speciality or other programs that you offer.
- d) **Development of women in sport** – Please provide details of any development programs your club runs for females, how many female teams competing in local/state competitions and any other milestones you have achieved in women's sport/s.

Best Social or Cultural Club

This award recognises social or cultural clubs that concentrate their core business activities on allowing members and guests to mingle, interact and socialize. The winning club will offer outstanding support to its local community and have a strong focus on its own social culture.

Please note, this category is exclusive to social and cultural clubs, do not enter this category if your club's relevant core purpose category is Bowls, Football, Surf Life Saving or Sports.

Conditions of entry

1. Clubs must provide a copy of their constitutional objects/purposes to substantiate their nomination in this category (as a social or cultural club and not a sporting club).

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Facilities & activities
Q2	Support to community groups
Q3	Club reinvestment

Question 1: Facilities and activities - List the range of facilities and social/cultural activities that create connection provided by your club for your members, guests and local community.

Question 2: Support to community groups - Please list any community groups that utilize your facilities and how you support the activities they are involved in.

Question 3: Club reinvestment - Please outline details as to the club's reinvestment strategy, specific to recent reinvestment plans to develop the club, its facilities, services and other areas that contribute to making the club a better social outlet for its members and guests.

Community Categories

The community categories are an opportunity to share the stories, celebrate them and recognize the outstanding contributions made by clubs in their local communities. As

the industry evolves, we have heard countless examples of clubs supporting their communities, and we look forward to recognizing these contributions again in 2025.

Environmental Innovation *(formerly Environmental Awareness)*

The Environmental Innovation Award celebrates clubs that are stepping up and making a real difference with their environmental efforts. It's about recognising those who lead by example, inspire others, and show a strong commitment to creating a greener, cleaner future for their community.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Leading by Example
Q2	Getting the Community Involved
Q3	New Ideas & Creativity
Q4	Making a Difference
Q5	Keeping it Going
	TOTAL

Question 1. Leading by Example - Tell us about the things your club is doing to look after the environment. This could be recycling, saving energy or water, cutting down on plastics, or anything else that helps reduce your impact.

Question 2. Getting the Community Involved - Share how your club involves members and the community in your green efforts. Maybe you run events, share helpful tips, team up with local groups, or encourage everyone to pitch in.

Question 3. New Ideas & Creativity - Have you tried something different or creative to help the environment? Tell us about any new projects, partnerships, or ideas that set your club apart.

Question 4. Making a Difference - What kind of results have you seen? This might be less waste, lower energy bills, or more people joining in your green initiatives.

5. Keeping it Going - What plans do you have to keep your environmental efforts growing? We want to know how your club will keep leading the way into the future.

Unity in Community Award *(formerly Inclusiveness)*

The **Unity in Community Award** celebrates clubs that foster a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for all members and visitors. This award recognises clubs that actively break down barriers, encourage diversity, and create a sense of belonging for people from all backgrounds, abilities, ages, and cultures. It's about championing connection, respect, and equality within the club and the wider community.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Creating an Inclusive Environment
Q2	Programs and Activities that Promote Belonging
Q3	Leadership and Commitment to Inclusiveness
Q4	Positive Impact and Feedback
Q5	Future Plans for Inclusion
	TOTAL

Question 1. Creating an Inclusive Environment - Tell us how your club makes everyone feel welcome and valued. This could include accessibility initiatives, diversity in membership, inclusive communication, or cultural awareness activities.

Question 2. Programs and Activities that Promote Belonging - Describe the social, cultural, or sporting programs your club offers that encourage participation from diverse groups. How do you involve different ages, abilities, cultures, or backgrounds?

Question 3. Leadership and Commitment to Inclusiveness - Explain how your club's leadership supports and promotes inclusiveness. This could be policies, training, or specific roles focused on inclusion.

Question 4. Positive Impact and Feedback - Share examples or feedback that show how your inclusive efforts have positively affected members and the community.

Question 5. Future Plans for Inclusion - What ideas or commitments do you have to continue growing a welcoming and inclusive culture at your club?

Heart of the Community *(formerly Outstanding Community Service)*

The **Heart of the Community Award** recognises and celebrates the vital role that clubs play in supporting their members and local communities. This award highlights clubs that actively contribute to the wellbeing and growth of their community by providing support to a wide range of groups, including sporting clubs, social and welfare organisations, youth programs, charities, schools, and disadvantaged individuals.

Both financial contributions and in-kind support are valued, acknowledging the many ways clubs give back—whether through fundraising, volunteer efforts, facility access, or partnership initiatives. This award honours those clubs that make a real difference, showing leadership and commitment to fostering strong, inclusive, and connected communities.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Community Support & Engagement
Q2	Impact and Outcomes
Q3	Inclusiveness and Reach
Q4	Innovation and Leadership
Q5	Sustainability and Future Plans

Question 1. Community Support & Engagement - Describe how your club supports a variety of community groups, including sports clubs, social and welfare organisations, youth programs, charities, schools, and disadvantaged groups. Highlight both financial and in-kind contributions, such as fundraising, donations, volunteering, facility access, or other partnerships.

Question 2. Impact and Outcomes - Share examples of the positive effects your club's support has had on the community and its members. How have your contributions improved lives or strengthened local organisations?

Question 3. Inclusiveness and Reach - Explain how your club ensures that your support reaches diverse groups within the community, including underrepresented or disadvantaged members.

Question 4. Innovation and Leadership - Tell us about any creative or unique initiatives your club has introduced to enhance community support.

Question 5. Sustainability and Future Plans - Outline your club's plans to continue or grow its community support efforts. How do you ensure ongoing benefit for your community?

Individual Categories

Club Cook/Apprentice of the Year

This award recognises the talent, dedication, and creativity of club cooks and apprentices who may not be qualified chefs but consistently deliver outstanding meals that delight patrons and reflect a strong understanding of club dining.

If you have a cook or apprentice who regularly receives positive feedback and is proud of the food they serve. Nominate them for this prestigious award today! This year, all your cook/apprentice must do is select an entrée and a main from the club's current menu for judging; seafood must feature as the protein for the entrée, and beef, chicken or pork must feature as the protein for the main. Judging will take place in the months of August and September in each Club. Finalists will be notified to confirm an appropriate time the cook/apprentice is working.

Conditions of entry

1. The club, under the direction of the nominated cook/apprentice, is to put forward two menu items from the club's current menu. Seafood must feature as the protein for the entrée and beef, chicken or pork must feature as the protein for the main.
2. Finalists will be notified via email.
3. For finalists, the two dishes must be available on your club menu in the nominated outlet through August and September 2025 for both lunch and dinner, where the announced visit for judging of your menu items will take place.
4. Should the dishes not be available when the judge visits you will be automatically disqualified.
5. The dishes must be made in-house in their entirety.
6. A kitchen audit will also take place on the same day.

Overview of club

- What is the name of the club where these two recipes will be found on the menu?
- What will be the daily operating hours of this club in August and September 2024

Please provide details of the entrée and main off your current club menu, along with corresponding recipe information (include quantity of each ingredient). This information will be used to assess the finalists and accuracy of wording on your club menu and items that are served to the judge for those announced as finalists.

Entrée

- Name of dish
- Dish description
- Inspiration behind dish
- Recipe including quantities for each ingredient & methodology

Main

- Name of dish
- Dish description
- Inspiration behind dish
- Recipe including quantity for each ingredient & methodology

Club Chef of the Year

This award is designed to recognize the skills of chefs through their culinary abilities, creativity, and innovation.

If you have an outstanding chef, i.e. someone who continually received great feedback, is creative, knows your clientele, delivers on budget and more, then please enter them now for this prestigious award.

This year, all your chef must do is select an entrée and a main from the club's current menu for judging; seafood must feature as the protein for the entrée, and beef, chicken or pork must feature as the protein for the main. Judging will take place in the months of August and September in each Club. Finalists will be notified to confirm an appropriate time the chef is working.

Conditions of entry

1. The club, under the direction of the nominated chef, is to put forward two menu items from the club's current menu. Seafood must feature as the protein for the entrée and beef, chicken or pork must feature as the protein for the main.
2. Finalists will be notified via email.
3. For finalists, the two dishes must be available on your club menu in the nominated outlet through August and September 2025 for both lunch and dinner, where the announced visit for judging of your menu items will take place.
4. Should the dishes not be available when the judge visits you will be automatically disqualified.
5. The dishes must be made in-house in their entirety.
6. A kitchen audit will also take place on the same day.

Overview of club

- What is the name of the club where these two recipes will be found on the menu?
- What will be the daily operating hours of this club in August and September.

Please provide details of the entrée and main off your current club menu, along with corresponding recipe information (include quantity of each ingredient). This information will be used to assess the finalists and accuracy of wording on your club menu and items that are served to the judge for those announced as finalists.

Entrée

- Name of dish
- Dish description
- Inspiration behind dish
- Recipe including quantities for each ingredient & methodology

Main

- Name of dish
- Dish description
- Inspiration behind dish
- Recipe including quantity for each ingredient & methodology

Rising Star of the Year

To win this award, consideration will be given to all the activities the nominee performs in their role and will include any initiatives they have shown within the club and their community. Judges will also consider any past and current training undertaken and outstanding achievements. The nominee must be dynamic, well rounded, and passionate about their position at your club. Do you have an outstanding candidate that we are looking for?

Conditions of entry

1. Submissions are on an individual basis. If you have more than one Rising Star, please nominate them separately and include a separate submission for each.
2. If the nominee is a General Manager/Venue Manager they must enter the Club Manager of the Year Award.

3. The word “Manager” does not have to be in the title of the person you are nominating e.g. Food and Beverage Supervisor or Event Coordinator are acceptable.
4. Must have worked a minimum of 12 months at the Club.
5. Entry needs to be endorsed by the General Manager or other high level manager role.

Overview of candidate

- Start date of employment with your club
- Overall number of years in the community club industry
- Provide a copy of the nominee’s current job description

	Criteria
	Phone interview
	Questions judged by judging panel
Q1	Qualifications
Q2	Training
Q3	Progression
Q4	Internal awards or recognition
Q5	Surpassed expectations
Q6	Leadership style
Q7	Customer Service
Q8	Closing Statement

Question 1: Qualifications - List any academic/professional qualifications attained by the nominee.

Question 2: Training - List any training or education your club has encourage and/or facilitated the nominee to complete.

Question 3: Progression - Outline any progression your nominee has had within the club and why this occurred.

Question 4: Internal awards or recognition - Has your nominee won any internal awards e.g. employee of the month etc or been recognized in any way by your club since employment?

Question 5: Surpassed expectations – Outline some ways that your nominee has either: increased profit/surpluses, reduced costs, added value to the team or workplace, gone over and above, surpassed expectations or delivered exceptional results for the club, your member’s and/or the community.

Question 6: Leadership Style - Describe the nominees’ management style and why staff enjoy working with them?

Question 7: Customer service - Provide details as to how your nominee provides outstanding customer service to both internal and external stakeholders (members/guests/suppliers/sponsors/etc).

Question 8: Closing statement - What makes your nominee stand out? Why do you believe your nominee should receive the Rising Star of the Year Award?

Club Manager of the Year

The winner of this award will go to a senior manager who is responsible for running a successful club. The winner will have a high level of management skill, along with the demonstrated ability to grow a business. The nominee must have worked a minimum of 2 full years at the club. Entrants into this category must be a Club Manager, General Manager, Venue Manager, or Operations Manager.

Overview of nominee

- Overall number of years in the club industry?
- Total employment time at current club as Manager?

	Criteria
	Phone interview
	Questions judged by judging panel
Q1	Business Growth
Q2	Support of industry
Q3	Customer service
Q4	Professional training / qualifications
Q5	Closing statement

Question 1: Business growth - Outline how your manager has grown/developed/improved the business since 30 June 2024 as well as any key projects they have initiated or been an active part of.

Question 2: Support growth of industry - Outline any achievements, projects or roles the manager has been a part of since 30th June 2024 that supports the growth and success of the community club industry overall.

Question 3: Customer Service - Highlight how your nominee nurtures, grows, stimulates and delivers outstanding relationships – internally with staff and externally with members and guests.

Question 4: Professional training / qualifications - Detail your manager's professional qualifications and/or business experience, including any training received at the club or externally.

Question 5: Closing statement - What is special about your manager? Why should they win this category?

Volunteer of the Year

The Volunteer of the Year award recognises a dedicated volunteer who has become an invaluable part of your club, making a meaningful and lasting contribution to its success.

Each club may submit **one nomination only**. Nominations must be submitted by a senior staff member or board/committee member.

Self-nominations will not be accepted. Finalists will receive a complimentary ticket to the awards.

	Criteria
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	Phone interview
	Questions judged by judging panel
Q1	Contribution Summary
Q2	Length of Service
Q3	Dedication and commitment
Q4	Impact and outcomes
Q5	Leadership and initiative
Q6	Club Values and Spirit
Q7	Challenges Overcome
Q8	Why this person?

Question 1: Contribution Summary - Briefly describe the nominee's volunteer work and their role within your club/organisation.

Question 2: Length of Service - How long has the nominee been volunteering with your club/organisation?

Question 3: Dedication and Commitment - How has the nominee demonstrated exceptional dedication and reliability in their volunteer role?

Question 4: Impact and Outcomes - What measurable or noticeable impact has the nominee had on the club, members, or broader community? Please provide examples.

Question 5: Leadership and Initiative - Has the nominee shown leadership or taken initiative in any projects or situations? If so, please describe.

Question 6: Club Values and Spirit - How does the nominee reflect the values and spirit of your club?

Question 7: Challenges Overcome - Has the nominee gone above and beyond in the face of any particular challenges?

Question 8: Why This Person? - In your own words, why do you believe this person deserves to be recognised as Volunteer of the Year?

Operational Categories

Best Gaming Categories

The proud recipient of this award will be a club that provides an enjoyable gaming experience for members and guests in an environment that respects members' privacy and provides adequate information to players about games on offer, whilst embracing the South Australian Responsible Gambling Code of Practice.

This category will see **two winners** based on the number of operation gaming machines the club has on the floor:

- **Small (0 - 21 EGMs)**
- **Large (22 - 40 EGMs)**

The anonymous site inspection of your gaming area for this award will take place between August - September 2025. You will not be notified prior or after this has occurred.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
	Questions judged by judging panel
Q1	Gaming product mix
Q2	Responsible Gambling practices
Q3	General ambience
Q4	Why should your club win?
	TOTAL

Question 1: Gaming Product Mix – Please provide information on the product mix of machines at your club.

Question 2: Responsible Gambling Practices – Describe your Club's commitment to Responsible Gambling practices.

Question 3: General Ambience – Describe special features your gaming room offers and provide photos (up to 3) as supporting evidence.

Question 4: Why should your club win? - Describe why your club should win Best Gaming.

Best Club Redevelopment/Refurbishment Categories

A club that has been redeveloped (new build or refurbishment) in the past 12 months will be eligible to enter this award. To qualify for this award, the refurbishment must have been completed and in use by 30th June 2025.

Stand alone gaming room refurbishments will not be considered under this award, however will be considered under the "Best Gaming Award."

Clubs will be assessed on the quality and innovation of the redevelopment, as well as the impact of the redevelopment on staff efficiency and patron satisfaction. The judges will also be looking at the intent of the design.

This category will see **two winners** based on the cost of the redevelopment:

- **Small (up to \$1m)**
- **Large (over \$1m)**

	Criteria
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	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Project Overview
Q2	Design & Intent
Q3	Challenges and sustainability
Q4	Funding
Q5	Improved functionality
Q6	Positive outcomes
Q7	Project Management

Question 1: Project Overview - Provide a brief description of the refurbishment/redevelopment. Highlight the key areas that were upgraded and any special features included. Please attach up to five photos showcasing the transformation.

Question 2: Design & Intent - Explain the purpose and goals of the project. What was the club trying to achieve with the refurbishment, and why?

Question 3: Challenges & Sustainability - Describe any challenges faced during the project and how they were overcome. Highlight any sustainability practices or environmentally friendly features incorporated.

Question 4: Funding - Outline how the redevelopment was funded (e.g., internal funds, community fundraising, grants, partnerships, etc.).

Question 5: Improved Functionality - Explain how the new or updated facilities have improved day-to-day operations, accessibility, or services offered to members and guests.

Question 6: Positive Outcomes - What benefits has the project delivered since completion? Consider member feedback, usage levels, revenue changes, media or community responses.

Question 7: Project Management - Describe how the project was managed — timelines, contractors or consultants involved, and how the club kept things on track and within budget.

Outstanding Bar & Entertainment

This award celebrates clubs that go above and beyond in creating a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere through their bar and entertainment offerings. Whether it's live music, trivia nights, raffles, DJs, or simply a great place to enjoy a drink, this award recognises the clubs that bring people together, keep members coming back, and provide memorable experiences for their community.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Bar experience
Q2	Entertainment variety
Q3	Communication connection
Q4	Promotion and engagement
Q5	Positive outcomes
Q6	Innovation or unique features

Question 1: Bar Experience - Describe your club's bar offering. Include information about drink selections, promotions, service style, and any special features that set your bar apart.

Question 2: Entertainment Variety - Outline the types of entertainment your club offers. This could include soloists, bands, bingo, raffles, DJs, quizzes, poker, etc. Mention how often entertainment is run and how it suits your members.

Question 3: Community Connection - How does your bar and entertainment offering create a space for social connection, inclusivity and community building?

Question 4: Promotion & Engagement - How do you promote your bar and entertainment offerings to your members and community? Share any marketing or engagement initiatives used.

Question 5: Positive Outcomes - What have been the benefits of your bar and entertainment offerings? For example: increased patronage, positive feedback, stronger community ties, or improved financial outcomes.

Question 6: Innovation or Unique Features - Share any new or creative ideas your club has introduced in the bar or entertainment space in the last 12 months.

Best Function / Event Venue

This award recognises clubs that provide outstanding facilities, services, and experiences for functions and events. Whether it's weddings, birthdays, corporate functions, or community celebrations, this award celebrates clubs that deliver memorable, high-quality events while showcasing excellent hospitality, adaptability, and attention to detail. Great function spaces not only support club revenue but help build strong community connections.

	Criteria
	Site Inspection

Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Venue description
Q2	Services and offerings
Q3	Types of events
Q4	Customer experience
Q5	Promotion & bookings
Q6	Innovation & improvements

Question 1. Venue Description - Describe the function/event space(s) offered at your club, including room capacity, flexibility, and atmosphere. Include up to five photos.

Question 2. Services & Offerings - Outline the services provided as part of your event offerings (e.g., catering, AV, event planning support, theming, decor, packages). Include your function package.

Question 3. Types of Events - List the types of events typically hosted at your venue. Include any standout or unique events held since 30 June 2024.

Question 4. Customer Experience - How does your team ensure a positive experience for booking and attending functions? You may include testimonials or feedback.

Question 5. Promotion & Bookings - Explain how your venue is marketed for functions. Do you have packages, website listings, social media promotions, etc.?

Question 6. Innovation & Improvements - Have you introduced any recent improvements, upgrades, or innovations that have enhanced your function offering?

Best Dining – Cafe / Bistro

This award recognises clubs offering an exceptional café or bistro dining experience for their members and guests. It celebrates clubs that deliver high-quality meals, great customer service, a welcoming atmosphere, and value for money. Whether it's a quick coffee and cake or a hearty dinner, this award highlights clubs that create a consistent and enjoyable dining experience.

Criteria	
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Venue description
Q2	Menu offering
Q3	Customer experience
Q4	Quality and value
Q5	Presentation & cleanliness
Q6	Innovation or recent improvements

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Question 1. Venue Description - Describe your café or bistro include its atmosphere, seating capacity, and general vibe. Include up to five photos if possible.

Question 2. Menu Offering - Tell us about your menu. What styles of food do you offer? How often is it updated? Do you cater for dietary needs? Please include your menu.

Question 3. Customer Experience - How do you ensure great service and a positive dining experience? You can include examples of feedback or reviews.

Question 4. Quality and Value - Explain how you maintain quality food at good value for members and guests. Do you offer specials or promotions?

Question 5. Presentation and Cleanliness - Share how your club ensures a clean and well-presented dining space and meals, from plating to table settings.

Question 6. Innovation or Recent Improvements - Have you made any recent changes to improve your dining experience? Think new fit-outs, themed nights, local produce features, etc.

Club of the Year Categories

These prestigious categories recognise **outstanding Clubs** that deliver excellence across **all areas of their operations**. From hospitality and customer service to community engagement, governance, and financial management, these awards celebrate the **best of the best** in South Australian Clubs.

What We're Looking For:

Nominees for **Club of the Year** demonstrate:

- A strong commitment to their members and local community
- High standards in hospitality services
- Sound governance and compliance practices
- Financial sustainability and strategic development

These awards are your chance to showcase your **Club's overall impact, achievements, and vision**.

Eligibility Criteria

Clubs are assessed in three turnover-based categories:

- **Small Club of the Year**
Annual turnover: **Less than \$450,000**
- **Medium Club of the Year**
Annual turnover: **\$450,000 – \$1,800,000**
- **Large Club of the Year**
Annual turnover: **More than \$1,800,000**

Turnover is based on your 2023/24 financial statements, which must be included with your submission.

Nomination Requirements

- **Small & Medium Clubs:**
Simply complete the designated **submission form** to be considered.
- **Large Clubs:**
To be eligible, you must also submit:
 - Entries in **at least 2 Operational Categories** (e.g. *Outstanding Bar & Entertainment, Best Gaming, Best Dining, etc.*)
 - One entry in a **Community Category** (e.g. *Heart of the Community, Inclusion, Environmental Innovation, etc.*)

Important Notes

- All Clubs must include a copy of their **2023/24 Financial Statements**.
- Entries should clearly demonstrate your Club's **commitment to excellence** and **positive impact** in your community and industry.
- Site visits may be conducted as part of the judging process.

Club of the Year – Small

The **Club of the Year – Small** award celebrates excellence in Clubs with an **annual turnover of less than \$450,000** (as per the 2024/23 financial year). This award recognises Clubs that consistently deliver quality service and experiences for members, while playing a vital role in their local community. It considers all aspects of Club operations – from hospitality and governance to facilities and community support.

This is your opportunity to shine a spotlight on how your small Club makes a **big difference**.

*Note: Your Club's **2023/24 Financial Statement** must be submitted with your nomination to be eligible.*

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Club Overview
Q2	Services and amenities
Q3	Community engagement
Q4	Governance & compliance
Q5	Hospitality & member experience
Q6	Financial stability
Q7	Club Achievements
	TOTAL

Question 1. Club Overview - Provide a brief background of your Club, including your purpose, size, membership, and any unique characteristics.

Question 2. Services & Amenities - Outline the services and facilities your Club provides for members and guests. Include any improvements or initiatives undertaken in the past year.

Question 3. Community Engagement - How does your Club support your local community? Include examples such as partnerships, fundraising, volunteering, support to schools, charities, or sporting groups.

Question 4. Governance & Compliance - Describe your Club's approach to good governance and compliance with industry regulations. You may include strategic planning, staff training, and risk management practices.

Question 5. Hospitality & Member Experience - Highlight what your Club does to provide a welcoming and enjoyable experience. Consider areas such as customer service, food & beverage, events, and entertainment.

Question 6. Financial Sustainability - Demonstrate how your Club manages its finances responsibly. This may include fundraising efforts, grant success, profit reinvestment, or cost-saving initiatives.

Question 7. Club Achievements - List your Club's key achievements or highlights from the past year. These might be awards, milestones, major events, or successful new programs.

Club of the Year – Medium

The **Club of the Year – Medium** category is designed to recognise Clubs with an **annual turnover between \$450,000 and \$1,800,000** in the 2023/24 financial year. This award acknowledges excellence across all aspects of Club operations – from hospitality and governance, to facilities, member services, and community support.

It celebrates Clubs that successfully balance business operations with community impact, and continue to provide welcoming, vibrant, and valuable spaces for their members and guests.

*Note: Your Club's **2023/24 Financial Statement** must be submitted with your nomination to be eligible.*

	Criteria
	Site Inspection
Questions judged by judging panel	
Q1	Club Overview
Q2	Services and amenities
Q3	Community engagement
Q4	Governance & compliance
Q5	Hospitality & member experience
Q6	Financial stability
Q7	Club highlights
	TOTAL

Question 1. Club Overview - Share a brief background about your Club – its purpose, community role, size, and unique qualities.

Question 2. Services & Amenities - Describe the range of services, facilities, and activities your Club provides. Include any recent upgrades or additions.

Question 3. Community Engagement - How is your Club supporting the local community? Share examples of involvement with community groups, schools, charities, sports teams, and in-kind contributions.

Question 4. Governance & Compliance - Outline how your Club maintains good governance and compliance practices – this might include leadership, board or committee processes, planning, or reporting structures.

Question 5. Hospitality & Member Experience - Explain how your Club ensures members and guests have a great experience. Think about food & beverage, events, entertainment, and customer service.

Question 6. Financial Sustainability - Show how your Club responsibly manages its finances. Mention successful grants, cost-saving initiatives, reinvestment strategies, or other approaches to sustainability.

Question 7. Club Highlights - Highlight any major achievements from the past year – milestones, new initiatives, awards, or standout community impact stories.

Club of the Year - Large

The **Club of the Year – Large** category recognises excellence in overall Club operations for Clubs with an **annual turnover exceeding \$1.8 million** in the 2023/24 financial year. This prestigious award honours Clubs that consistently deliver outstanding service, operate with strong governance and compliance, and demonstrate exceptional engagement with their members and the broader community.

To be eligible, Clubs **must enter at least two (2) Operational award categories** (e.g., Best Dining, Gaming, Bar & Entertainment, etc) and **one (1) Community category** (e.g., Heart of the Community, Environmental Innovation, etc).

The Club of the Year – Large winner will be determined by **combined scores received across the nominated categories**, ensuring recognition is awarded to those truly excelling in multiple areas.

*Note: A copy of your Club's **2023/24 Financial Statement** must be submitted as part of this expression of interest.*

Area	Description
Operational Excellence	Based on the average scores achieved across two (or more) Operational categories your Club has entered.
Community Engagement	Based on the score received in one (or more) Community category entered.
Site Visit	An on-site assessment of Club facilities, atmosphere, service, compliance, and how well your Club delivers across both hospitality and community aspects.
Financial & Strategic Overview	General review of the Club's 2023/24 financial statement, governance, and long-term sustainability.

