Commonwealth Awards for

Excellence in Risk Management

Information kit 2025

## The Awards

The Commonwealth Awards for Excellence in Risk Management (the Awards) raise the profile and significance of good risk management. They enable us to showcase and recognise leading and proven risk management systems, practices and activities that have supported innovation and improved decision-making across the Commonwealth.

By sharing the design and delivery of these programs you can inspire and help others to identify opportunities to enhance their own risk maturity.

All Commonwealth entities can nominate

## We invite your nomination/s

Commonwealth entities (you) are invited to submit a self-nomination for the Awards.

Nominations can be for new or well-established risk management practices. You can nominate in one or more category:

**Enterprise-wide** – for excellence where you developed, implemented and/or embedded risk management frameworks, practices and processes across your entity.

**Risk initiative** – for excellence in risk management demonstrated by a specific program, project, or service delivery initiative.

**Risk in focus – Responding to new and emerging risk:** Share initiatives that demonstrate how you considered, managed and planned for one or more new or emerging risks.

A demonstrated commitment to excellence is the common element across all categories.

Visit [Commonwealth Awards for Excellence in Risk Management 2025](https://www.finance.gov.au/government/comcover/risk-services/management/commonwealth-awards-excellence-risk-management-2025) for more full criteria information.

## Key dates

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Nominations open | 21 July 2025 |
| Nominations close | 15 September 2025 |
| Shortlisted entries present to judge panel | 20-24 October 2025 |
| Awards ceremony | 2 December 2025 |

Nominate to recognise your own and your colleagues’ risk work

Your nomination submission/s can show others some of the ways they can:

* achieve innovations
* improve decision making
* manage shared risks effectively with others
* build and embed risk management capability in their organisation.

## Participation helps uplift risk management capability

Put forward a nomination for the awards to:

* showcase how you manage risk in your entity
* lift the risk capability of other professionals
* be recognised for your commitment to managing risk
* promote the importance of risk management across government
* receive constructive and valuable feedback from our panel of judges.

## Winners

The information we receive in submissions can be used to design enhancements to the Finance risk education program and facilitate continuous improvement in risk management across the Commonwealth.

This year Comcover will also support winners in each category to attend the RMIA conference in 2026. There they will have the opportunity to hear from thought leaders, innovators and practitioners from all sectors on the evolving landscape of risk management.

## How to complete and lodge your nomination

To present your nomination in the best way, please read the following tips, and keep them in mind when completing your nomination in the [provided templates](https://www.finance.gov.au/government/comcover/risk-services/management/commonwealth-awards-excellence-risk-management-2025).

* Limit to 10 pages (excl. cover page and attachments).
* Be clear, concise and balanced. Ensure it addresses all nomination criteria and include:
	+ a brief overview of the situation or setting
	+ what action was taken
	+ how action achieved desired outcomes
	+ a focus on results. Describe the specificoutcomes and benefits that were achieved by your entity. Avoid generic statements like, ‘*the entity has really benefited from...*’.
* Keep the category in mind. Ensure the nomination elements are tailored to meet the category description.
* Provide relevant examples. Use them as evidence of your achievements and how they were measured.
* Only attach documents that demonstrate and support your claims.

Submit nominations:

* to RiskAwards@finance.gov.au
* by 15 September 2025.
* You will receive a confirmation email once we receive your entity’s nomination/s.

## Evaluation and shortlisting

Shortlisted nominations may be asked to participate in post Award activities. Nominations are evaluated in two stages.

1. The awards team assess against the criteria to shortlist nominations with due diligence. Those successful are passed to the judging panel.
2. If you have been successfully shortlisted, you will be advised by early October 2025.

## Presenting to judging panel

Those shortlisted are asked to present to the judging panel. The presentation should not exceed 20 minutes.

For up to 20 minutes afterwards the judging panel can ask questions and discuss matters you raise to help them come to their decision.

Judges then decide on final winners. They reserve the right to not offer an award if no suitable nominations are received.

### When preparing a presentation

* be concise – you need to be able to tell your story in 20 minutes
* limit repetitive information
* be specific on how you did things
* ensure that you focus on results.

It is not compulsory to have a PowerPoint presentation or PDF slide show to accompany your presentation, but it is highly encouraged.

You will be asked to provide an electronic copy of your presentation to RiskAwards@finance.gov.au the day before you present to the judging panel.

Further details on the presentation aspect of the judging process will be provided to shortlisted entities.

## Checklist

[ ] Correct nomination template/s were used

[ ]  The accountable authority or appropriate SES delegate of your entity has endorsed each nomination form

[ ]  The attached documents support claims

[ ]  The evidence of claims, achievements and how these were measured are included and are relevant to the category and topic

[ ]  I submitted the nomination to riskawards@finance.gov.au and before or on
15 September 2025

## More information

See [Commonwealth Awards for Excellence in Risk Management 2025](https://www.finance.gov.au/government/comcover/risk-services/management/commonwealth-awards-excellence-risk-management-2025) for details.

You can also email us at riskawards@finance.gov.au