



AUSTRALIAN
INTERNATIONAL
DOCUMENTARY
CONFERENCE

AIDC SOUTHERN LIGHT AWARD

Nomination Guidelines

Want to nominate someone for the AIDC Southern Light Award? This guide provides you with all the information you need.

AIDC (Australian International Documentary Conference) is now seeking nominations for the prestigious Southern Light Award, celebrating luminaries of the Australian documentary and factual industry.

Expanding the eligibility scope of the pre-existing Stanley Hawes Award presented from 1997 to 2023, the Southern Light Award is a **\$5,000** cash prize presented by AIDC to an Australian industry professional for their outstanding contribution to nonfiction screen, digital and/or audio media.

AIDC SOUTHERN LIGHT AWARD NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominating a candidate for the AIDC Southern Light Award is simple and free of charge.

If you wish to nominate someone for the Southern Light Award you must:

- provide a 200 word written statement as to why you are nominating this candidate
- be a current AIDC member.
 - An AIDC member is anyone who is a citizen or permanent resident of Australia who attended AIDC 2025 or has purchased an AIDC Membership.
 - To purchase a membership please complete and submit an [AIDC Membership Application Form](#), along with a fee of \$38.50 (GST inclusive). Once processed, payment confirmation will be sent to you via email and your membership will be valid for one calendar year from the date that payment of membership is received. Please note that membership does not grant access to AIDC 2026.

To make a nomination please complete the [AIDC Southern Light Award Nomination Form](#).

Please Note: To access the form, you will be prompted to log in to or create a free MY AIDC account. Please email info@aidc.com.au if you have any issues.

AIDC SOUTHERN LIGHT AWARD SELECTION PROCESS

This award celebrates the luminaries of the Australian documentary and factual industry.

Nominations will be judged against this criteria via secret ballot by the AIDC Board of Directors, with the recipient invited to present an address at the AIDC Awards Presentation on Thursday 5 March 2026.

Key Dates:

- **Opening Date:** Thursday 9 October 2025 at 9:00 AEDT
- **Closing Date:** Sunday 18 January 2026 at 23:59 AEDT
- **Announcement of recipient:** February 2026
- **AIDC Awards Presentation:** Thursday 5 March 2026

For more information on the AIDC Southern Light Award Award, please visit [AIDC Southern Light Award](#) on the AIDC website.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - NOMINEES

Please make sure that your nominee fits the following criteria:

- A producer, director, editor, cinematographer, sound recordist, presenter, facilitator, educator, broadcaster, distributor, commissioning editor or any profession deemed significant within the nonfiction screen, digital and/or audio media sector.
- Have made an outstanding contribution to the Australian nonfiction screen, digital and/or audio media sector for at least 10 years.
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident

ENTRY ELIGIBILITY - NOMINATIONS

Please review the Entry Eligibility section of the Nomination Form and select:

- Yes, I am a current member of AIDC (this will be verified by a member of the AIDC team)

NOMINATION & VOTING PROCESS

Please review the Nomination & Voting Process information.

NOMINEE DETAILS

Please complete the Nominee Details & Supporting Statement section.

Please ensure to include the nominee's name, email and outline their outstanding contribution to Australian nonfiction screen, digital and/or audio media. (max. 200 words).

Press the **SUBMIT** button.

Once you have completed the form you will receive a confirmation email (it's recommended that you check your spam or junk mail account if you do not receive these details via your nominated email address).

If you do not receive this email within 24 hours, please contact awards@aidc.com.au.

IMPORTANT - Once your application has been 'submitted', you will be unable to return to amend it, so please submit only when you have prepared your full submission.

Ready to nominate? [NOMINATE FOR THE SOUTHERN LIGHT AWARD.](#)