NOMINEES FOR THE 2018 WOMEN OF THE WEST AWARDS
Welcome to the annual Western Sydney University Women of the West Awards. We are pleased you are joining us to honour the achievements of women in Greater Western Sydney.

The University established the Awards in 2005 to acknowledge and celebrate the many women who exemplify leadership and commitment to improving the lives of people in our communities.

Now in 2018, as we celebrate another year of outstanding nominees, we should be encouraged to reflect on what their work means. Our selection panel was impressed by the quality and diversity of work we encountered. We saw local women tackling big issues of discrimination, gendered violence, literacy, mental health, physical health, cultural safety, disability management, injury prevention, rehabilitation, access to education, legal reform, trauma support, environmental management, food security, and homelessness.

The scope of this work is immense. The passion, commitment, and drive to make a difference exhibited by the women here today is truly inspirational.

On behalf of the University and the broader communities of Western Sydney, we thank you for your passion, determination, and commitment to our region as Women of the West.

Professor Denise Kirkpatrick
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic)
8 March 2018
Introduction

The Western Sydney University Women of the West Awards honour women in Greater Western Sydney and formally recognise their contribution to the development of the region.

The Awards showcase the diversity and strength of women in Greater Western Sydney. Members of the community nominate their colleagues, friends, acquaintances and family members to publicly recognise their remarkable achievements.

Each year, nominees are drawn from a variety of backgrounds including education, health services, local industry, volunteering, environmental groups, government and non-government organisations.

These women:

- live and/or work in Greater Western Sydney;
- exhibit outstanding leadership;
- contribute to improving the lives of people in Greater Western Sydney; and
- demonstrate achievements or outcomes above and beyond the expectations for their roles.

There are three categories in the Women of the West Awards:

- Woman of the West – Business
- Woman of the West – Community
- Young Woman of the West – 18 to 30 years

The nominees for each category in 2018 are described in the following pages.

Western Sydney University is proud to present its 2018 Women of the West Awards in collaboration with Coleman Greig Lawyers’ Women in Business Forum.
Young Women of the West

The Young Woman of the West Award acknowledges the achievements and contributions made by a woman aged 18-30 years old.

2018 Nominees

Angela Stansfield
Angela was nominated for her approach to social justice and her community-focussed work in the areas of migrant language support, homelessness, food security, and cancer fundraising for children.

Marija Yelavich
Marija is a Western Sydney University student. She was nominated for her work as a publisher, mentor, and community advocate. Marija was recognised as ‘Law Student of the Year’ at the Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Awards in 2017.
Women of the West – Business

The Woman of the West – Business Award recognises those women that have made significant impacts within their communities and Greater Western Sydney through their drive and leadership in their business endeavours.

2018 Nominees

Peggy Wilcox
Peggy is the founder of Mooney Real Estate. She was nominated for her advocacy for tenants’ rights, for her use of her professional role to offer advice and support to people in need of housing expertise, and for her establishment of the Schools Matter campaign to improve educational infrastructure for young people in the Penrith LGA.

Fiona Smith
Fiona was nominated for her implementation of strategic transformational change at a struggling manufacturing site, resulting in strong business growth, staff retention and team development in her role as Head of Site at Virbac and for her contributions to community in her capacity as President of the Kurrajong Community Forum.

Cynthia Payne
As Chief Executive of SummitCare for the past 15 years, Cynthia has demonstrated a sustained commitment to delivery of quality and innovative aged care services to the people of Western Sydney. Cynthia has a long history of mentoring work, board memberships, and is an active industry commentator and speaker.

Gail Hook
As Nursing Unit Manager of a Neurosurgery / Trauma High Dependency Unit, Gail was nominated for her leadership in implementing a new approach to communication and patient care in clinical decision-making, and for her leadership and mentoring of nursing students and early career nurses.

Deb Croucher
As Founding Director of the Brilliant Group, Deb was nominated for her inspirational leadership and strong commitment to flexible employment opportunities for working parents in Greater Western Sydney.

Maria Kovacic
As co-founder of Western Sydney Women, Maria was nominated for her design and delivery of skill development opportunities in financial literacy, job readiness, and health and well-being for women in Greater Western Sydney. Maria also contributes to business development in an advisory capacity through her membership on a number of professional boards and committees.
Woman of the West – Community

The Woman of the West – Community Award honours those women who have committed to improving the lives and wellbeing of those within their community.

2018 Nominees

Amy Briggs
Amy is a Western Sydney University student and childhood education and care professional. She was nominated for her substantial volunteer work and commitment to promoting youth literacy in the Blue Mountains and Greater Western Sydney.

Nelum Joachim
Nelum was nominated for her extensive initiatives which aim to promote social justice and community engagement in early childhood education and care.

Angelina Synnott
Angelina was nominated for her commitment to improving access to early childhood education and care, with a specific focus on creating safe spaces for children and families at risk.

Allison Kokany
Allison was nominated for her significant work in mental health support and advocacy. She has been involved extensively in the design and delivery of mental health services with a particular focus on the contextual needs of communities across Greater Western Sydney.

Donya Haddad
Donya was nominated for her efforts to raise awareness about issues facing youth, young women, and people from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Elizabeth Docking
Elizabeth was nominated for her long-term commitment to the Community Greening Program, which seeks to promote the social, economic, and health benefits of community gardens across the areas of Mt Druitt, Macarthur and Penrith.
Martha Jabour

Martha was nominated for her substantial and sustained contributions to family and community support, education, and legal reform for those dealing with homicide and traumatic crime, including a major initiative to establish a world-leading residential trauma support centre in Greater Western Sydney, Grace’s Place, for children affected by homicide.

As Director of Fundraising, Marketing, Development and Volunteering at Parramatta Mission, Jo was nominated for her strategic approach to bringing sustainable solutions for at-risk communities in Greater Western Sydney including people facing homelessness, domestic violence and struggling with mental health.

Maria Said

Maria is the CEO of the national charity Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia. She was nominated for her contributions over the past 25 years to patient advocacy and education in allergic disease recognition, management and emergency treatment.

As Co-Founder of the Samuel Morris Foundation, Jo-Ann was nominated for her work to establish local initiatives and an international support network targeting non-fatal drownings. In addition to this work, Jo-ann is actively involved in parental advisory groups for children’s rehabilitation. She has also recently completed a nursing degree.