Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Community Engagement

Australian Catholic University (ACU) sees community engagement as:

- advancing its Mission to serve the common good and enhance the dignity and wellbeing of people and communities, especially those most marginalised or disadvantaged;
- integral to its teaching, learning and research; and
- depending on trusting relationships and genuine partnerships with community organisations, institutions and corporations.

Community engagement draws upon capabilities of the University’s staff and students to work collaboratively with community groups and organisations in mutually agreed projects that build capacity, improve wellbeing, and produce just and sustainable outcomes in the interests of individuals, communities and the University.

The Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Community Engagement honours one outstanding example of transformative national or international community engagement by the University and its partners each year.

The selected project will excel in creative leadership, innovation and long-term effectiveness in advancing the University’s Mission and academic endeavours in specific communities and the broader society, and will position the University as a leader in the community engagement field.

Eligibility
To be eligible a project must include ACU staff and/or students, have at least one community partner external to the University, be operating within the target community with measurable results, contribute to scholarship and research and have demonstrated capacity building. The award is open to the University’s Faculties, Schools and Directorates.

Nominations
Nominations must be submitted on the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Community Engagement Nomination form available to download from www.acu.edu.au/53578 and include:

- the scope of the project and the stakeholders and their roles and relationships;
- its alignment with the mission of the University and the nominated partner(s);
- a description of its achievements and outcomes including:
  - measurable benefits to the community;
  - innovation specifically relating to the project;
potential to extend the learning and knowledge gained beyond the original project through scholarship and influence on public policy;
creativity that positions the project as an example of outstanding leadership in the broad community engagement field;
- evidence of outstanding stakeholder engagement and satisfaction;
- for ACU staff, evidence of outstanding community engagement leadership with the people and organisations involved.

Award Selection
The selection criteria for the Award are:
- Demonstrated ability to bring renewed hope and opportunity to disadvantaged communities;
- Evidence of a local, national and/or international partnership(s) based upon respect, mutual benefit and reciprocity;
- Demonstrated and sustained scholarship, research and significant capacity building through the project;
- Demonstrated long-term community engagement commitment that is measurable, relevant, sustainable, reflective and reciprocal;
- Evidence of excellent stakeholder engagement and satisfaction;
- Demonstrated ability to influence public policy and practice nationally and/or internationally in relation to community engagement;
- Evidence of attraction and retention of volunteer participation.

The selection committee, which includes external representatives and is chaired by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (Academic), will consider nominations and make its recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor.

National and International Awards
The winner of this award may be nominated by the University for other national and international awards.

Nominations must be submitted by Friday 28th October 2011. The nomination must include supporting statements, as attachments, from the partner organisation(s) with which the nominee has been involved in community engagement.

The University reserves the right not to make an Award in any given year.

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