



Procurement Awards for Excellence (Australia)



Public Procurement Principle: **Capacity**



Procurement Stage: **Post-tendering**



Audience: **Procuring entity, Policy maker, Private sector, Civil society**

Description

The Government of Australia established the inaugural Commonwealth Procurement Awards for Excellence in 2019 to recognise leadership and commitment to excellence in procurement. The awards are a new initiative, and provide an opportunity to recognise the positive outcomes delivered to citizens, businesses and the Australian Government through procurement. The nominations period lasted about five weeks and covered four categories:

1. Building entity capability. This category recognises leadership or excellence in building procurement capability to ensure that all procurements deliver value for money.
2. Delivering innovation through procurement. This category recognises innovation in delivering an innovative outcome through procurement.
3. Engaging with risk. This category recognises excellence in engaging with and managing risk in procurement, with a focus on identifying, managing and appropriately apportioning risk to deliver value for money.
4. Engaging with small and medium enterprises. This category recognises strategies or approaches that maximise the potential for SMEs to engage and participate in procurement.

A panel of judges from inside and outside the public sector was convened to evaluate nominations. The judges used a set of category-specific criteria to evaluate the nominations. Shortlisted nominees were given an opportunity to give a 10-minute presentation to the panel, which then selected the winners.

A government information pack stated that, “The Awards program will help promote the important role procurement plays in delivering services and outcomes for government, citizens and the business community; develop case-studies to showcase the commitment

to excellence and achieving value for money outcomes demonstrated by entities; and build a community of highly engaged procurement professionals.” It also outlined the following benefits of participating in the awards programme:

- raising the profile of procurement within entities
- lifting the capability of the procurement cohort
- contributing to activities aimed at showcasing better practice, effective private sector engagement, innovation and excellence in procurement.

The government announced the award winners in November 2019.

Source: OECD (2020), [System Change in Slovenia: Making Public Procurement More Effective](#), OECD Publishing, Paris

