



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

Alumni Relations

Tirkapena Indigenous Alumni Award Rules

The Tirkapena¹ Indigenous Alumni Award recognises the success of University of Adelaide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alumni² who have made an outstanding contribution in any of the prescribed Distinguished Alumni Award fields, as below:

- **Humanitarian** – life changing in nature, above and beyond the expectations of one's professional or community commitments, undertaken in an altruistic or philanthropic manner;
- **Professional Excellence** – outstanding achievement within one's profession that has been recognised by peers within that profession;
- **Outstanding Community Service** – recognises outstanding voluntary service in the further development and enrichment of communities either within or external to the University.

Eligibility

The Tirkapena Indigenous Alumni Award is open to graduates of the University of Adelaide who are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.

Award Criteria

1. has achieved significant accomplishments since graduation
2. is identifiable as a leader through professional and/or community achievements

Who can make Nominations?

All graduates, former and current staff, as well as the wider community may nominate any eligible alumnus for the Tirkapena Indigenous Alumni Award. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Nominations Process

- Nominations will be called for by the University of Adelaide with the deadline for submissions closing within six weeks.
- This award will be promoted through the University's website and relevant University publications, the alumni networks, and more broadly to the wide community.
- A nomination form will be available on the Alumni web site. Nominations are to be forwarded to the Alumni Relations Officer (Students & Recognition).

Confidentiality

Nominations must be kept confidential between the nominator and the University of Adelaide. No approach should be made to any nominee until the selection process has been completed. Only successful nominees will be approached once the selection process has been completed. Nominations in breach of the above guidelines will not be considered.

Selection Process

The selection committee comprises:

- Chair of Alumni Council (as Chair of the Selection Panel)
- An Executive Dean
- A Head of Research Institute
- Dean, Indigenous Research and Education Strategy
- Chief Executive, External Relations
- Manager, Alumni Relations (Secretary)

The Selection committee will recommend nominations which meet the criteria to the Vice-Chancellor, for final decision. An award may or may not be made in each category in each year.

What do I need to include in the nomination?

- A Statement of Support highlighting the outstanding contribution of the alumnus (maximum 500 words)
- One letter of endorsement. The endorser do not have to be alumni of the University of Adelaide. A maximum of one page per letter applies.

Presentation of the Awards

The Award will be presented by the University at the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony or, if the recipient is unable to attend the ceremony, at an appropriate occasion in consultation with the recipient.

¹ "Tirkapena" meaning "a person inclined to learn, understand, know, perceive in Kurna language. The Kurna People are the original custodian of the Adelaide plains on which the University of Adelaide three campuses are built, Adelaide, Waite and Roseworthy.

² As per the *Rules of the University – Alumni Council* approved by the University Council on 29 July 2013, the definition of Alumni is:

- (a) all graduates of the University;
- (b) all former students of the University who have completed at least one year of study at the University, or, in the case of study abroad, students who have completed at least one semester of study; and
- (c) all former academic or professional staff members of the University who completed at least 3 years' service at the University.