Australian Government

THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE

Science and innovation prizes

2027



Nominate for the 2027 prizes

Nominations close 7 January 2027 at 5:00 pm AEDT.

The science and innovation prizes celebrate the demonstrated achievements of scientists and innovators working across many fields, from early career researchers to leaders shaping the future of Australia.

Prize recipients receive prize money of $50,000 or $250,000, a medallion, national recognition and exposure to new opportunities and networks. Highly ranked nominees may also receive a Highly Commended certificate.

The prizes

Science prizes

Prime Minister's Prize for Science $250,000
Awarded for a significant advancement of knowledge through science. Can be awarded to an individual or a team of up to 4 individuals.

Frank Fenner Prize for Life Scientist of the Year $50,000
Awarded to an early to mid-career scientist for an exceptional achievement in life science that benefits, or has the potential to benefit, human welfare or society. For achievements made within 10 years (full-time equivalent) of completing relevant studies.

Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year $50,000
Awarded to an early to mid-career scientist for an exceptional achievement in physical science that benefits, or has the potential to benefit, human welfare or society. For achievements made within 10 years (full-time equivalent) of completing relevant studies.

Innovation prizes

Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation $250,000
Awarded for the commercialisation or translation of scientific knowledge into an available product, service or process that has demonstrated substantial economic, social and, where relevant, environmental benefits. Can be awarded to an individual or a team of up to 4 individuals.

Prize for New Innovators $50,000
Awarded to an individual for early achievement towards commercialising or translating their scientific research with economic, social and, where relevant, environmental benefits. For achievements made within 10 years (full-time equivalent) of completing relevant studies.

Why nominate

Nominating someone spotlights their achievements, helps ensure their efforts are seen, valued and remembered. It could enhance the nominee's career, confidence or visibility.

Who can nominate

Nominators must:

- be personally knowledgeable of the nominated achievement and able to offer informed opinions about its significance
- hold professional qualifications in the same or a closely related field as the nominee
- not be a close family member of the nominee.

Who can be nominated

Someone who has made a meaningful contribution to science or research-based innovation. Nominees:

- must be willing to be nominated
- must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia
- can be at any career stage: early career, mid-career or late career
- can be from academia, research or industry sectors
- can work in any of the 14 science fields specified in the prizes guidelines.

Diversity in nominations matters

The prizes celebrate the breadth and diversity of Australia's best talent.

Recipients become role models for people working in STEM. We encourage nominations from:

- women and gender diverse people
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples
- people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- LGBTQIA+ people
- people living in regional and remote areas
- people living with disabilities
- people from low socio-economic backgrounds
- neurodivergent people.

Nominations are assessed relative to opportunity. Career breaks, caring responsibilities, community roles and cultural obligations will not disadvantage nominees.

How to nominate

Go to **industry.gov.au/PMPrizesNominate** and read the guidelines. Complete your stage 1 nomination via the link to the online portal.

- Address all eligibility and assessment criteria.
- Include the contact details of 2 supporters and 2 independent referees.
- Provide an up-to-date CV for each nominee.

If your nomination progresses to stage 2, you will be asked to provide more detail.

Key dates for the 2027 prizes

- Stage 1 nominations close: **Thursday 7 January 2027 at 5:00 pm AEDT**
- Assessment and shortlisting
- Stage 2 nominations open: **mid-April 2027**
- Stage 2 nominations close: **early May 2027**
- Recipients announced: **late 2027**

Start your nomination early and don't miss the closing date.

Find out more

To find out more about the prizes and read the 2027–29 guidelines, go to

industry.gov.au/PMPrizesNominate

The prizes are funded through the Australian Government's *Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program.*