



Minister's Art Education R-12 Awards 2026 - EARLY CAREER TEACHER CATEGORY

INFORMATION: How do these Awards work? PART ONE

WHAT ARE THESE AWARDS ABOUT?

The prestigious Minister's Arts Education Awards recognise Arts educators' outstanding achievements in South Australian schools.

The awards are designed to:

- Acknowledge and celebrate the valuable contribution made by outstanding Arts educators.
- Celebrate the role of Arts education and its place in the community.
- Identify Arts educators who are creative and innovative in guiding children and young people to realise their potential.
- Provide opportunities for outstanding teachers of The Arts to engage in quality professional learning in The Arts.

HOW MANY AWARDS ARE THERE AND WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES?

One Award is available in each of the following five categories:

1. **Public School Category**

Primary Teacher of the Arts

Secondary Teacher of the Arts

2. **Non-Government School Category**

Primary Teacher of the Arts

Secondary Teacher of the Arts

3. **Early Career Category *****

Teacher of the Arts in their first five years of teaching (can come from any sector or system – Public Education, Catholic or Independent)

***EXTRA INFO RE THE EARLY CAREER CATEGORY:

Early Career Educators teaching journey can include contract, TRT and on-going appointments.

Early Career Educators can also apply for other categories of the Awards.

The Panel can choose to consider any applicant who is in their first 5 years of teaching who applied in any Category as a potential recipient of the Early Career Award.

WHAT DO SUCCESSFUL AWARDEES RECEIVE?

Award recipients receive \$8 000 to support their professional learning.

This Award funding is intended to be predominantly used to support an individual educator's professional development; however, some funds may be used for student and community activities that relate to the recipient's professional development. The funding's key purpose is to provide Awardees with opportunities to further develop innovation, best practice and leadership of The Arts.

The Award funding is provided for expenditure during the 2027 calendar year.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

- You have NOT won a Minister's Arts Education Award before
- You are a teacher currently working in a South Australian school relevant to the category you are applying for
- You must be intending to teach in the Arts field in 2027
- Your Principal/Line Manager must be supportive of your application
- Your application is complete and adheres to the word counts
- You must be able to attend the Educators SA State World Teachers Day Award ceremony at Adelaide Oval on the evening of the 30th October 2026 to receive your Award from the Minister for Education, Training and Skills.
- You must provide consent for your name and image to be used by Educators SA, the Department for Education, CESA, or AISSA, by providing a completing a relevant consent form
- You must, as required, be willing to be videoed and/or talk with media, for the purpose of marketing the Awards
- You must be willing to share your professional learning with colleagues through an event organised by Educators SA or an Arts Professional Association, so that your experiences can be of benefit to the broader Arts education community
- You are required to submit a short report to Educators SA outlining the outcomes of your professional learning by the end of 2027



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INFORMATION: How do these Awards work? PART TWO

HOW DOES THE SELECTION PROCESS WORK?

A Panel comprised of representatives from Educators SA, the Department for Education, Non-Government education sectors, and relevant Arts Professional Associations, will be the lucky ones to meet and consider your application. The panel will explore your:

- Eligibility
- Responses to the questions
- Supporting endorsements
- Your Professional Learning Proposal
- Curriculum Vitae

To ensure the Panel can make an informed decision, Educators SA may choose to chat with your Line Manager/Principal to provide additional information or another perspective on the information you have provided.

If they still feel like they want to dig deeper and understand your application better, you may be required to meet the panel online for a short discussion to clarify your professional learning proposal.

Recommendations from the Panel are then endorsed through Educators SA. Applicants will be contacted by the 12th October to advise you of the outcome!

SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING THE APPLICATION PROCESS EASIER!

Before proceeding with this online application, have a look at the questions you will be required to answer and plan out your responses out. They can be found on the Arts Awards Page [Click here](#)

DON'T LOSE YOUR APPLICATION - UNDERSTAND HOW SURVEY MONKEY OPERATES!

Partially completed applications can be finalised using the same device and web-browser on which they were started. **HOT TIP** - don't switch devices as your application data will not transit across! When exiting a partially completed application, please ensure you click 'next' at the bottom of the page you have been working on before exiting.

HOW MUCH TIME HAVE YOU GOT?

Applications close at 11pm on Tuesday 29th September 2026

JULY - Awards launched

TUES 28th JULY, 5-6pm, Online zoom chat "Getting Started"

JULY/AUGUST/SEPT - Prepare your application materials

29th SEPT - Ensure you have lodged your application online by the 11pm deadline

12th OCT - Applicants notified of the results

WHO CAN YOU CHAT TO IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

You could come along to the **"Online Zoom Chat"** with the Arts Awards Ambassador on **Tuesday 28th July, 5-6pm.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Educators SA:

Lisa-Jane O'Connor, Chief Executive

T: 08 84635875

E: ce@edsa.sa.edu.au

ARTS AWARDS AMBASSADOR

Cherie Broad, Manager, Arts Projects, Department for Education

M: 0401 123 380

E: Cherie.Broad@sa.gov.au

HAVE A GO! GET INVOLVED...
We can't wait to read your proposals!



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Application

Applicants self-nominate for these awards

* 1. I am applying for the Early Career Teacher Award. Please tick your current role below...

- ☐ Public School Primary Teacher of the Arts
- ☐ Public School Secondary Teacher of the Arts
- ☐ Non-Government School Primary Teacher of the Arts
- ☐ Non-Government School Secondary Teacher of the Arts
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 2. Are you in your first 5 years of teaching the Arts including contract, TRT and ongoing appointments?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* 3. I am an Australian citizen or have permanent residency in Australia

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* 4. Applicant details:

Title / Preferred pronoun	
Full Name	
School	
Email Address	
Mobile	

5. Principal's contact details

Title/ Preferred pronoun	
Full Name	
School	
Email Address	
Mobile	

6. Line manager's contact details (leave blank if the principal is your line manager)

Title/ Preferred pronoun	
Full Name	
School	
Email Address	
Mobile	

7. Will you be at your current site in 2027?

☐ Yes

☐ No

8. If not, where will you be working in 2027?



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Supporting Statements

This section is to be completed by the applicant.

Please note there is a 300 word limit in each comment box - the aim is to make this application process achievable for both you and the Panel. Thanks for complying with this limit so your application can be considered! 😊

USE OF AI - AI is an important tool that all educators use as they create materials and resources. It is important to note however, that applications created with AI tend to feel very generic to the readers on a Panel, and they are easy to spot! Use generative AI powerfully, and make sure it is your voice the panellists are hearing 😊

* 9. **HELP US LEARN MORE ABOUT YOU AS AN ARTS EDUCATOR:**

You could choose to share with us:

- how you have approached the learning and teaching of the Arts
- your journey as an Arts Educator till now
- what you are most passionate about as an Arts Educator
- your biggest challenges as an Arts Educator
- what you are most proud of as an Arts Educator

(max 300 words)

* 10. **YOUR IMPACT AS AN ARTS EDUCATOR:** How do you excite children and young people about learning in and/or through the Arts? What have been the most impactful outcomes for your learners? How have you built a higher profile or participation for and/or in the Arts in your community? (max 300 words)

* 11. **UNDERSTANDING YOU AS A PROFESSIONAL:** Professional educators are continually seeking to grow! Taking the step to apply for this Award is one way you are demonstrating your commitment to developing further, but we would love to know more! If you think about your last few years as an educator, share with us some of the steps you have taken to develop yourself professionally in the Arts.
(eg: Leadership/Engagement in Arts Professional Associations, Working towards accreditations, professional learning experiences...)

(max 300 words)

* 12. **GROWING AS AN ARTS EDUCATOR - PART ONE**

If successful, what do you plan to do with your Professional learning funding of \$8 000?

Make sure you include information about:

- **WHAT** (attend conferences, workshops, course, work with an Artist, acquire Arts equipment, take up subscriptions and memberships, associated work release for identified activities)
- **WHEN** (include specific dates where possible and relevant)
- **WHERE AND WITH WHO**

NOTE: The Award Prize cannot be used to support business development or private enterprise.

(max 300 words)

* 13. **GROWING AS AN ARTS EDUCATOR - PART TWO**

APPROXIMATE COSTINGS (They don't need to be exact, but it needs to be evident to the Panel that you have researched them. Could include event fees, transport, accommodation, per diem, mentor fees, TRT days...)

Event fees - e.g.
conference, course
fees

Associated costs
including
transport,
accommodation,
and per diem.

Mentoring or other
fees associated
with working with
an artist (s)

Arts relevant
subscriptions and
memberships

Acquire necessary
Arts equipment

Total number of
TRT back fill days
required (and
approved by line
manager/Principal)

NOTE: No more
than \$2 000 of the
funding can be
allocated to this
aspect of your
proposal

Other expenses

* 14. **WHY AND HOW WILL THESE EXPERIENCES HELP YOU GROW AS AN ARTS**

EDUCATOR : Why and how will the professional learning experiences you have planned, help you be and become an even better, more impactful Arts Educator in the future? (max 300 words)

* 15. Upload your CV

Please name your file: firstname_lastname_CV

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen



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Supporting Statement

This section is to be completed by your Principal / Line Manager.

You can copy it into this online application form or upload it in Question 19. Please note, if you upload the supporting statement it must address all three of the questions listed below. For each relevant question, insert "see uploaded documents in Q19".

USE OF AI - AI is an important tool that all educators use as they create materials and resources. It is important to note however, that Principal/Line Manager Statements created with AI tend to feel very generic to the readers on a Panel, and they are easy to spot! Use generative AI powerfully, and make sure it is your voice the panellists are hearing 😊

* 16. Please provide a statement about the applicant's achievements and impact as an Arts educator either in the classroom and/or as a curriculum leader in relation to The Arts. (max 300 words)

* 17. What do you see as the most impactful aspect of the Applicant's Arts learning and teaching practices? What makes their practice effective for ALL their learners? (max 300 words)

* 18. If the applicant is in their first 5 years of teaching (including contracts, TRT and ongoing positions), how have they demonstrated outstanding Arts practices for this stage of their career? (max 300 words)

* 19. Upload the Referee Statement (optional)

Please name your file: Firstname_Lastname_Referee

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen



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Declarations

* 20. **Applicant's declaration:**

By ticking yes, I confirm that I am nominating for the Minister's Arts Education Award 2026. I understand that, if successful, I will be required to attend the State Awards Presentation Evening on Friday 30th October 2026 and undertake the professional learning activities in 2027, as per my EdSA approved professional learning plan. I also agree to sharing my learning with the education community in a manner to be negotiated with Educators SA. I agree to submit a report on my professional learning experience by the advised date.

☐ Yes

21. **Principal/Line Manager's Declaration**

By ticking 'Yes', I confirm that my Principal/Line Manager has both seen, and endorsed this application.

The Panel may elect to contact your Principal as a Referee.

☐ Yes

22. **Principal/Line Manager's Name and Date of Confirmation**

Name

Date

Email

Mobile