

News Release

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NSW & ACT's top entrepreneurs in the running for Entrepreneur Of The Year title

EY today announced the elite group of entrepreneurs from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory who are in the running to be named as this year's Australian EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™.

Seventeen outstanding entrepreneurs from the Eastern region will join the list of 84 talented entrepreneurs from across the country nominated for this year's awards. The nominees come from a diverse range of fields including fashion, occupational injury management, mining equipment, food and education services.

EY's Sydney Managing Partner, Lynn Kraus said it was inspiring to see such an impressive and diverse group of candidates taking part in this year's nominations process.

"EY has been running the Entrepreneur Of The Year awards in Australia since 2001 and the fact that, 14 years on, we are still seeing such amazing nominees coming through the program reinforces the high calibre of entrepreneurialism our regions have on offer," Kraus said.

EY's Canberra Managing Partner, Lucille Halloran said, "The kind of innovative thinking we are witnessing among this group of entrepreneurs is so important. Entrepreneurs make a significant contribution to our business communities – creating jobs, driving innovation and productivity, boosting the economy and inspiring others to act on opportunities."

"We congratulate all of our 2014 Eastern Region nominees for being selected to take part in this year's EY Entrepreneur Of The Year program and wish them all the best in their journey towards the national competition."

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Grahame Petersen, Group Executive Business and Private Banking, Commonwealth Bank, said the Bank is proud to support a program that celebrates entrepreneurial thinking.

“This is the third year Commonwealth Bank has been the principal sponsor of the awards and we consistently see an impressive standard of business pioneers nominated for the coveted title of Australian EY Entrepreneur Of The Year.

“The awards set the benchmark for innovation and leadership in business and it is a huge honour for nominees to be associated with the program. This year’s finalist line-up reflects the breadth of talent across a range of industries and showcases the individuals who are at the forefront of Australian enterprise,” Mr Petersen said.

The only truly global program of its kind, EY Entrepreneur Of The Year is considered the world’s most prestigious business award, with entrepreneurs participating from more than 145 cities in over 60 countries. Each country’s program sends its overall winner to the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ awards in Monte Carlo.

The Eastern Region nominees will first vie for regional honours at an award ceremony in Sydney on 7 August. Winners will then go on to compete against winners from the other regions at the national awards, which will be held in Melbourne at the end of November. The overall 2014 Australian winner will travel to Monte Carlo next year to represent Australia at the 2015 World Entrepreneur Of The Year awards, following in the footsteps of previous Australian winners including Andrew Bassat of SEEK (2013) and Anthony Podesta of McMillan Shakespeare (2012).

The list of Eastern Region nominees in the 2014 Australian EY Entrepreneur Of The Year awards program is below. Additional information, including biographies for each of the nominees and the full list of nominees from each of the regions, is also available online at ey.com/au/eoy.

Eastern Region (NSW & ACT) nominees

- Scott Carr – Datapod
- Nahji Chu – misschu
- Adam Cryer and Ross Robinson – Real Institute Pty Ltd
- Mike Ford – SiteMinder
- Peter Freedman – RØDE Microphones
- Christine Garforth – Animal Supplies (Wholesale)
- Nick Georgalis – GEOCON Group Pty Ltd
- Bob Hall – Sandstone Technology

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- Ian Hedley – Hedweld
- Philip Jackson – Sportstec Limited
- Jane Lu – SHOWPO
- Alec Lynch – DesignCrowd.com
- Brooke Taylor – Injury Treatment – Occupational Injury Management
- Dr Catriona Wallace – Fifth Quadrant Group and Flamingo
- Anthony Woodward – Bulletproof
- Social entrepreneur – Margo Ward – KidsXpress

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About EY Entrepreneur Of The Year

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The unique award makes a difference through the way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential, and recognises the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global award of its kind, EY Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognising them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 145 cities in more than 60 countries.

The Australian Entrepreneur Of The Year awards program, launched in 2001, is conducted in five regions culminating in the national awards. The program honours entrepreneurs whose ingenuity and perseverance have created and sustained successful, growing business ventures. Entrepreneur Of The Year's primary objective is to identify, acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contribution entrepreneurs make to the Australian business community and economy.

The Australian Entrepreneur Of The Year program now has alumni of over 1,200 entrepreneurs who have participated in the program. Since the program's inception more than 15,000 people have attended Entrepreneur Of The Year events and award ceremonies in Australia.

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