



THE BISHOP'S AWARD

2016

YEARS
7-11

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Federation of Parents & Friends Associations Catholic Schools Student's Award

An award for students in Catholic Schools
from Year 7 – Year 11

Application & Information Pack

What is the Bishop's Award?

The Bishop's Award seeks to recognise publicly the efforts of students within our diocese who have contributed to the community through their parish, church group or church agency. This may include involvement in groups or agencies such as Caritas, Youth Ministries, St Vincent de Paul, Mini Vinnies or similar church groups.

It is hoped that this recognition will serve as a means of acknowledging and encouraging the continued efforts of these and other students.

The Bishop's Award comprises three categories:

- **Catholic Schools Student's Bishop's Award**
- Catholic Students Bishop's Award
- Catholic Young People Bishop's Award

Catholic Schools Student's Bishop's Award is open to students, Years 7-11, currently enrolled in our Catholic Secondary Schools. In this category there will be up to six awards each year with two being awarded for a male and female for each of stage 4, 5 and Year 11.

Catholic Students Bishop's Award is open to Catholic students residing within the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese and belonging to a parish within the diocese. The student will be enrolled in Years 7-11 and currently attending school. They may be home-schooled, in State schools or Independent schools. There will be up to two awards for a male and female.

Catholic Young People Bishop's Award is open to young Catholic people from Year 12 to age 25 residing in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese and belonging to a parish within the diocese. There will be up to two awards for a male and female.





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In each category there will be an award of \$1000 which may contribute towards the student's or young person's education or faith formation e.g. World Youth Day, Diocesan young person's retreat, music ministry. Each student who receives a Bishop's Award will also receive a Certificate of Recognition.

What do I need to do?

Students may nominate themselves or be nominated by their parent(s), carer or a member of their community.

The student will need to complete the attached application form and provide the following information for consideration:

- Current contact details.
- School name and current stage of enrolment.
- The Catholic school in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle s/he will be attending in 2016.
- Evidence of involvement in and notable contributions to his/her school, parish and broader community through his/her continued good works.
- Parental consent to apply for the Bishop's Award.
- Seek the support of their Parish Priest and include them as a referee for their application.
- Diocesan Image Release form.

In the case of students being nominated by a member of his/her community, the nominator must seek the consent of the parent(s) and student prior to nominating.

Applicants must also be aware that should their nomination be successful they may be expected to participate in promotion of subsequent Bishop's Award activities for the following year.

What happens next?

The student or their nominator will need to submit his/her completed Bishop's Award Application by the closing date: **22nd December 2016**.

Late applications will not be accepted.

The student is required to inform and seek the support as a referee of either his/her parish priest, deacon, minister, pastor or religious community leader as well as leaders of the volunteer organisations with which they are involved as a possible third referee.

All applications must then be forwarded to the Bishop's representative who will remove names prior to forwarding them to the Bishop's Selection Panel for consideration.

There is no limit to the number of applications each school can forward.



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The Bishop's Selection Panel will then make a recommendation to Bishop Bill.

Students will be notified of the outcome of their application and arrangements made to present the awards during the Bishop's Youth Mass as well as the Catholic Schools Week Mass. Those students who are selected to receive a Bishop's Award will receive the prize indicated as well as a Certificate of Recognition.

Review and selection

It will be the responsibility of the Bishop's Selection Panel to review and determine up to 6 students who are to receive the Bishop's Award. The Terms of Reference shall be determined by the Bishop's Selection Panel under the direction of the Bishop.

The Selection Panel shall be made up of a member of the Clergy, the Chair of the Federation of P & F Associations (or their delegated representative), an Assistant Director from the CSO, Bernadette Gibson representing the DCMYP and the Vice Chancellor – Pastoral Ministries (or their delegated representative).

The Selection Panel shall assemble to review and recommend to the Bishop up to six (6) students who are to receive the Bishop's Award.

Members of the Selection Panel shall disclose any conflict of interest and excuse themselves from the Selection Panel should a family member or relative apply for the Bishop's Award. Parish Priests are also ineligible to be a member of the Selection Panel should they be a referee for an applicant.

All applications forwarded to the Bishop's Selection Panel representative shall be de-identified as far as possible for the purpose of short-listing and the formation of a recommendation by the Selection Panel. The Parent Liaison and Resource Officer shall be responsible for verifying possible successful applications for an award by contacting nominated referees. This in no way is an indication of the success or otherwise of the application. Upon making its recommendation, the Selection Panel shall forward the application in its entirety to the Bishop for consideration and ratification.

The Bishop's Award will be presented to the recipients during the Bishop's Youth Mass as well as the Catholic Schools Week Mass to be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Those students who are selected to receive a Bishop's Award will receive the prize indicated as well as a Certificate of Recognition.

The Diocese shall, upon confirmation of its recommendation from the Bishop, write to each nominated student advising them of the outcome of their application.

The decision of Bishop Bill is final.