**Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle**

 Federation of Parents & Friends Associations

Catholic Young People’s Award

An award for young people aged Year 12 – age 25 years.

Application and Information Pack

## **What Is the Bishop’s Award?**

The Bishop’s Award seeks to recognise publicly the efforts of young people 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. This also includes contributions made within parishes e.g.: Liturgy and Youth Ministries.

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

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. These may be home-schooled, in State schools or Independent schools. There will be up to two awards each year 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 each year for a male and female.

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 Youth Retreat, music ministry. Each young person will also receive a Certificate of Recognition.

## **What do I need to do?**

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

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

* Current contact details.
* Evidence of involvement in and notable contributions to his/her parish and broader community and educational institution (if applicable) through his/her continued good works.
* Parental consent to apply for the Bishop’s Award (if under 18 years of age).
* Seek the support of the Parish Priest and include them as a referee for their application.
* Diocesan Image Release form.

***In the case of a young person, under the age of 18 being nominated by a member of his/her community, the nominator must seek the consent of the parent(s) and young person 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 young person or their nominator will need to submit his/her completed Bishop’s Award Application via email to bishopsaward@mn.catholic.edu.au by the closing date: **2 February 2018.**

**Late applications will not be accepted.**

The young person is required to inform and seek the support of his/her parish priest, deacon or parish Coordinator to act as referees. They should also seek the support of other parish community leaders of the organisations with which they are involved as a possible third referee.

All applications must then be forwarded to the Bishop’s representative who will de-identify the application prior to forwarding it to the Bishop’s Award Selection Panel for consideration.

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

Young People will be notified of the outcome of their application. Successful applicants will be recognised and their award presented to them at a Liturgy presided over by the Bishop Bill

## **Review and selection**

It will be the responsibility of the Bishop’s Award Selection Panel to review and recommend to Bishop Bill those applicants who may receive the Bishop’s Award. The Terms of Reference shall be determined by 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, The Chair of the DCMYP (or their delegated representative) and the Vice Chancellor – Pastoral Ministries (or their delegated representative).

The Selection Panel shall assemble to review and recommend to the Bishop up to two (2) young people who are to receive the Bishop’s Award.

Members of the panel shall disclose any conflict of interest and excuse themselves 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 Award 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 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 Parent Liaison and Resource Officer shall forward the application in its entirety to Bishop Bill for consideration and ratification.

Successful applicants will be recognised and their award presented to them at a Liturgy presided over by the Bishop on 9 March 2018 at St John's Chapel, Maitland. 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 young person advising them of the outcome of their application.

The decision of Bishop Bill is final.