

● NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AWARDS POLICY

Policy no: BP12

● Policy detail

Policy description

This policy aims to:

- establish an awards system at both a national and regional level which is appropriate to an organisation such as Amnesty International Australia;
- to specify criteria for the nomination and selection of candidates.
- to acknowledge member activism and recognise members and groups who have shown outstanding and long-term service to the organisation.

Policy applies to: All Amnesty International Australia members

Policy owner: Chair, Activism and Membership Committee

● Policy approval

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1. Introduction

Amnesty International is a grassroots, membership-driven movement. There are many dedicated and active members in the Australian Section who generously contribute their time and energy to promote and defend human rights.

Amnesty International Australia acknowledges this member activism by recognising members and groups of activists who have shown outstanding and long-term service to the organisation.

1.1 Purpose and Overview

Research has shown that Amnesty International Australia (AIA) needs to acknowledge and reward member activism. The aim of this policy is:

- to establish an awards system at both a national and regional level which is appropriate to an organisation such as AIA;
- to specify criteria for the nomination and selection of candidates.

1.2 Scope and application

This Policy applies to Members and Activism Leadership Committees

2. National Award

2.1 Nature of the Award

The national award takes the form of the AIA freedom candle holder with the name of the recipient of the award (awardee) and the year of the award inscribed. A register with the names and a short profile of the awardees shall be kept in the Section office.

2.2 Nomination Procedure

The National Board calls for nominations from the general membership by using relevant communication channels at least six weeks before the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Every member of AIA can nominate one or more members, or AIA groups of activists. Members or groups of activists cannot nominate themselves.

Nominations must be in writing and should state why a person or group is being nominated, and outline the nominee's involvement in AIA activism, addressing the selection criteria in this policy and any guidelines under this policy. Nominations for individuals should not only list the various positions that a nominee might have held within AIA, but should also describe some of the nominee's achievements in those positions and why they are important for AIA. If the nominee is a group of activists, the nomination should list the achievements and the importance of these achievements for AIA.

Nominations are to be sent to the Activism Leadership Committee of the region where the nominee is based. The Activism Leadership Committee recommends the nominations it considers most appropriate to the National Board, or its delegate, having established the nominee consent to accepting the award in the event they are successful. Each Activism Leadership Committee may recommend no more than two candidates each year. The Activism Leadership Committee should state in writing why it supports a particular candidate or group of activists. It does not have to make any recommendations to the National Board if it is of the opinion that none of the nominations meets the appropriate standard. It does not have to give any reasons why it does not support a nomination.

The National Board, or its delegate, will review the recommendations and make the final decision. The National Board, or its delegate, will inform the relevant Regional President who has nominated the successful candidate or group of activists of its final decision. The National Board does not have to give reasons for its decision.

The award is limited to one person or group of activists per year. The National Board does not have to give out the award every year if there are no suitable candidates or groups.

2.3 Selection Criteria

Candidates are limited to AIA members and AIA groups of activists at the time of nomination.

Candidates for the award must have:

- participated in AIA activism for at least ten years. In exceptional circumstances the National Board may decide that a lesser period is sufficient. Periods of paid employment for AIA do not count.

Candidates or groups of activists must have made an outstanding and meritorious contribution to AIA activism. Contributions may have been in any of the following areas:

- participation in an action group or other activist structure;
- work as a member or group in a region or the National Board;
- work as an office volunteer; and
- any other activity the Activism Leadership Committees and the National Board consider to be appropriate.

It is intended that the award should be made only for an outstanding level of service. To ensure that the award retains its value, it should be given only after careful consideration of nominations.

While AIA greatly appreciates the generosity of its donors, some of whom repeatedly give sizeable donations, it is not intended that donating money in itself should count as a form of service for the purposes of this policy.

Candidates must not have received the national award previously, or in the last ten years in the case of groups of activists. A candidate or group of activists is not precluded from receiving the national award on the basis that he/she/they have previously received a regional award. Candidates may be nominated for the award posthumously.

2.4 Notification

The National Board or its delegate will notify the relevant Regional President prior to the AGM.

2.5 Presentation of the Award

The National Board Chair presents the award at the AGM. If the awardee is not present, the award will be presented to the delegates of the awardee's Region, who in turn will ensure that the award will be presented to the awardee at an appropriate event in the region. AIA will fund the awardee's attendance to the award presentation including transport, accommodation and dinner, but does not fund the awardee's attendance to the AGM. The National Board Chair or a delegate of the awardee's region should read a citation.

AIA's publications will feature a short profile of each year's awardee.

3. Regional Awards

3.1 Nature of the Award

The regional award takes the form of a framed certificate signed by the National Board Chair and the respective Regional President. The certificates are uniform throughout the regions. Each Activism Leadership Committee should keep a register featuring a profile of the Region's awardees.

3.2 Nomination Procedure

Each Activism Leadership Committee calls for nominations from the Region's general membership by using relevant communication channels at least two months prior to the award being awarded at a regional event.

Any member of AIA in the Region can nominate one or more members or AIA groups of activists in the Region. Members or groups of activists cannot nominate themselves. Nominations must be in writing and outline the candidate's involvement in AIA activism.

Nominations are to go to the respective Activism Leadership Committees, which will decide who receives the award. Activism Leadership Committees do not have to give reasons for their decisions. Each Activism Leadership Committee should not give out more than two awards per year. The award does not have to be given every year if there are no suitable candidates.

3.3 Selection Criteria

Candidates are limited to AIA members and AIA groups of activists at the time of nomination.

Candidates for the award must have:

- participated in AIA activism for at least five years. In exceptional circumstances an Activism Leadership Committee may decide that a lesser period is sufficient. Periods of paid employment for AIA do not count.

Candidates or groups of activists must have made an outstanding and meritorious contribution to AIA activism. Contributions may have been in the following areas:

- participation in an action group or other activist structure;
- work as a member a group or in a region;
- work as an office volunteer; or
- any other activity the Activism Leadership Committees consider to be appropriate.

While AIA greatly appreciates the generosity of its donors, some of whom repeatedly give sizeable donations, it is not intended that donating money in itself should count as a form of service for the purposes of this policy.

Candidates or groups must not have received the regional award previously.

Candidates may be nominated for the award posthumously.

3.4 Notification

The Activism Leadership Committee will notify the awardees and ask whether they are willing to accept the award.

3.5 Presentation of the award

The awards are presented at a regional event organised by the Activism Leadership Committee. If the Award is presented at a Face to Face event the Activism Leadership Committee may fund travel for the awardee to the award presentation. AIA's regional publications will feature a short profile of each year's awardee.