

Green Gown Awards Australasia Evaluation Report 2011

The second Green Gown Awards Australasia was held on 29 September 2011 at the 11th International ACTS conference at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide, 28 - 30 September. Over 120 delegates from universities, TAFES, government and business attended the event.

The Awards have grown since their pilot in 2010 with 3 new categories for 2011 bringing the total number of categories to 6.

2011 Award Categories

Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change
Continuous Improvement – Specific Area
Learning & Teaching
Student Initiatives & Campaigns
TAFE & Smaller Institutions
ACTS Award of Excellence.

All tertiary education institutions were eligible to enter and we saw 27 institutions and 12 successful projects. Winner's details can be found at <http://www.acts.asn.au/index.php/programs-and-initiatives/green-gown-awards-australasia/green-gown-awards-australasia-2011/2011-winners/>

ACTS Conference Evaluation Report

While the conference seemed to go well from the perspective of the ACTS Board and conference organisers, the University of Adelaide, it is extremely important for us to understand and gain feedback from those who attended the event to ensure we improve our conference every year.

Thank you to those of you who took the time to respond to our short survey. We have been able to gain some fantastic suggestions to improve for next year. Below is an overview of what you had to say.

Further to the ACTS Conference evaluation report which aims to address the feedback from the conference delegates, this report just focuses on the specific feedback from conference delegates on the Green Gown Awards Australasia Awards Ceremony.

The overall delegate feedback for this event was very positive. 69.4% rated the quality of the event excellent and 22.2% as good.

Specific question feedback was as follows:

When looking at recognising achievements through the Green Gown Awards 86% of delegates thought this is an excellent initiative and 8% good.

Delegates also thought the quality of this year’s award nominations were high, with 30% thinking they were excellent and 42% good.

Lastly, most delegates will encourage their organisation to submit a nomination for next year’s Green Gown Awards? Over 83% said yes.

These results prove very positive. The majority of delegates find the Awards relevant and important. Our aim now is to build on the feedback from delegates on how to improve the Awards and ensure they significantly contribute to recognising and rewarding the good practice occurring throughout tertiary education.

Suggestions for improvement to the Green Gown Awards Australasia are listed below in Table 1, accompanied by an ACTS response.

Table 1: *Suggestions for improving the Green Gown Awards Australasia*

Suggestion	ACTS response	Will you see it next year?
Clear guidelines for applications	There are already clear guidelines for applications as set out in the ‘guidance for applicants’ document. However we will ensure these are made more readily available to applicants. Plus if anyone has any specific relevant information that is not covered in the document please do let us know and we will ensure it is included.	Yes. We will ensure that the guidance for applicant’s document is highly visible and include any additional information.
More information about what the winning entry has achieved	This is a fine line between providing enough information for the audience and providing too much to keep the evening flowing. The few short sentences that the presenter describes after the awards have been announced is key, but we will look into further distribution methods for next year, perhaps the use of video? Provided we have the time, resources and commitment of the applicants to do this. Further discussion is needed. We will ensure that the winner’s brochure is highly visual after the event (provided on the delegate’s tables) and perhaps provide more copies of the winner’s brochure after the event for interested parties. We need to provide more	Yes. We will ensure more information is provided and is highly visible on both the shortlisted entries and the winners.

	<p>information on the shortlisted entries available during the conference. This information will be provided on the website, and in the delegate information packs for the conference as well as via shortlist banners (with a short description of the initiative) available around the venue during the conference and on the evening ceremony.</p>	
<p>More categories</p>	<p>More categories will be included for 2012. 3 new categories were introduced in 2011 for a total of 6 and it is envisaged that at least 3 new categories will be included for 2012 to take the total to 9. We envisage the Awards growing year on year. This also includes other opportunities such as a student centrepiece design competition and sustainability photo competition. Further discussion and decision is needed before the new categories are announced at the beginning of 2012.</p>	<p>Yes. More categories will be included for 2012. We envisage the total being at least 9.</p>
<p>Ensure ACTS Award of Excellence is nominated by more than one Institution.</p>	<p>Following the ACTS board meeting in Adelaide it has been decided to create an ACTS 'members charter' and the ACTS Award of Excellence nominations will be based on these criteria.</p>	<p>An ACTS Charter will be introduced that will ensure specific criteria are adhered to, to be eligible for the ACTS Award of Excellence.</p>
<p>As the highly commended and winners come up to collect the award, it would be nice to hear a little bit about the project, and what made it worthy of the award.</p>	<p>At present information on the winning entries is given after the award has been presented. However we can ensure that more detailed information is given on the shortlist so that when the Awards are announced people already have an idea of why the institution has won and this is confirmed by the presenter's words. Suggestions for further information have been given previously in this document.</p>	<p>Yes. Further information will be provided to ensure all delegates are aware of why the institution has won.</p>

<p>A more open and transparent process on how the nominations and judging occur.</p>	<p>This process is already transparent and conflict free. Any judge with a potential conflict of interest will be asked to step down. However as it's only the second year, information regarding this process will not have been highly visible. However a list of the judging institutions was available in the winner's brochure. (No individual judging names are or will be made available), but it will also be available online in the future. All judges adhere to a series of judging criteria and follow a comprehensive brief before judging. Information will be made available again in 2012. Steps to tighten the nominations and judging criteria for the ACTS Award of Excellence are also underway and will be linked to an ACTS member charter from 2012.</p>	<p>Yes. Steps will be taken to ensure that the judging and nominations are as transparent as possible. Information will definitely be online.</p>
<p>Have a detailed description of the food on your plate and where it came from and why it's a sustainable choice.</p>	<p>Absolutely! This has been covered in detail in the Conference evaluation report. This was done this year, but we can do it better. We will ensure we liaise with the venue to provide this information fully.</p>	<p>Yes. Further information will be given where possible.</p>
<p>Video finalist's activities. Or ask nominating to submit a short video that could be used as part of their submission and as part of the awards if they get to be a finalist</p>	<p>This point has already been discussed above. It is a very valid point and one that we are keen to address. However further discussion is needed based on the cost, resources and commitment of applicants to undertake this activity.</p>	<p>A resource that we are keen to use, further discussion is needed.</p>
<p>Allow the shortlist to provide posters on their applications so that participants have the opportunity to chat with them about their experiences.</p>	<p>This is a good and valid point however we have to look at the Awards in terms of resources and commitment by both applicants and by the event team. We are committed to creating shortlist posters for 2012 and are discussing the idea of having contact details of individuals at the event that would be available to discuss their project with interested parties. Further discussion is needed.</p>	<p>Serious consideration will be given to this suggestion, so yes it's a possibility, or an adaptation of it.</p>

<p>Wider promotion prior to the event, to encourage more nominations.</p>	<p>The Green Gown Awards was promoted very widely this year compared to 2010. The message was disseminated within ACTS using its own processes i.e. via the membership, online, newsletters and through the conference etc. The message was also dispatched through the sector support organisations that provide support via their networks and websites etc. However due to the founding nature of the Awards, promotion will get bigger and bigger, year on year as prestige and the name of the Awards takes effect. It is our commitment to try and promote the Awards as far and wide as possible and to encourage as many institutions as possible to submit applications. We saw an increase from 10 to 27 institutions submitting applicants in 2011 and we hope to increase this number year on year. We actively encourage all institutions to spread the word within their own networks and websites and happily work with you to achieve this.</p>	<p>We will ensure that promotion for the 2012 awards is high as possible</p>
<p>Make a note in the program that a particular speaker's institution/program has been nominated for a GGAA award</p>	<p>Good recommendation and one that is easily achievable.</p>	<p>Yes we will add this information for 2012</p>