

# AWARD CATEGORIES

2026 

## MAJOR AWARDS

### CONCRETE POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 10-15

### FIBREGLASS POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 16-20

### SMALL POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 27-29

### FREEFORM POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 21-22

### PREFABRICATED POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 23-24

### VINYL-LINED POOL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 25-26

### RENOVATION OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 33-35

### MASTER POOL BUILDER PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Presented only at a Australasian Awards of Excellence

### BEST SPA RETAILER

### BEST MOBILE SERVICE BUSINESS

### BEST PROFESSIONAL SERVICE BUSINESS

### BEST SUPPLIER

### ENHANCEMENT OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 36-39

### PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the winners of categories 7-9

### BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 51-58

### PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 59-68

### SPA OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 30-32

### COMMERCIAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 40-45

### BEST POOL STORE

Chosen from the gold winner of categories 46-50

### BEST CONCRETE POOL BUILDER

### BEST FIBREGLASS POOL BUILDER

### BEST PREFABRICATED POOL BUILDER

### BEST VINYL-LINED POOL BUILDER

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## INDUSTRY & PRODUCT CATEGORIES

### 1. Education & Training Excellence Award

This award recognises an organisation which has achieved excellence by enabling the provision of education and training to its employees and/or industry professionals.

### 2. SPASA Training Excellence Award

This category is awarded by SPASA's Institute of Research and Learning (Registered Training Organisation) to a student who has shown exemplary commitment to furthering their education and personal growth.

Eligible students will have completed an IRL nationally recognised training qualification within 2 years of the nomination deadline.

### 3. Marketing Campaign Award

This award recognises a marketing or promotional campaign for a new project or product that either directly or indirectly positively promotes the benefits of the swimming pool and/or spa industry.

### 4. Community Project

This award recognises a construction project, product, service or program, that promotes social responsibility in the industry. Examples may include: an installation to assist with rehabilitation and enhancing lifestyle, community project to promote healthy living in remote areas, a community program that raises awareness or funds in support of a foundation or a project built to support a specific community.

### 5. Innovative Project

This award recognises an innovative project that displays an original, creative concept in design or construction of a pool, spa or aquatic project not seen before in the industry.

### 6. Sustainable Project

This award recognises any pool or spa construction project which incorporates specific features or equipment that achieve improved sustainability through delivering a reduction in energy, chemical and/or water usage.

### 7. New Product Award

This award recognises a new product that demonstrates a high degree of innovation, value and originality. The product must offer significantly different benefits from previous models (if applicable) or comparable products in market. The product must show evidence of meeting local standards or regulations and have been released within 24 months of the nomination deadline.

### 8. Sustainable Product Award

This award recognises any product on the market that offers sustainability outcomes in the form of improved water and/or energy use, operational efficiency and/or cost effectiveness for the customer over time. Products in this category must be supported by measurable data to quantify the product's sustainability benefits. The product must be compliant with local standards or regulations and released on the market within 24 months of the nomination deadline.

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## 9. Innovative Product Award

This award recognises innovation in the design or manufacture of a product that delivers a unique outcome not seen before in the industry. The innovation may use materials or products in unusual ways, use materials not commonly seen in pool construction or operation or demonstrate superior design and workmanship in the use of a specific material.

The product must be compliant with local standards or regulations and released in market within 24 months of the nomination deadline.

## BUILD & INSTALLATION CATEGORIES

The swimming pool build and installation categories recognise a pool project that shows excellence in design, construction, installation and finishing in a residential location to meet a client's brief for private use only. The project must have been completed within 24 months of the nomination deadline.

### PROJECT PRICE DEFINITION

SPASA defines the project price as the entire cost of the project that will be viewed by the judges. The project price rules are specific to the category entered. This is inclusive of your contract price plus variations plus all works supplied or carried out by others, e.g. landscaping, concreting, paving/tiling, etc.

The project price must include GST, site works, landscaping, safety barriers and enhancements, all trades, all extras, final prime costs and provisional sum adjustments.

Site works are defined as preparation of the site ready for building work to commence. It must include things like temporary site fencing, site management costs, along with excavation and retaining walls if they are integral to the pool or spa installation.

For renovation projects, the cost of demolition is not included.

For projects built for a related person (builder, family, friends, etc) the project price must include a builder's margin as would be the price offered to a retail customer.

## Concrete Pools

The winner of each concrete pool category competes for the 'Concrete Pool of the Year' major award.

### 10. Concrete Pool up to \$80,000

### 11. Concrete Pool up to \$160,000

### 12. Concrete Pool up to \$240,000

### 13. Concrete Pool over \$240,000

Open to any residential pool constructed of concrete; can be any depth, width or length. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and represent the completed construction price in accordance with the project price definition.

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## 14. Concrete Pool & Spa Combination

Open to any concrete pool and spa built as part of the same structure at the same time; can be any depth, width or length. May include an acrylic self-contained spa as the spa component that is incorporated within the overall concrete structure.

## 15. Concrete Lap Pool

The pool shall have a minimum length of 9 metres and be designed primarily for exercise swimming. The maximum width to length ratio for pools 9-15 metres in length shall be 0.25 and for pools over 15 metres in length shall be 0.20. The pool may have a limited widened area for use other than exercise swimming provided such area does not extend for more than 30% of the overall pool area.

## Fibreglass Pools

The winner of each fibreglass pool category competes for the 'Fibreglass Pool of the Year' major award.

### 16. Fibreglass Pool up to \$60,000

### 17. Fibreglass Pool up to \$120,000

### 18. Fibreglass Pool over \$120,000

Open to any residential pool constructed of fibreglass; can be any depth, width or length. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and represent the completed construction price in accordance with the project price definition.

## 19. Fibreglass Pool & Spa Combination

The pool and spa must be built together and can be any depth, width or length. May include an acrylic self-contained spa as the spa component within the overall pool structure.

## 20. Fibreglass Lap Pool

The pool shall have a minimum length of 9 metres and be designed primarily for exercise swimming. The maximum width to length ratio for pools 9-15 metres in length shall be 0.25 and for pools over 15 metres in length shall be 0.20. The pool may have a limited widened area for use other than exercise swimming provided such area does not extend for more than 30% of the overall pool area.

## Freeform Pools

The winner of each freeform pool category competes for the 'Freeform Pool of the Year' major award.

### 21. Freeform Pool up to \$120,000

### 22. Freeform Pool over \$120,000

Open to any residential freeform pool. The pool must be constructed predominantly of smooth flowing lines or curves to produce an uneven, natural look. This award is open to any type of construction – concrete, fibreglass, vinyl. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and represent the completed construction price in accordance with the project price definition.

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## Prefabricated Pools

The winner of each prefabricated pool category competes for the 'Prefabricated Pool of the Year' major award.

### 23. Prefabricated Pool up to \$60,000

### 24. Prefabricated Pool over \$60,000

Open to any residential pool that is free standing and pre-fabricated, using materials such as, but not limited to, concrete, shipping containers, fibreglass, etc. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and represent the completed construction price in accordance with the project price definition. Note: Inground fibreglass pools not eligible.

## Vinyl Lined In-ground Pools

The winner of each vinyl-lined pool category competes for the 'Vinyl Lined Pool of the Year' major award.

### 25. Vinyl Lined In-ground Pool

Open to any vinyl lined pool that has been engineered and designed for inground application only. Can be any depth, width or length.

### 26. Vinyl Lined Modular Pool

Open to any vinyl lined pool constructed using a modular system. Can be any depth, width or length, and in-ground, above ground or in-ground.

## Courtyard / Small Pool

The winner of each small pool category competes for the 'Small Pool of the Year' major award.

### 27. Enclosed / Indoor Pool

Open to an indoor pool that is located in an enclosed or partly enclosed area associated with a residential building. The pool may be constructed of any material. Entrants are eligible to enter other pool type categories.

### 28. Courtyard / Small Pool up to \$80,000

### 29. Courtyard / Small Pool over \$80,000

This award recognises any residential pool in a courtyard or similar setting that complements and enhances that setting. The pool must not exceed 16 sqm in surface area. The pool may be constructed of any material. Entrants are eligible to enter other pool type categories based on their construction material.

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## Spas

The winner of each spa category competes for the “Spa of the Year” major award.

### 30. In-ground Spa

This award recognises a spa permanently installed or constructed on site of concrete, fibreglass or vinyl material. The spa may be installed as part of a pool or as a stand alone spa.

### 31. Portable Spa

This award recognises a pre-engineered self-contained spa, that can be installed inground or above ground, in any location where approval may be granted.

### 32. Swim Spa

This award recognises a pre-engineered self-contained swim spa, either dual or single zone, that includes spa seating and has a water capacity of no less than 4,000L, in any location where approval may be granted.

## Renovations

The winner of each renovation category competes for the ‘Renovation of the Year’ major award.

### 33. Renovation up to \$40,000

### 34. Renovation up to \$80,000

### 35. Renovation over \$80,000

This award recognises the renovation of an existing pool which has undergone significant alterations, including additions or alterations of the structure or the primary shape of the existing pool.

The original installation must be in some existence. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values.

## ENHANCEMENTS

The winner of each enhancement category competes for the “Enhancement of the Year” major award.

The following categories open to either Residential or Commercial Projects that meet the relevant criteria.

### 36. Residential or Commercial Water Feature

This award recognises the installation of water features that add to the visual appeal or functionality of a swimming pool and can include features such as waterfalls, ponds and fountains, either stand-alone items or part of a pool and/or spa.

Entries will be judged based on the visual appeal or functionality of the water feature. The entry should include plans and supporting information that outlines the value the water feature brings to the pool or spa overall installation. Entries submitted by the builder must list the name of the trade contractor who completed the installation of the water feature.

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## 37. Residential or Commercial Lighting Feature

This award recognises the installation of lighting features that add to the visual appeal or functionality of a swimming pool or spa.

Entries will be judged on the visual appeal, functionality and innovation that the lighting installation achieves. The entry should include plans and supporting information that outlines the value of the lighting design for the pool or spa installation.

## 38. Safety Barrier

This award recognises the design and installation of a compliant pool and/or spa safety barrier associated with any type of pool construction.

Eligible entrants – Pool Barrier designers and installers

## 39. Pool Landscape Design

This award recognises the design and installation of landscaping which enhances and compliments the pool and or spa.

Eligible entrants – Landscape designers, landscaping contractors.

## COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

These categories recognise excellence in the construction of a purpose-built swimming pool in a commercial setting.

The winner of each commercial category competes for the 'Commercial Pool of the Year' major award.

### Commercial Pools

A commercial pool has the primary purpose of public or communal use by unrelated persons. The pool can be located at a commercial premises as defined by the Health Department of the relevant state and constructed of the specified material. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and represent the completed construction price including all enhancements, safety barrier and landscaping.

### 40. Hotel/Resort Pool up to \$1,000,000

### 41. Hotel/Resort Pool over \$1,000,000

### 42. Commercial Pool or Spa (Aquatic) up to \$1,000,000

### 43. Commercial Pool or Spa (Aquatic) over \$1,000,000

This award recognises any commercial pool or spa located at a commercial premises as defined by the Health Department of the relevant state. The pool and spa can be any type, materials, be portable or permanent with no limitations on price or size.

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## 44. Commercial Renovation

This award recognises a commercial pool or spa installation that has undergone significant alterations from the original pool/spa, including additions or alterations of the structure or the shape of the existing pool or spa.

Details of the original installation must be provided (before & after plans and images) and details of the retained elements of the original pool installation must be outlined.

## 45. Commercial Aquatic System

This award recognises the design and installation of a commercial aquatic system connected to a commercial pool, spa or swimming facility. Examples might include water treatment systems, hydraulic/filtration systems and automation.

## POOL STORES

The winner of each company/business category competes for the "Pool Store of the Year" major award.

## 46. Display Pool / Centre

This award recognises a pool builder or manufacturer's display area, where the primary purpose of the display centre is for the exhibition of their pool designs and construction to potential customers.

## 47. New Pool Store

This award recognises any new retail/service business that operates from a retail premises and has achieved excellence in customer service, staffing, sales growth, marketing and the like.

The business must have been operating between 1 and 3 years of the nomination deadline.

## 48. Single Location Pool Store

This award recognises any single location retail/service business that operates from a retail premises and has achieved excellence in customer service, staffing, sales growth, marketing and the like.

The business must have been operating for more than 3 years of the nomination deadline.

## 49. Multi-Location Pool Store

This award recognises any multi-location retail/service business that operates from retail premises that has achieved excellence in customer service, staffing, sales growth, marketing and the like.

The business must have been operating for more than 3 years of the nomination deadline.

## 50. Online Pool Store

This award recognises any retail/service business that operates an online store that has achieved excellence in customer service, sales growth, marketing and the like. Entrants can have a retail site that also has an online store.

The business must have been operating for more than 1 year of the nomination deadline.

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## BEST BUSINESS CATEGORIES

The winner of each best business category competes for the “Business of the Year” major award.

### 51. Best Spa Retailer

This award recognises an individual retail spa outlet that stocks and displays on premise a comprehensive range of spas and associated products. The individual outlet will demonstrate excellence in customer service, sales growth, marketing and the like.

### 52. Best Mobile Service Business

This award recognises any pool or spa service technician that operates a single or multivan service business providing on-site support to customers. The business will demonstrate excellence in customer services, sales growth, marketing and the like.

### 53. Best Professional Service Business

This award recognises any business that provides professional services to the industry, e.g. building certification, pool barrier inspections, engineering design or inspection, financial services, legal services, etc. The business will demonstrate excellence in customer services to the pool and spa industry. NOTE: This does not include retail or service technician businesses.

### 54. Best Supplier

This award recognises any supplier member who provides products and services in the industry. Suppliers may offer pool or spa equipment, materials, additives, software business solutions, and the like. The business will demonstrate excellence in customer services to the pool and spa industry through the provision of quality products or materials, innovation in product development and customer service.

### 55. Best Concrete Pool Builder

### 56. Best Fibreglass Pool Builder

### 57. Best Prefabricated Pool Builder

### 58. Best Vinyl-Lined Pool Builder

The pool builder categories are open to a pool building or pool installation business that demonstrates excellence in design, workmanship, customer service, installation and professionalism.  
Businesses must have been operating for a minimum of 5 years

## INDIVIDUAL/EMPLOYEE CATEGORIES

The winner of each professional category competes for the “Professional of the Year” major award.

Entrants in these categories can be nominated by their employer, peers or be self-nominated.

### 59. Pool & Spa Barrier Inspector Award

This award recognises an individual working as a Certifier or Pool & Spa Barrier Inspector who exemplifies all that is best in their technical and service dealings with customers (consumers and industry).

### 60. Retail Service Technician Award

This award recognises an individual working as a service technician who deals with consumers in the retail space (i.e. does not visit customer's premises) who exemplifies all that is best in their technical and service dealings with customers (consumers and industry).

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## 61. In-Field Service Technician Award

This award recognises an employee working as a service technician dealing with customers on site who exemplifies all that is best in their technical and service dealings with customers (consumers and industry).

## 62. Pool Sales Representative Award

This award recognises an individual working as a salesperson for a pool builder who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings with customers to sell pools in a showroom or on site.

## 63. Spa Sales Representative Award

This award recognises an individual working as a salesperson for a spa retailer who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings with customers to sell spas in a showroom or onsite.

## 64. Supplier Salesperson Award

This award recognises an individual working as a salesperson for a business that sells products, equipment and supplies for the construction or maintenance of pools and spas who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings within the industry.

## 65. Rising Star Award

This award recognises an employee of a SPASA member who has been employed in the industry for no longer than 3 years from the nomination deadline and exemplifies all that is best in their dealings with customers. The proprietors of the member business must nominate the employee and should provide written examples of the employee's excellence.

## 66. Construction Tradesperson Award

This award recognises an employee or sub-contractor of a SPASA member who has demonstrated a very high level of skill together with exceptional quality control, overall professionalism, and holds a sound knowledge of relevant Australian Standards, Acts, regulations and codes that apply to the work they perform.

## 67. Pool Designer Award

This award recognises an individual working in a role that provides design services to clients for pools and spas and who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings within the customers.

## 68. Operational Excellence Award

This award recognises an individual working for any type of business in the pool and spa industry in an operations/administration role who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings within the industry.

## 69. Master Pool Builder Project

This prestigious category is exclusively open to current MPB members and celebrates excellence in pool and spa craftsmanship. Entrants are invited to showcase a project completed within the past three years that exemplifies superior design, construction, and innovation. To qualify, the project must be delivered by a Master Pool Builder member who demonstrates exceptional skill, rigorous quality control, and the highest standards of professionalism.

This award category evaluates the technical intricacies of the scoping, design, and construction phases of a pool or spa project. The journey will culminate in the selection of the Master Pool Builder Project of the Year, honouring the pinnacle of pool-building achievement.

### Exclusively Judged by MPB Committee Members

Only current Master Pool Builder committee members will have the honour of judging the Master Pool Builder Project of the year.