



ACE Aotearoa Awards

Criteria and Nomination Forms

2026

Conditions of Entry

1. Anyone from the Adult and Community Education sector can be nominated for an award including volunteers.
2. Definitions of Adult and Community Education vary across Aotearoa. By “community-based” we refer to organisations that have both adult education and community development amongst their core aims.
3. Nominators must seek permission from nominees before submitting a nomination.
4. Nominations must be supported by one other person (nominator and seconder) currently working either in a paid or volunteer capacity in the adult and community education field/s who have read the application and endorse its contents.
5. Nominations should be made using the online form. No additional information is required.
6. A high-resolution photograph of the nominee must accompany the nomination for promotional purposes.
7. Nominations must address all of the selection criteria for the nominated award.
8. Nominations may be used for promotional purposes, however permissions will be sought prior to this occurring.
9. Multiple nominations are acceptable, but each nomination must be made on a separate, fully completed nomination form.

10. Nominations will be considered by an external panel of judges. Nominations close on **March 13, 2026**.

Eligibility Criteria

There are six categories

ACE Aotearoa Educator of the Year

Tangata Whenua

This award recognises an ACE Māori educator (including volunteers) for outstanding service in, and contribution to the development and delivery of adult and community education (for Māori). It is intended to be a tribute for outstanding work in teaching, training, administration, or a combination of these.

Tangata Tiriti

This award recognises ACE educators (including volunteers) for outstanding service in, and contribution to the development and delivery of adult and community education. It is intended to be a tribute for outstanding work in teaching, training, administration, or a combination of these.

Nominees for these awards will have demonstrated a sound knowledge of the ACE Teaching Standards in their approach to teaching and learning.

<https://www.aceaotearoa.org.nz/what-we-do/ace-teaching-standards>

ACE Aotearoa Innovative Programme of the Year

Tangata Whenua

This award recognises an adult learning programme for Māori learners that has achieved outstanding learning outcomes through innovative programme development, creative implementation and sound evaluation. A programme is defined as “a structured plan of learning tailored to the specific needs, interests and abilities of learners.” The nominated innovative programme should be recently developed (within the past two years) and should be of at least 6 weeks duration.

Tangata Tiriti

This award recognises an adult learning programme that has achieved outstanding learning outcomes through innovative programme development, creative implementation and sound evaluation. A programme is defined as “a structured plan of learning tailored to the specific needs, interests and abilities of learners.” The nominated innovative programme should be recently developed (within the past two years) and should be of at least 6 weeks duration.

Programmes nominated for these awards will reflect adult learning andragogy and the ACE Sector Teaching Standards. <https://www.aceaotearoa.org.nz/what-we-do/ace-teaching-standards>

ACE Aotearoa Leader of the Year

Tangata Whenua

This award recognises an ACE Māori leader for outstanding service in, and contribution to, the development and delivery of adult and community education (for Māori). It is intended to be a tribute for outstanding work in governance, policy development, training, administration, or a combination of these.

Tangata Tiriti

This award recognises an ACE leader for outstanding service in, and contribution to, the development and delivery of adult and community education. It is intended to be a tribute for outstanding work in governance, policy development, training, administration, or a combination of these.

Nominees for these awards will have demonstrated leadership at any level of the Adult and Community Education sector.

Please click on the link to the online nomination form, [here](#) select the award you wish to make a nomination for and fill in the appropriate sections. Please limit your nomination to 500 words and indicate whether you have used AI tools to assist with your nomination. If you need help Email admin@aceaotearoa.org.nz

ACE Aotearoa Educator of the Year Tangata Whenua

Nominee Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	
Address	
Iwi Affiliation/s	

Nominator Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Seconder Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Please describe below why your nominee is deserving of this award including their outstanding work in teaching, training, or a combination of these, and contribution to, the development and delivery of adult and community education (for Māori).

Please answer the following questions for your nomination:

1. How long have you known the nominee? And how long have they been teaching in the organisation?
2. Briefly describe their role (full time, part time, volunteer, programme support)

3. How have they demonstrated best practice in their teaching?
4. How have they demonstrated a knowledge of the ACE Teaching standards in their work? <https://www.aceaotearoa.org.nz/what-we-do/ace-teaching-standards>
5. What personal and professional attributes make them an outstanding candidate for the ACE Aotearoa Educator of the Year Award Tangata Whenua?

AI Use Disclosure Statement

ACE Aotearoa recognises that AI tools are increasingly part of professional practice. We ask that you disclose any use of AI tools in preparing this nomination to maintain transparency and integrity in our awards process. Please indicate if AI tools were used in developing this nomination and briefly describe their role:

Yes or No

Used AI to help structure initial draft, which was then substantially revised and personalised

Yes No

Used AI to check grammar and spelling only

Yes No

ACE Aotearoa Community Based Programme of the Year

Tangata Whenua

Nominee Details

Name of Programme	
Name of Programme Lead	
Email	
Mobile Number	
Address	
Iwi Affiliation/s	

Nominator Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Seconder Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Please describe below why this programme for Māori learners is deserving of this award including how the programme has achieved outstanding learning outcomes through innovative programme development, creative implementation and sound evaluation.

Please answer the following questions for your nomination:

1. When was this programme introduced? How long has it been running? What is its duration? ie full year, one term, six- week block
2. What is its purpose/kaupapa?
3. Describe the learners it is designed for?

4. What kinds of activities do learners engage in? Why is the programme different or innovative?
5. How does the programme and its delivery reflect the ACE Teaching Standards? <https://www.aceaotearoa.org.nz/what-we-do/ace-teaching-standards>
6. What do students say about the programme? (You may include 2-3 quotes from evaluations).

AI Use Disclosure Statement

ACE Aotearoa recognises that AI tools are increasingly part of professional practice. We ask that you disclose any use of AI tools in preparing this nomination to maintain transparency and integrity in our awards process. Please indicate if AI tools were used in developing this nomination and briefly describe their role:

Yes or No

Used AI to help structure initial draft, which was then substantially revised and personalised

Yes No

Used AI to check grammar and spelling only

Yes No

ACE Aotearoa Leader of the Year Tangata Whenua

Nominee Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	
Address	
Iwi Affiliation/s	

Nominator Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Seconder Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Please describe below the contribution of this nominee to the development of the ACE Sector including outstanding work in governance, policy development, training, administration, or a combination of these.

Please answer the following questions for your nomination:

1. Describe the current and past roles of the nominee?

2. Use bullet points to list their contributions eg membership of sector groups, Boards, Iwi representation, community involvement, international.

3. What personal and professional attributes make them an outstanding candidate for this award?

AI Use Disclosure Statement

ACE Aotearoa recognises that AI tools are increasingly part of professional practice. We ask that you disclose any use of AI tools in preparing this nomination to maintain transparency and integrity in our awards process. Please indicate if AI tools were used in developing this nomination and briefly describe their role:

	Yes or No
Used AI to help structure initial draft, which was then substantially revised and personalised	Yes No
Used AI to check grammar and spelling only	Yes No

ACE Aotearoa Educator of the Year Tangata Tiriti

Nominee Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	
Address	

Nominator Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Seconder Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Please describe below why your nominee is deserving of this award including their outstanding work in teaching, training, or a combination of these, and contribution to, the development and delivery of adult and community education.

Please answer the following questions for your nomination:

1. How long have you known the nominee? And how long have they been teaching in the organisation?
2. Briefly describe their role (full time, part time, volunteer, programme support)

3. How have they demonstrated best practice in their teaching?
4. How have they demonstrated a knowledge of the ACE Teaching standards in their work? <https://www.aceaotearoa.org.nz/what-we-do/ace-teaching-standards>
5. What personal and professional attributes make them an outstanding candidate for the ACE Aotearoa Educator of the Year Award Tangata Tiriti?

AI Use Disclosure Statement

ACE Aotearoa recognises that AI tools are increasingly part of professional practice. We ask that you disclose any use of AI tools in preparing this nomination to maintain transparency and integrity in our awards process. Please indicate if AI tools were used in developing this nomination and briefly describe their role:

Yes or No

Used AI to help structure initial draft, which was then substantially revised and personalised

Yes No

Used AI to check grammar and spelling only

Yes No

ACE Aotearoa Community Based Programme of the Year

Tangata Tiriti

Nominee Details

Name of Programme	
Name of Programme Lead	
Email	
Mobile Number	
Address	

Nominator Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Seconder Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Please describe below why this programme is deserving of this award including how the programme has achieved outstanding learning outcomes through innovative programme development, creative implementation and sound evaluation.

Please use the following questions for your nomination:

1. When was this programme introduced? How long has it been running? What is its duration? ie full year, six- week block
2. What is its purpose/kaupapa?

3. Describe the learners it is designed for?

4. What kinds of activities do learners engage in? Why is the programme different or innovative?

5. How does the programme and its delivery reflect the ACE Teaching Standards? <https://www.aceaotearoa.org.nz/what-we-do/ace-teaching-standards>

6. What do students say about the programme? (You may include 2-3 quotes from evaluation forms)

AI Use Disclosure Statement

ACE Aotearoa recognises that AI tools are increasingly part of professional practice. We ask that you disclose any use of AI tools in preparing this nomination to maintain transparency and integrity in our awards process. Please indicate if AI tools were used in developing this nomination and briefly describe their role:

	Yes or No
Used AI to help structure initial draft, which was then substantially revised and personalised	Yes No
Used AI to check grammar and spelling only	Yes No

ACE Aotearoa Leader of the Year Tangata Tiriti

Nominee Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	
Address	

Nominator Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Seconder Details

Full Name	
Email	
Mobile Number	

Please describe below the contribution of this member to the development of the ACE Sector including outstanding work in governance, policy development, training, administration, or a combination of these.

Please use the following questions for your nomination:

1. Describe the current and past roles of the nominee?

2. Use bullet points to list their contributions eg membership of sector groups, Boards, community representation, community involvement, international.

3. What personal and professional attributes make them an outstanding candidate for this award?

AI Use Disclosure Statement

ACE Aotearoa recognises that AI tools are increasingly part of professional practice. We ask that you disclose any use of AI tools in preparing this nomination to maintain transparency and integrity in our awards process. Please indicate if AI tools were used in developing this nomination and briefly describe their role:

	Yes or No
Used AI to help structure initial draft, which was then substantially revised and personalised	Yes No
Used AI to check grammar and spelling only	Yes No