

**BANQUETING & CATERING   
AWARD**

Submission Form

**AWARD DESCRIPTION**

The Banqueting & Catering Award recognises the hard work and efforts of the team’s delivering excellence through providing food and beverage services for conferences, exhibitions, and events.

**ELIGIBILITY**

This Award is open to those who provide catering services for events either as a stand-alone catering business or as a banqueting/catering department from within a venue or hotel.

The National Winner of the Award will be eligible for MEA’s 2024 Company of the Year Platinum Award.

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

Ensure that your submission is restricted to the qualifying period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024.

* Answer all the questions. There is a maximum word count for all answers that cannot be exceeded. After completing each question, indicate your word count.
* The examples provided are suggestions only that provide some guidance as to what the judges will be seeking. Do not simply answer each of these evidence types in order.
* If your evidence takes form in charts, video links or graphs, there is a separate area within the submission portal to add these. Videos must not be longer than 1-minute (60 seconds). Please indicate in your submission if you have included additional attachments outside of the form below.
* All applications must be made using the below submission form in either Microsoft Word or PDF format. No external or specialised branding may be used in lieu of this submission form.
* Judges’ feedback will be provided to applicants as soon as possible after the conclusion of the National Awards Ceremony.
* Judges will look for evidence that you are well organised, your business is well managed, how you are future-proofing your business, and that you have systems and procedures that are appropriate and well-maintained.
* Judges do not want details of your financial accounts, but rather are seeking to understand how your business has operated during the qualifying period.
* All applications must be submitted prior to **Friday 14 February 2025 at 11:59pm AEDT.**

**SCORING**

How your submission is weighted:

* Business Planning & Resource Management – 30%
* Challenges & Responses – 40%
* Outcome & Evidence – 15%
* Contribution to the Industry – 5%
* Sustainability – 5%
* Final Statement – 5%

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| --- | --- |
| **NAME OF ORGANISATION OR DEPARTMENT** | |
| *Insert the organisation/department’s name in the blank space provided. Please note, this will be the name displayed on all relevant marketing and trophies, should your application be successful.* | Insert name here |

**BUSINESS PROFILE**

This section is not scored during judging but acts as an overview to provide context of your submission in the judging process.

*Maximum word count for this section: 600*

1. **PROVIDE A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF YOUR BUSINESS AS IT RELATES TO EVENTS:**

*Examples could include but are not restricted to:*

* *Diversity of client’s services*
* *Number, size and range of meetings and events*
* *The range and diversity of projects undertaken, and products offered during the qualifying period*
* *Scope of services*

Type response here. Space will expand.

1. **WHAT IS YOUR ORGANISATION’S HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE EVENTS INDUSTRY:**

*Examples could include but are not restricted to:*

* *Growth year on year*
* *Years of operation*

Type response here. Space will expand.

1. **WHAT IS YOUR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE, AS IT RELATES TO EVENTS:**

*Examples could include but are not restricted to:*

* *Number of employees*
* *Organisational chart (please attach in submission portal as a PDF)*
* *The number and type of internal departments*

Type response here. Space will expand.

1. **BUSINESS PLANNING & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

*Maximum word count for this section: 1,200*

1. **Describe your business planning process undertaken in the qualifying period.**

*Examples could include but are not restricted to:*

* *How it is communicated to your team/organisation*
* *How often you review your business plan*
* *How you measure progress and performance*
* *How you structure the planning process (e.g. brainstorming workshops)*
* *Timeline/schedule*
* *Tools used (e.g. SWOT analysis)*
* *Who is involved (e.g. staff and/or external consultants)*

Type response here. Space will expand.

1. **Describe the ways you manage resources and staff to achieve the most effective outcomes over the qualifying period.**

*Examples could include but are not restricted to:*

* *Career pathing/succession planning*
* *Communication strategies*
* *How staff are consulted and involved*
* *Other resources that could include technology, specialist equipment or contractors and consultants*
* *Reward schemes*
* *Staff appraisals*

Type response here. Space will expand.

1. **CHALLENGES & RESPONSES**

*Maximum word count for this section: 1,200*

**Demonstrate your use of creativity, originality and innovation in managing challenges. Use up to 5 examples.**

*Examples could include but are not restricted to:*

* *Budget and time restraints*
* *Capital expenditure*
* *Client retention*
* *Competition/competitor activity*
* *Dietary requirements*
* *Health and safety requirements*
* *Marketing and brand awareness*
* *Menu design*
* *Retaining and attracting business*
* *Sourcing local produce*
* *Staff retention, career pathing/succession planning*

Type response here. Space will expand.

1. **OUTCOME & EVIDENCE**

*Maximum word count for this section: 600*

1. **Share some of your staff’s achievements during the qualifying period.**

*Examples could include but are not restricted to:*

* *Awards (corporate, team and individual)*
* *Improved management/staff relationships*
* *New enrolments in courses/training programs*
* *Staff retention rates*
* *Successful staff initiatives*

Type response here. Space will expand.

1. **Provide evidence of your client/customer satisfaction. In addition to this, please upload one client/key supplier testimonial as a PDF to the submission portal.**

*Examples could include but are not restricted to:*

* *Client retention and referrals*
* *Feedback from a specific event*
* *Media exposure*
* *Winning new business*

Type response here. Space will expand.

1. **CONTRIBUTION TO THE INDUSTRY**

*Maximum word count for this section: 300*

**Describe how your activities have contributed to the growth and professionalism of the events industry overall.**

*Provide evidence for contributions within MEA and other industry organisations during the qualifying period, such as:*

* *Contribution to trade magazines/online forums*
* *Global partnerships/memberships*
* *Involvement in industry panels or committees*
* *Involvement with your local destination marketing organisation*
* *Mentoring*
* *Participation in industry forums or focus groups*
* *Presentations at industry briefings, webinars, conferences (physical or virtual)*

Type response here. Space will expand.

1. **SUSTAINABILITY**

*Maximum word count for this section: 300*

**Outline the sustainability policy that you implement within your organisation.**

Type response here. Space will expand.

1. **FINAL STATEMENT**

*Maximum word count for this section: 300*

**Summarise your submission and let us know why you should win the 2024 Banqueting & Catering Award.**

Type response here. Space will expand.