

# 2026 Peter Doherty Awards

for Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education



## Application guide: 2026 Outstanding STEM Support Officer Award

In this guide, you will find information to assist you with your application for a **Peter Doherty Outstanding STEM Support Officer Award**. Please read through this information carefully and complete the application checklist on page 3 before submitting your application.

A STEM support officer does not hold Queensland College of Teachers registration; however, they provide classroom and/or curriculum support that assists teachers and enhances student learning in science or technology or engineering or mathematics.

### Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to receive a **Peter Doherty Outstanding STEM Support Officer Award**, you must:

- work as a STEM support officer (for primary or secondary learning) in a Queensland in a state or non-state school; and
- not have previously received a Peter Doherty Award.

Applicants can nominate themselves or be nominated.

If the applicant is nominated by another person, the applicant must:

- agree to the nomination,
- provide the nominator with the necessary information so they can address all selection criteria; and
- each application must be endorsed by the Principal, centre director or approved provider.

### How to apply

Once you have determined that you are eligible to apply for the award, you will then need to:

- write a statement of no more than 1,000 words in support of your application that responds to the selection criteria outlined on page 2;
- have the details of two referees who agree to endorse your application. The referees may be asked to provide more information about aspects of your written statement; and
- click on the [Entrant Portal](#) to create an account and submit via upload:
  - your application;
  - details of two referees; and
  - each application must be endorsed by the Principal, centre director or approved provider.

All forms should be completed electronically and submitted with your written statement.

### Written statement

Your written statement provides an opportunity to tell us about yourself, how you support school STEM education, and why you believe you should receive a **Peter Doherty Outstanding STEM Support Officer Award**.



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Your statement should be no more than 1,000 words and should clearly respond to the selection criteria outlined in the table below. A selection panel will use these criteria to assess your application.

When writing your response, make sure you are succinct — consider using dot points where appropriate to summarise — and give examples of your achievements, experiences and how you support your school in STEM.

***Selection criteria: Outstanding STEM Support Officer Award***

The applicant:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Demonstrates exemplary support (beyond typical duties) that assists teachers and enhances student learning in science or technology or engineering or mathematics.</b></li> </ul>
<p>This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>actions beyond regular duties that support teachers and learners, e.g. organising STEM excursions and activities, establishing and maintaining live environments, providing technology advice and assistance for teachers, mentoring other support officers;</li> <li>how these actions have enhanced student learning or assisted teachers, e.g. advice and/or guidance given to enhance experimental investigations, engineering or programming projects; and/or</li> <li>the contemporary nature of the projects/activities mentioned in the application and their links with current state or national initiatives.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Displays enhanced knowledge of contemporary STEM practices.</b></li> </ul>
<p>This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>analysis of, and leadership in, current practice;</li> <li>knowledge and use of contemporary practices that increase the relevance of the curriculum;</li> <li>innovation in practices and techniques;</li> <li>contribution to fostering and sustaining teacher and student curiosity and creativity; and/or</li> <li>continuous learning and a commitment to supporting the development of teachers and students.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Demonstrates a commitment to disseminating STEM information, practices and skills to other STEM support officers and teachers.</b></li> </ul>
<p>This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sharing practice through active participation in a variety of forums, e.g. discussion lists, conferences, cluster groups, helping primary schools; and/or</li> <li>providing STEM assistance to other officers through information dissemination or mentoring.</li> </ul>

## More about the awards

### How the award is to be used

The **Peter Doherty Outstanding STEM Support Officer Award** is to be used to assist you to undertake appropriate professional development activities acceptable to your principal, centre director or approved provider and within the normal guidelines of your employing authority.

### Award ceremony

Recipients of the **Peter Doherty Outstanding STEM Support Officer Award** will be invited to attend the August award presentation ceremony in Brisbane. It is anticipated that successful applicants will attend the award ceremony.

If required, travel and accommodation expenses for **Outstanding STEM Support Officer Award** recipients will be paid by the Department of Education.

### Application checklist

Before submitting your application, please ensure that you have:

- ☐ read carefully through the application guide;
- ☐ checked that you meet the eligibility requirements for the award;
- ☐ written a statement of no more than 1,000 words that clearly responds to the award selection criteria;
- ☐ completed the Principal/centre director or approved provider endorsement of application form; and
- ☐ included the details of two referees.

Once you have completed all items on this checklist, click on the [Entrant Portal](#) to create an account and submit your application.

All forms should be completed electronically and submitted with your written statement.

### Further information

If you would like further information or if you have any questions about the Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM Education, please email [peterdohertyawards@ged.qld.gov.au](mailto:peterdohertyawards@ged.qld.gov.au).