



ARIA Awards 2016 Eligibility Criteria and Category Definitions

How the ARIA Award winners are determined

All entries received by ARIA are first assessed to ensure that the relevant recordings are eligible for the particular Awards for which they have been entered. Once eligibility has been confirmed, all eligible entries received by ARIA are then presented to the Voting Academy or Judging Schools for their consideration.

Seven (7) categories are judged by the Voting Academy which consists of over 800 representatives from every area of the music industry ('Academy').

Seventeen (17) categories are judged by specialist Judging Schools which consist of representatives experienced with that genre of music ('Judging School').

Four (4) awards are determined by Popular Vote. These are (i) Song of the Year, (ii) Best International Artist, (iii) Best Australian Live Act and (iv) Best Video.

Three (3) retailer awards judged by specialist Judging Schools.

The Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Awards are awarded at the discretion of the ARIA Board.

General Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility for the ARIA Music Awards is defined by ARIA to be:

1. Entry

Only ARIA members are able to enter recordings for judging.

- (a) ARIA members may enter any artist who meets the eligibility criteria set out below.
- (b) An ARIA member can only enter its own artists and cannot enter the artists of another record label.
- (c) ARIA LEVY MEMBERS may lodge up to eight (8) entries in each category, apart from 'Outstanding Digital Service', where Levy Members may lodge up to 3 entries.
- (d) MEMBERS may lodge up to six (6) entries in each category, apart from 'Outstanding Digital Service', where Members may lodge up to 3 entries.

2. Recordings

- (a) Eligible recordings must have been released during the period Friday, 4 September 2015 to Thursday 1 September 2016 inclusive (the 'Eligibility Period'), excluding entries in the Best International Artist category.
- (b) Release is defined as the date the product was first officially commercially released in physical or digital format in Australia through retail channels (which, for the purpose of clarity, may include online physical and digital retailers and/or the artist's own website).
- (c) In the case of singles, a single is deemed eligible if the official media servicing date or video servicing date (determined by 'published' date listed on the label or artist's YouTube channel) is within the Eligibility Period, where it is acknowledged that the track may have been previously available for individual digital purchase as part of an album release outside of the Eligibility Period.
- (d) A recording may be entered in more than one non-genre category, but may not be entered in more than one genre category. Category definitions indicate those that are genre categories.
- (e) Unless otherwise specified, multi-artist compilations are not eligible.
- (f) Re-released recordings are not eligible. All entries must comprise at least 50% (by number of tracks) previously unreleased recordings. Note that, for this purpose, remixed tracks do not count as previously unreleased recordings.
- (g) New recordings, including new live recordings, of previously released compositions are eligible.
- (h) Recording artists credited on the release must meet the artist eligibility criteria (see below: **3. Artists**) except in the case of Best Classical Album and Best Jazz Album - refer to those particular category definitions.
- (i) Where the entered release comprises more than one disc, the discs must be sold as 'one set' to qualify.
- (j) A Single is defined to be a product released in physical and/or digital format and which either:
 - i. contains up to five different songs, and with a music content of not more than 25 minutes duration; or
 - ii. contains multiple versions of not more than five songs with a combined duration of not more than 40 minutes providing that the combined duration of the longest versions of each song does not exceed 25 minutes.For the purposes of this definition, 'song' may include an instrumental only piece.
- (k) An Album is defined to be a release in physical and/or digital format which does not qualify as a Single and which satisfies other criteria particular to each category.

3. Artists

Any artist that satisfies any of the following criteria will be deemed to be eligible:

- (a) Any artist who is an Australian citizen;
- (b) Any artist who was born in Australia;
- (c) Any artist with permanent residency status and who has lived in Australia for at least six months per year for the two consecutive years prior to the Awards (i.e. during the qualification period and the previous qualification period);
- (d) Any artist who has applied for permanent residency and has lived in Australia for at least six months per year for two consecutive years prior to the Awards (i.e. during the

- qualification period and the previous qualification period) and is signed to an Australian record label; or
- (e) Any New Zealand artist who has lived in Australia for at least six months per year for the two consecutive years prior to the Awards (ie during the qualification period and the previous qualification period) and is signed to an Australian record label;

In the case of groups or duos at least 50% of the members of the group must satisfy at least one of the above criteria. Each entry must be accompanied by a list of group members appearing on the release.

The ARIA Board reserves the right to exercise its discretion to grant eligibility in special circumstances where, for example, the artist in question has a strong historical and cultural connection with Australia.

4. Ineligibility

All entries will be reviewed for eligibility by the Eligibility Sub-Committee of the ARIA Awards Committee, which reserves the right to make the final judgement on category, artist and product eligibility. The Eligibility Sub-Committee will provide notice citing reasons for any entries deemed ineligible. The entrant will have two (2) days from such notice to respond, at which time the Eligibility Sub-Committee will review the entry and make a final decision.

Please note that, should you incorrectly nominate an artist for any category, you will be liable for any additional auditing costs incurred.

Category Definitions

ALBUM OF THE YEAR (*Judged by the Voting Academy*)

Solo artists and groups are eligible. The recording must be released in the Eligibility Period and appear in the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart published between Monday, 14 September 2015 and Monday 5 September 2016 inclusive.

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST (*Judged by the Voting Academy*)

Solo artists and groups are eligible, as are album and single recordings. The recording must have appeared in (i) the top 50 of any ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart, OR (ii) the top 50 of any ARIA Top 100 Singles Chart published between Monday, 14 September 2015 and Monday, 5 September 2016 inclusive.

Artists and groups are not eligible if they, or any member of the group, have previously been a final five (5) nominee in any ARIA Awards category with an album or single, or if they have been in a group that has previously been a final five (5) nominee with an album or single, or if they have had a previous Top 50 Album in the ARIA Album Chart or Top 50 Single in the ARIA Singles Chart. A placing in an ARIA *genre* chart will not exclude artists from this category.

BEST MALE ARTIST (*Judged by the Voting Academy*)

Album and single recordings are eligible. If the label refers to an individual and a band, the ARIA Member must nominate whether that act is to be deemed a solo or group act for the ARIAs.

BEST FEMALE ARTIST (*Judged by the Voting Academy*)

Album and single recordings are eligible. If the label refers to an individual and a band, the ARIA Member must nominate whether that act is to be deemed a solo or group act for the ARIAs.

BEST GROUP (*Judged by the Voting Academy*)

Album and single recordings are eligible. A group is comprised of two or more people. If the name on the label is that of a band with no indication of any individual name, then such band will be considered in the Group category only. If the label refers to an individual and a band, the ARIA member must nominate whether that act is to be deemed a group or a solo act for the ARIAs.

BEST INDEPENDENT RELEASE (*Judged by the Voting Academy*)

Solo artists and groups are eligible, as are album and single recordings. The nominated recording must be released by an 'Independent' ARIA Member. For the purpose of this award, a member will be considered to be Independent if the member:

- (a) Funds its own A&R and marketing costs in respect of the nominated recording (a Levy Member may provide these funds, providing they are not only recoupable but repayable),
- (b) Has no Levy Member ownership (full or partial), and
- (c) Has not entered into an exclusive licence agreement with a Levy Member in respect of the nominated recording.

Each nomination in this category will need to be accompanied by a statutory declaration, in the form prescribed by ARIA (see Appendix A) from the Chief Financial Officer or a Director of the nominating ARIA Member confirming the above criteria has been met.

BEST ADULT ALTERNATIVE ALBUM (*Judged by a Judging School*) *Note: this is a genre category*

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. Recordings must be directed toward Adult Alternative formats. The recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST ADULT CONTEMPORARY ALBUM (*Judged by a Judging School*) *Note: this is a genre category*

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. Recording must be directed toward Adult Contemporary formats. The recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST BLUES & ROOTS ALBUM (*Judged by a Judging School*) *Note: this is a genre category*

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. This category encompasses both contemporary and traditional blues forms and contemporary adaptations of Australian traditional music and/or folklore. The recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST CHILDREN'S ALBUM (*Judged by a Judging School*) *Note: this is a genre category*

Solo artists, groups, soundtracks and various artist projects are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. This category encompasses recordings where the form and content are directed towards a pre-teen demographic. In the case of compilations, entries must comprise 50% material recorded specifically for that compilation. Recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST COMEDY RELEASE (*Judged by a Judging School*) *Note: this is a genre category*

Solo artists, groups and various artist compilations are eligible. Album, single and DVD recordings are eligible. Compilation recordings must comprise 100% previously unreleased recordings. The recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST COUNTRY ALBUM (*Judged by a Judging School*) *Note: this is a genre category*

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. This category encompasses country music, both contemporary and traditional. The recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST DANCE RELEASE (*Judged by a Judging School*) *Note: this is a genre category*

Solo artists, groups, production teams and various artist compilations are eligible. Album and single recordings are eligible provided they have been commercially released. Artists working primarily within the dance genre eg: House, Techno, Trance, Hardcore, Garage, Breakbeat, Drum & Bass, Disco and Electronica are eligible. In the case of a remixed album or single, the production team(s) and the original recording artist(s) must both meet the artist eligibility criteria, and the release must qualify for inclusion in either the ARIA Album or Single chart. The ARIA member must also nominate whether the production team or the original recording artist would be the recipient of the Award. The recording cannot be entered in any other genre category. Note that, if an original version has been entered in the 'Best Pop' category, a remix is ineligible in the 'Dance Release' category.

BEST POP RELEASE (Judged by a Judging School)**Note: this is a genre category**

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Album and single recordings are eligible. Recording must be directed toward CHR/Top 40 formats. The recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST ROCK ALBUM (Judged by a Judging School)**Note: this is a genre category**

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. Recording must be directed toward Contemporary Rock, Modern Rock and Active Rock formats. The recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST HARD ROCK / HEAVY METAL ALBUM (Judged by a Judging School) Note: this is a genre category

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. Recording must be directed toward Hard Rock or Heavy Metal formats. The recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST URBAN ALBUM (Judged by a Judging School)**Note: this is a genre category**

Solo artists, groups, and production teams are eligible. Only albums are eligible. Artists working primarily within the urban genre eg: R'n'b, Hip-Hop, Soul, Funk, Reggae and Dancehall, are eligible. A remixed or re-recorded album is eligible provided that:

- the original album has not been a final five ARIA Award nominee in any category;
- the original album is substantially reworked so that the new album contains a minimum of 50% new lyrical and/or 50% new musical content;
- the production team(s) and the original recording artist(s) both meet the artist eligibility criteria; and
- the ARIA member entering the album must nominate whether the production team or the original recording artist would be the recipient of the Award.

The album must qualify for inclusion in the ARIA Album chart. The recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

Fine Arts Awards

BEST CLASSICAL ALBUM (*Judged by a Judging School*)***Note: this is a genre category***

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. Recordings where a minimum of 50% of artists featured on the album packaging meet the artist eligibility criteria (see Section 3) are eligible, even when ensembles or orchestras contain more than 50% of non-Australian artists. Recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST JAZZ ALBUM (*Judged by a Judging School*)***Note: this is a genre category***

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. Recordings where a minimum of 50% of artists featured on the album packaging meet the artist eligibility criteria (see Section 3) are eligible, even when ensembles or orchestras contain more than 50% of non-Australian artists. Recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST WORLD MUSIC ALBUM (*Judged by a Judging School*)***Note: this is a genre category***

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. This category encompasses predominately Indigenous, Ethnic, Folk or Cross-Cultural music. Recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

BEST ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK/CAST/SHOW ALBUM (*Judged by a Judging School*) *Note: this is a genre category*

Solo artists, groups and various artist compilations are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. Recordings of existing or planned theatrical productions and soundtracks, scores and underscores for existing or planned film and television productions are eligible.

All entries must be 100% previously unreleased recordings, except:

- New recordings of previously released cast and/or show recordings are eligible.
- In the case of compilation soundtracks, which must contain over 50% of previously unreleased material by tracks and/or time, and all artists must meet the artist eligibility criteria.

Recording cannot be entered in any other genre category.

Artisan Awards

BEST COVER ART (*Judged by the Voting Academy*)

This category awards original cover graphics by designers who meet the eligibility requirements. Covers must have been designed in Australia. Criteria for judging includes: originality of design concept, overall design appreciation and merchandising impact. Only album recordings are eligible. Albums which meet the general eligibility criteria may be eligible for this Award even though they may not meet specific criteria for other Awards. For the purposes of clarity, this may include a greatest hits album or a new compilation of previously recorded works. The Award is presented to the designer of the cover who must meet the general eligibility criteria for artists as laid out in Section 3 of this document. Where more than one person is involved in the design, the award will be given to the person with overall responsibility for the design concept.

ENGINEER OF THE YEAR (*Judged by a Judging School*)

A single track, multiple tracks (from a single or album release), or an entire album may be submitted for each engineer. DVD releases are not eligible. Only work released during the Eligibility Period will be considered. International product is eligible but entrants must accord with the General Eligibility Criteria for artists. In the case of a co-engineer, all parties must individually meet the General Eligibility Criteria for Artists.

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR (*Judged by a Judging School*)

A single track, multiple tracks (from a single or album release), or an entire album may be submitted for each producer. DVD releases are not eligible. Only work released during the Eligibility Period will be considered. International product is eligible but entrants must accord with the General Eligibility Criteria for artists. In the case of a co-production, all parties must individually meet the General Eligibility criteria for Artists.

Public Voted Awards

In 2016 ARIA presents four Publicly Voted Awards. Listed below are the category definitions and nomination methodology for each category. Voters will be asked to select a winner from a nominee pool provided by ARIA. The method of voting by the general public in each category will be determined by ARIA each year.

SONG OF THE YEAR

The nominee pool for Song of the Year will be drawn from eligible single releases by Australian artists. The ten highest selling singles from these entries, based on ARIA sales statistics for the charts published between 1 October 2015 and 30 September 2016 inclusive, will form the nominee pool. Sales of different releases by the same artist during the period cannot be aggregated for the purpose of this category. Qualifying releases must have been released in the Eligibility Period but may be an album track subsequently released as a single if the official media or video servicing date is within the Eligibility Period. An artist will only appear on the nominee list once, even if that artist has multiple releases that may otherwise be eligible. ARIA members will be contacted in advance of the nominations announcement, so that they can provide the necessary collateral materials (eg cover art images).

BEST INTERNATIONAL ARTIST

The nominee pool for Best International Artist will be drawn from the ten highest selling artists, based on aggregated ARIA album and related single sales statistics for the charts published between 1 October 2015 and 30 September 2016 inclusive. Sales will be derived from the ARIA Top 100 Single and Top 100 album charts, where the sale of ten bundled single products or tracks will equate to one album sale. Qualifying releases must consist of at least 90% new recordings and must have been first released either during the current Eligibility Period or during the Eligibility Period for the immediately preceding Awards. ARIA members will be contacted in advance of the nominations announcement, so that they can provide the necessary collateral materials (eg cover art images).

BEST AUSTRALIAN LIVE ACT *(Nominees determined by Judging School)*

ARIA members may enter eligible acts as part of the normal entry process. The entries must meet the artist eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 of this document and must have performed at ticketed events in at least three Australian States and / or Territories during the Eligibility Period.

A Judging School will vote to determine the final 10 nominees, which will then form the nominee pool for public voting.

BEST VIDEO *(Nominees determined by the Voting Academy)*

This Award is presented to both the artist and the Director of the entered video, both of whom must meet the General Eligibility Criteria for artists as laid out in on page 2 of this document. If the single was not commercially released then the media servicing date or the video servicing date (determined by the 'published' date listed on the label or artist's YouTube channel) must fall within the Eligibility Period.

ARIA members may enter eligible clips as part of the normal entry process. The Voting Academy will vote to determine the final 10 nominee clips, which will then form the nominee pool for public voting.

Members are requested to limit entries to those video clips that have had at least 50,000 online views in Australia (across all available service platforms) during the Eligibility Period, and may be asked to provide confirmation that the threshold has been met.

Retailer Awards

OUTSTANDING DIGITAL SERVICE (*Judged by a Judging School*)

This award recognises excellence in digital services. Only properly licensed services operating in Australia during the Eligibility Period, as listed on the Pro-Music website at:

<http://www.pro-music.org/legal-music-services-australasia.php> are eligible.

All ARIA Members may lodge three entries in this category.

ARIA, in conjunction with AMRA, will also determine award winners in the categories of:

OUTSTANDING NATIONAL RETAILER (*Judged by a Judging School*) and

OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT RETAILER (*Judged by a Judging School*).

APPENDIX A



Commonwealth of Australia
STATUTORY DECLARATION
Statutory Declarations Act 1959

I,	<small>Full Name</small>		
Of	<small>Address</small>		
State		Postcode	
Being	<small>Occupation</small>		

make the following declaration under the Statutory Declarations Act 1959:

1. I declare that the statement ticked below is true and correct:

I am the Chief Financial Officer

OR

I am the Director

of the record company listed in Schedule 1 (the "**Record Company**").

2. The Record Company wishes to nominate a recording or recordings in the 2016 ARIA Awards in the category titled "Best Independent Release". The title of the recording or recordings is set out in Schedule 2 (the "**Nominated Recording/s**").

3. I declare that the statement ticked below is true and correct:

The Record Company funds all artist and repertoire and marketing costs in relation to the Nominated Recording/s.

OR

ARIA has three levy members, namely Sony Music Entertainment Australia Pty Ltd, Universal Music Australia Pty Limited and Warner Music Australia Pty Limited (the "**ARIA Levy Members**"). I declare that one of the ARIA Levy Members has provided the artist and repertoire costs and/or the marketing costs in relation to the Nominated Recording/s, but these funds and costs are fully recoupable and repayable in full to the ARIA Levy Member.

4. The Record Company is not owned in whole or in part by any of the ARIA Levy Members or their affiliates or subsidiaries.

5. The Record Company has not entered into an exclusive licence for the territory of Australia with any of the ARIA Levy Members or their affiliates or subsidiaries in respect of the Nominated Recording/s.

Completed declarations should be emailed to awards@aria.com.au

**SCHEDULE 1
RECORD COMPANY**

Record Company Name	
ABN	
Registered Business Address	

**SCHEDULE 2
NOMINATED RECORDING/S**

Title	Artist

I understand that a person who intentionally makes a false statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of an offence under section 11 of the Statutory Declarations Act 1959, and I believe that the statements in this declaration are true in every particular.

Signed *		Date	
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(signature of the person making the declaration)

Declared at	<small>Place</small>		
On this	<small>Date</small>	Day of	<small>Month</small> 2016

Before me, *

(signature of the person before whom the declaration is made)

Full name	
Occupation	
Address	

Note 1 A person who intentionally makes a false statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of an offence, the punishment for which is imprisonment for a term of 4 years — see section 11 of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*.

Note 2 Chapter 2 of the *Criminal Code* applies to all offences against the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* — see section 5A of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*.

Note 3 A list of people before whom the declaration may be made is listed on the following page.

A statutory declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* may be made before—

(1) a person who is currently licensed or registered under a law to practise in one of the following occupations:

Chiropractor	Dentist	Legal practitioner
Medical practitioner	Nurse	Optometrist
Patent attorney	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist
Psychologist	Trade marks attorney	Veterinary surgeon

(2) a person who is enrolled on the roll of the Supreme Court of a State or Territory, or the High Court of Australia, as a legal practitioner (however described); or

(3) a person who is in the following list:

Agent of the Australian Postal Corporation who is in charge of an office supplying postal services to the public
Australian Consular Officer or Australian Diplomatic Officer (within the meaning of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*)
Bailiff

Bank officer with 5 or more continuous years of service

Building society officer with 5 or more years of continuous service

Chief executive officer of a Commonwealth court

Clerk of a court

Commissioner for Affidavits

Commissioner for Declarations

Credit union officer with 5 or more years of continuous service

Employee of the Australian Trade Commission who is:

(a) in a country or place outside Australia; and

(b) authorised under paragraph 3 (d) of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*; and

(c) exercising his or her function in that place

Employee of the Commonwealth who is:

(a) in a country or place outside Australia; and

(b) authorised under paragraph 3 (c) of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*; and

(c) exercising his or her function in that place

Fellow of the National Tax Accountants' Association

Finance company officer with 5 or more years of continuous service

Holder of a statutory office not specified in another item in this list

Judge of a court

Justice of the Peace

Magistrate

Marriage celebrant registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*

Master of a court

Member of Chartered Secretaries Australia

Member of Engineers Australia, other than at the grade of student

Member of the Association of Taxation and Management Accountants

Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

Member of the Australian Defence Force who is:

(a) an officer; or

(b) a non-commissioned officer within the meaning of the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* with 5 or more years of continuous service; or

(c) a warrant officer within the meaning of that Act

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or the National Institute of Accountants

Member of:

(a) the Parliament of the Commonwealth; or

(b) the Parliament of a State; or

(c) a Territory legislature; or

(d) a local government authority of a State or Territory

Minister of religion registered under Subdivision A of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*

Notary public

Permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with 5 or more years of continuous service who is employed in an office supplying postal services to the public

Permanent employee of:

(a) the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority; or

(b) a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority; or

(c) a local government authority;

with 5 or more years of continuous service who is not specified in another item in this list

Person before whom a statutory declaration may be made under the law of the State or Territory in which the declaration is made

Police officer

Registrar, or Deputy Registrar, of a court

Senior Executive Service employee of:

(a) the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority; or (b) a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority

Sheriff

Sheriff's officer

Teacher employed on a full-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution