

NATSISA 2025: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards Honour Indigenous Excellence

Brisbane, Queensland – Saturday 15 November 2026 – The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards (NATSISA) brought together athletes, community leaders, and supporters from across the country for a powerful evening of celebration and recognition in Brisbane. The annual event shone a spotlight on the remarkable achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and sporting organisations.

A NIGHT OF INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE IN SPORT

This year's NATSISA ceremony honoured trailblazers and rising stars whose contributions inspire communities nationwide. The event reflected the strength, pride, and cultural significance of Indigenous participation in sport, acknowledging those who excel on and off the field.

AWARD WINNERS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The award winners of the night included:

- **NATIONAL SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR: TAMIKA UPTON**

Sponsored by Victorian Aboriginal Health Service

- **NATIONAL SENIOR ELDER OF THE YEAR: COASTAL EMU'S OLYMPICS TEAM MACLEAN**

Sponsored by First Peoples' Health & Wellbeing

- **NATIONAL JUNIOR SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR: LANDEN SMALES**

Sponsored by The Female Co

- **NATIONAL SPORTSPERSON WITH A DISABILITY OF THE YEAR: KATELYN SMITH**

Sponsored by AG Coombs

- **NATIONAL COMMUNITY SPORTING ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR: ARRERNTÉ COMMUNITY BOXING ACADEMY**

Sponsored by the Queensland University of Technology

- **NATIONAL SPORTING COMPETITION OF THE YEAR: MURRI RUGBY LEAGUE CARNIVAL**

Sponsored by the Indigenous Sports Network

- **NATIONAL SPORTS OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR: JAMES DEAN**

Sponsored by AFL

- **NATIONAL SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR: FITZROY STARS**

Sponsored by Coles

- **NATIONAL SPORTS COACH OF THE YEAR: DAVID WILLIAMS**

Sponsored by the Confederation of Australian Sport

- **NATIONAL SPORTS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: APRIL LE SEUR**

Sponsored by the National Indigenous Sports Foundation

- **NATIONAL SPORTS MEDIA OF THE YEAR: CHARLIE KING**

Sponsored by NITV

- **NATIONAL SPORTSPERSON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: EVONNE GOOLAGONG CAWLEY**

Sponsored by Australian Sports Museum

- **NATIONAL SPORTSPERSON TRAILBLAZER OF THE YEAR AWARD: LYDIA WILLIAMS**

Sponsored by Koori Mail

THE INDIGENOUS SPORTS NETWORK, NATHAN LOVETT-MURRAY

Co-event organiser Nathan Lovett-Murray reflected on the significance of the event, sharing the same words that continue to encapsulate the spirit of the Awards: "an amazing night of black excellence in sport. The highlights being Lydia Williams acknowledgement as the Trailblazer of the Year, and Evonne Goolagong Cawley receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. Thanks to all the sponsors who supported this great event, and can't wait to see it again next year."

A GROWING LEGACY

The success of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards highlights not only the outstanding contributions of Indigenous athletes but also the importance of celebrating identity, culture, and community through sport. As preparations begin for next year's event, organisers look forward to elevating even more inspiring stories from across the country.



For further information and to interview key people please contact:
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