



Judging Criteria

MAJOR AWARDS

Pool of the Year

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 9-27

Spa of the Year

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 7-8, 28-29

Commercial Project of the Year

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 35-47

Product of the Year

Chosen from the winners of categories 3-8

Business of the Year

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 57-64

Professional of the Year

Chosen from the gold winners of categories 65-74

1.	Education & Training Excellence Award	2	39.	Commercial Pool up to \$1,000,000	5
2.	Marketing Campaign Award	2	40.	Commercial Pool over \$1,000,000	5
3.	New Product Award	2	41.	Commercial Spa	5
4.	Sustainable Product Award	2	42.	Commercial Renovation	5
5.	Innovative Product Award	2	43.	Commercial Water Display	5
6.	Vinyl Lined Modular Pool	3	44.	Commercial Lighting Display	5
7.	Portable Spa	3	45.	International Project	5
8.	Swim Spa	3	46.	Commercial System	6
9.	Concrete Pool up to \$60,000	3	47.	Display Pool / Centre	6
10.	Concrete Pool up to \$120,000	3	48.	Pool Landscape Design	6
11.	Concrete Pool up to \$200,000	3	49.	Innovative Project	6
12.	Concrete Pool over \$200,000	3	50.	Sustainable Project	6
13.	Fibreglass Pool up to \$40,000	3	51.	Community Project	6
14.	Fibreglass Pool up to \$60,000	3	52.	Best Safety Barrier	6
15.	Fibreglass Pool over \$60,000	3	53.	New Pool Store	7
16.	Freeform Pool up to \$60,000	3	54.	Single Location Pool Store	7
17.	Freeform Pool up to \$120,000	3	55.	Multi-Location Pool Store	7
18.	Freeform Pool over \$120,000	3	56.	Online Pool Store	7
19.	Prefabricated Composite Pool up to \$30,000	4	57.	Best Pool Store	7
20.	Prefabricated Composite Pool over \$30,000	4	58.	Best Spa Retailer	7
21.	Concrete Pool & Spa Combination	4	59.	Best Mobile Service Business	7
22.	Fibreglass Pool & Spa Combination	4	60.	Best Professional Service Business	7
23.	Vinyl Lined In-ground Pool	4	61.	Best Supplier	8
24.	Enclosed / Indoor Pool	4	62.	Best Concrete Pool Builder	8
25.	Courtyard / Plunge Pool	4	63.	Best Fibreglass Pool Builder	8
26.	Concrete Lap Pool	4	64.	Best Prefabricated Composite Pool builder	8
27.	Fibreglass Lap Pool	4	65.	Pool & Spa Barrier Inspector Award	8
28.	Concrete In-ground Spa	4	66.	Retail Service Technician Award	8
29.	Fibreglass In-ground Spa	4	67.	In-Field Service Technician Award	8
30.	Renovation up to \$30,000	4	68.	Pool Sales Representative Award	8
31.	Renovation up to \$60,000	4	69.	Spa Sales Representative Award	8
32.	Renovation over \$60,000	4	70.	Supplier Salesperson Award	8
33.	Residential Water Feature	4	71.	Rising Star Award	9
34.	Residential Lighting Feature	4	72.	Construction Tradesperson Award	9
35.	Concrete Commercial Pool up to \$250,000	5	73.	Pool Designer Award	9
36.	Fibreglass Commercial Pool up to \$250,000	5	74.	Operational Excellence Award	9
37.	Vinyl Lined Commercial Pool up to \$250,000	5	75.	Acknowledgement of Industry Service	9
38.	Commercial Pool up to \$500,000	5	76.	SPASA Training Excellence Award	9

INDUSTRY & PRODUCT CATEGORIES

Categories 1-2 must have been released/implemented within 12 months of the nomination deadline, category 3 within 24 months of nomination deadline and and categories 6-8 within 3 years of the nomination deadline.

1. Education & Training Excellence Award

To be presented to an organisation which has achieved excellence in enabling the provision of education and training to its employees and/or the industry.

Criterion	Explanation
Entry	Has the program been released within 12 months of the nomination deadline?
Description	Is there a range of courses offered? Who is the course / training offered to?
Achievements	Have there been any major achievements to come out of the training & education program?
Industry impact	Have employees benefited from the training & education? Has the industry benefited from the education & training?
Testimonials	Are there any references or testimonials from those who have completed the course and training?

2. Marketing Campaign Award

Awarded to the marketing/promotional campaign that either directly or indirectly positively promotes to the industry.

Criterion	Explanation
Entry	Has this product been released within 12 months of the nomination deadline?
Campaign description	Does the campaign positively promote to the industry? Does the entry describe the longevity of the campaign?
Marketing material	Are there samples of marketing material from the campaign provided? This can include brochures, press releases, social media posts, videos etc.
Target audience	Is there a description of the target audience?
Campaign outcome	Has the entry discussed the success of the campaign? Is there enough measurable data to support this?

3. New Product Award

Open to any new product released with 24 months of the nomination deadline that demonstrates a high degree of innovation, value and originality. The product must offer significantly different benefits from previous models (if applicable). The product must be compliant with local regulations and have been sold in the region being applied for.

4. Sustainable Product Award

Open to any product on the market that offers sustainability in the form of water and/or energy use, operational efficiency and/or cost effectiveness over time. Products in this category must be supported by measurable data to quantify its sustainability. The product must be compliant with local regulations and have been sold in the region being applied for.

5. Innovative Product Award

Entries into this category must display an original, creative concept in design or manufacture of a product not seen before in the industry. The product must be compliant with local regulations and have been sold in the region being applied for.

The criteria below is applicable to categories 3-5

Criterion	Explanation
Research	Has there been any research undertaken to identify the market/need/desire for this product? Does the entry achieve the required solution outlined in the research? Does the product offer significant benefits to the consumer/industry?
Marketing	Has a marketing campaign been implemented for the product? Has there been a positive reception to the product? Are sample marketing materials provided?
Reviews	Are there any external references or reviews of this product?

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New Product	(Category 3 only) Has this product been released within 24 months of the nomination deadline?
Sustainability	(Category 4 only) Does the product reduce time, energy or water usage? Does this entry describe how the product achieves sustainability as evidenced by data and statistics? Is the product Climate Care Certified?
Innovation & originality	(Category 5 only) Is there data, statistics or other evidence provided to support that the product is innovative and original for the industry?

6. Vinyl Lined Modular Pool

A free-standing Modular Pool that can be installed inground or above ground, released within the last 3 years.

7. Portable Spa

Open to any pre-engineered self-contained spa, can be installed inground or above ground, released within the last 3 years.

8. Swim Spa

Open to any pre-engineered self-contained swim spa either dual or single zone that includes spa seating and has a water capacity of no less than 4,000L, released within the last 3 years.

The criteria below is applicable to categories 6-8

Criterion	Explanation
Entry	Has the project been completed within the last three years?
Customer brief	Has this entry met the customers brief and how? Did the entrant have to do any problem solving in order to meet the vision of the customer?
Installation	Were there any difficulties with the installation that were overcome by the member? This could include difficulty of site access, sloping site, construction in proximity to other structures etc.
Quality of workmanship	Does the entry provide evidence of high quality workmanship with aims to meet best practices within the industry?
Design	Is the project fit for purpose and is there ease of use and functionality? Is the design of the project considered with attention to the surrounds? Does this project have any unique features? Does this project achieve outstanding aesthetics in terms of appearance and relationship to the project's environment?

BUILD & INSTALLATION CATEGORIES

Must have been completed within 3 years of the nomination deadline except Display Pool/Centre.

RESIDENTIAL ONLY

Projects that are purpose built for private use only.

9. Concrete Pool up to \$60,000

10. Concrete Pool up to \$120,000

11. Concrete Pool up to \$200,000

12. Concrete Pool over \$200,000

Open to any residential pool constructed of concrete; can be any depth, width or length. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values.

13. Fibreglass Pool up to \$40,000

14. Fibreglass Pool up to \$60,000

15. Fibreglass Pool over \$60,000

Open to any residential pool constructed of fibreglass; can be any depth, width or length. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values.

16. Freeform Pool up to \$60,000

17. Freeform Pool up to \$120,000

18. Freeform Pool over \$120,000

Open to any residential freeform pool. The pool must be constructed predominantly of smooth flowing lines or curves to produce an uneven, natural look. This award is open to any type of construction. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values.

19. Prefabricated Composite Pool up to \$30,000

20. Prefabricated Composite Pool over \$30,000

Open to any residential pool that is free standing and pre-fabricated, using materials such as but not limited to concrete, shipping containers, fibreglass etc. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values. **Note: this does not include inground fibreglass pools.**

21. Concrete Pool & Spa Combination

22. Fibreglass Pool & Spa Combination

Open to any residential pool constructed of the specified material. The pool and spa must be built together and can be any depth, width or length. Category 22 may include an acrylic self-contained spa as the spa component.

23. Vinyl Lined In-ground Pool

A vinyl lined pool that has been engineered and designed for inground application only.

24. Enclosed / Indoor Pool

An indoor pool is defined as any pool that is enclosed or partly enclosed by a residential building.

25. Courtyard / Plunge Pool

This award is open to any residential pool in a courtyard setting that complements and enhances that setting. The pool must not exceed 16 sqm in surface area.

26. Concrete Lap Pool

27. Fibreglass Lap Pool

Open to any residential lap pool constructed of the specified material. The pool shall have a minimum length of 9 metres and designed primarily for exercise swimming. The maximum width to length ratio for pools 9-15 metres in length shall be 0.25 and for pools over 15 metres in length shall be 0.20. The pool may have a limited widened area for use other than exercise swimming provided such area does not extend for more than 30% of the overall pool area.

28. Concrete In-ground Spa

29. Fibreglass In-ground Spa

Open to any spa permanently installed or constructed on site of the specified material, as part of a pool or stand alone.

30. Renovation up to \$30,000

31. Renovation up to \$60,000

32. Renovation over \$60,000

An installation that has undergone significant alterations, including additions or alterations of the structure or shape of the existing pool. The original installation must be in some existence. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values.

33. Residential Water Feature

Features such as waterfalls, ponds and fountains, either stand-alone items or part of a pool and/or spa.

34. Residential Lighting Feature

A lighting feature used in waterfalls, ponds and fountains or part of a pool and/or spa.

The criteria below is applicable to categories 9-34

Criterion	Explanation
Entry	Has the project been completed within the last three years?
Customer brief	Has this entry met the customers brief and how? Did the entrant have to do any problem solving in order to meet the vision of the customer?
Construction	Were there any difficulties with construction that were overcome by the member? How were the complexities overcome? This could include difficulty of site access, sloping site, construction in close proximity to other structures etc.
Unique materials	Were there any new and improved construction techniques used in this project? Are there any unique materials used?
Quality of workmanship	Does the entry provide evidence of high quality workmanship with aims to meet best practices within the industry?
Design	Is the project fit for purpose and is there ease of use and functionality? Have there been any complex design elements incorporated into the project? Does this project have any unique features? Does this project achieve outstanding aesthetics in terms of appearance and relationship to the project's environment?
Renovation images	(Categories 30-32 only) Are there before and after photos of the project from the same angle included?

COMMERCIAL ONLY

Projects that are purpose built and accessible for public use.

Commercial Pools

A commercial pool has the primary purpose of public use. This pool is located at a commercial premises as defined by the Health Department of the relevant state. The total contract value must be within the specified category dollar values and constructed of the specified material.

- 35. Concrete Commercial Pool up to \$250,000
- 36. Fibreglass Commercial Pool up to \$250,000
- 37. Vinyl Lined Commercial Pool up to \$250,000
- 38. Commercial Pool up to \$500,000
- 39. Commercial Pool up to \$1,000,000
- 40. Commercial Pool over \$1,000,000

41. Commercial Spa

Open to any commercial spa located at a commercial premises as defined by the Health Department of the relevant state. The spa can be any type, portable or permanent with no limitations on price or size.

42. Commercial Renovation

An installation that has undergone significant alterations, including additions or alterations of the structure or shape of the existing pool. The original installation must be in some existence. This pool or spa is located at a commercial premises as defined by the Health Department of the relevant state.

43. Commercial Water Display

Water displays such as waterfalls, ponds, fountains, water interactive playgrounds or part of a pool and/or spa.

44. Commercial Lighting Display

A lighting display used in waterfalls, ponds, fountains, water interactive playgrounds or part of a pool and/or spa.

45. International Project

Open to any member who has completed or contributed to the design of an aquatic construction project outside the entrant's country of residence. Entries into this category must be submitted into the member's primary region.

The criteria below is applicable to categories 35-45

Criterion	Explanation
Entry	Has the project been completed within the last three years?
Customer brief	Has this entry met the client brief and how? Did the entrant have to do any problem solving in order to meet the vision of the client?
Construction	Were there any difficulties with construction that were overcome by the member? How were the complexities overcome? This could include difficulty of site access, sloping site, construction in close proximity to other structures etc.
Unique materials	Were there any new and improved construction techniques used in this project? Are there any unique materials used?
Quality of workmanship	Does the entry provide evidence of high quality workmanship with aims to meet best practices within the industry?
Design	Is the project fit for purpose and is there ease of use and functionality? Have there been any complex design elements incorporated into the project? Does this project have any unique features? Does this project achieve outstanding aesthetics in terms of appearance and relationship to the project's environment?
Renovation images	(Category 42 only) Are there before and after photos of the project from the same angle included?

46. Commercial System

Open to any aquatic system installed by a member, connected to a pool, spa or swimming facility. Examples might include water treatment systems, hydraulic/filtration systems, automation, etc.

Criterion	Explanation
Entry	Has the project been completed within the last three years?
Customer brief	Has this entry met the client brief and how? Did the entrant have to do any problem solving in order to meet the vision of the client?
Installation	Were there any difficulties with installation that were overcome by the member? How were the complexities overcome? This could include difficulty of site access, sloping site, construction in close proximity to other structures etc.
Quality of workmanship	Does the entry provide evidence of high quality workmanship with aims to meet best practices within the industry?
Design	Is the project fit for purpose and is there ease of use and functionality? Have there been any complex design elements incorporated into the project? Does this project have any unique features? Does this project achieve outstanding aesthetics in terms of appearance and relationship to the project's environment?

47. Display Pool / Centre

Pools built in the builder's display area, where the primary purpose of the pool is for the exhibition to potential customers. Entries featuring a pool built for a customer which the builder has access for display purposes will not be accepted.

Criterion	Explanation
Design	Is the display centre/pool fit for purpose and showcase a range of options? Have there been any complex design elements incorporated into the project? Does this project have any unique features? Does this project achieve outstanding aesthetics in terms of appearance and relationship to the project's environment?
Unique materials	Were there any new and improved construction techniques used in this project? Are there any unique materials used?
Quality of workmanship	Does the entry provide evidence of high quality workmanship with aims to meet best practices within the industry?

COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL

The following categories suit either Residential or Commercial Projects

48. Pool Landscape Design

Landscape design should enhance and compliment the pool and or spa.

49. Innovative Project

Entry must display an original, creative concept in design or construction of a pool, spa or aquatic project not seen before in the industry.

50. Sustainable Project

Any pool or spa construction with the incorporation of specific features or equipment resulting in energy, chemical and/or water savings.

51. Community Project

Open to any construction project, product, service or program that promotes social responsibility in the industry. Examples may include: an installation to assist with rehabilitation and enhancing lifestyle, community project to promote healthy living in remote areas, project built in FIFO environments to help those who are travelling for work.

52. Best Safety Barrier

Open to any compliant pool and/or spa safety barrier installation of any type of construction.

[See over for criteria for categories 48-52](#)

The criteria below is applicable to categories 48-52

Criterion	Explanation
Entry	Has the project been completed within the last three years?
Customer brief	Has this entry met the client brief and how? Did the entrant have to do any problem solving in order to meet the vision of the client?
Installation	Were there any difficulties with installation that were overcome by the member? How were the complexities overcome? This could include difficulty of site access, sloping site, construction in close proximity to other structures etc.
Quality of workmanship	Does the entry provide evidence of high quality workmanship with aims to meet best practices within the industry?
Design	Is the project fit for purpose and is there ease of use and functionality? Have there been any complex design elements incorporated into the project? Does this project have any unique features? Does this project achieve outstanding aesthetics in terms of appearance and relationship to the project's environment?
Innovation & originality	(Category 49 only) Is there data, statistics or other evidence provided to support that the project is innovative and original for the industry?
Sustainability	(Category 50 only) Does the product reduce time, energy or water usage? Does this entry describe how the product achieves sustainability as evidenced by data and statistics? Is the product Climate Care Certified?
Social Responsibility	(Category 51 only) Is there a detailed explanation as to how the project demonstrates the purpose of the award?

COMPANY/BUSINESS CATEGORIES

53. New Pool Store

Open to any new retail/service business that operates from a retail premises. Nominations must include written examples of the members excellence. The business must have existed between 1 and 3 years of the nomination deadline.

54. Single Location Pool Store

Open to any single location retail/service business that operates from a retail premises. Nominations must include written examples of the members excellence.

55. Multi-Location Pool Store

Open to any multi-location retail/service business that operates from retail premises. Nominations must include written examples of the members excellence.

56. Online Pool Store

Open to any retail/service business that operates an online store. Nominations must include written examples of the members excellence.

57. Best Pool Store

Chosen from the gold winners of the previous 4 categories. Members cannot nominate for this category.

58. Best Spa Retailer

Open to any individual retail spa outlet that stocks and displays a comprehensive range of spas. Nominations must include written examples of the members excellence.

59. Best Mobile Service Business

Open to any service technician member who operates a single or multi van business. Nominations must include written examples of the members excellence.

60. Best Professional Service Business

Open to any business that provides professional services to the industry, eg, certifiers, engineers, finance, legal, software development, etc. Nominations must include written examples of the members excellence. **Note: This does not include retail or service technician businesses.**

61. Best Supplier

Open to any supplier member who provides products and services to the industry. Nominations must include written examples of the members excellence.

62. Best Concrete Pool Builder

63. Best Fibreglass Pool Builder

64. Best Prefabricated Composite Pool builder

The above 3 categories are open to a member that has demonstrated a very high level of skill together with exceptional quality control, overall professionalism as well as a sound knowledge of the relevant Australian Standards, Act's, Regulations and Codes.

The criteria below is applicable to categories 53-56 and 58-64

Criterion	Explanation
Details of achievements	Has there been any outstanding achievements for this business? This could be in relation to sales growth, awards received etc.
Marketing	Have there been any key marketing strategies implemented to improve market share or sales growth? Are promotional examples provided?
Business presentation	Is this the business (store/showroom/vehicles/offices) well-presented? If applicable, does the business have a display/showroom that shows a range of products/finishes/services?
Staff presentation	Are staff well presented?
Range	Does the applicant provide descriptions of the range of products and services on offer?
Service & support	Does the entry provide evidence of high quality customer service and support?
New technology	Does the entry describe how the business has adapted to any new technologies implemented?
Industry knowledge	Is there evidence of a commitment to education and training within the business? Do staff members have any qualifications or undertake any training? Does the entrant keep up with industry trends and industry relevant information?
Compliance	Does the business comply with all relevant regulations and meet best practice within the industry?
Client testimonials	Have a minimum of 5 customer testimonials been provided with the nomination?
Projects	(Categories 62-64 only) Are the 5 projects included in the entry of a high standard demonstrating excellence in design and workmanship? Does the entry describe the businesses project management procedures?

INDIVIDUAL/EMPLOYEE CATEGORIES

65. Pool & Spa Barrier Inspector Award

Open to any Certifier or Pool & Spa Barrier Inspector member, either principal or licensed employee of a SPASA member, who exemplifies all that is best in their technical and service dealings with consumers.

66. Retail Service Technician Award

Open to any employee who deals with consumers in the retail space (i.e. does not visit customer's premises). The employee exemplifies all that is best in their technical and service dealings with consumers.

67. In-Field Service Technician Award

Open to any employee who works as a service technician dealing with customers on site. The employee exemplifies all that is best in their technical and service dealings with consumers.

68. Pool Sales Representative Award

Open to an employee in a salesperson role who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings with consumers to sell pools in a showroom or onsite.

69. Spa Sales Representative Award

Open to an employee in a salesperson role who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings with consumers to sell spas in a showroom or onsite.

70. Supplier Salesperson Award

Open to an employee in a salesperson role who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings within the industry.

71. Rising Star Award

Open to any employee of a SPASA member who has been employed in the industry for no longer than 3 years from the nomination deadline and exemplifies all that is best in their dealings with customers. The proprietors of the member business must nominate the employee and should provide written examples of the employee's excellence.

72. Construction Tradesperson Award

Open to any employee or sub-contractor of a SPASA member who has demonstrated a very high level of skill together with exceptional, quality control, overall professionalism as well as a sound knowledge of relevant Australian Standards, Act's, Regulations and Codes.

73. Pool Designer Award

Open to any SPASA member or employee of a member who's role is to provide design services to clients.

74. Operational Excellence Award

Open to an employee in an operations/administration role who exemplifies all that is best in their dealings within the industry.

The criteria below is applicable to categories 65-74

Criterion	Explanation
Details of achievements	Has this individual made any outstanding achievements? This could be in relation to sales growth, awards received, personal growth etc.
Training or qualifications	Has this individual completed any training? Do they have any qualifications? Does the individual actively seek relevant training to better improve themselves?
Service & support	Does the entry provide evidence of high quality customer service?
Problem solving	Is there evidence of problem solving skills in the entry? Is there a specific example used in the entry?
Communication skills	Does this individual demonstrate excellent communication skills?
Knowledge of industry	Is there evidence of a sound understanding of products and services offered? Does the entrant keep up with industry trends and up to date with industry relevant information?
Personal presentation	Is the individual well presented? If applicable, is their vehicle in good condition?
Client testimonials	Have a minimum of 5 customer testimonials been provided with the nomination?
Management testimonial	Has the Manager/CEO/Owner of the organisation provided a testimonial?

75. Acknowledgement of Industry Service

This category is free to nominate in to and is not awarded gold or highly commended. The purpose of this award is to recognise and honour individuals with proven dedication and commitment to the industry.

76. SPASA Training Excellence Award

This category is awarded by the SPASA Registered Training Organisation to a student who has shown exemplary commitment to furthering their education and personal growth. Members cannot nominate for this category.