



## 2017 Women in Technology Awards – why not?

**MEDIA RELEASE 10 May 2017**

Nominations for the 2017 WIT Awards are now open with women and organisations in technology and life sciences encouraged to enter one of 12 award categories covering young achievers through to entrepreneurs and small and big businesses.

WIT Co-President Kristy Simpkin said this year's theme celebrating our past, advancing, connecting and empowering our future is all about celebrating WIT's 20 years of operation, prestigious award ceremonies and inspiration.

"For over two decades, the WIT Awards have celebrated outstanding women in technology and provided a well-deserved platform for recognition.

"Every year we are impressed with the quality of applications we receive.

"Amazing women achieving greatness in technology and life sciences - often whilst balancing work with family commitments and life's day to day challenges.

"We find women can be quite modest of their achievements - unfortunately many won't even complete the application process even though they have been nominated.

"This year we're encouraging all of the women nominated to take the time to complete their nomination and reflect on their achievements" Kristy said.

The WIT awards are about celebrating women - women who are experts in their fields and succeeding in traditionally male dominated technology and life science positions.

You can nominate yourself or someone you know working in technology and life sciences. The online nomination process makes it easier than ever to nominate. Go to [www.witawards.org.au](http://www.witawards.org.au)

Winners will be announced at the Gala Awards dinner on Friday 1 September 2017 at the Royal International Convention Centre.

Sponsors include the Queensland Government, Griffith University, PwC, The University of Queensland, QUT, QUTihbi supported by Davidson Technology.

WIT is proud to be supporting Share the Dignity as their 2017 charity partner for the event.

**Entries Open:** Nominations and entries open 8.00am on 1 May, 2017.

**Nominations Close:** Nominations close midnight on 28 May, 2017

**Entries Close:** All entries must be submitted online by midnight on 25 June, 2017, with all questions answered in full and all documentation attached, if items are missing, your application will not be eligible and the application will be excluded.

**Media contact:** Sarah Smith, Women in Technology, 0405 991 282 *Past winners and WIT Co Presidents Dr Alison Rice and Kristy Simpkin are available for interviews.*



**What is WiT?**

WiT is the peak industry body for women in technology and life sciences within Queensland.

WiT's vision is to advance, connect and empower women in technology and life sciences.

WiT empowers, develops and celebrates women in technology and life sciences via relevant events, mentoring, programs, awards and networks. We are committed to:

- Developing a strong and sustainable network for members and supporters with industry
- Building mutually beneficial partnerships and relationships with government, academia and industry
- Advocating for our members on relevant issues to advance the presence and status of women in technology and life sciences
- Providing development opportunities and adding value to our members.

**Our 2017 WiT Award categories are:**

**ICT AWARDS**

**ICT Young Achiever**

**Eligibility:**

- Women in university or new to the industry in a graduate position (up to 2 years in) making a significant contribution to their team and organisation
- University experience (from 1 year undergraduate)/up to 2 years in a graduate (or other) position with an organisation
- Women in Technology (WiT) membership
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland Life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities).

**Prizes:**

- Trophy
- \$1000 prize money

**ICT Rising Star**

**Eligibility:**

- Women making a significant contribution to the growth and development of their teams and own organisation, serving as role models for others to aspire to
- 3–7 years' experience
- Women in Technology (WiT) membership
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland Life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities).

**Prizes:**

- Trophy
- \$1000 prize money
- One year Individual WiT Membership

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### ICT Professional

#### Eligibility:

- Women making a significant contribution to the growth and development of their teams and own organisation, serving as role models for others to aspire to
- 7-15 years' experience
- Women in Technology (WiT) membership
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland Life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities)

#### Prizes:

- Trophy
- \$1000 prize money
- One year Individual WiT Membership

### LIFE SCIENCES AWARDS

#### Life Science Young Achiever

#### Eligibility:

- Women in Life Science who are pre-award (final year of or awaiting award of PhD)
- Women in Technology (WiT) membership
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland Life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities)

#### Prizes:

- Trophy
- \$1000 prize money
- One year Individual WiT Membership

#### Life Science Research Leader

#### Eligibility:

### ICT Outstanding

#### Eligibility:

- Women making an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Queensland's ICT industry who serve as role models for others to aspire to
- 15 years or more experience
- Women in Technology (WiT) membership
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland Life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities)

#### Prizes:

- Trophy
- Perpetual Trophy
- WiT ICT Ambassadorship
- \$1000 prize money
- One year Individual WiT Membership

#### Life Science Rising Star

#### Eligibility:

- Women with less than 7 years postdoctoral experience
- Women in Technology (WiT) membership
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland Life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities)

#### Prizes:

- Trophy
- \$1000 prize money
- One year Individual WiT Membership

#### Life Sciences Outstanding

#### Eligibility:

- Research Leader making a recognized contribution to the field of life sciences research and development (either through their own organisation, or other activities)
- Women with greater than 7 years postdoctoral experience
- Women in Technology membership
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland Life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities)

- Women making an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Queensland's life sciences industry who serve as role models for others to aspire to
- Women with 15 years or more experience
- Women in Technology membership
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland Life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities)

**Prizes:**

- Trophy
- \$1000 prize money
- One year Individual WiT Membership

**Prizes:**

- Trophy
- Perpetual Trophy
- WiT Life Sciences Ambassadorship
- \$1000 prize money
- One year Individual WiT Membership

**SUE WICKENDEN ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARDS**

**Established Entrepreneur**

**Eligibility:**

- Women entrepreneur and business owner
- Women in Technology member
- Based in Queensland
- 3+ years trading
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland technology and/or life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities)

**Prizes:**

- Trophy
- Perpetual Trophy
- \$1000 prize money
- One year Individual WiT Membership

**Start Up Entrepreneur**

**Eligibility:**

- Women technology start up entrepreneur
- Women in Technology member
- Based in Queensland
- 0-3 years trading
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland technology and/or life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities)

**Prizes:**

- Trophy
- Perpetual Trophy
- \$1000 prize money
- One year Individual WiT Membership

**EMPLOYER OF CHOICE AWARDS**

**Corporate**

**Eligibility:**

- Organisations with >200 employees (male & female)

**Small Business**

**Eligibility:**

- Small and medium enterprises with <200 employees (male & female)

- Organisations demonstrating outstanding commitment to providing a working environment that embraces equal opportunity, flexibility in work practices, and programs that otherwise allow women and men to participate equally in the workforce
- Women in Technology (WiT) corporate membership
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland technology and/or life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities)

**Prizes:**

- Trophy
- Perpetual Trophy
- One year Corporate Company WiT Membership

- Organisations demonstrating outstanding commitment to providing a working environment that embraces equal opportunity, flexibility in work practices, and programs that otherwise allow women and men to participate equally in the workforce
- Women in Technology (WiT) medium or small company membership
- Whilst you do not need to reside in Queensland, you must be able to demonstrate a significant contribution to Queensland technology and/or life sciences industries (either through their own organisation or other activities)

**Prizes:**

- Trophy
- Perpetual Trophy
- One year Medium or Small Business WiT Membership