18 May 2016

**Lord Mayor’s Business Awards now open for entries**

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk is calling for nominations for this year’s Lord Mayor’s Business Awards, which recognises the achievements and contributions of local businesses to Australia’s New World City.

Cr Quirk said the annual Lord Mayor’s Business Awards was celebrating its 11th year in 2016, and was a chance to highlight the contributions the business community makes to the city’s $146 billion economy.

“The Lord Mayor’s Business Awards is a chance to showcase the achievements of the variety of businesses we have here in Brisbane,” Cr Quirk said.

“Our businesses are pivotal in generating economic activity which has led to an increasing number of international decision-makers choosing Brisbane for business, investment, study and conventions.

“In December, Brisbane was ranked No. 1 in the Asia Pacific for its foreign direct investment strategy, beating Hong Kong and Tokyo.

“It’s this type of success which shows Brisbane is open for business and serious about supporting local businesses in sharing their ideas with the world.

“By celebrating the excellence, success and innovation of the Brisbane business community, we are promoting Brisbane as an ideal city to invest, expand and most importantly, live.”

Cr Quirk said the Awards were about celebrating all levels of business innovation, and urged emerging small-to-medium businesses in particular, to put their names forward.

“We are committed to supporting young, energetic business minds to join us as Brisbane takes its place on the world stage and cements its reputation as an emerging, exciting and rewarding city in which to do business,” he said.

PharmaData took out the Australia TradeCoast Award for Small Business Growth at last year’s awards and CEO and Co-founder Guy Mckenzie said the team continued to encourage digital development in pharmacy.

“Winning the Lord Mayor’s Business Awards last year has really helped shine a light on the solutions we provide to the pharmaceutical industry as Brisbane-based business, data and retail experts who understand pharmacy,” Mr Mckenzie said.

“Over the last several years we have taken our deep understanding of the pharmaceutical industry to identify needs and drive change through the way multinational companies use their data to make more informed and strategic business decisions.”

Nominations are open until 5pm, 22 July, with the finalists announced in September ahead of the Awards event on Friday 28 October.

The 2016 winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner on Friday 28 October, where they will join LMBA winners from past years.

Visit [lmba.com.au](http://lmba.com.au) for more information.

There are 11 award categories in total, with eight open to businesses:

* Australia TradeCoast Award for Small Business Growth
* Brisbane Times Award for Business Innovation
* Award for Digital Strategy
* Clayton Utz Award for Corporate Citizenship
* ANZ Made in Brisbane Award for High-growth Business StartUp
* Energex Award for Sustainability in Business
* HSBC Award for Doing Business in Asia
* Port of Brisbane Award for New Investment

And two awards open to individuals:

* Singapore Airlines Young Business Person of the Year Award
* Channel 7 Business Person of the Year Award

One outstanding category winner (chosen from a business award winner):

* Optus Business Platinum Award

Key dates

* Wednesday 18 May - Nominations open
* Friday 22 July - Nominations close at 5pm
* Early September - Finalists announced
* Friday 28 October - Gala Dinner and winners announced

**Media enquiries: Anthony Donaghy, Brisbane Marketing**

T: **3006 6333** l M: **0412 450 360** | E: [adonaghy@brisbanemarketing.com.au](mailto:adonaghy@brisbanemarketing.com.au)