

EMILY HENSLEY AWARD 2026 GUIDELINES

MELBOURNE
GIRLS GRAMMAR
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL



ABOUT THE EMILY HENSLEY AWARD

In 2018 the Emily Hensley Award was established as a way of recognising the wonderfully diverse achievements of our young alumnae. Focused on celebrating individuals under the age of 40, the Award is designed to raise awareness of early career alumnae of Melbourne Girls Grammar.

The MGGS community is acutely aware that so many of our Gramamarians go on to achieve amazing things. Living the School values, many also demonstrate a steadfast commitment to a chosen field of endeavour. Our OGs are energetic, confident and determined to make a contribution to the wider community through their voice and action.

Many among our community have been inspired and motivated by what others have done since leaving School. This is your opportunity to highlight someone who you admire and want to bring to our attention. As a nominator, this is your chance to share some of the many incredible things that are happening in the MGGS alumnae community, and to identify a great colleague, friend or family member.

You can also self-nominate. This award creates the opportunity for individuals to let us know what they've been doing since leaving school.

We encourage you to get involved.

WHO WAS EMILY HENSLEY?

Emily Hensley was one of two founding principals of our school, in 1893.

Miss Hensley was remarkably one of the first five women to study at Cambridge University in the 1870s, an environment where women needed courage and self-discipline to succeed. After some years teaching, Miss Hensley established her own school in the late 1880s where as Principal of Tavistock School for Girls in Devon, she was responsible for boarders as well as day girls. In 1890, she travelled across the world to Australia to accept a pioneering position at Trinity College Ladies Hostel, Melbourne University, before making the decision in 1893 to establish an academic girls' school in South Yarra with co-founder Miss Alice Taylor.

Emily Hensley was a woman who took on life and its challenges, while having the integrity to stand up for her rights. Her life embodies the values of our school and this award, aptly named the Emily Hensley Award, continues her legacy and recognises young women today whose lives resonate with the same spirit.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERION

The following Selection Criteria provide a guide for the attributes that the EHA Selection Committee are looking for. Specifically, you should be able to define how the Nominee can demonstrate:

1. the School values – Courage, Self-discipline, Integrity and Compassion – through their actions and conduct;
2. their commitment to a chosen field of endeavour. This may include but is not limited to, a particular project, continued learning, career progression and/or personal growth; and
3. that they have made a contribution to the wider community through engagement. This may include, but is not limited to, philanthropic action, involvement in community programs, relief support and/or service/volunteer work.

To be eligible, the Nominee should:

- have attended MGGS for all or part of primary and/or secondary education.
- be a Young Old Grammarian; classified as aged 40 years or younger, at time of application.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Nominators must obtain acceptance by the nominee to submit a nomination.
- Contact information of up to two supporters are required for each nomination. These supporters may be contacted if the Nominee is shortlisted. If supporters are contacted, they will be asked to confirm information outlined in the nomination.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?

Nominations are encouraged from any young Old Grammarian that meets the Eligibility and Selection criterion, regardless of field of study, current role, industry, or location.

The Nominee must be 40 years of age or younger at the time of nomination.

WHO CAN SUBMIT A NOMINATION?

Any member of the Melbourne Girls Grammar community including, staff, Old Grammarians, current families, past families, community partners, and friends of MGGS may nominate a young Old Grammarian for the Award.

Nominees may also self-nominate.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The Emily Hensly Award Selection Committee is comprised of MGGS staff, OGs and external community members. The identities of the Committee remain confidential throughout the process to protect the integrity of the Award. Selection of the Award recipient will be based on assessment of the Nominee against the Award criteria. The EHA Selection Committee will conduct a shortlisting process, at which point they may seek additional information from shortlisted nominees and/or supporters in order to inform their final decision.

There can, at the discretion of the EHA Selection Committee, be more than one Award offered in any given year. If the Committee deem that no suitable nominations are received, MGGS reserves the right to not offer the Award during that calendar year.

All nominations, and deliberations by the EHA Selection Committee, will be strictly confidential. The decision of the Committee is final.

DATES

Nominations Open:	6 March 2026
Nominations Close:	9 October 2026
Award selection committee review nominations:	October 2026
Nominees notified and recipients announced:	November 2026
Award Presentation:	2 December 2026

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

For further information please contact the Alumnae and Engagement Manager at Melbourne Girls Grammar via email at awards@mggs.vic.edu.au or phone (03) 9862 9200.



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