

## 2019 ACT Export Awards: Businesses encouraged to trade their stories

Canberra businesses are being reminded to get their nominations in for the 2019 ACT Export Awards.

The closing date for applications is now Friday 9th August, giving local businesses three extra days to polish their entries.

According to Canberra Business Chamber CEO, Dr Michael Schaper, "Canberra has a growing export sector, with a lot of successful stories emerging in the agriculture, defence, technology, healthcare and education sectors."

"These businesses are generating new job opportunities, career growth, income and additional skills to Canberra and the capital region. They're helping to diversify our economy and turn our city into a truly entrepreneurial community.

In 2018, Canberra businesses exported over \$2.2 billion of products and services, a 10% increase over the previous year.

"These awards are designed to recognise the great achievements of all these firms," Dr Schaper said. "We know that there are plenty of other businesses out there who are also exporting but their achievements aren't being publicised. We want to encourage them.

ACT finalists automatically proceed to the National Export Awards, and last year the ACT winner, Aspen Medical, was subsequently named *2018 Australian Exporter of the Year*.

Experts from the Canberra Business Chamber can help interested businesses develop a submission that doesn't take too much time, but does tell the story of their hard work and achievements.

"Time is running out to enter, though," Dr Schaper said. "Any interested businesses should get in touch with us on 02 6247 4199 as soon as possible."

There are 15 categories covering every industry sector and business type, and applications are submitted online via <https://www.exportawards.gov.au>.

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