

Dear Entrant,

Please find enclosed your submission documents for the *ifa Excellence Awards 2016*.

This pack includes the following:

1. Category description and submission questions
2. Award submission guidelines
3. Award submission form

Category criteria and entry requirements can also be found on the *ifa Excellence Awards* website www.ifa.com.au/ifaawards ('categories' tab).

Good luck!

The *ifa* Team

BEST CLIENT SERVICING (COMPANY)

OVERVIEW

Customer service is at the heart of effective advice delivery, as well as the development of a sustainable and profitable advice practice.

This award recognises the nation's most effective advice firm when it comes to delivering a winning customer experience, taking into account the business benefits associated with effective customer service/satisfaction, such as the uplift in new, repeat and referred business and accompanying increased revenue.

This is a group award that is open to any non-aligned or boutique financial advice firm and is based on the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

AWARD SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The following outlines important information for all nominees. **Please ensure that you read the below before completing your submission.**

Should you have any additional questions, please call Eleanor Kempster on 02 9922 3300 or email Eleanor.Kempster@sterlingpublishing.com.au

Submission deadline

All submissions must be received at the Sterling Publishing offices by 5.30pm on Friday 13 May 2016.

Submission structure

1. Submissions must address **all** key points in the **Award Submission Requirements**. Criteria/questions can be found by clicking on the 'categories' tab at www.ifa.com.au/ifaawards or see above.
2. There are no limitations on how you choose to cover submission criteria, so be creative! However, note that **you must cover all key points and answer questions directly or your submission may be judged negatively as a result.**
3. Please include relevant supporting documentation including audited statements, third party independent data reports or client/partner endorsements and testimonials. **ONLY** provide supporting documents which are directly referenced and relevant to your submission. Any irrelevant materials will be disregarded.

Submission format

Please limit each submission to **1,500-2,000 words**.

Submission delivery

An online submission platform will open in mid-April 2016, all answers and supporting documents can be uploaded online.

Confidentiality

Please note that all submissions are treated in the strictest confidence and only viewed by the *ifa Excellence Awards* judging panel.

Lodging multiple awards

If you are lodging a submission for a number of award categories, congratulations! Please use a common sense approach to creating submissions for multiple categories.

While producing an awards submission can be a time-consuming process, there are ways in which you can reduce the work required. For example, you may be able to use the same core submission for a number of different categories, tailored to the specifics of each category.

NOTE: You will still need to complete separate submission documents for each award you are entering.

If you have any questions regarding multiple submissions, please call Eleanor Kempster on 02 9922 3300 or email Eleanor.Kempster@sterlingpublishing.com.au

Supporting material

Please refer to any supporting material in your submission for judges to consider. This material may differ depending on the category and can include images, statistics, media coverage and other relevant information. Please **do not** provide supporting documents unless they are directly referenced and relevant to your submission.

Remember to evidence any financial or business metrics or statements with supporting documentation including audited statements, third-party independent data reports or client/partner endorsements and testimonials.

Company logo and description

1. Please email your company logo, in high-resolution JPEG and EPS format to Eleanor.Kempster@sterlingpublishing.com.au
2. Please also ensure that you enter the company name you wish to appear on all event collateral (including the award trophy, should you be successful).

STEP ONE: AWARD SUBMISSION FORM

Please complete the following Award Submission Form and submit **NO LATER THAN 5:30PM ON FRIDAY 13 MAY 2016.**

AWARD DETAILS

AWARD CATEGORY	
COMPANY NAME (This will be used on all event collateral)	
ENTRANT'S NAME (Include this for all individual awards)	
ENTRANT'S JOB TITLE (Include for all individual awards)	
SUMBISSION LODGED BY (Contact point for all award correspondence)	
JOB TITLE	
ADDRESS	
PHONE	
MOBILE	
EMAIL	

STEP TWO: SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A) Complete an entry submission for the category.

B) The entrant must submit a detailed submission that answers/addresses the points below:

1. What does customer service mean to your advice firm and how does that influence your client engagement initiatives?
2. Highlight the customer service strategies that elevated the operational, financial and business performance of your advice practice during the 2015 calendar year. Use specific examples, including evidence where relevant (i.e. volume of business written, new customers, higher fees, increased communications etc.).
3. What sets your customer service proposition apart from other advice firms – what makes you unique and how does that help increase new, repeat and referred business? Please use examples or provide evidence if relevant.
4. What has been your advice firm's greatest achievement in increasing your customer servicing capabilities during the 2015 calendar year?
5. Please outline your advice firm's strategy – highlighting the aims, objectives, and tactics – for developing/strengthening your customer servicing capabilities for calendar years 2016 and 2017.
6. Evidence any financial or business metrics and/or statements with supporting documentation, including audited statements, third party independent data reports or client/partner endorsements and testimonials.

By submitting your application you certify that the information you have provided is accurate and understand that withholding any information or giving false information can result in disqualification or the forfeiture of an award. We reserve the right to declare your entry ineligible if, during the period, in the sole and reasonable opinion of the judges or the organisers: a. you are unable to represent or promote the Awards in a satisfactory manner; b. you have not complied with these Terms; c. the entry form is incomplete; or d. information provided by you is deficient, false, misleading or provided unlawfully.