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### **Australia's top SMEs unveiled**

The contenders for this year's Optus My Business Awards have been revealed, with businesses across Australia recognised for excellence.

This prestigious awards program unearths the best and brightest of Australia's community of more than 2 million SMEs, across all industries, states and territories.

In 2016, there are a staggering 188 finalists across 24 categories. Each category acknowledges best practice within a particular industry sector, as well as individual business leaders, excellence in customer service and achievements in innovation and workplace culture.

Phillip Tarrant, editor of My Business, said the diversity and talent of the finalists affirms the strength of the SME sector and the opportunities for Australians seeking empowerment through self-employment.

"My Business has a long history of supporting the SME community, and we're excited to unveil this year's finalists for the Optus My business Awards," he said.

"Australia's SME sector is the backbone of the nation's economy. SMEs are the largest employer of Australians and represent the very best in innovation, service, support and capabilities.

"I'd like to congratulate all of our finalists on their exceptional contributions to our nation's economic prosperity, as well as their ongoing passion, drive and commitment to pursuing excellence in their businesses while supporting their local communities."

A total of 26 high-profile judges will now be given the task of determining a winner for each category.

Winners will be revealed at a black-tie gala dinner on Friday, 18 November 2016 at Sydney's Four Points by Sheraton. Tickets are on sale now at [www.mybusiness.com.au/mybusinessawards](http://www.mybusiness.com.au/mybusinessawards)

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