**Deakin University Geelong Business Excellence Awards**

**Conflict of Interest policy**

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the obligations of the Deakin University Geelong Business Excellence Awards (the Awards) judges who are involved in the marking process to prevent any Conflict of Interest

1. **Definitions**

In this policy:

**Conflict of Interest** means any actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest between the Judge’s duty to objectively adjudicate or otherwise participate in a Selection Process and the Judge’s Personal Interests, Business Interests or Financial Interests;

**Judge** means any person judging or otherwise in a position to influence the decision-making in the final selection of Award winners and finalists;

**Award Entrant** means any person/business that is entering the Deakin University Geelong Business Excellence Awards;

**Awards Coordinator means the person employed by the Geelong Chamber of Commerce to manage and coordinate the Deakin University Geelong Business Excellence Awards;**

**Financial Interest** means any interest that could directly or indirectly result in the Judge or a person in whom the Judge has a Personal Interest receiving a financial gain or bearing a financial loss;

**Personal Interest** includes a personal relationship with a spouse, de facto partner, relative, business associate or financial dependant;

**Business Interest means** any interest that could directly or indirectly result in the Judge or a person in whom the Judge has a Business interest

**Judging Process** means the process of reviewing Award entries to determine Award winners and finalists; and

**Selection Process** means the process of judging and evaluating the Award entries to select category winners

1. **Obligations**
   1. A Judge must inform the Awards Coordinator of a possible Conflict of Interest as soon as the Judge becomes aware of it, even if the Judge considers the Conflict of Interest to be remote, contingent or apparently insubstantial. An Award Entrant must follow these same guidelines.
   2. The Awards Coordinator, along with the Chair of the judging panel (the Chair), will promptly consider the disclosed interest, and make a determination as to whether a Conflict of Interest exists. In doing so, they shall take into account whether the disclosed interest has the capacity to influence the decision-making or conduct of the Judge or may be perceived to do so.
   3. The Chair will determine in their absolute discretion whether the Judge should:
      1. participate, or continue to participate, in any or all of the Judging Process; or
      2. be excluded from further participation in any, or certain aspects, of the Judging Process.
   4. In the case that the Chair has a Conflict of Interest, the Chief Executive Officer of the Geelong Chamber of Commerce will determine in their absolute discretion whether the Chair should:
      1. participate, or continue to participate, in any or all of the Judging Process; or
      2. be excluded from further participation in any, or certain aspects, of the Judging Process.
2. **Privacy**

The Geelong Chamber of Commerce privacy policy applies to any personal information or sensitive information (as defined in the Privacy Act) collected under this policy. A copy of Geelong Chamber of Commerce Privacy Policy is available on the following website [www.geelongchamber.com.au](http://www.geelongchamber.com.au) or a hardcopy can be provided upon request to the Awards Coordinator.