



2025 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARDS ENTRY KIT Entries close Thursday 31 July 2025

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Key Program Dates

Entries Open	Monday 10 March 2025
Entries Close	Thursday 31 July 2025
Category Judging	Aug - Sep 2025
Overall Assessor Visits	17 August - 5 September 2025
Sustainable Cities Awards Event	6 November 2025 (Blacktown)



Chief Executive Officer's Message

Welcome to the KAB NSW Sustainable Cities Awards for 2025!

2025 marks the 21st year of KAB NSW rewarding and recognising metropolitan councils, communities, organisations, schools, and individuals for their tireless efforts towards a more sustainable future. This year's categories reflect the most pressing areas for environmental action that affect us all and we remain constant in our search for new projects that enhance our metropolitan areas for future sustainability. The category awards will once again be a major part of our search for the ultimate winner of the coveted KAB NSW Sustainable City Award for 2025.

So, what does a sustainable future look like for metropolitan cities in NSW? Sustainability here at KAB NSW is the consistent drive to improve our relationship with the environment while creating a better way of life for all. Keeping this front of mind, the defining and most crucial element of any winning project or program is that it achieves harmony between economic, social, and environmental needs, and that it is innovative in its design, inclusive in its planning, and effective in its approach.

The awards presentation event itself is an opportunity to celebrate the amazing achievements from our entrants as well as an opportunity to learn from each other's experiences.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our partners for their ongoing support and our incredibly experienced judges, and our on-the-ground assessor, for giving their valuable time in assessing the entries. Without them, these programs would not occur.

I wish all the entrants the best of luck for their category awards entries, and we look forward to showcasing some of these as well as announcing both the category and the 2025 Sustainable City overall winners in Blacktown on 6 November 2025.



Warm regards,

Val Southam Chief Executive and Executive Director Keep Australia Beautiful NSW



About Sustainable Cities

The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards has been rewarding and recognising projects around litter, waste management, recycling and other environmental areas in metropolitan councils and urban communities since 1994.

The Sustainable Cities Awards inspire councils, communities, businesses and schools to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area and enter into the Sustainable Cities Awards program to vie for a category win or the Overall NSW Sustainable City award. In 2025 the Awards event will be held in November hosted by the 2024 winner, Blacktown.

About KAB NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is the premier non-profit organisation leading behaviour change by engaging the community to continually improve our local environment.

Over our 40-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated businesses, community groups, councils, schools and individuals assisting our causes.

We deliver many programs throughout the state to promote sustainability and reduce litter:

- Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards (regional)
- Sustainable Cities Awards (metropolitan)
- EnviroMentors[®]
 environmental education program
- Annual Congress



2024 Overall Winner Blacktown City Council

Blacktown City Council was proud to receive the 2024 Overall Sustainable Cities award from Keep Australia Beautiful. It was a pleasure to compete as finalists alongside other wonderful cities.

Our contributions to environmental sustainability and community engagement was also recognised in other categories, winning the Communication & Engagement Award for our Multi Engagement for Multi-Unit Dwellings project and the Heritage & Culture Award for Blacktown Arts Makers Space with Tarni Eastwood. Caddies Creek Public School, within our local government area, also received highly commended in the Young Legends category.

To be recognised in these categories, and overall, highlights our collaborative approach between Council and the community which drives our initiatives.

We look forward to hosting Keep Australia Beautiful NSW in Blacktown City in 2025.



WHO CAN ENTER?

The Sustainable Cities Awards are open to projects based in metropolitan areas of NSW. Category entrants include (but are not limited to): Local Authorities/Council's, Individuals, Community Groups, Youth Organisations, Landcare Groups, Chambers of Commerce, Tourism Associations, School's, Pre Schools, Businesses, Small Enterprises and Industry, Registered Clubs and Service groups.

If you or your Council, community group, business or school is based within the following local government areas, you should enter the Sustainable Cities Awards Program:

- Bayside Council
- Blacktown City Council
- Blue Mountains City Council
- Burwood Council
- Camden Council
- Campbelltown City Council
- City of Canada Bay Council
- Canterbury Bankstown Council
- Central Coast Council
- Cumberland Council
- Fairfield City Council
- Georges River Council
- Hawkesbury City Council
- The Hills Shire Council
- The Council of the Shire of Hornsby
- The Council of the Municipality of Hunters Hill
- Inner West Council

- Ku-ring-gai Council
- Lane Cove Municipal Council
- Liverpool City Council
- Mosman Municipal Council
- North Sydney Council
- Northern Beaches Council
- · Council of the City of Parramatta
- Penrith City Council
- Randwick City Council
- · Council of the City of Ryde
- Strathfield Municipal Council
- Sutherland Shire Council
- Council of the City of Sydney
- Waverley Council
- Willoughby City Council
- Wollondilly Shire Council
- Woollahra Municipal Council

For projects, community groups, businesses, schools and Council's outside the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Area, please refer to the <u>Tidy Towns Awards Program</u>.

Awards Categories



Circular Economy

The Circular Economy Award is for any operationally viable projects in the circular economy which do, or could potentially, divert solid materials, fluids or energy from waste streams and return them to the productive economy.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Design, planning or implementation of a program specifically designed to collect and process material resources to be either re-purposed or recycled into a marketable resource/ product.
- The development of a business extended producer responsibility scheme that supports the environmentally sound management of products and materials over their life, including at the end of their useful life, by; ensuring ownership and responsibility for actions to minimise the negative impacts from products, ensuring the avoidance or minimisation of waste, and maximising reuse, repair and recycling of products and materials throughout their life cycle.
- A financed project in pre-commercial development or a scheme in commercial operation.



Litter Prevention

The Litter Prevention Award is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter. Projects should demonstrate inventive techniques that specifically address local litter issues with quantifiable outcomes. Within this award there are two sub-categories:

- · Land-based litter prevention
- Water-based litter prevention

This could include projects that use one or more of the following approaches:

- Behaviour change techniques to stop littering.
- New or effective ways to communicate about litter and its impacts.
- Building partnerships or networks to prevent litter.
- Enforcement techniques to reduce litter.
- Create effective infrastructure and place design to reduce litter (signage, bins, other landscaping).

Projects that use more than one approach will be highly regarded. Projects can address any form of litter in any environment.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- A litter reduction campaign which involves the community.
- A project or program aimed at a specific section of the community - for example, children, young people, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups, Indigenous communities.
- A project aimed at addressing litter with a long-term solution based on behaviour change techniques.
- Innovative strategies to target litter for example signage, phasing out plastic bags/bottles etc.



Resource Recovery

The Resource Recovery Award is for projects or programs that conserve, recycle or minimise wastage of our everyday resources, which include water, food & organic materials, and waste materials.

Projects should demonstrate inventive techniques that specifically address local waste problems, with quantifiable effective outcomes.

- Projects that use recycling and prevent waste material going to landfill.
- The development of a Resource Recovery Strategy and Action Plan.
- A local group addressing the problem of food waste in their community.
- The planning and implementation of a program that facilitates appropriate disposal of items, for example, free drop-offs to help tackle illegal dumping or management of event sites.

Awards Categories



Waste Avoidance

The Waste Avoidance Award is for projects or programs that address waste prevention or reduction and education.

Projects should demonstrate inventive techniques that specifically address local waste problems, with quantifiable effective outcomes.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Initiatives that promote and waste avoidance and reduction to improve recycling systems, single-use plastic pollution and food waste reduction.
- Demonstrations of zero waste living (e.g. Zero Waste House, Zero Waste Restaurants/hospitality businesses)
- Education campaigns addressing the impact of waste generation and disposal and promoting practical alternatives
- Promotion of alternatives to singleuse products and methods to reduce packaging
- Programs to encourage backyard composting and worm farming
- School programs such as "Waste-Free Wednesdays"



Liveable Cities

The Liveable Cities Award is for projects that contribute to the liveability of a particular area.

Projects could include any of the following aspects of what it means to improve liveability:

- Accessible and sustainable mobility or housing.
- A diverse and resilient local economy.
- · Vibrant and beautiful public spaces.
- Social stability and equity.
- · Health and well-being.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Micro-mobility projects or programs.
- · Public housing developments.
- Development of green spaces.
- Health and wellbeing events or community groups.
- · Transport improvements.
- Urban farming infrastructure.



Biodiversity Conservation

The Biodiversity Conservation Award is for projects which regenerate, conserve, or advance scientific understanding of biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems, such as:

- Projects created to restore or protect the biodiversity of a terrestrial and/or marine environment.
- Leadership in the promotion and advocacy for conserving local biodiversity.
- Actions which improve the biodiversity in that area, through community participation.
- Partnerships that encourage the community to be proactive in the conservation of biodiversity.
- Research projects that aim to improve scientific understanding, improve conservation or regeneration efforts, or raise awareness.
- Policy or mission that supports the protection of local biodiversity in an area.

- Education programs and projects that raise awareness about local threatened species and their protection.
- Biodiversity restoration projects or studies taken in a particular area to enhance scientific understanding of a particular ecosystem, species, or habitat.
- Development or upgrades to community or local nurseries which provide greater access to local provenance species.
- Supporting community participation in projects such as fauna and flora conservation. Includes promotion and education, data collection and mapping, community involvement and feedback.
- Development of, or increased involvement by the community in Landcare, Bushcare, Dunecare or other community projects that assists in enhancing biodiversity.



Heritage & Culture

The Heritage and Culture Award is for community projects that enhance and protect either our built heritage, natural heritage or indigenous cultural heritage.

Projects may include:

- Commitment to the conservation of built heritage, such as a building and/ or other infrastructure restoration.
- Education projects and/or research into an area's heritage.
- Conservation actions which promote and support indigenous heritage.
- Proactive long-term planning that allows an area's Aboriginal heritage to be preserved

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- The restoration of an area, heritage building or other infrastructure.
- An event that recognises the history of an area, such as a cultural festival.
- The protection of significant natural areas that are an integral part of the history of an area.
- A Heritage Centre (or similar) that promotes heritage and facilitates local history documentation in an area.
- Education which provides for the ongoing existence of the Aboriginal heritage of an area. For example, the teaching and preservation of language.



Community Spirit & Inclusion

The Community Spirit and Inclusion Award is awarded to communities that successfully demonstrate strong community spirit and inclusion in the face of ongoing challenges. This award is given to communities that refuse to 'give in' when facing a challenge.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- A community coming together to restore and rebuild a community hub.
- Events, programs or festivals that celebrate and promote community spirit and inclusion.
- Activities to promote civic pride, create community awareness, cohesion and wellbeing.
- Innovative approaches to community engagement, such as communications techniques or alternative methods of delivering events, programs or festivals
- A community supporting each other at a time of crisis – such as bushfire, drought or flood recovery.



Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

The Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Award is for projects that strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change, reduce emissions, or sequester carbon from the atmosphere. This includes projects that enable our communities to better anticipate, manage and adapt to our changing climate. We believe that mitigation and adaptation building are a shared responsibility that requires sustained and ongoing action. Successful projects will demonstrate a comprehensive approach by considering the natural environment, the built environment, social impacts, and economic impacts.

- Improving erosion proofing to protect coastal infrastructure from rising sea levels.
- Developing or improving renewable energy generation or usage within an organisation.
- Reducing reliance on fossil fuels within a community.
- Products, projects, or infrastructure that facilitate the use of renewable energy.
- Improving business accountability for and reporting of energy use.
- Long term plans to reduce energy demand, especially energy sourced from fossil fuels.
- Long term planning supporting the likely impacts of climate change and increased extreme weather events.
- Education programs which provide knowledge and support for individuals, students and communities to learn, discuss and voice concerns.
- Research and scholarship projects that look closely at likely impacts and possible solutions.

Awards Categories



Communication & Engagement

The Communication & Engagement Award is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action, through:

- Education and communication campaigns that raise awareness of environmental sustainability for topics such as energy, water or waste reduction to create empowerment and behaviour change amongst the target audience.
- Developing and building communication partnerships that enable sharing of resources, ideas and knowledge.
- Creating spaces and places for environmental communication programs that demonstrate ideas and practical solutions for the community.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- A series of education workshops on a range of topics that inspire community to share ideas and learn about environmental issues.
- Regional education programs that specifically target behaviours of a group around a specific issue (for example, wood fire smoke or illegal dumping).
- A council that has implemented an effective communication program, ranging from media campaigns to multi-dimensional campaigns which tackle a problem from different angles.



Plastic-Free Communities

The Plastic-Free Communities Award is for innovation and programs that take action to tackle single use plastics, empowering individuals and businesses to avoid single use products and encourage more sustainable choices.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- An education campaign to inform local cafe's and retailers of plasticfree and reusable alternatives.
- Programs offering incentives for saying no to single-use products and/ or providing reusable receptacles.
- Programs that support redesigning products/packaging to utilise alternative materials.
- Programs supplying reusable crockery for local events.



Waterways & Marine Protection

The Waterways & Marine Protection Award is for programs and actions that create, restore and/or enhance our natural waterways and beaches, through:

- Actively advocating coastal and waterway protection through education, action, data collection and partnerships.
- Developing projects that encourage community participation in the protection of waterways and beaches.
- Sustainably managing water resources within the community, through improved infrastructure, systems and planning.
- Improving water quality through reducing litter.
- Sustainable coastal use and development for healthy habitats.
- Protecting the cultural values of the marine estate.
- · Sustainable fishing and aquaculture.

- Building a fish ladder to improve fish movement upstream.
- Caring for a local beach, through community participation. Actions may include clean-ups, education through signage, data collection and improved bin infrastructure.
- Weed control along streams, rivers and dunes.
- Advocacy and action around threats to marine environments, including data collection, projects around minimising the use of single use plastic or fishing line management.



Young Legends (≤ 25)

The Young Legend's Award is for an individual, school (including classes or groups) or a group of individuals (25 years and under) who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes in any of the preceding categories e.g. Litter, biodiversity conservation, waste minimisation etc. through:

- Advocating for change in the local area, through participation on committees or clean-up activities, volunteering at community nurseries or Bushcare etc.
- Programs that encourage mentoring and development of sustainability throughout the school and in the community.
- Working in partnership with other organisations to make significant change in relation to the environment.
- The adoption of sustainable methods in operations such as retrofitting school infrastructure or undertaking of whole of school behaviour change programs.

Projects may be submitted by:

- Individuals.
- Schools and Pre-Schools
- · A group of young people.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- An individual who volunteers by growing plants at their local community nursery for planting in a local area of bushland.
- A youth or school group who advocates the reduced use of plastic litter through active clean-ups, education campaigns and partnering with the local community.
- A school that has implemented a waste or sustainability project within their school or community.
- A pre-school or vacation care group who take part in sustainability or environmental projects.



Local Heroes

The Local Heroes Award recognise individuals who demonstrate leadership and an outstanding commitment in any of the awards categories.

Nominations for Local Heroes should be made by email to <u>events@kabnsw.</u> <u>org.au</u> outlining the contribution that individual has made to their community and must be accompanied by a high resolution photograph (300dpi or minimum file size of 1MB)

Presentation of Local Heroes Awards is at the discretion of KAB NSW.



Overall Award

The Overall Award is awarded to a metropolitan council that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in multple areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

To be eligible for the Overall NSW Sustainable Cities Award you must be a City Council in one of the local government areas listed on page 6. There are two ways to enter the Overall Sustainable Cities Award:

- 1. Submit an Overall Sustainable Cities Award entry form, this will enable you to enter multiple categories within one entry.
- 2. Submit four (4) or more individual category entries.

Councils may include entries by outside organisations within the local government area, for example entries from a school or business, so long as some degree of collaboration between the Council and the external organisation is evident.

Councils that qualify will be assessed by an on-the-ground assessor who will visit your projects between 17 August and 5 September. Exact times and dates will be confirmed with each Council before the assessor arrives.

Preparing + Submitting Your Entry

Before you begin completing the online form, we recommend you collate your submission material so that you can simply copy and paste/upload the respective content into the form. Please refer to the list below for the required information, a Microsoft Word template is available on the <u>awards program page of the KAB NSW website</u>.

MAIN CONTACT - for correspondence relating to your entry

- Name
- Organisation
- Postal Address
- Phone
- Email

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

- · Please select the award category you wish to enter
- Name of project (max 40 characters including spaces, please enter as you would wish it to appear on any awards)
- Project Owner (please enter your organisation/ committee name as you would wish it to appear on awards)
- · How many volunteers have worked on this project
- Approximately how many volunteer hours were spent on the project
- Type of Organisation: Group; Business / Enterprise; Individual; Organisation (NGO, NFP); Local Authority; School
- **Project Overview.** 125 words max. NOTE: This information will be used for awards promotions. No score will be assigned to this section. In your response, please address: What challenge was this initiative seeking to address? How did you address the challenge (What did you do)? Who were the main stakeholders? What were the key outcomes/achievements?
- Hero Image. Please provide one main image in LANDSCAPE format that best encapsulates the spirit of your project. We appreciate your efforts to ensure these are high resolution (e.g. 300dpi or minimum file size of 1MB). Note, you may supply additional images in the attachment section.

ABOUT YOUR CITY

- City
- Which Local Government Area is your Project in? If your LGA is not listed here then you most likely should be entering the Tidy Towns Awards Program, please visit <u>https://www.kabnsw.org.au/awards/</u> <u>tidytowns2025/</u> for information and the entry form link.
- Contact at Council (if known)

MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS

- Media Contact
 - Name
 - Phone
 - Email
- Social Media Tags
 - FaceBook
 - Instagram
 - LinkedIn
 - Please list your local newspaper(s), radio stations and any other media contacts (it would be very helpful if you can provide their social media tags).

SUPPORTING ATTACHMENTS

- To support your entry you may upload up to 10 attachments. These may be photographs or documents (e.g. reports). It will assist the judges if you reference any attachments within your Entry Questions and we encourage you to upload photos and videos as these can be used to promote your project through KAB NSW and other channels. All photos submitted to Keep Australia Beautiful NSW may be used for promotion and marketing purposes and you must ensure that you have permission from all individuals featured in any photographs prior to submitting your entry.
- You may also upload or link to videos. This can be used to answer ALL OF THE CRITERIA as set out by the online portal.

ENTRY QUESTIONS (100 words per question)

- 1. Background: Provide a summary of the history of the initiative.
 - a. What is the history of the initiative?
 - b. How was the need identified?
- 2. Partnerships & Collaboration: Identify the key stakeholders involved in the initiative.
 - a. Who was involved in the initiative?
 - b. How was the community, stakeholders and/or partners engaged in the initiative?
- 3. Planning: Describe the planning of the initiative What were the steps involved in planning for the initiative?
- 4. Implementation: Discuss the opportunities and challenges that arose when developing and implementing the project -What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them?
- 5. Outcomes: How did you evaluate the success of the initiative and what did you learn?
 - a. How did you evaluate the overall success of the initiative?
 - b. What were the outcomes of the initiative?
 - c. What opportunities arose from the initiative?

Category Specific Question (500 words max)

Category	Question
Circular Economy	Describe how your project shows a long-term commitment to the diversion of waste materials into the productive economy?
Litter Prevention	In what ways will the project lead to long term litter reduction in your community?
Resource Recovery	In what ways will the project increase resource recovery in your community?
Waste Avoidance	In what ways will the project lead to long term reduction in waste in your community?
Liveable Cities	Describe how your project or program is contributing to higher living standards in your region
Biodiversity Conservation	Describe how or why your project demonstrates a commitment to the conservation and preservation of biodiversity in your area?
Heritage & Culture	Describe how or why your project demonstrates a commitment to the conservation and preservation of heritage in your area.
Community Spirit & Inclusion	Describe how your project provides an ongoing solution to the issue being addressed and how this has been embedded in the solution?
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	Describe how or why your initiative implements effective mitigation strategies and/or effective adaptive capabilities throughout your area.
Communication & Engagement	Describe how your project provides long term solutions for your community to continue to learn from and engage in your communications campaign?
Plastic-Free Communities	Describe how your project is contributing to a reduction in the use of single-use plastics in your community.
Waterways & Marine Protection	Describe how your project supports and achieves long term commitment to the protection of your coastal or waterway area?
Young Legends (≤25)	Describe how the nominated individual or group has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to sustainability and the environment?

If you wish to enter the Overall Category, please submit your category entries before completing the Overall Entry Form, referencing your category submissions. To make nominations for Local Heroes awards please email events@kabnsw.org.au.

Now that you are prepared, visit https://www.kabnsw.org.au/awards/sustainable-cities/ to start your submission

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find examples of past entries and projects?Details on previous year's projects are available in the awards Winners Books which can be downloaded from the KAB NSW website (click here) or visit kabnsw.org.au > What we do > Sustainability Awards > Winners Books.Which Award program should I be in, Sustainable Cities or Tidy Towns?If you are in the Greater Sydney area, then you should enter Sustainable Cities. Click here to check. which Councils are in each program.If my initiative is multi-disciplinary and I'm not sure which category it belongs in, can I enter the same initiative in multiple categories?We get it, some projects are big are therefore span potentially multiple categories, but your responses must be tailored specifically to the categories you wish to enter.Can I enter multiple projects in the same category?Yes; absolutely!Can I include other projects that have taken place in my Council for our overall entry?Yes! We will ask you to demonstrate some collaboration in the project.Does my initiative have to be completed in order to enter?No. If your initiative is underway, we want to hear all about it.If my program began over two years ago, but it is still operating, can I enter?Yes! Whether or not you have entered this program before, we want to hear about your ongoing programs!I entered a project last year; can I enter?Yes! Just be sure to demonstrate that you have made progress on your project in the last 12 months.My project is operating in multiple from?In this case, nominate the council in which you or your organisation are based, whether that's an office location or a place of residence.Wo can I contact if I have any que		
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TERMS + CONDITIONS

- 1. Entrants should endeavour to attend the Awards Event on 6 November 2025 in Blacktown (Inability to attend does not disqualify entry).
- 2. Entry is free and open to both KAB NSW members and non-members.
- 3. Entries must be based in New South Wales.
- 4. All guidelines should be addressed in your online nomination. Supporting documents and photographs should be attached to your nomination if relevant.
- 5. By entering the Awards the entrant gives permission to KAB NSW to publish, exhibit and promote the content of the submission, including supporters of the Awards, where their use of submission content is specifically related to their promotion of their involvement in the Awards.
- 6. Entrants agree to media publicity and promotion associated with the Awards nomination, including any photos submitted or taken at the Awards Presentation ceremony.
- 7. All entrants must be prepared to submit further material for exhibition and publication if required, such as additional photography,
- 8. Entries close on 31 July 2025.
- 9. The 2024 Overall winner is not eligible to enter the Overall Award category for 2025.
- 10. By entering, the main contact declares that they are authorised to submit the project, and that they have obtained appropriate releases and authorities in writing from project clients, collaborating organisations, copyright holders for entry submission materials, licensees, photographers. In particular where images of children are used.
- 11. By entering this program, the entrant agrees to absolve KAB NSW from any liability relating to confidentiality or intellectual property issues that may be raised by any party.
- 12. KAB NSW is committed to providing a quality awards program and makes every attempt to ensure accuracy, currency and reliability of the information included in this document and elsewhere. However, changes in content and process may become necessary at the absolute discretion of KAB NSW. KAB NSW accepts no liability for any use of the said content or reliance placed upon it.

FURTHER INFORMATION + CONTACTS

For further information about Keep Australia Beautiful NSW or any of or programs, please contact us using the details below:

Phone: 02 8594 4000

Email: info@kabnsw.org.au

Website: www.kabnsw.org.au

Mailing address: Suite 29, Level 1, 93 George Street Parramatta NSW 2150



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Suite 29, Level 1, 93 George Street Parramatta NSW 2150 T 02 8594 4000 info@kabnsw.org.au www.kabnsw.org.au