

## Independent ASTRA judges meet as industry gears up for 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**January 23, 2015:** More than 80 leaders from across the television, entertainment and arts sectors will gather in Sydney next week (January 29) to judge the 2015 ASTRA Awards.

This judging event has been timed to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the first Australian subscription television broadcast - by Galaxy, on Australia Day in 1995.

The 2015 ASTRA Awards - the largest ever - will reunite many of the stars from the 1990s and 2000s in a tribute to the industry's 20-year history.

For the first time, a large number of leaders from the wider creative industries will join subscription television executives on judging panels that determine finalists and winners.

Included on the independent panels will be leading producers, directors, writers, actors, presenters, educators, funders, executives and the leaders of screen agencies from a majority of states and territories.

"The involvement of so many creative figures will bring diversity and depth to the ASTRA judging panels and is bound to generate surprises on the night," ASTRA Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Maiden, said today.

"Their inclusion means the ASTRA Awards will recognise the most outstanding programs and talent as judged by the creative world's most outstanding leaders," he said.

Across two decades, subscription television has grown into one of Australia's most popular industries, enriching the lives of millions, creating 6600 jobs, investing more than \$600 million annually in quality content, and injecting some two billion dollars into the economy.

### **About the ASTRA Awards**

The annual ASTRA Awards reward the creativity, diversity and quality of Australian subscription television. Eighteen awards honour the industry's most outstanding programs, presenters, actors and journalists. Follow us on Twitter at @astraevent and on Facebook at fb.com/astraawards. For more information visit [www.astra.org.au/awards](http://www.astra.org.au/awards)

### **About ASTRA**

ASTRA is the peak body representing more than 30 organisations including subscription media platforms, channels, suppliers and technology companies. ASTRA members broadcast and stream content to one in

2015  
**ASTRA**  
**AWARDS**  
20 years of subscription television

**ASTRA** Subscription  
Media Australia

three Australians, invest more than \$600 million in local content, add nearly \$1.9 billion to the economy and create jobs for 6600 Australians. For more information visit [www.astra.org.au](http://www.astra.org.au).

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