NEXT GEN

INSURANCE LEADER 2026

Submission Guidelines

Barry Nilsson

YOUNG INSURANCE PROFESSIONALS

Submission Guidelines

Award purpose

Now in its eighth year, the YIPs Barry Nilsson Next Gen Insurance Leader Award recognises innovative thinking, leadership potential and business acumen, and encourages and supports the career development of young insurance professionals throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Award prize

The winner of the award will be announced via an online announcement and receive:

- Cash prize of AUD $5,000
- Commemorative trophy
- An invitation to sit on the judging panel for the 2027 award

Who can enter

Entrants must:

- Be a member of Young Insurance Professionals
- Work in an area directly connected to General Insurance as defined under the General Insurance Code of Practice
- Be aged 35 or younger at the date of submission
- Be a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand
- Be currently living and working in Australia or New Zealand

Entry is not open to:

- Previous Next Gen winners
- YIPs Australasian committee members
- Barry Nilsson employees

Judging criteria

Each submission will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Understanding of chosen topic
- Innovative thinking and ideas expressed
- Clearly documented commercial application, purpose and outcome
- Clarity of thought
- Use of external resources and appropriate referencing
- Written presentation, formatting and submission.

To ensure a fair evaluation of all entries, all personally identifiable information from each submission will be removed before the submission is presented to the Judging Panel.

Judging panel

The three finalists, and ultimately the winner, will be selected by a panel of five (5) judges including:

- **Ash Freeman** – Vice President (Australia), YIPs
- **Dian Turner** – Principal, Barry Nilsson
- **Justin Micale** – Australasian President, YIPs
- **Meg Long** – CEO, McLardy McShane Partners PL
- **Thomas Byrne** – Principal, Barry Nilsson

Key dates

Submissions open: Thursday, 15 October

Submissions close: Thursday, 12 November, 5pm AEDT

Finalists announced: Monday, 30 November

Winner announced: Friday, 4 December

Submission requirements and topics

Please complete both Part A and Part B of the submission requirements.

Part A: Essay Question (1,500 words) – 80% weighting

Entrants are required to submit a written essay exploring one (1) of four (4) topics. The structure of the submission is at the discretion of the entrant. Please refer to the judging criteria for guidance on what to include in your submission.

There are four (4) topics for entrants to choose from:

1. Insuring the Uninsurable

New and evolving risks are challenging traditional approaches to insurance. What opportunities exist for the industry to rethink how it provides protection in an increasingly complex world?

2. Building Trust in a Digital World

Customers increasingly expect fast, digital yet personalised experiences. How can the insurance industry leverage technology to improve customer outcomes while maintaining trust, transparency and confidence?

3. An Industry for Everyone

Insurance serves people and communities with widely differing experiences, needs and levels of access. How can the insurance industry foster greater diversity of thought, and what benefits could this bring for customers and organisations?

4. The Big Pricing Reset

As competition intensifies across many insurance classes, how can the industry balance customer expectations, profitability and long-term sustainability?

Part B: "Next Gen" Thought Leadership (500 words) – 20% weighting

Reflecting on your Part A response, if you had the opportunity to lead change in this area, where would you start and why?

Submission guidelines

No more than 2,000 words – Part A: 1,500 words and Part B: 500 words (excluding any foot/endnotes, block quotations and the bibliography).

- Submission format:
  - Text: Arial, size 10pt, justified
  - Line spacing: 1.5
  - Papers must be submitted in MS Word format only
  - The file must be named as follows: firstname_surname.doc (e.g. john_smith.doc)
- Submission cover sheet must be included (download from yips.org.au)
- Submissions must be sent by email to nextgen@yips.org.au by 5:00pm AEDT on Thursday, 12 November 2026

Please email nextgen@yips.org.au if you have any questions or need help lodging your submission.

About Barry Nilsson

For over 60 years, Barry Nilsson has been shaping a better legal experience for our clients – with better service, better partnerships, and better outcomes.

Our Insurance and Health practice has expertise across all lines of insurance, from policy drafting to claims management. We partner with insurers, brokers, self-insureds and re-insurers in Australia and overseas to tailor legal strategies that achieve the best possible outcomes. With more than 280 specialist insurance lawyers across six states, we combine deep industry knowledge with local expertise and the highest standards of client service.

Through thought leadership, industry involvement and sponsorships, BN is a strong contributor to the insurance industry. As an industry partner, BN recognises the importance of supporting the next generation of leaders. We aim to enhance the professionalism and excellence of insurance, brokers and risk management professionals, and contribute to the success of insurance and insurance-related businesses.

Visit bnlaw.com.au

About YIPs

Young Insurance Professionals, Australia & New Zealand Inc (YIPs) is the largest, independent, non-profit, young insurance professionals organisation in Australia and New Zealand, focused on developing the careers of future industry leaders.

YIPs operates across 11 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand, hosting both networking and educational events for a vibrant and engaged following of over 5,000 members.

Our mission is to promote insurance as a rewarding career choice for our members, by fostering their early development, facilitating retention of talent within the industry, and attracting new graduates into careers in insurance. We act as a hub within the industry from which members can interact and realise that there is more to insurance than sitting behind a desk.

Visit yips.org.au

Terms and conditions

By submitting an entry, the Entrant accepts the following conditions:

a. Publication of the winning entry on the Young Insurance Professionals (YIPs) and Barry Nilsson (BN) websites and in any newsletters or other media communications (including industry and broader press) will be at the discretion of YIPs and BN.

b. The copyright in all entries will rest with YIPs and BN.

c. The Entrant gives YIPs and BN permission to publish the winning paper and the name and/or photos of the winner and finalists.

d. The Entrant agrees not to publish the entry, in part or in full, on any public forum including but not limited to social media, websites, blogs or email without written permission from YIPs and BN.

e. Entrants agree not to comment publicly on the status of shortlisted entries prior to official public announcements.

f. YIPs and BN have the right to reject applications deemed to not meet applicant eligibility and/or the award submission guidelines. The decision to reject applicants will be at the sole discretion of YIPs and BN.

g. Late submissions will not be accepted.

h. Communication with any member of the Judging Panel regarding the essay submissions will result in disqualification.

i. The use of artificial intelligence or the like will result in immediate disqualification.

j. The cash prize of $5,000 is issued in Australian Dollars only, and exchange to alternative currencies will be at the discretion of the winner. YIPs and BN will not be responsible for any exchange fees or discrepancies.