



## **Carol Hanlon wins GOLD at 2026 Women Changing the World Global Awards**

Carol Hanlon of Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (BBEC, BEC National, BPW Business Incubator) and the Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre WA Inc. (TCFWA | TCF Australia | TCF Global) has been named the winner in TWO Award categories at 2026 Women Changing the World Global Awards recently announced in Paris, France.

Carol Hanlon was announced the winner in both the **HALL OF FAME AWARD** and the **WOMAN IN FASHION & TEXTILES AWARD**.

This year's awards saw over 1,500 nominations from 97 countries, highlighting the extraordinary global impact of women leading change across industries and communities.

The Awards, celebrate and recognize women achieving outstanding success in areas such as sustainability, humanitarian work, leadership, advocacy, education, health, and innovation. The awards are designed to recognize the growing number of women who are leading the way in making the world a better place for us all and to inspire other women to make a difference.

Carol Hanlon's 55year small business journey started with her sewing for paying clients at 13, leaving home and school at 15, running her own fashion label small business for 20years, followed by her 32year journey founding two not-for-profit small business support centres with her mission of empowering entrepreneurs, SMEs, women in business and TCF creatives where she strives to make a difference in Western Australia, across Australia and around the globe wherever possible.

This work is so important because entrepreneurs and small businesses are a vital component driving economic activity, employment, community inclusion and supporting innovators and creativity.

Carol Hanlon says: "I was honoured to receive these prestigious awards amongst such outstanding women. This recognition is not just about me but also provides acknowledgement for the many who link with both our NFP organisations, our sponsors, supporters, patrons, chairs, boards, advisors, mentors, presenters, staff, and volunteers who have assisted our many clients projects and programs over these past 32years."

The vision for these awards is to empower women everywhere to step into their power and call in women across the globe to pave the way towards a better future for all.



Carol is also thrilled that a number of women achievers from her global network were also recognised in the 2026 Women Changing The World Awards, these included Dr Eunice Sari, winner in Women In Tech Award; Aida Oakdon winner Volunteer of the Year Award; Angel French winner Emerging Woman of the Year Award.

It can be challenging to create change in the world and Carol Hanlon gives this advice for others thinking about following their calling to make a difference, "if you find you have 'skills and talents' to 'make a difference' to empower others - just do it, pay it forward, the world needs you right now!"

In the past 12 months Carol Hanlon's proudest achievements have been presenting her 12<sup>th</sup> annual UN CSW70 NGO Forum in New York; speaking at Women Economic Forum NY, Columbia University and the NGO CSW70 Vivacity Forum, Cornell University NY; presenter at VIATT Industry Forum, Vietnam and 'Market Find', Bali, Indonesia; presenter at BPW Asia Pacific Conference, Malaysia 'Women Connecting for Change'; staging our 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards and our 21<sup>st</sup> annual designedge Innovation Festival.

Carol attributes this success to her ongoing dedication and commitment in providing small businesses support to entrepreneurs, micro, small businesses, and NGOs. She is committed to continuing to make an impact through her work and her vision for the future is to "keep on creating small business projects for entrepreneurs and SMEs to know there is 'light at the end of the tunnel' and to assist them through and over the many hurdles they encounter. In coming months, we will be launching our 33<sup>rd</sup> Belmont & Western Australian Small Awards and our 22<sup>nd</sup> designedge Innovation Festival, also we will be sending off containers of donated sewing machines, textiles and haberdashry for womens sewing projects to Northern Western Australia and to BPW Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea."

"I do what I do to *make a difference* to entrepreneurs, micro and small business sector, whether that is local, state, nationally or globally."

The complete list of winners can be found at: [wcowards.com](https://wcowards.com)

For more information on the Women Changing the World Awards visit:

<https://wcowards.com/>

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