FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chandler Macleod named Large Recruitment Agency of the Year at 2026 SEEK Annual Recruitment Awards

MELBOURNE - Chandler Macleod has been named Large Recruitment Agency of the Year at the 2026 SEEK Annual Recruitment Awards, announced at a gala event at Melbourne Town Hall last night.

The category covers agencies with more than 81 full-time consultants and is judged by an independent expert panel across culture, innovation, growth, candidate experience and contribution to the recruitment industry.

The win follows a year in which Chandler Macleod grew its internal recruitment workforce by 45 roles while much of the industry reduced headcount, and kept more than 10,000 people on assignment across Australia.

"In a year when many agencies pulled back, we kept investing in our recruiters. We grew our recruitment team by 45 roles and cut internal turnover from 26% to 15%. Alongside that, our consultants kept more than 10,000 people on assignment across Australia. Being recognised by our industry for that means a great deal. We have put people first since 1959, and this award belongs to the people here today who keep doing it," said Nick Gabrielidis, Managing Director of Chandler Macleod.

Workforce diversity in renewable energy

Across two large-scale solar farm projects in regional Australia, Chandler Macleod deployed 303 workers, of whom 30% were women and 27% identified as First Nations, both well above construction sector norms. A five-day pre-employment program supported 90 participants, more than 90% of whom progressed into employment, with mentoring continuing after placement.

Screening technology that keeps humans in the decision

Chandler Macleod introduced structured chatbot screening to high-volume recruitment, allowing candidates to complete a first screen on any device outside business hours. Consultants set the questions, review all responses and make every progression decision. Screening volumes rose from 18,362 in one quarter to 21,595 the next, overtaking traditional phone screening for the first time and returning thousands of consultant hours to assessment and placement activity.

Candidate experience built on relevance

For a Federal Government entry-level recruitment program, Chandler Macleod replaced abstract testing with practical, role-relevant tasks. Of 1,033 invited candidates, 892 completed the assessment, and 729 survey respondents rated the experience 4.73 out of 5.

Investment in the profession

Chandler Macleod has been a Corporate Member of the Recruitment, Consulting and Staffing Association (RCSA) since 1988. In FY25 the business launched new onboarding programs incorporating the RCSA Code of Professional Conduct for all new recruiters, and introduced structured Recruitment Career Pathways across all disciplines.

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About Chandler Macleod

Chandler Macleod has been helping Australian organisations find, develop and manage their people since 1959. Working across industrial, professional, government and resources sectors, the business keeps more than 10,000 people on assignment nationally through its recruitment,

workforce management and consulting services. Chandler Macleod was named Large Recruitment Agency of the Year at the 2026 SEEK Annual Recruitment Awards.

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From left to right: Lauren Hodgson, Stefanie Atherton, Lorni Landrigan, Nick Gabrielidis, Felicity Dart, Meg McDowell