

2026 ACT Allied Health Excellence Awards

Information for nominators

Key dates

Nominations are **open** from **Tuesday 9 June** to **Friday 14 August 2026**

How to nominate

- Nominations can be made by colleagues, consumers, supervisors, executives, directors of allied health, profession or clinical leads.
- Nominations must be completed via the form on the [ACT Health website](#).
- The relevant supervisor's email address must be included in the nomination form. If you do not know who the nominee's current supervisor is, please contact alliedhealthawards@act.gov.au.
- Nomination submissions close at **5pm Friday, 14 August 2026**.

Who is eligible for nomination?

Nominees for all award categories must:

- be working in the **ACT**
- be employed in the **public, private, and/or not-for-profit** sector
- be working in an [eligible allied health profession](#) (see list)
- not have received an award in the category in which they are being nominated within the previous three (3) years
- not have been awarded ACT Allied Health Professional of the Year within the previous five (5) years
- not be subject to a professional practice notification, restriction/limitation to practice, under investigation, or disciplinary process. Note:
 - Registered professionals will be checked with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.
 - Self-regulated professionals will be checked with relevant professional associations.
 - If a nominee is subsequently found to be subject to any of these conditions their nomination will be withdrawn.
- be **endorsed** by the nominee's current supervisor **by the awards closing date** (including when self-nomination is made). **Please allow adequate time to obtain endorsement by the closing date. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.**

Award categories

Each nomination can be made in one of the following categories.	
Allied Health Assistant Excellence	For individuals. Nominees must be employed as Allied Health Assistants, Dental Assistants or Peer Recovery Workers.
Early Career Excellence	For individuals. Nominees must have commenced as a new graduate on or after 1 January 2023 .
Practice Excellence	For individuals. Nominees may be from various domains of allied health practice including but not limited to clinical, community, technical and scientific domains.
Management and Leadership Excellence	For individuals. For allied health leaders or managers from various domains of allied health practice.
Education Excellence	For individuals. For nominees who provide education to stimulate professional development and lifelong learning, to enhance skills and knowledge of allied health practice.
Team Excellence	For more than one individual. Eligibility requires the team to include at least two team members from an eligible allied health profession (see list). Remaining team members can be from other professions such as nursing, medicine, scientific, technical, and administrative professions who are employed in the public, private, and/or not-for-profit sector.
Research Excellence	For individuals or teams. Where a nomination is for a team, the lead researcher/s must be from an eligible allied health profession (see list). Teams can also include broader multidisciplinary professions such as nursing, medicine, scientific, technical, and administrative professions who are employed in the public, private, and/or not-for-profit sector.
Excellence in Provision of Services to Improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing	For individuals or teams Nominations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are strongly encouraged; however all eligible allied health professionals (see list) may be nominated. Team nominations must include at least two team members from an eligible allied health profession (see list). Remaining team members can be from other professions, such as nursing, medicine, scientific, technical, and administrative professions, employed in the public, private, and/or not-for-profit sector.
Consumer Recognition	For individuals or teams.

Assessment criteria

- Nominations must outline how the nominee/s demonstrate excellence in relation to **all the following criteria**:
 - Respect
 - Integrity
 - Collaboration
 - Innovation
- Responses should draw on experience from the previous 5 years only (2022 - 2026).
- Nominations must support all claims with specific and detailed examples demonstrating the nominee's excellence. Do not just state that the nominee is excellent; prove it!
- Responses must be a minimum of 200 and maximum of 500 words.

Supporting material

Please ensure claims can be backed up with supporting evidence if requested.

Do not include supporting documentation. Additional evidence may be sought by the assessment panel if required.

How will entries be assessed?

Nominations will be assessed by a panel of senior allied health professional staff from across the ACT, chaired by the ACT Chief Allied Health Officer. Additional assessors with specific relevant experience may be used if required.

The Assessment panel will evaluate excellence through several filters, which include but are not limited to:

- National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards
- Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights
- ACT Government public service values - *Respect, Integrity, Collaboration, and Innovation*

Announcement of nominees and award recipients

Nominees and award recipients will be celebrated publicly to coincide with International Allied Health Professions Day.

Award recipients' professional development grants

Each category recipient will be awarded a \$500 professional development grant. 2026 category winners will also receive supported registration to attend the 2027 International Allied Health Conference in Canberra.

One individual or team will be named 'Allied Health Professional of the Year' (selected from the field of highest-ranking nominees). They will receive an additional \$1500 professional development grant. They are expected to present a brief reflection on their year as the 'Allied Health Professional of the Year' and how the grant they received was used, at the Allied Health Awards ceremony of the following year.

Teams that receive an award and professional development grant should use this to support the team's professional development.

Guidance on categories open to nominations for one or more nominees

Consumer Recognition category

This category is designed to provide an opportunity for consumers to recognise **individuals or teams** from the allied health workforce. This category acknowledges the exceptional communication, responsiveness, tailoring of care to expressed needs, and partnerships with consumers and loved ones, over the **previous 12 months**, and the connection between the care and improved outcomes for the consumer and / or their carer/s.

Team Excellence category

If you wish to recognise the achievements of a team (more than one person) that does not fall into the *Research Excellence* or *Excellence in Provision of Services to Improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing* category, please submit the nomination in the **Team Excellence** category.

The Team Excellence category seeks to recognise teams that demonstrate the value of teamwork, including how a team has:

- contributed to the development, implementation, and ongoing delivery of an initiative to improve the quality of patient and family-centred care
- has enhanced service effectiveness through collaboration, and/or
- is recognised by peers as a champion of innovation and excellence

You must be able to demonstrate the input of different team members and/or collaboration between allied health and other professions and/or services.

Nominated teams must have a **minimum of 2 [eligible allied health professionals](#)** (see list).

Research Excellence category

The **Research Excellence** category is designed to provide an opportunity to recognise **individuals or teams** from the allied health workforce who have engaged in research and/or significant quality improvement activities. Where a nomination is for a team the lead researcher/s must be from an [eligible allied health profession](#) (see list).

Examples of activities eligible for consideration in the research category include:

- Applied practice projects that foster evidence-informed practice and focus on translational research
- Research carried out as part of postgraduate study or grants
- Dissemination of research findings through presentations, publications, or posters
- Mentoring and / or championing research either individually or within / across teams
- Leading research training and education
- Promotion of research and quality improvement in an allied health and / or multidisciplinary context
- Multidisciplinary research. Not all team members have to have an allied health background, however, the lead researcher(s) must be from an [eligible allied health profession](#)

Excellence in Provision of Services to Improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing category

This category is designed to provide an opportunity to recognise **individuals or teams** from the allied health workforce, who have engaged in activities to improve care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities.

Examples of activities eligible for consideration in this category include:

- Setting, implementing, and evaluating safety and quality goals for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers
- Improving cultural competence in caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers, to improve access to or outcomes of services and therefore help reduce health disparities
- Effectively and accurately improving processes to ask patients if they identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers, therefore enabling specific cultural needs to be understood and met
- Creating physically accessible, safe, welcoming, and culturally sensitive environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers
- Addressing barriers to communication, and creating effective and safe communication strategies with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers

- Implementing screening and assessment to identify risks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers, to ensure comprehensive care that is tailored to their health needs and goals
- Actively collaborating and engaging in partnerships with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to assist in promoting the profile and importance of health services.

Contact us

For more information contact the Office of the Chief Allied Health Officer:

- E: alliedhealthwards@act.gov.au
- Ph: 02 5124 9734
- Web: [ACT Health website](#)

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

For further accessibility information, visit: www.act.gov.au/accessibility

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