## **ALLIED HEALTH AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**

## Information for Nominators

### Key Dates

Nominations for the 2020 Allied Health Awards for Excellence **open on Monday 20 July 2020 and close on Friday 28 August 2020**.

### How to Apply

Nominations will be submitted via the electronic form which will be **available from 20 July 2020** at the ACT Government Health website <https://www.health.act.gov.au/careers/allied-health/learning-and-professional-development/reward-and-recognition-schemes> and must be received on or prior to the closing date of **28 August 2020**. **Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.**

### Conditions of Nomination and Eligibility

* Nominees for all award categories must be employees of ACT Health Directorate, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, Canberra Health Services, Community Services Directorate, Education Directorate or Justice and Community Safety Directorate;
* Nominees must be permanent employees, or able to provide evidence of continuous temporary employment for at least 12 months as at the closing date;
* Nominees must be from an [eligible allied health profession](https://www.health.act.gov.au/careers/allied-health/learning-and-professional-development/reward-and-recognition-schemes) (see list);
* Nominees must not have received an award in the category in which they are being nominated within the previous three (3) years;
* Nominations can be made by Executives, Directors of Allied Health, Profession and Clinical Leads, Managers, peers, consumers or self;
* All nominations, including self-nominations, must be endorsed by the nominee’s current Executive, or if applicable, Director of Allied Health. The relevant Executive or Director will be identified in the electronic application form, and a copy of the completed application will be sent to them for endorsement. Please allow adequate time to obtain endorsement to ensure this is completed on or prior to the closing date of 28 August 2020;
* Nominations can be made in one of the following categories:
	+ Allied Health Assistant Excellence (includes Dental Assistants and Peer Recovery Workers)
	+ Clinical Excellence
	+ Early Career Excellence (commenced as new graduate with ACT Government Directorate or Calvary Public Hospital Bruce on or after 1 January 2018)
	+ Management and Leadership Excellence
	+ Team Excellence
	+ Education Excellence
	+ Research Excellence
	+ Excellence in Provision of Services to Improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing;
* Responses within each category should be made against each of four criteria:
	+ Respect
	+ Integrity
	+ Collaboration
	+ Innovation;
* Responses should draw on experience from no longer than the previous 5 years (2015 -2020);
* Responses can be a maximum of 500 words per criterion;
* Nominations that include 2 or more people must be submitted either in the Research Excellence category, Team Excellence category, or Excellence in Provision of Services to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing category. Further details are outlined below.

### Supporting Material

Supporting documentation does not need to be submitted with the nomination. The assessment panel may subsequently request evidence from the nominator to further inform their evaluation of the nomination. Please ensure claims are genuine and can be backed up with supporting evidence.

### Notification of Receipt of Entries

All nominations will be acknowledged upon receipt by the Office of Professional Leadership and Education. A copy of the submitted application will be emailed to the nominator.

### How will Entries be Assessed?

Nominations will be assessed by a panel of senior allied health professional staff from eligible Directorates and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.

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

Nominations will be shortlisted by a panel of assessors chaired by the Chief Allied Health Officer. Nominees and nominators will be invited to attend the Awards Ceremony scheduled to be held on National Allied Health Day. Each category winner will be awarded a $500 Professional Development Grant. An overall winner will be chosen by the panel and will receive a $1500 Professional Development Grant. This recipient is 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 of the following year.

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

The **Excellence in Provision of Services to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health** **and Wellbeing** 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. This award provides a $500 Professional Development Grant.

Examples of activities that are 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 and 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 Islandercommunities to assist in promoting the profile and importance of health services.

Allied Health 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 improvement activities. This award is a $500 Professional Development Grant.

Examples of activities that are eligible for consideration in this category include:

* Quality Improvement initiatives that foster evidence-informed practice;
* Applied practice projects that 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 partners have to have an allied health background however the lead researcher(s) must be from an [eligible allied health profession](https://www.health.act.gov.au/careers/allied-health/learning-and-professional-development/reward-and-recognition-schemes) working in ACT Health Directorate, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, Canberra Health Services, Community Services Directorate, Education Directorate or Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

Allied Health Team Excellence Category

If you wish to recognise the achievements of a team (2 or more people) 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 Award carries a $500 Professional Development Grant to be used by the team to support their professional development.

The Team Excellence category seeks to recognise teams that demonstrate the value of teamwork including how an allied health discipline specific or multidisciplinary 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 integrity 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](https://www.health.act.gov.au/careers/allied-health/learning-and-professional-development/allied-health-excellence-awards).

Do you need further clarification about …..?

* The nomination processes?
* Eligibility?
* The award categories?
* Addressing each of the 4 assessment criteria?
* What type of supporting documentation may be required?

**Please contact the Awards Secretariat** Maria Manton and Kate Paul via the generic mailbox: **chiefalliedhealthoffice@act.gov.au**

You can also visit the ACT Government Health Allied Health web page for more information <https://www.health.act.gov.au/careers/allied-health/learning-and-professional-development/reward-and-recognition-schemes>