

Cancer Institute NSW

# 2026 NSW Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research

Guidelines for Nominations

03 June 2026

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# NSW Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research

## Introduction

The Cancer Institute NSW (the Institute) is the NSW government's cancer control agency, providing the strategic direction across all elements of cancer control in NSW. The Institute supports innovation in cancer prevention, treatment and care by working in partnership with leaders in the field to deliver the best cancer outcomes for the people of NSW. Research provides the evidence to drive rapid improvements in cancer prevention, treatment and subsequently, survival and quality of life for those affected by cancer in NSW.

The NSW Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research celebrate excellence in all aspects of cancer research and innovation across the cancer care continuum.

Established in 2006, the Awards recognise outstanding researchers and health professionals whose commitment, dedication and talent has had a significant impact on cancer prevention, treatment, clinical trials, and results across the research spectrum in NSW.

This year, the Institute continues to celebrate areas of progress and achievement within the cancer research and control sector that celebrate the goals and principles of the [NSW Cancer Plan](#) and the [NSW Aboriginal Cancer Strategy](#).

This year's award categories are:

Type 1	Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year Award	Outstanding Mid-Career Researcher Award	Outstanding Early Career Researcher Award	Rising Star PhD Candidate Award	
Type 2	Outstanding Cancer Clinical Trials Unit Award	Cancer Control Innovation Award	Consumer Engagement in Cancer Research Award	Improving Equitable Outcomes Award	Reducing Cancer Inequality for Aboriginal People Award

## Nomination Process

### How to submit a nomination

1. Complete the Nomination Form using the links provided for the relevant award category located on the Cancer Institute NSW's [website](#). Upload the required attachments on completion of the form.
2. Nominators must submit the completed Nomination Form with required attachments **by 12pm Monday, 13 July 2026**.
3. Any declarations of interest, either perceived or actual must be emailed to the Cancer Institute NSW Grants Team [CINSW-Grants@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CINSW-Grants@health.nsw.gov.au) prior to nomination.

Nominations will be assessed by a review panel convened by the Cancer Institute NSW.

## Responsibilities of Award Recipients

### 6.1 Use and distribution of funds

- Funds will only be paid to a registered administering institution/organisation in NSW approved by the Cancer Institute NSW.

- The administering institution/organisation and nominee must sign the Terms and Conditions Letter before payments are made.
- The Cancer Institute NSW will issue the award funds to the administering institution/organisation upon receipt of an appropriate tax invoice. The administering institution/organisation is required to administer the funds in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the letter and accepts financial responsibility.

## 6.2 Submission of written report and financial acquittal

Award recipients will be required to provide the Cancer Institute NSW with a final report explaining how the award funds have benefited cancer research (template to be provided by the Cancer Institute NSW). This will be submitted to the Cancer Institute NSW within one year of receiving the award and may be made available to the general public on the Cancer Institute NSW website or any other materials for promotional or reporting purposes.

Funds must be fully expended within twelve months of the award being conferred. A financial acquittal will be required from the administering institution/organisation.

## 6.3 Attendance at Awards Event

- All nominees are invited to attend the awards event for the 2026 NSW Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research on Thursday, 19 November 2026 at NSW Parliament House.
- If a nominee cannot attend the awards event, they can nominate a suitable representative to accept the award on their behalf. The details of this person must be provided to the Cancer Institute NSW via email no later than one week prior to the event.

## 6.4 Use of photographs

- Nominees may be required to be interviewed, filmed and photographed by both the Cancer Institute NSW and the media in the lead up to the awards event.
- Nominees are required to provide consent for the use of their photographs (submitted with the nomination and any taken at the awards evening) for publicity purposes.

## Privacy Notice

Documents containing personal information are handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 which sets the standard for the collection, storage, use and disclosure of, and access to personal information.

## Enquiries

Enquiries and complaints can be directed to the Cancer Institute NSW Grants Team at [CINSW-Grants@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CINSW-Grants@health.nsw.gov.au). Complaints handling will be managed in compliance with the NSW Health Complaints Management Policy [PD2020\_013].

## Award Categories

### Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year Award

The Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year Award honours an individual who has made significant and fundamental contributions to any field of cancer research in NSW. The achievements of this individual have had a lasting impact on improving cancer outcomes for the people of NSW. This award also recognises the importance of demonstrating the researcher's commitment to building the cancer research capacity of the state through leadership, mentorship and training.

The successful recipient will receive a payment of \$50,000 (excluding GST) and a commemorative award. Funds must be used to further the recipient's research endeavours.

#### Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must:

- Be currently active in any field of cancer research.
- Be employed by or affiliated with a [registered administering institution](#) in New South Wales.
- Not have received the Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year Award within the past 10 years. A list of previous recipients can be viewed on our [website](#).

#### Nomination Criteria

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Alignment with the NSW Cancer Plan**  
How the nominee's contribution to cancer research supports the goals and principles of the [NSW Cancer Plan](#).
- **Contribution to the Advancement of Cancer Research**  
The significance and innovation of the nominee's research and its impact on the field of cancer research.
- **Track Record and Publications**  
Noteworthy publications and evidence of an exceptional career in cancer research.
- **Mentorship and Training**  
Commitment to building NSW's cancer research capacity through mentorship and training.
- **Leadership**  
Demonstration of leadership and influence across cancer research at the state, national, and/or international levels.

## Rising Star PhD Candidate Award

The Rising Star PhD Candidate Award honours an exceptional PhD candidate (currently enrolled) who is within the mid-to-late stages of their candidature (post-confirmation or equivalent) and is making significant progress in their research undertaken in their PhD. The nominee demonstrates the potential to make a meaningful impact in any field of cancer research.

The award recognises the nominee's outstanding research achievements at this early stage of their research career, but also their contributions to leadership, collaboration, and the advancement of cancer research in NSW.

The successful recipient will receive a payment of \$5,000 (excluding GST) and a commemorative award. Funds must be used to further the recipient's research endeavours.

### Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must:

- Be currently enrolled as a PhD candidate in any field of cancer research.
- Be enrolled at a [registered administering institution](#) in New South Wales.
- Not have received the Rising Star PhD Candidate Award in the last five (5) years. A list of previous recipients can be viewed on our [website](#).

### Nomination Criteria

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Alignment with the NSW Cancer Plan**  
How the nominee's contribution to cancer research supports the goals and principles of the [NSW Cancer Plan](#).
- **Progress and Research Excellence**  
Evidence of exceptional progress in the nominee's PhD candidature and recognition of their accomplishments in cancer research during this period.
- **Track Record and Publications**  
Noteworthy publications and a demonstrated track record relative to this stage of candidature.
- **Leadership and Contribution to the Field**  
Demonstration of leadership potential or other contributions to the cancer research community (e.g. committee involvement, awards, or collaborations).

## Outstanding Early Career Researcher Award

The Outstanding Early Career Researcher Award honours an individual who is up to 5 years post-PhD completion (at the time of nomination, adjusted for any career disruption) and who has demonstrated exceptional research progress and achievement within the early stages of their cancer research career.

The successful recipient will receive a payment of \$10,000 (excluding GST) and a commemorative award. Funds must be used to further the recipient's research endeavours.

Note: career disruptions (e.g., parental leave, illness, carer responsibilities) will be considered in calculating eligibility. Supporting documentation must be submitted with the nomination form. Please refer to the [Cancer Institute NSW Career Disruption Calculator](#).

### Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must:

- Be within five years of PhD completion (adjusted for career disruption, if applicable).
- Be currently active in any field of cancer research.
- Be employed by or affiliated with a [registered administering institution](#) in New South Wales.
- Not have received the Outstanding Early Career Researcher Award in the last five (5) years. A list of previous recipients can be viewed on our [website](#).

### Nomination Criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Alignment with the NSW Cancer Plan**  
How the nominee's contribution to cancer research supports the goals and principles of the [NSW Cancer Plan](#).
- **Research Progress and Impact**  
Evidence of exceptional progress in cancer research and recognition of the nominee's contributions to their field.
- **Track Record and Publications**  
Noteworthy publications and a demonstrated track record of achievement appropriate for the career stage.
- **Leadership and Contribution to the Field**  
Demonstrated leadership and other contributions to the cancer research community (e.g. committee involvement, awards, or collaborations).

## Outstanding Mid-Career Researcher Award

The Outstanding Mid-Career Researcher Award honours an individual who is 5-10 years post-PhD completion (at the time of nomination, adjusted for any career disruption) and who has demonstrated exceptional research progress, leadership and impact in the field of cancer research.

The successful recipient will receive a payment of \$10,000 (excluding GST) and a commemorative award. Funds must be used to further the recipient's research endeavours.

Note: career disruptions (e.g., parental leave, illness, carer responsibilities) will be considered in calculating eligibility. Supporting documentation must be submitted with the nomination form. Please refer to the [Cancer Institute NSW Career Disruption Calculator](#).

### Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must:

- Be 5-10 years post-PhD completion at the time of nomination (adjusted for career disruption, if applicable).
- Be currently active in any field of cancer research.
- Be employed by or affiliated with a [registered administering institution](#) in New South Wales.
- Not have received the Outstanding Mid-Career Researcher Award in the last five (5) years. A list of previous recipients can be viewed on our [website](#).

### Nomination Criteria

Nominations will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Alignment with the NSW Cancer Plan**  
How the nominee's contribution to cancer research supports the goals and principles of the [NSW Cancer Plan](#).
- **Research Progress and Impact**  
Evidence of exceptional progress in cancer research and recognition of the nominee's contributions to their field.
- **Track Record and Publications**  
Noteworthy publications and a demonstrated track record of achievement appropriate for the career stage.
- **Leadership and Contribution to the Field**  
Demonstrated leadership and other contributions to the research community (e.g. committee involvement, awards, collaborations, public engagement, or advocacy).
- **Mentorship and Research Capacity Building**  
Demonstrated commitment to building NSW's research capacity through supervision, mentoring, and training of emerging researchers or students.

## Outstanding Cancer Clinical Trials Unit Award

The Outstanding Cancer Clinical Trials Unit Award recognises a high-performing cancer clinical trials unit in New South Wales that demonstrates operational excellence, leadership in trial conduct, and commitment to advancing access to cancer clinical trials. The award celebrates strategic alignment with the NSW Cancer Plan and highlights units that are contributing significantly to better cancer outcomes across the state.

The successful cancer clinical trials unit will receive a payment of \$10,000 (excluding GST) and a commemorative award. Funds must be used to further the endeavours of the clinical trials unit.

### Eligibility Criteria

The nominated team must:

- Be active in any field of cancer clinical trials research.
- Be in the Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Trials Program.
- Not have received the Outstanding Clinical Trials Unit Award in the last five (5) years. A list of previous recipients can be viewed on our [website](#).

### Nomination Criteria

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Alignment with the NSW Cancer Plan**  
How the clinical trials unit's activities supports the goals and principles of the [NSW Cancer Plan](#).
- **Strategic Contribution**  
Demonstrated contribution to the Local Health District, Specialty Health Network, or Private/Non-Government Organisation's Cancer Clinical Trials Strategic Plan.
- **Data Quality and Integrity**  
Description of strategies implemented to ensure the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of clinical trial activity data reported to the Cancer Institute NSW via the Clinical Trials Portal.
- **Performance and Outcomes**  
Strategies used to achieve and maintain high performance as per the Reporting for Better Cancer Outcomes (RBCO) in the previous year.
- **Engagement and Collaboration**  
Demonstrated commitment and overall engagement with the Cancer Institute NSW.

## Cancer Control Innovation Award

The Cancer Control Innovation Award honours a team or individual who has made a significant contribution to improving cancer prevention, treatment and/or care, and the experiences or outcomes for people in NSW. This award celebrates an innovative project or model of care implemented at any stage of the cancer control spectrum (from prevention to survivorship) that delivers measurable benefits to people in NSW.

The successful individual or team will receive a payment of \$10,000 (excluding GST) and a commemorative award. Funds must be used to support their ongoing efforts in improving cancer control in NSW.

### Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must:

- Be active in any field of cancer-related work within the health system or research.
- Be located in New South Wales.
- Not have received the Cancer Control Innovation Award in the last five (5) years. A list of previous recipients can be viewed on our [website](#).

### Nomination Criteria

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Alignment with the NSW Cancer Plan**  
How the nominee/nominated team's project or model of care supports the goals and principles of the [NSW Cancer Plan](#).
- **Innovation Across the Cancer Control Spectrum**  
Demonstrated innovation across any stage of the cancer control spectrum, with the goal of improving experiences or outcomes for people in NSW.
- **Demonstrated Impact**  
A project or model of care that demonstrates measurable impact by improving the experiences or outcomes for people in NSW, at any stage of the cancer control spectrum (i.e. research, prevention, treatment and/or care).
- **Strong Partnership with Consumers or Patients**  
Meaningful collaboration with patients, families, carers, or community representatives in the design, delivery, or evaluation of the work.

## Consumer Engagement in Cancer Research Award

The Consumer Engagement in Cancer Research Award recognises an individual consumer or group of consumers who have made a significant, sustained contribution to cancer research in NSW. It honours their vital role in shaping cancer research through advocacy, lived experience, community connection, and commitment to person-centred research outcomes.

The successful recipient(s) will receive a payment of \$5,000 (excluding GST) and a commemorative award. Funds must be used to further their involvement in cancer research in NSW.

### Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must:

- Be active in any field of cancer research.
- Be located in New South Wales.
- Not have received the Consumer Engagement in Cancer Research Award in the last five (5) years. A list of previous recipients can be viewed on our [website](#)

### Nomination Criteria

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Alignment with the NSW Cancer Plan**  
How the nominee/nominated team's contribution to cancer research supports the goals and principles of the [NSW Cancer Plan](#).
- **Contribution to Cancer Research in NSW**  
Demonstrated contribution to cancer research activities or initiatives in NSW.
- **Advocacy**  
A demonstrated long-term commitment to being a strong advocate for cancer research, including championing meaningful consumer engagement.
- **Community Interaction**  
Clear examples of how the nominee/nominated team has been instrumental in improving or supporting community interactions with cancer research (e.g. building trust, improving participation, shaping research priorities).
- **Impact**  
Evidence of the positive outcomes and broader impact of the nominee/nominated team's contribution to cancer research in NSW.

## Improving Equitable Outcomes through Cancer Research Award

The Improving Equitable Outcomes through Cancer Research Award recognises an individual or research team that has made a notable and measurable impact on improving cancer outcomes for communities that experience poorer outcomes due to inequity.

The successful recipient will receive a payment of \$10,000 (excluding GST) and a commemorative award. Funds must be used to support their ongoing research endeavours.

### Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must:

- Be active in any field of cancer research.
- Be located in New South Wales.
- Not have received the Improving Equitable Outcomes through Cancer Research Award in the last five (5) years. A list of previous recipients can be viewed on our [website](#).

### Nomination Criteria

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Alignment with the NSW Cancer Plan**  
How the nominee's contribution to cancer research supports the goals and principles of the [NSW Cancer Plan](#).
- **Impact on Focus Populations**  
Demonstrated impact on improving cancer outcomes for one or more of the following focus populations:
  - Aboriginal communities
  - Multicultural communities
  - People from lower socioeconomic backgrounds
  - Regional, rural and remote communities
  - Older people
  - Sexuality and gender diverse people (LGBTQ+ communities)
  - People with innate variations of sex characteristics (intersex people)
  - People with a mental health condition
  - People engaged with the justice system
- **Impact on Improving Equity**  
Demonstrated impact on improving equity for one or more of the above focus populations.

## Reducing Cancer Inequality for Aboriginal People Award

The Reducing Cancer Inequality for Aboriginal People Award recognises an individual or team that has made significant and meaningful impact on reducing cancer inequality for Aboriginal people in NSW. This award recognises culturally safe initiatives, programs, and/or partnerships that improve cancer care, access, experiences and outcomes for Aboriginal people.

The successful individual or team will receive a payment of \$10,000 (excluding GST) and a commemorative award. Funds must be used to support ongoing efforts to improve cancer outcomes for Aboriginal communities in NSW.

### Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must:

- Be active in any field of cancer research.
- Be located in New South Wales.

### Nomination Criteria

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Alignment with the NSW Aboriginal Cancer Strategy**  
How the nominee/nominated team's initiative or program supports the goals of the [NSW Aboriginal Cancer Strategy](#).
- **Impact on Cancer Outcomes for Aboriginal People**  
Demonstrated impact on improving cancer care outcomes for Aboriginal people.
- **Cultural Safety and Community Engagement**  
Demonstrated consideration of cultural safety and appropriate and respectful engagement with Aboriginal people.

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