

22ND ANNUAL HEALTH & MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS

NOMINATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

INTRODUCTION

Research Australia's Awards are an opportunity to shine a light on those who are working hard within our sector, who are making incredible discoveries and advancements, and who have tirelessly advocated and supported health and medical research.

Research Australia Award recipients can be individuals, teams or organisations that have dedicated themselves to improving outcomes for all Australians, be it through their own research, or through their support of research.

The Awards are in line with Research Australia's strategic objective of highlighting the breadth of the sector. Equally importantly, the Awards are an important opportunity to raise the profile of health and medical research amongst the broader community and enhance community engagement.

AWARD NOMINATION PROCESS

Who can nominate?

Two nominators are required for each nomination. The primary nominator must be a member of Research Australia and a citizen of Australia.

A secondary nominator is required; the seconder does not need to be a Research Australia member. The secondary nominator must be from a different organisation to the primary nominator.

A secondary nominator can be a community organisation who may or may not be involved in health and medical research.

A person can be a primary nominator across **a limit of 2 award categories**. They can nominate **one person per award category**. They must be the key signatory/approver of the nomination.

A secondary nominator can nominate **more than one person per award category**.

Who can be nominated?

Nominations can be for any individual, team or organisation that meets the criteria for that Award. Research Australia Membership is not a prerequisite, nor is it of any advantage or disadvantage in selecting the final winner for an Award.

Can I nominate myself or my organisation?

Yes, a person can nominate themselves. If they are nominating themselves then they would be a primary nominator. A self-nomination must include a letter of endorsement from the nominees' current or most recent place of employment. A secondary nominator, from a different organisation is required. The secondary nominator does not need to be a Research Australia member.

Can an individual or group be nominated for more than one category?

Yes, any individual or organisation can be nominated for more than award as long as the nomination meets the criteria for that Award.

The criteria for the subsequent nomination must separately address the criteria for the new nomination. A copy of the same award criteria for various nominations will not be accepted as meeting the award criteria.

Research Australia Membership is not a prerequisite, nor is it of any advantage or disadvantage in selecting the final winner for an Award.

Nominations and Research Australia Board Members

A current board director **cannot** be nominated for an award.

A current board member **cannot** nominate for an award inside or outside their organisations.

A current board member **cannot second** a nomination for an award inside or outside their organisations.

A current board members' organisations **can** be nominated.

A current director can endorse a nomination, but they must declare that they are a current director in that endorsement.

Why nominate?

For over 20 years Research Australia's Health and Medical Research Awards have been premium vehicle that recognises and rewards excellence in health and medical research. Our award recognise not just research excellent but excellent in the fields of advocacy and philanthropy. As the national peak body for health and medical research, Research Australia's Awards are exceptionally highly regarded by stakeholders across the health and medical research sector.

Successful nominations will be selected by the Research Australia Awards Committee, made up of high-profile sector leaders. These prestigious awards attract local and national media. All nominees and finalists can increase their profile within the industry through recognition on Research Australia's media channels as well as our partners' media channels. All winners will be profiled through social media channels post awards celebrations.

Previous award winners represent the crème de la crème of Australian Health and Medical Research. We are proud to have awarded prizes to luminaries such as Sir Gustav Nossal, AC, Andrew Forrest AO and Nicola Forrester and Ita Buttrose AO, OBE just to name a few. Nominations can drive opportunities for you and your team in future research.

Submissions will be reviewed by the Awards Committee and finalists will be notified from the 1st of June 2026.

When will the finalists be notified?

Finalists will be named no later than four (4) weeks prior to the Gala Dinner being held. To ensure the importance of the event is embraced by all we strongly encourage all finalists to attend the Gala Dinner. We understand that there may be rare situations where a finalist is unable to attend the Gala Dinner. In those situations, we would suggest that a suitable proxy is able to attend the Gala Dinner and represent the finalist.

When will the winners be notified?

The winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner to be held in Sydney on the 20th of August 2026.

Winners' names will remain confidential and only finalists in each category will be announced prior to the event.

What are the key nomination dates?

Nominations will open **27 November 2025**

Nominations will close **11.59pm AEST, 24 April 2026**

AWARD CATEGORIES

Advocacy & Philanthropy Award

This award recognises exceptional contributions made by individuals, teams, families, or organisations that have demonstrated excellence in **advocacy and/or philanthropy** to support and advance health and medical research and innovation in Australia.

The award celebrates those who have raised awareness and understanding of the importance of health and medical research and/or demonstrated personal philanthropy that is outstanding in generosity, effectiveness, and impact.

The Awards Committee will be looking for examples and evidence of advocates or philanthropists who have demonstrated outstanding practice in helping and advocating for communities within Australia.

Please note that while we require information regarding 'scale of financial contribution made or the impact generated' for philanthropic donations, this data helps inform the decision only. The size of the contribution made will not define the award recipient. The scale of the financial contribution can remain unpublished, please clearly note this preference on any application.

Questions for the nominators to complete

1. How has the nominee advocated for and promoted health and medical research? OR outline the philanthropic achievements of an individual, couple, family or organisation.
2. How has the nominee influenced change or policy to benefit the sector?

3. What impact has the nominee's advocacy or philanthropic efforts had on Australian health and medical research?
4. How has the nominee inspired and motivated others to contribute to the cause?
5. If applicable, what is the scale and impact of the nominee's philanthropic contributions (this may remain unpublished upon request)?
6. What is the longevity of the nominee's advocacy and/or philanthropy efforts?

Please keep your submission to 800-1000 words.

Discovery Award

The health and medical research and innovation sector is committed to supporting and developing early career researchers.

This award recognises an early career researcher (anytime from qualification but no more than 5 years past PhD or research higher degree) whose paper/patent/discovery has already demonstrated its importance or impact.

Questions for the nominators to complete

Please provide your reasons for nomination and keep your submission to 700-800 words.

1. Outline the intended impact of the nominee's project.
2. Provide details of the nominee's paper, patent or discovery.
3. Describe the importance/impact of the nominee's work in the research field.
4. What is the actual or potential for translation of this research, and the broader impact on health outcomes?
5. Provide evidence that you meet the criteria of an early career researcher anytime from qualification but not more than 5 years post PhD or Masters by research (not by course work).

Please keep your submission to 700-800 words.

Health Services Research Award

Embedding research in Australia's health system can ultimately deliver safer, more effective, evidence-based, efficient health care. Translating research findings quickly and efficiently into changes in clinical practice is one of the keys to improving patient management, reducing adverse events and readmissions, and reducing wasted spending on unnecessary tests and treatments.

This Award is for an individual who has provided leadership and made an outstanding contribution to health services research; driven research that has led to a significant improvement in healthcare; and/or has championed the development of the health services research field.

Questions for the nominators to complete

1. At what stage of their career is the nominee?
2. How has the nominee contributed to the development of the health services field?

3. Please detail how the nominee has provided leadership in health services research (including positions held etc).
4. Please provide information, including examples, of how and where the nominee's research has been translated and the resulting improvement in health systems and/or healthcare delivery.

Please keep your submission to 700-800 words.

Frontiers Award

The Frontiers category showcases Australian research that pushes existing boundaries, answers difficult questions, or explores undeveloped fields of study that contribute to increased understanding of physical, living or social aspects of health or medical research.

This research (by an individual, team or corporate) addresses an area of study that:

- has not been exploited or explored before
- acquires new knowledge that adds to the existing body of knowledge
- asks questions that are difficult to answer using traditional approaches
- is curiosity or innovation driven or
- explores undeveloped or emerging fields of study.

Questions for the nominators to complete

1. What question will this research answer - why is it cutting-edge?
2. What is this research expected to achieve?
3. What collaboration and/or partnerships has the nominee developed to deliver this research?
4. How could the nominees' research impact or transform new or existing practice?

Please keep your submission to 700-800 words.

Digital and Data Health Innovation Award

Digital and Data Health innovations are driving unprecedented advances in healthcare. These platforms are intertwined and reliant on each other to drive unprecedented technological advancements in the way that we understand, treat, and manage current and new health conditions.

This Award seeks to recognise innovators who are at the forefront of the innovative use of data, data linkage or data matching, and or the innovative use of data and digital health technologies.

The Digital and Data Health Innovation Award recognises an individual, team or organisation for an emerging, innovative use of digital health technology and or data, data linkage or data matching, that advances the use of healthcare information, healthcare delivery and/or enables healthcare users and providers to improve health outcomes.

Eligible innovative use of data, data linkage and or technologies will have been supported through Australian health and medical research, they will have at least one Australian individual, institution, or organisation as a collaborating partner.

This award will go to the individual, team or organisation who has developed, trialled, or implemented the use of data, data linkage and or technology. The importance of their work must be demonstrated through a tangible impact on Australian health and medical research.

The use of data, data linkage and/or technology should be implementable and scalable within a 5-year horizon.

This use of data, data linkage and/or technology should have the current or future ability to impact local, state, or national health outcomes or health policy.

Questions for the nominators to complete

1. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated innovation in data and/or digital health technologies.
2. How will or has this innovation demonstrate a tangible impact on data and digital health innovation?
3. How did the nominee differentiate the innovation from existing practices being used in the HMR sector?
4. What is the actual or potential for impact on health and medical research policy, and the broader impact on health outcomes?

Please keep your submission to 700-800 words.

The Peter Wills Medal

The Peter Wills Medal was created in honour of a great leader whose work led to the inception of Research Australia. The Peter Wills Medal is the flagship award and recognises someone who has made an outstanding, long-term contribution to building Australia's international reputation in areas of health and medical research and fostering collaboration for better health.

Nominations are welcome from any individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in the field and should not be regarded as being limited to researchers.

Questions for the nominators to complete,

1. Please tell us about the person you are nominating and why you believe their work should be recognised and rewarded.
2. Provide specific examples of the nominees' work that highlights the reason why they deserve the award.
3. What are the major contributions to the health and medical research sector this work has achieved?
4. How has the nominee contributed to building Australia's international reputation?

Please keep your submission to 700-800 words.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the criteria for each Award?

The criteria for each Award are described on the pages above. Please contact Research Australia on 02 9295 8545 or email awards@researchaustralia.org if you have questions about the suitability of a nominee for an Award.

Can someone be nominated for more than one Award?

Yes, individuals, teams or organisations can be nominated for more than one Award. There is no limit to the number of nominations that can be made.

What if some of the questions on the Nomination Form are not relevant to my nominee?

If any question is not relevant to your nominee, simply write “not applicable” for that section.

Can I supply additional information in support of my nomination?

Yes, supplementary information is encouraged where it will support and add to your written reasons for nomination. This information can be sent as an attachment(s) along with the Nomination Form.

Note that curriculum vitae (CVs), lengthy lists of publications, citations, Awards, conference presentations and the like may be edited before being sent to the Awards Committee for consideration. While these lists are relevant for verification purposes, such histories should also be summarised very briefly in the body of your reasons for nomination if you believe that information is important. Maximum size: 5 pages.

How much should I write?

The maximum page limit for each question under the criteria is outlined separately for each Awards Category and varies, so please take note of this.

Nominators are encouraged to include supplementary information (maximum 5 pages) if it is relevant to the nomination.

Note that all nominations are considered on their merits and the quantity of information supplied is not a factor; succinct nominations will receive the same consideration as lengthy ones.

Please ensure that all questions have been read and responded to in the correct field.

What format should I provide the supporting documentation in?

Supporting documentation can be provided in **word format only**. There is a 5-page maximum for supplementary information if it is relevant to the nomination.

You can include hyperlinks and full website addresses if it is relevant to the nomination.

You can include photos, images, and videos if it is relevant to the nomination.

Any documents or attachments you include **MUST NOT** be password protected.

Can I provide supplementary information after the nominations close?

Nominations close **11.59pm AEST, 24 April 2026**

No information, including supporting or supplementary information, will be accepted after the closing date of nominations.

When are the finalists notified?

Nominations will be considered by the Awards Committee at their May 2026 meeting. The primary nominating organisation of each award finalists will be informed in the first instance, and they will advise if they wish to advise the finalist or request that Research Australia gives them the good news.

All finalists will be encouraged to purchase tickets or a table to the Awards Gala Dinner at a discounted rate.