2026 Annual Early Career Researcher and Consumer Awards

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

1. Background

Sydney Health Partners (SHP) invites nominations for its Annual Early Career Researcher Awards and Annual Consumer Award which will be presented at the SHP Annual Forum on 29 July 2026. The purpose of these awards is to celebrate the achievements of early career researchers, clinician researchers and consumers who have made important contributions to clinical and health services research.

Individuals can either self-nominate or nominate others. All nominations require endorsement by a senior manager or researcher employed by a Sydney Health Partners organisation.

2. Award Categories

There are five (5) award categories for researchers/clinician researchers, and one (1) award for consumers.

2.1. Early Career Researcher/Clinician Researcher Awards

- Award for Translational Research Addressing a Health Priority
- Award for Clinical Trial Excellence
- Award for Excellence in Consumer-Researcher Partnerships
- Award for Researcher-Health Professional Collaborations
- Award for Using Research to Change Health Practice

Each award includes funding of $2,000 towards research-related related professional development expenses, for example, training course registration, or conference attendance to give an oral or poster presentation. Funds can also be used towards future payments for consumers partnering in research.

2.2. Consumer Award

- Award for Consumer Contributions to Health Research

The Consumer Award includes a gift card to the value of $250.

3. Eligibility criteria

3.1 For Early Career Researcher/Clinician Researcher Awards

- Must have a PhD
- Must be an early career researcher or early career clinician / health professional researcher, i.e., up to 10 years post PhD
- Must have a primary work appointment with an SHP's partner organisation (see here)
- Must be engaged in clinical or health services research (research in early discovery/basic sciences is not eligible for these awards)
- Must relate to research work undertaken at one or more sites within SHP's partner organisations (see here)
- The senior researcher/manager endorsing the nomination must also have a primary work appointment with one of SHP's partner organisations.

3.2 For Consumer Award

- Nominations may be submitted by a consumer, or by a research colleague in collaboration with a consumer nominee
- The consumer must be identified as a consumer partner contributing to the health research activity (i.e., not a research participant)
- Must relate to research activity with a researcher/clinician researcher who has a primary work appointment with one of SHP's partner organisations (see here)
- Must relate to research work undertaken at one or more sites within SHP's partner organisations (see here)
- The senior researcher/manager endorsing the nomination must also have a primary work appointment with one of SHP's partner organisations.

Please note, an individual can only nominate for one award; multiple nominations by the same person will all be considered ineligible.

4. Submission Instructions

Nominations must address all relevant questions in the nomination form. There is a separate form for early career researchers/clinician researchers, and another one for the Consumer Award. Please use the correct nomination form.

Please use Arial 11pt, do not exceed word limits, and submit your application as an MS Word file (not pdf). A CV is not required, and no additional documents should be attached. The deadline for nominations is **5:00 pm on Wednesday 17 June 2026.**

5. Assessment Process

All nominations will be reviewed for eligibility by the SHP Secretariat before being forwarded to SHP appointed reviewers.

The reviewers will score the nominations according to the selection criteria and make recommendations to the SHP Secretariat. The reviewers will include a mix of researchers, clinician researchers and consumers. Nominees are encouraged to avoid/limit acronyms and to be mindful that all reviewers will not be content experts in all research fields.

6. Successful Nominees

Successful nominees will be notified of the outcome by email no later than 6 July 2026. This information will be under embargo until 30 July 2026.

Awardees will be invited to attend the SHP Annual Forum on **Wednesday 29 July, from 1 - 5pm** at the Kerry Packer Education Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) campus, Camperdown to receive their award in person.

Enquiries and completed nomination forms should be sent to angela.todd@sydney.edu.au
The deadline for submitting forms is **5:00 pm on Wednesday 17 June 2026.**