



Palliative Care
Australia
Matters of life and death

National Palliative Care **AWARDS**

Recognising innovation, teamwork and emerging talent in the palliative care sector.

2025

ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

Proudly sponsored by



Introduction

Palliative Care Australia's National Palliative Care Awards aim to recognise innovation, teamwork and emerging talent in the palliative care sector. The awards recognise individuals and organisations that provide exceptional support and care to people receiving palliative care.

In 2025, the National Palliative Care Awards are proudly sponsored by Silverchain – a leading in-home provider of health and aged care services in Australia, supporting over 140,000 people each year.

Timeline

Nominations Open
Thursday 1 May 2025

Nominations Close
Thursday 19 June 2025

Finalists Notified
July 2025

Winners Announced
Awards Gala Dinner, 11 September 2025

Award categories

AWARD	CATEGORY	NOTES
Emerging Leader	Individual	Must be working in palliative care for five years or less.
Emerging Researcher	Individual	Must be engaged in palliative care research for five years or less.
Outstanding Work by a Team in Delivering Palliative Care	Team	Awarded to a team providing outstanding palliative care.
Innovation in Palliative Care	Individual or team	Awarded to an individual or a team demonstrating innovation in palliative care.
Outstanding Achievement in Volunteering	Individual or team	Awarded to an individual or team demonstrating outstanding achievement in volunteering in palliative care.
Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Palliative Care	Individual or team	Awarded to an individual or team demonstrating excellence in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander palliative care.
Outstanding Achievement by an Individual in Palliative Care	Individual	Awarded to an individual demonstrating outstanding achievement in working in palliative care.
Lifetime Achievement Award	Individual	Awarded to an individual who has made significant contribution to palliative care over a period of 20 years or more.

Prizes

Winners receive a trophy and certificate and are entitled to free registration at the 2025 Oceanic Palliative Care Conference (limited to two registrations for team award winners).

Judging process

Awards are judged by members of the PCA Board, representatives from PCA member organisations, and consumer representatives. Subject matter experts may also be brought in to assist with judging.

Following an initial shortlisting process carried out by PCA, the judging panel will assess nominations to determine winners of each category.

The initial shortlisting process involves a review of each nominee's suitability against the eligibility criteria, including consultation with the peak palliative care organisation in the nominee's home state or territory.

Eligibility and Entry Criteria

- Entry is free.
- Awards are only open to residents and organisations in Australia.
- Organisation and individual conduct will be reviewed as part of the judging process. Nominees with a recorded history of, or currently under investigation for, misconduct or other behaviour which contradicts their duty of care will be removed from consideration.
- All submissions must address the relevant award criteria.
- Submissions can be made online via the [National Palliative Care Awards Nomination Portal](#)
- It is a condition of entry that finalists and winners are available for publicity opportunities which may include advertising features and interviews with in-house or external print, digital or broadcast media. Palliative Care Australia may use the names, images and/or voices of award nominees and winners (including photograph, film and/or recording of the same) for an unlimited period with no recompense to those featured.
- All submitted nominations and supporting material remain the property of Palliative Care Australia and will not be returned.
- Once nominations have been received, the judging process remains confidential until the awards ceremony.

EMERGING LEADER

Individual Award

This award recognises an emerging leader for their significant contributions to palliative care early in their working or academic life.

Nominations in this category are judged on the response to at least four of the following categories:

- 1 Impact on patient care:** The nominee should have demonstrated a strong commitment to providing high-quality palliative care and improving patient outcomes. This may include implementing new models of care, developing innovative interventions, or improving patient and family experiences.
- 2 Leadership potential:** The nominee should demonstrate strong leadership potential, such as through effective management of teams or projects, mentoring of colleagues, or participation in professional organisations.
- 3 Interdisciplinary collaboration:** The nominee should demonstrate the ability to work effectively across different disciplines and with diverse stakeholders, such as other healthcare providers, patients and families, researchers, and policy makers.
- 4 Advocacy and policy development:** The nominee should have a demonstrated interest in and commitment to advocacy and policy development related to palliative care, such as through participation in advocacy efforts, engagement with policy makers, or leadership in professional organisations.
- 5 Research and innovation:** The nominee should have demonstrated an interest in and potential for research and innovation related to palliative care, such as through participation in research projects, development of new interventions or programs, or contributions to the advancement of the field.
- 6 Professional development:** The nominee should demonstrate a commitment to ongoing professional development, such as through continuing education, participation in leadership training programs, or engagement with professional organisations.

National Palliative Care AWARDS 2025

Conditions

- The nominee has been working or studying in the field of palliative care for less than five years. *Note: this can include a career break with a cumulative total of five years.*
- The nomination must be endorsed by their manager.

EMERGING RESEARCHER

Individual Award

This award recognises outstanding contribution to palliative care by a researcher in the first five years of their research career. The nomination must describe how their research will lead or has led to positive clinical outcomes for people experiencing palliative care. Research can be across any setting of care, so long as it is in relation to palliative care. If the nominee is not the lead or chief investigator, it must be demonstrated that they worked closely with a key researcher in palliative care as co-investigator.

Nominations in this category are judged on the response to at least three of the following categories:

- 1 Research impact:** The nominee should have demonstrated a significant impact in their research area, such as through publications in high-impact journals, development of novel research methods or techniques, or contributions to advancing understanding in their field.
- 2 Innovation and creativity:** The nominee should have demonstrated innovation and creativity in their research approach, including the development of new research questions, methodologies, or theories that have the potential to transform their field.
- 3 Collaboration and networking:** The nominee should have demonstrated an ability to collaborate effectively with other researchers and build a network of research partnerships. This may include interdisciplinary collaborations or partnerships with industry, government, or non-profit organisations.
- 4 Leadership potential:** The nominee should have demonstrated potential for leadership in their field, such as through mentorship of students or junior researchers, participation in professional societies, or service on editorial boards or review panels.
- 5 Future research potential:** The nominee should have a clear vision for their future research trajectory and the potential to make significant contributions to their field in the years to come. This may be demonstrated through a well-developed research plan, a track record of securing research funding, or other indicators of future research potential.

National Palliative Care AWARDS 2025

Conditions

- Nominations must be supported by the nominee's supervisor or department head who is directly involved in the work of the researcher.
- The nomination must include the name of the research project and be about an aspect of palliative care or directly related topic.
- The research must be undisputed, or any disputes must have been resolved.
- If the research was funded by an external body, where the funding came from.
- The research has been published in reputable relevant publication or presented at a conference in the last 3 years or is accepted for presentation at a conference within the next 12 months.
- The nominee has been working or studying in the field of palliative care for less than five years. **Note:** *this can include a career break with a cumulative total of five years.*

INNOVATION IN PALLIATIVE CARE

Individual or Team Award

This award recognises teams or individuals initiating an innovative practice, project, or service that enhances the delivery of palliative care.

Nominations should address at least four of the six criteria below:

- 1 Development of new models of care:** The nominee should have developed innovative models of care that improve patient outcomes and quality of life, such as through new care delivery models, novel use of technology, or creative approaches to care planning and coordination.
- 2 Advancement of research and knowledge:** The nominee should have made significant contributions to the advancement of research and knowledge in palliative care, such as through developing new research methodologies, conducting ground-breaking research, or publishing impactful research findings.
- 3 Improvement of care delivery and patient experience:** The nominee should have demonstrated a commitment to improving care delivery and patient experience, such as through implementing patient-centred care approaches, improving care coordination, or addressing gaps in care provision.
- 4 Collaboration and partnerships:** The nominee should demonstrate effective collaboration with partners and stakeholders, such as patients and families, healthcare providers, researchers, and policy makers, to develop and implement innovative solutions in palliative care.
- 5 Impact on the field:** The nominee should have demonstrated a significant impact on the field of palliative care, such as through development of new standards of care, influencing policy and practice guidelines, or improving the quality of care for a particular patient population or community.
- 6 Sustainability and scalability:** The nominee should have developed innovative solutions that are sustainable and scalable, with potential to be adapted and implemented in different care settings and populations.

National Palliative Care
AWARDS
2025

Conditions

- Activities identified as innovative must have been in place for more than one year and less than five years.

OUTSTANDING WORK BY A TEAM IN DELIVERING PALLIATIVE CARE

National Palliative Care AWARDS 2025

Team Award

This award recognises inspirational and outstanding teamwork.

Nominations should address at least four of the six criteria listed below. Teams must be at least two people:

- 1 Collaboration and communication:** The team should demonstrate effective collaboration and communication, with a shared vision and approach to providing high-quality palliative care. This may include interprofessional collaboration, effective handoffs and continuity of care, and clear communication with patients and families.
- 2 Patient-centred care:** The team should demonstrate a commitment to patient-centred care, with a focus on improving patient and family experiences and outcomes. This may include involving patients and families in care planning and decision making, addressing patient and family needs and preferences, and providing comprehensive, coordinated care across the care continuum.
- 3 Innovation and creativity:** The team should demonstrate innovation and creativity in their approach to providing palliative care, such as through developing new care delivery models, using technology to enhance care, or developing new interventions to address patient and family needs.
- 4 Leadership and shared responsibility:** The team should demonstrate shared leadership and responsibility for providing high-quality palliative care, with each team member contributing to the team's success. This may include effective delegation of responsibilities, mentorship and support of junior team members, and a commitment to ongoing professional development.
- 5 Impact on the field:** The team should have made a significant impact on the field of palliative care, such as through improving the quality of care for a particular patient population, advancing research and knowledge in palliative care, or influencing policy and practice guidelines.
- 6 Sustainability and scalability:** The team should have developed effective, sustainable solutions to providing high-quality palliative care that can be replicated and scaled across different care settings and populations.

Conditions

- A senior executive of the nominating team's organisation must approve the nomination.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN VOLUNTEERING

Individual or Team Award

This award recognises the exceptional contribution of a volunteer or volunteer team in improving the experience of a patient/s with palliative care needs or their family. Palliative Care Australia is proud to recognise those who selflessly and generously volunteer their time and skills to look after others, without asking for recognition or expecting anything in return.

Nominations in this category are judged on the following:

- 1 Dedication to patient care:** The volunteer or team of volunteers should have demonstrated a strong commitment to providing compassionate care to patients with life-limiting illnesses. This may include volunteering regularly, building strong relationships with patients and their families, and advocating for their needs.
- 2 Inspiration to others:** How this volunteer or team of volunteers has served as an inspiration to fellow volunteers and the palliative care organisation.
- 3 Impact on the community:** The volunteer or team of volunteers should have made a significant impact on the community through their palliative care efforts. This may include improving the quality of life for patients and their families, raising awareness about the importance of palliative care, or collaborating with other community organisations to provide comprehensive care. The impact should be measurable and demonstrate a lasting contribution to the community.

National Palliative Care
AWARDS
2025

Conditions

- Nominations must be approved by a senior executive of the nominee's organisation.

EXCELLENCE IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PALLIATIVE CARE

National Palliative Care AWARDS 2025

Individual or Team Award

This award recognises an individual or a team demonstrating excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander palliative care.

Nominations should address at least four out of six criteria:

- 1 Cultural competency and safety:** The nominee or team should demonstrate cultural competency and safety in providing palliative care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and families. This may include a deep understanding of cultural practices and beliefs, and a commitment to providing care that is respectful, responsive, and appropriate to the cultural context.
- 2 Community engagement and partnership:** The nominee or team should demonstrate effective community engagement and partnership, working collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop and implement culturally appropriate solutions to palliative care provision.
- 3 Advocacy and policy development:** The nominee or team should demonstrate a commitment to advocacy and policy development related to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander palliative care, such as through engagement with policy makers, advocacy efforts, or leadership in professional organisations.
- 4 Improvement of care delivery and patient experience:** The nominee or team should have demonstrated a commitment to improving care delivery and patient experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and families, such as through implementing patient-centred care approaches, addressing gaps in care provision, and improving access to care.
- 5 Impact on the field:** The nominee or team should have demonstrated a significant impact on the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander palliative care, such as through developing new models of care, advancing research and knowledge, or influencing policy and practice guidelines.
- 6 Sustainability and scalability:** The nominee or team should have developed effective, sustainable solutions to providing high-quality Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander palliative care that can be appropriately replicated and scaled across different care settings and communities.

Conditions

- Nominations must be approved by a senior executive of the nominee's organisation.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT BY AN INDIVIDUAL IN PALLIATIVE CARE

National Palliative Care AWARDS 2025

Individual Award

This award rewards excellence by an individual in professional practice, leadership, research, education or policy and advocacy work.

Nominations in this category should respond to at least three of the five criteria:

- 1 Excellence in patient care:** The nominee should demonstrate a commitment to providing compassionate, high-quality care to patients with life-limiting illnesses. This may include evidence of effective symptom management, effective communication with patients and their families, and a focus on improving patients' quality of life.
- 2 Innovation in care delivery:** The nominee should have developed new approaches or techniques to provide palliative care that improve patient outcomes and/or the quality of care provided. This may include developing new interventions or programs, adopting new technologies, or improving existing practices.
- 3 Leadership and collaboration:** The nominee should demonstrate leadership in palliative care and work collaboratively with colleagues and other healthcare providers to advance the field. This may include serving as a mentor to others, leading research projects, or advocating for improved policies or funding for palliative care.
- 4 Education and dissemination:** The nominee should be dedicated to educating others about palliative care and sharing best practices with the broader healthcare community. This may include presenting at conferences, publishing research, and providing training and education to healthcare professionals.
- 5 Impact on the field:** The nominee should have made a significant impact on the field of palliative care, either through research, policy development, or the creation of innovative programs or services. The impact should be measurable and demonstrate a lasting contribution to the field.

Conditions

- Nominations must be approved by a senior executive of the nominee's organisation.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Individual Award

Palliative Care Australia is proud to announce the introduction of the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognises outstanding commitment to palliative care over a significant time period.

To be eligible for the Lifetime Achievement Award nominees must:

- 1 Have made significant contributions to palliative care through research, clinical leadership (either as a clinician, administrator or educator) and/or community service.
- 2 Have made substantial contributions to palliative care over a period of twenty years or more.
- 3 Be an Australian resident.

Nominations should address how the nominee has contributed to palliative care through:

- Leadership and mentorship
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Advocacy
- Quality improvement
- Sustainability and legacy
- Advancement of knowledge

National Palliative Care AWARDS 2025

Nominations

- Nominations may be submitted by any organisation with a connection to palliative care.
- Nominations must include:
 - A rationale outlining the nominee's impact on palliative care.
 - Evidence of significant contributions in leadership, innovation, advocacy, or service.
 - Two confidential references from sector peers or stakeholders.
- Shortlisted candidates may be asked to provide additional supporting documentation.
- The PCA Board makes the final decision based on recommendations and due diligence.
- The winner will be announced at the National Palliative Care Awards.

Terms and Conditions

- Nominations must be received by **Thursday 19 June 2025**.
- Nominations will be reviewed by one of Palliative Care Australia's member organisations or affiliates to receive endorsement, prior to judging commencing.
- Member Organisations and affiliates may include Palliative Care ACT, Palliative Care NSW, Palliative Care Victoria, Palliative Care Tasmanian, Palliative Care SA, Palliative Care WA, Palliative Care NT, Palliative Care QLD, the Australia New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM), Palliative Care Nurses Association (PCNA) and the Paediatric Palliative Care Australia and New Zealand (PAPCANZ).
- The awards will be presented at the Oceanic Palliative Care Conference Gala Dinner on **Thursday 11 September 2025**, at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. Finalists will be notified in July, and attendance at the dinner is highly encouraged. All nominees and nominators are encouraged to attend. Attendance at the dinner is included in registration for the Oceanic Palliative Care Conference (25OPCC). People wishing to attend the dinner without attending the conference must purchase an individual dinner ticket for \$200 ex GST (contact 25opcc@icebergevents.com.au to purchase).
- PCA may contact nominators or nominees in the lead up to the Awards function for further details.

National Palliative Care **AWARDS** 2025