

The Ian Simpson Award

Terms of Reference



Description

The Ian Simpson Award (the Award) was established in 1976 to honour Dr Ian Simpson (SA) who was a foundation member of the RANZCP and who became President in 1966. The Award acknowledges the most outstanding contributions to clinical psychiatry as assessed through service to patients and to the community.

Eligibility Criteria

The Award is made to a College member, or non-member outside the RANZCP who has made an outstanding contribution to clinical psychiatry, such as contributions to the development of a special unit, or area of special expertise or lengthy involvement in a clinical area which has earned the respect of colleagues and/or publications.

Work delivered partly in Australia/New Zealand and partly elsewhere is acceptable.

The Award may be made to only one person in any one year other than in exceptional circumstances.

Previous recipients of the Award will not be eligible to receive the Award on a further occasion.

Periods of extended leave (e.g. parental leave) may alter the period of eligibility and can be taken into account by the Selection Panel. Relevant information should be outlined within the submission. Accordingly, members who have worked or trained on a part-time basis, are on or are returning from parental leave, a break in training, or undertaking another form of leave including carers/family leave can be considered for nomination.

Form of Award

The Award comprises a framed citation plus a complimentary registration for the recipient to attend the RANZCP Congress in that year, where they will have the opportunity to present and share their career perspectives.

The recipient is also invited to attend the College Ceremony at the RANZCP Congress where the Award will be presented.

Frequency

The Ian Simpson Award is presented annually, although if there are no suitable applicants, the Ian Simpson Award will not be made in that year.

Nomination Process

The Ian Simpson Award is given by nomination only. Nominations may be made by any two members of the RANZCP, setting out their reasons for the nomination.

Nominations for the Award must be made in the manner specified by the RANZCP.

Selection requirements

The Selection Panel will consider the nominee's contributions to clinical psychiatry through service to patients / tangata whaiora, carers / whānau, and the communities they serve.

Selection Panel Composition and Operation

The Selection Panel shall consist of the Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee (Convenor), the President, two Past Presidents (if such a number be available) and a previous recipient of the Ian Simpson Award. The Selection Panel may co-opt further members of the RANZCP Board, if necessary.

At least one member of the Selection Panel must be from Australia and at least one from New Zealand. If no selection panel members are from New Zealand, then a New Zealand Board Director or the Chair of the New Zealand National Committee will replace the second past president. Achieving appropriate diversity, including gender balance, will also be considered when forming the Selection Panel.

Involvement in the Selection Panel may include a meeting with other panelists to review the candidates and come to an agreement on the winner, after review scoring has taken place.

It is the responsibility of all members of the selection panel to comply with the [RANZCP Declaring and Managing Conflict of Interest Guideline](#) and to promptly take appropriate action to effectively manage the conflict of interest. In the event that a conflict of interest is identified:

1. the Chair will be responsible for addressing the conflict and taking appropriate steps to ensure the integrity of the selection process is maintained; or
2. where the Chair declares a conflict of interest, and it is not possible to make alternative arrangements, the decision will be deferred to the remaining members of the selection panel.

Final determination

The panel is responsible for recommending to the RANZCP Board a person for receipt of the Award and will only do so if they are unanimous in their recommendation. The recommendations should be in writing and should outline the reasons for such nomination. The Board will have final determination for this Award.

Revision Record

Date	Executive Manager, Membership, Events and Publications		
Authorising Body:	Board		
Responsible Committee:	Awards and Recognition Committee		
Document Code:	ToR The Ian Simpson Award		
Date	Version	Approver	Description
19/11/2015	1.0	B2015/7	Updated to reflect correct terminology and processes.
10/02/2018	1.1	B2018/1 R14	Updated to reflect correct terminology and processes.
August 2019	1.2	Coordinator, Membership Services	Updated clarify nomination process.
15/03/2025	1.3	B2025/5	Updated following in depth committee and Board review of top six College awards, including review by a CCC and CfR member and a Past President.
NEXT REVIEW: TBC			