

The Barnett Researcher Award

Terms of Reference



RANZCP
Foundation

Name of the award	The Barnett Researcher Award
Purpose	The Barnett Researcher Award supports emerging researchers who demonstrate curiosity, courage, and a strong commitment to advancing knowledge in mental health. It empowers individuals—especially those outside traditional research pathways—to explore meaningful questions and build a foundation for long-term impact.
Number offered	Up to four scholarships in 2026
Interest area	Research in Psychiatry
Form of the award	<p>Up to \$20,000 per year for two years (to a total of \$40k). The committee may also consider extending both the funding amount and the funding term.</p> <p>An invitation to attend the RANZCP's annual College Ceremony the following year to formally receive the scholarship.</p> <p>The Scholarship may fund stipend support, research costs, or a combination of both.</p>
Eligibility	<p>Applications are open to RANZCP Fellows, Affiliates or Trainee (Associate) members who are in good standing with the RANZCP.</p> <p>Applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have developed comprehensible research plan• Be in the process of seeking an affiliation with suitable supervisors such as University, research body or similar• Have approval to carry out their research from an approved ethics committee; or evidence of working towards an application <p>The Award will not be limited to any specific sub-specialty or focus area of psychiatric research.</p>
Application process	Applications will be accepted over a six-month period. This is longer than the standard application window and potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Foundation for support in developing their proposal.
Applications	<p>Applications are to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motivations: How you developed this research question, why it's important, and the unique strengths you can bring to this project• Project summary: background literature review and rationale, project aims, methodology, expected outcomes and significance• Research environment: Details of affiliation with a university or research institution. A copy of your ethics approval or pending approval <p>Applications must be submitted via the online portal by the due date.</p>
Selection criteria	<p>Applications are assessed basis of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Originality• Scientific merit and feasibility• Clinical relevance• Research environment• Cultural safety and lived-experience

	<p>Additional positive weighting will be applied for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants who are clearly leading their own research • Applicants conducting projects in resource-poor environments • Individuals who demonstrate clear goals and motivation • Projects that include early childhood, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and/or rural and remote communities, with a strong emphasis on fairness, equity, and the development of underserved areas.
Selection process	<p>The selection panel will comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair (or nominee), RANZCP Foundation Committee • Chair (or nominee), RANZCP Committee for Research • Another two members from the RANZCP Committee for Research or the Foundation Committee • Two community representatives <p>All applications will be blind-rated by the selection panel. Following the blind assessment, the panel will review and discuss all full applications and put forward a recommendation for approval by the Foundation Committee.</p>
Financial arrangements	<p>The Scholarship/s will be paid to the successful Applicant/s' host institution/s in two instalments each year. The payments will be subject to agreed progress milestones.</p>
Funding source	<p>The 2026 Award is funded by a donation made by Dr Bryanne Barnett AM (the donor) to the RANZCP in June 2025.</p>
Reporting	<p>The Award recipient/s will be required to submit progress reports every six months. RANZCP will provide written updates to Dr Barnett biannually.</p>
Acknowledgement	<p>The Scholarship will be acknowledged in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the RANZCP: In Foundation publications (including its Annual Review), social media channels and on the RANZCP website, using the following agreed terms: The Barnett Researcher Award. • By the Scholarship recipient/s: In their final research submission; in any subsequent academic or other future publication referencing their research undertaken through the Award; in any future presentations that refer to their research undertaken through the Award; and in accordance with any other request from the RANZCP; using the following agreed terms: 'The Barnett Researcher Award'.
Term/review period	<p>1 February 2027</p>

Revision Record Footer

Contact:	Manager, RANZCP Foundation		
Date	Version	Approver	Description
February 2026	New	Foundation	New document reviewed by the Foundation Committee February 2026.