

ABOUT THE KATHLEEN TODD FELLOWSHIP IN PSYCHIATRY

Dr Kathleen Mary Todd (1898 - 1968) was the daughter of Charles and Mary Todd. She graduated from the Otago Medical School in 1923. When doing post-graduate study in Vienna and London she became interested in psychiatry.

She worked in Boston with Dr Walsh of the Boston Child Guidance Clinic before returning to London to take her diploma in psychiatric medicine (1930). She returned to New Zealand and practised in Auckland for a period. In 1935 she returned to London to join the staff of the Tavistock Clinic and the Hill End Hospital Clinic, institutions with a psychoanalytic/psychotherapeutic focus.

She specialised in child psychiatry and worked in the West End Hospital in the treatment of nervous diseases of children. She became a director of the London Child Guidance Clinic during World War II.

After the war she returned to Wellington to work, establishing a reputation in psychiatry, particularly in the psychotherapeutic method. At that time it was not possible to undertake specialist psychiatric training in New Zealand, but her encouragement of and kindness to young psychiatrists was remarkable. Many members of the profession owe her a debt of gratitude.

In 1956 her care and concern for the field of psychiatry led her to establish the Kathleen Todd Fellowship in Psychiatry. She had been approached by Dr Reginald Medlicot, medical director of Ashburn Hall, another strong advocate of psychotherapy in psychiatry.

The aim of the Fellowship is to encourage overseas postgraduate experience for medical practitioners training or trained in psychiatry, with the object of improving psychiatric resources in New Zealand. The Fund may grant fellowships, bursaries, travelling and other scholarships to assist with the expenses of doctors obtaining additional experience overseas. Those receiving scholarships or grants are expected to return to New Zealand and engage in professional practice for a minimum period of three years.

Given Kathleen Todd's own interests, there is an emphasis on the psychotherapeutic aspects of psychiatry, and in helping those studying overseas take advantage of local cultural activities, in order to broaden his or her life experience.

Since the Fund was established, opportunities for postgraduate specialist training in psychiatry in New Zealand have developed, such that the Fund's emphasis has moved from encouraging New Zealanders to go overseas for basic training, to assisting candidates gain further special experience not readily available in New Zealand. It is therefore assumed that candidates will have membership of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

The Fund Trustees appreciate that because of New Zealand's isolated position, periodic travel overseas by psychiatrists is essential throughout their active professional life. While the Trustees do not consider that the primary role of the Fellowship is to fund sabbatical leave, they will consider the granting of fellowships, bursaries, travelling and other Scholarships to assist New Zealand psychiatrists in obtaining special experience overseas, at any time in their careers.

Application forms are available on request from:- Kathleen Todd Fellowship in Psychiatry, P O Box 10 246, Wellington, New Zealand.