

Australian Capital Territory Branch, The Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatry, Meritorious Service Award

Terms of Reference



Australian Capital Territory Branch

Description:

The Meritorious Service Award (ACT) is awarded on an occasional basis, to acknowledge outstanding contribution to the function of the RANZCP or the practice of psychiatry in a clinical, academic or administrative capacity.

Background:

The Award is intended to recognize the achievements of “unsung heroes”, i.e. those psychiatrists who have made significant contributions without having received formal acknowledgement or accolades in the usual course of their work. The Award is also intended to acknowledge the achievements of those who have gone “above and beyond” the duties of their job, having made important contributions to psychiatry (often unpaid or voluntary) that go outside their job description. The Award Sub Committee will give nominees who fit these descriptions special consideration.

Form of the Meritorious Service Award:

The ACT Meritorious Service Award comprises of a framed Certificate.

Presentation of the Certificate will take place at the ACT Branch Annual Dinner.

Criteria:

This Award is usually given to a Fellow of the College in the Australian Capital Territory, but in some circumstances the award may be presented to an agency or individual who is not a College member who has contributed to the improvement of mental health in the Australian Capital Territory.

This distinguished service can be in any area (or more than one area) of psychiatric practice, such as:

- Clinical care of patients in private and/or public practice
- Teaching and/or training of medical students, registrars or other mental health clinicians
- Mentoring of junior colleagues
- Participation in College activities, such as Examinations, Branch Committee roles or administrative roles for the College
- Research in Psychiatry
- Administrative roles within Mental Health
- Advocacy for consumers and carers within the mental health system
- Activities that enhance the public image of psychiatry or improve public understanding of mental illness.

Deadline:

The closing date for submissions will be COB the last Friday in March.

Process:

Call for nominations for the Award will be advertised in the November/December edition of the local ACT Branch Newsletter via email. This will be repeated in the January/February edition in the following year.

Once all submissions have been collated as of COB the last Friday in March, a meeting of the Awards Subcommittee, consisting of three Members, either active or immediate-past, or the ACT Branch Committee, will be arranged approximately 2 weeks after the deadline.

Selection Criteria:

1. This Award will be awarded to a maximum of ONE Fellow each year, unless there are exceptional circumstances, in which it may be awarded to an agency or individual who is not a College member who has contributed to the improvement of mental health in the Australian Capital Territory
2. Nominees who do not receive the award in any year may be re-nominated subsequently, but any Fellow can only receive the Meritorious Service Award on one occasion
3. A call for nominations will be made from all ACT Members via the newsletter and email. Three members, either active or immediate-past, of the ACT Branch Committee will form the Selection Panel. The Selection Panel will consider the written information provided but can seek further information from other sources if desired. The selection panel is appointed annually by the ACT Branch Committee.
4. The selection panel will recommend the ONE nominee to the ACT Branch Committee who they believe best meets the criteria for the award, as set out in the Criteria.
5. The Branch Committee will ratify this recommendation, by process of a vote of the whole committee.
6. The list of nominations will not be published.
7. There is no appeal process.
8. The Award will be presented at the Branch Annual Dinner.

Application Process:

The ACT Meritorious Service Award is given by nomination only. Nominations may be made by any member of the RANZCP, and must set out the reasons for the nomination. Nominations must be in writing to:

RANZCP – ACT Branch
Branch Coordinator
Tel: +61(0)2 6229 2800
Fax: +61(0)2 6285 2166
Email: ranzcp.act@ranzcp.org