

The Margaret Tobin Award

Terms of Reference



The Royal
Australian &
New Zealand
College of
Psychiatrists



Description

The Margaret Tobin Award (the Award) was established in 2003, as a tribute to the memory of Dr Margaret Tobin who was tragically killed on 14 October 2002. Dr Tobin was passionate about high quality mental health services – the kind of services which have, at their centre, people with mental illness and their families. The Award is designed to honour special achievement in leadership and management in psychiatry.

Eligibility criteria

The Award is made to an RANZCP Fellow who has made the most significant contribution to leadership and management in psychiatry, working predominantly in the area of mental health in Australia and/or New Zealand over a minimum of ten years.

The Award may be made to one person or shared by two or more persons.

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, Fellows 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 an engraved plaque plus support for the recipient to attend the RANZCP Congress in that year, including a return economy airfare, accommodation and Congress registration.

The recipient is invited to present their work at the Congress as the 'Margaret Tobin Oration' (designated as a keynote address within the Congress program) and is also invited to attend the College Ceremony at the RANZCP Congress where the Award will be presented.

Frequency

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

Nomination process

The Margaret Tobin 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 must be in writing and include a statement of the nature of the involvement of the nominee in leadership and management in psychiatry, a list of their achievements, and may also include letters of support from appropriate persons.

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

Selection requirements

The Selection Panel will consider the nature of the involvement of the nominee in leadership and management in psychiatry, the nominee's contributions of international repute, as well as the importance of their work to the field of study, in making a recommendation for the Award.

Selection Panel composition and Operation

The Selection Panel shall consist of the Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee (Convenor), the President, a representative from the Section of Leadership and Management, two Past Presidents (if such a number be available) and a previous winner of The Margaret Tobin 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.

A majority of the Selection Panel will need to agree that one of the submitted nominations is sufficiently meritorious, for the Award to be made that year. If necessary, the Chair shall have both a deliberative and casting vote.

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. 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 Margaret Tobin 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.
11/08/2018	1.2	B2018/5 R21	Updated to include a SLAM representative and reduction of Past Presidents from three to two.
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			

