

Terms of Reference

The Mark Sheldon Prize



DESCRIPTION

The Mark Sheldon Prize (the Award) was established in 2000 by the family, friends and colleagues of the late Dr Mark Sheldon, a pioneer psychiatrist who until his death in 1998 strove to provide psychiatric services to remote Aboriginal communities.

Dr Mark Sheldon was devoted to the welfare of Indigenous people in remote communities and was interested in original research to further their welfare. The prize named in his honour recognises noteworthy contributions (which might include service provision or research) to Indigenous mental health in either Australia or New Zealand.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Prize may be given to RANZCP trainees or early career psychiatrists (e.g. for meritorious work or research in Indigenous mental health undertaken as part of the RANZCP training program). The Prize is also open to more senior RANZCP Fellows and Affiliates, and eminent community members who have made significant contributions to Indigenous mental health.

FORM OF AWARD

The Mark Sheldon Prize will be in the form of a medallion, a framed certificate and complimentary registration to attend the RANZCP Congress. The recipient is invited to attend the College Ceremony at the RANZCP Congress where the award will be presented.

An electronic copy of Dr Sheldon's dissertation will also be provided within the winner's letter.

FREQUENCY

The Mark Sheldon Prize is presented annually, if there is an appropriate nomination.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The Mark Sheldon Prize 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 for the Award must be made in the manner specified by the RANZCP.

RANZCP members can consider nominating any other member or eminent community member for this Award, including if they have had career breaks or taken periods of extended leave, as long as they feel that the key selection requirements outlined below have been met.

Nominees for the Mark Sheldon Prize are also strongly encouraged to submit an abstract for Congress, within the Indigenous mental health stream.

SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

The selection panel will consider the nominee's contributions to Indigenous mental health in either Australia or New Zealand.

The following criteria may be considered when judging a nomination for the Prize:

- merit
- overall contribution to psychiatry
- contributions to indigenous mental health in either Australia or New Zealand
- focus on psychiatric aspects of health of an Indigenous population
- overall contribution to the wellbeing of an Indigenous population

Prioritisation of trainees and early career psychiatrists must be taken by the selection panel and if there are no nominations for trainees or early career psychiatrists, the selection panel can look at more senior Fellows and eminent community members.

SELECTION PANEL COMPOSITION AND OPERATION

The Selection Panel shall consist of the Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee (Convenor), along with the Chairs and at least one other member from both the RANZCP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee and Te Kaunihera.

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 the Convenor will determine an appropriate New Zealand replacement. 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 and 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

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

Revision Record

Contact:	Executive Manager, Membership, Events and Publications		
Authorising Body:	Board		
Responsible Committee:	Awards and Recognition Committee (ARC)		
Document Code:	ToR The Mark Sheldon Prize		
Date	Version	Approver	Description
July 2015	1.0	Manager, Membership Services	New document.
December 2018	1.1	ARC	Updated entitlements.
September 2019	1.2	ARC	Updated presentation entitlements. Nominee is strongly encouraged to submit an abstract.
July 2020	1.3	ARC	Eligibility expanded to include Affiliate members.
4 May 2025	1.4	B2025/6	Updated following in depth review by college staff, a select review group consisting of Awards and Recognition Committee members and the Chairs and Co-chairs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee and Te Kaunihera.
NEXT REVIEW: 2028			