

Metro North Health

# 2025

# Research Excellence Awards

## Nomination guidelines

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Published by the State of Queensland (Metro North Hospital and Health Service), February 2025



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An electronic version of this document is available at <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/research/our-research/research-excellence-awards>

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## Introduction

The annual Metro North Research Excellence Awards recognise and reward outstanding achievement in research across all clinical specialties, professions and services in Metro North. The awards acknowledge the breadth and depth of research excellence in our health service and provide an opportunity to showcase our best and brightest, as well as recognise emerging and early career researchers.

## Award Categories

The 2025 Research Excellence Awards categories are:

1. [Researcher of the Year](#)
2. [Rising Star Award](#)
3. [Professor Joan Webster Nursing and Midwifery Research Award](#)
4. [Research Support Award](#)
5. [Research Implementation Award](#)
6. [Discovery Research Award](#)
7. [Clinical Research Award](#)
8. [Partnering with Consumers Award](#)

## Criteria

Nominations to all categories in the 2025 Metro North Research Excellence Awards should demonstrate how the research undertaken by the individual or team meets the following overarching criteria:

- **Quality** – the scientific merit and quality of a research project or the program of research.
- **Productivity** – the research activities and outputs, including research publications, training, mentoring and supervision, presentations, inventions and patents or grants and funding awarded.
- **Outcomes** – the outcomes of research activities and outputs for Metro North patients, the community and the health service.
- **Impact** – demonstrable impact of research outcomes to knowledge, health, the economy and/or society, including the effect of research after it has been adopted, adapted for use, or used to inform further research. Impact is assessed relative to the recency of the research outcomes.

The overarching nomination criteria for each award category are provided in the following sections.

## Eligibility criteria

Nominations are sought from researchers and research projects across Metro North, including all professional disciplines, clinical services and facilities. Metro North recognises the value of research collaborations and acknowledges that nominations may include research projects that are conducted with researchers from other Queensland Health services or external academic, scientific or community partners.

To be eligible for an individual award, the nominee must be a Metro North employee. The type of employment arrangement, ie temporary, permanent, full-time, part-time etc will not affect eligibility.

For team awards, the research project or program of research must be conducted at a Metro North facility, involve Metro North patients and the community, and/or be led by a Metro North researcher.

## Key dates

**Nominations Open:** 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Nominations Close:** 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Finalists Announced:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025

# Individual Awards

## Researcher of the Year

An individual award that recognises an exceptional contribution to research at a local, national and/or international level. This award celebrates researchers whose high quality and productive research has impacted health outcomes for Metro North patients and the community, influences health policy, society and scientific knowledge through translation and/or implementation of research outcomes.

Nominations will be sought from the Metro North Research Committee and each of the facility Executive Directors, Directors of Research and Clinical Research Directors/Leads. Direct nominations with endorsement of either a local Facility Director of Research or the Facility Executive Director are also sought.

## Nomination Criteria

- Quality** Scientific merit and originality of ideas, and evidence of the research program embedded in Metro North
- Productivity** Research activities and outputs, including grants, publications (top 5 publications as first or senior author over the last ten years and major grant funding as CIA or CIB) supervision conference presentations, patents, inventions and media communications, consumer engagement, evidence-based guidelines and health advice, knowledge translation. Productivity may be assessed relative to the program of research and the clinical or scientific field.
- Outcomes** Demonstrated research outcomes relative to the program of research and the clinical or scientific field, such as: Contribution to new knowledge, data assets, improved diagnoses, disease prevention, new treatments, building research capacity/ capability. Changes to public policy, changes to practice – for example, clinical, environmental. Changes to health-related systems. New products and services, improved ethical behaviour in health and medical research.
- Impact** The demonstrable knowledge, health, economic and societal impact of the research outcomes locally nationally and or globally, and in particular for the health outcomes of Metro North patients and community.

## Rising Star Award

An individual award that recognises researchers who have demonstrated excellence in research quality, productivity and impact early in their research career. This award recognises researchers whose high quality research and productivity have led to demonstrable impact on health outcomes for Metro North patients, the community, society and knowledge, relative to their career opportunities.

The Rising Star Award is based on research outcomes achieved within 10 years (full-time equivalent) of commencement of the nominee's research career at the time of nomination. Career interruptions impacting on full-time equivalence will be considered and assessed based on Research Opportunity and Performance.

### Nomination Criteria

- Quality** Scientific merit and originality of ideas, and evidence of the research program embedded in Metro North. Applications will be assessed relative to opportunity with respect to the early stage of the individuals research career.
- Productivity** Demonstrated research activities and outputs of significant promise for an early career researcher, including grants, publications (top 5 publications as first or senior author over the last ten years and major grant funding as CIA or CIB), supervision conference presentations, patents, inventions and media communications, consumer engagement, evidence-based guidelines and health advice, knowledge translation. Productivity will be assessed relative to the program of research and the clinical or scientific field and the career stage of the applicant.
- Outcomes** Demonstrated research outcomes relative to the career stage of the applicant, the program of research and the clinical or scientific field, such as: Contribution to new knowledge, data assets, improved diagnoses, disease prevention, new treatments, building research capacity/ capability. Changes to public policy, changes to practice – for example, clinical, environmental. Changes to health-related systems. New products and services, improved ethical behaviour in health and medical research.
- Impact** The demonstrable knowledge, health, economic and societal impact of the research outcomes, particularly with respect to the health outcomes of Metro North patients and community.

## Professor Joan Webster Nursing and Midwifery Award

This special award recognises a Metro North Nursing and Midwifery researcher who demonstrates a commitment to research excellence. This award is only open to Nurses and/or Midwives. To be eligible, the nomination must be for a Nursing and/or Midwifery researcher.

Nominations are sought from the Metro North Research Committee, Metro North Nursing and Midwifery Research leaders, facility Executive Directors, Directors of Research and Clinical Research Directors/Leads. Individuals may also self-nominate. Applications to this award will be reviewed by an expert panel of peers.

### Nomination Criteria

- Quality** Scientific merit and originality of ideas, and/or evidence of the research program embedded in Metro North.
- Productivity** Activities and outputs including research publications, work and training supervision, conference presentations, patents, inventions and media communications. Nominations should include publications as first or senior author.
- Outcomes** Demonstrated research outcomes that are of particular benefit to Metro North patients, the community and nursing and midwifery research practice.
- Impact** The demonstrable contribution locally nationally and or globally that the research outcome makes to health outcomes for patients and community, society, health policy or scientific knowledge, and the growth of Nursing and Midwifery Research capacity in Metro North and mentoring of emerging researchers.

## Team Awards

### Research Support Award

This team award recognises an exceptional contribution to research by the multidisciplinary team members who enable research. This includes through excellence in the application of research and/or clinical trial management expertise and skills, encouragement, mentorship or inspiration, and encompasses the research coordinators, clinical trials managers and all levels of research staff who work behind the scenes to make research happen. This award seeks to acknowledge those research teams who provide exceptional support, leadership and specialised expertise in research management that enhances research capacity within Metro North.

#### Nomination Criteria

- Quality** Quality of research support – how the team has demonstrated high quality research support services, including clinical trial management expertise and skills, research encouragement, mentorship and support services.
- Productivity** Productivity of research support – how the team has contributed to research activities and outputs, in particular through the provision of expert support services and/or research management activities that enable research.
- Outcomes** Outcomes of research support – how the team has contributed to research outcomes that are of particular benefit to Metro North patients, the community and research capacity building for researchers and Metro North.
- Impact** Impact of research support - how the team has supported and enabled health, knowledge, societal and economic impact of the research they support. This may be evidenced at a local, national or international level.

### Research Implementation Award

This team award recognises the systematic implementation of research and evidence-based practice, which has led to significant improvements in patient centred outcomes and the effectiveness, access to, or efficiency of health services.

#### Nomination Criteria

- Quality** Demonstrated excellence in the implementation of research and/or knowledge translation, which has improved health outcomes and/or health service delivery for Metro North, our patients and the community.
- Productivity** Demonstrated activities and outputs related to the implementation of research. This may include research projects and/or service evaluation and implementation projects, training and supervision activities, conference presentations and publications.
- Outcomes** Demonstrated research outcomes that outline how the initiative has supported growth, scalability and/or sustainability. Nominations that demonstrate improvement in patient care and/or patient experience will be highly regarded.
- Impact** The contribution and measurable knowledge, health, society and economic impact the research implementation outcomes have made.

## Discovery Research Award

This team award recognises basic science and technology (including information technology and biotechnology) research that makes a local, national or global contribution to society, health services, policy or health outcomes and quality of life for Metro North patients and the community. This includes research projects or a program of research that addresses fundamental gaps in clinical knowledge through research discovery. Nominations may include research comprised of a single or limited number of cohesive studies.

### Nomination Criteria

- Quality** Scientific merit and originality of discovery research that has led to novel findings linked to health challenges faced by Metro North patients. Nominations that can demonstrate evidence of the research program embedded in Metro North will be highly regarded.
- Productivity** Evidence of research activities and outputs arising from the research project or series of linked projects over the last five years, including publications, grants, training and supervision of researchers, presentations, or intellectual property.
- Outcomes** The demonstrable outcomes for Metro North patients, the community, the health service from the research.
- Impact** The knowledge, health, society and economic impact the research outcomes have made locally, nationally and or internationally. Nominations that provide demonstrable impact at a Metro North level will be highly regarded.

## Clinical Research Award

This team award recognises a research project or a program of research that has advanced clinical knowledge or trialled innovative approaches relevant to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease for Metro North patients and the community. This includes the comprehensive study of the safety and effectiveness of the most promising advances in patient care and treatment regimes intended to improve health outcomes for our patients. Nominations may include research comprised of a single or limited number of cohesive studies.

### Nomination Criteria

- Quality** Scientific merit and originality of the clinical research directly linked to Metro North clinical activities. Nominations that can demonstrate evidence of the research program embedded in Metro North will be highly regarded.
- Productivity** Evidence of research activities and outputs arising from the research project or series of linked projects over the last five years, including publications, grants, training and supervision of researchers, presentations or intellectual property.
- Outcomes** The demonstrable outcomes for Metro North patients, the community and the health service from the research.
- Impact** The knowledge, health, society and economic impact the research outcomes have made locally, nationally and or internationally. Nominations that provide demonstrable impact at a Metro North level will be highly regarded.



## Partnering with Consumers Award

This special award recognises the value of partnering with consumers as a driver for research excellence in Metro North. Nominations to this category must identify the research project, or a limited number of cohesive studies, that demonstrate excellence in consumer partnerships within Metro North. This award acknowledges the contributions of consumers across the full research lifecycle and the value of choosing meaningful consumer engagement strategies that reflect the objectives and goals of the research. This award recognises consumer partnerships in research that involve an individual consumer and/or a variety of consumer partnership groups or strategies utilised across the research lifecycle.

### Nomination Criteria

- Quality** Demonstrated consumer engagement methods (recognising partnering with consumers occurs on a spectrum from informing, consulting, collaboration to co-design) that have informed the research process (including design, implementation and evaluation) and enabled high quality research for Metro North patients and the community.
- Productivity** Consumer engagement outputs and activities that have informed and/or enabled research in Metro North.
- Outcomes** Consumer engagement and/or partnership activities that have made a demonstrable contribution to the outcomes of the research and demonstrated outcomes for Metro North, our patients and the community.
- Impact** Consumer engagement and/or partnership activities that have made a demonstrable contribution to the health, economic, social or knowledge impact of the research.

## Submit a Nomination

All nominations for the 2025 Research Excellence Awards must be submitted using the AwardsForce platform.

<https://metronorthhealth.awardsplatform.com/>

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