

2026 Research Excellence Awards

Nomination Guidelines

Metro North Health's vision

Creating healthier futures together—where innovation and research meets compassionate care and community voices shape our services.

**Metro North
Health**



**Queensland
Government**



Metro North Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which we live, work and walk, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

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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 Health. 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 2026 Research Excellence Awards includes 8 categories.

Individual Awards

- [Researcher of the Year](#)
- [Rising Star Award](#)
- [Professor Joan Webster Nursing and Midwifery Research Award](#)

Team Awards

- [Research Support Award](#)
- [Research Implementation Award](#)
- [Discovery Research Award](#)
- [Clinical Research Award](#)
- [Partnering with Consumers in Research Award](#)

Judging Criteria

Nominations to all categories in the 2026 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 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, relative to the opportunities available to the researcher and/or research team.
- **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 specific 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 Health, 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 or part-time, will not affect eligibility. For team awards, the research project or program of research must be conducted at a Metro North facility and/or involve Metro North patients and the community. The research must be led by or include a Metro North researcher.

Key dates

Nominations open:	Monday 16 March 2026
Nominations close:	Monday 27 April 2026
Finalists announced:	Monday 15 June 2026
Research Excellence Awards ceremony:	Thursday 30 July 2026

Individual Award Criteria

Researcher of the Year

This individual award recognises an exceptional contribution to research at a local, national and/or international level. The award celebrates researchers who have demonstrated high quality research with exceptional productivity that has knowledge, health, economic and societal impact.

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. Nominations may be submitted by individuals with endorsement of either a local Facility Director of Research or the Facility Executive Director.

Nomination Criteria

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Quality | Scientific merit and originality of research ideas. Evidence of the research program embedded within Metro North Health. |
| 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 and capacity building activities, conference presentations, patents, inventions and media communications, consumer engagement, evidence-based guidelines and health advice and knowledge translation. Productivity may be assessed relative to the program of research, the clinical or scientific field, and the opportunities available to the individual. |
| 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 Health patients and community. Demonstrated research outcomes relative to the program of research and the clinical or scientific field. This could include contribution to new knowledge, improved diagnosis, disease prevention or new treatments. It may include changes to public policy, changes to practice or changes to health-related systems. |

Rising Star Award

This individual award recognises early-career researchers who have demonstrated excellence in research quality, productivity and impact. This award recognises researchers whose high-quality research and productivity have led to demonstrable societal, knowledge and health impact, relative to their early career stage.

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.*

**To ensure that all researchers across Metro North have equitable access to the Metro North Research Excellence Awards, Judges will apply the Australian Research Council (ARC) Research Opportunity and Performance Statement (ROPE). This will enable applicants to be evaluated in the context of their career and life opportunities and experiences, including where relevant, significant career interruptions. For more information please refer to the [Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence \(ROPE\) | Australian Research Council](#) statement.*

Nomination Criteria

- Quality** Scientific merit and originality of ideas, and evidence of the research program embedded in Metro North. Contribution to an important gap in knowledge or scientific problem. Novelty and originality of research, including methodology, technology, theories or ideas.
- 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, and 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.
- 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. 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.

Professor Joan Webster Nursing and Midwifery Research 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 Health.
- 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.
- Impact** Demonstrated research outcomes that are of particular benefit to Metro North patients, the community and nursing and midwifery research practice. 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, the growth of Nursing and Midwifery Research capacity in Metro North and mentoring of emerging researchers.

Team Award Criteria

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, skills and mentorship. This award encompasses the research coordinators, clinical trials managers and all levels of research staff who work to support research. 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** The team demonstrates high quality research support services, including research and/or clinical trial management expertise and skills, mentorship and support services.
- Productivity** 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.
- Impact** 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. 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/or 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.
- Impact** 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. The contribution and measurable knowledge, health, society and economic impact the research implementation outcomes have made.

Discovery Research Award

This team award recognises excellence in basic science and technology (including information technology and biotechnology) research. This includes research projects or a program of research that address fundamental gaps in knowledge through research discovery. Nominations may include research comprised of a single or limited number of cohesive studies. The research may be conducted in collaboration with academic partners, and nominations that can demonstrate evidence of the research program embedded in Metro North will be highly regarded.

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.
- 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.
- Impact** The potential for this discovery research to lead to demonstrable outcomes for Metro North patients, the community and the health service. The knowledge, health, society and economic impact the research outcomes will make locally, nationally and or internationally.

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 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.
- Impact** The demonstrable outcomes for Metro North patients, the community and the health service from the research. 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 in Research 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.

Nomination Criteria

- Quality** Demonstrated consumer engagement methods (recognising partnering with consumers occurs on a spectrum from informing, consulting, collaboration to co-design and consumer leadership) 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.
- Impact** 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. 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 2026 Research Excellence Awards must be submitted using the AwardsForce platform.

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

Finalist Videos

All finalists will be invited to participate in filming a 2026 Research Excellence Awards video to be played at the awards ceremony. This video will feature a selection of finalists from across all award categories, filmed across each of our Metro North facilities prior to the awards ceremony.

Finalists will be asked to attend a short filming session with our professional videographer. You and/or your team will be asked a couple of questions regarding your research and the value of research to the health service.

The final video will be published on the Metro North Research Excellence Awards website, and will be used as promotional and advertising material for Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

You will be asked to indicate your availability and identify a coordinating contact on the nomination form to assist us with arranging the filming schedule.

All finalists will be invited to film a short 30 second video with our professional videographer. The videos are filmed as thank you from Metro North Health to promote and acknowledge your research. The video of the winning nominations will also be played while the winner or winning team makes their way to the stage during the awards ceremony.

After filming is completed, a copy of the video will be shared with you for your own promotional or advertising purposes, and it will also be hosted on the Metro North Research Excellence Awards website. All videos will have Metro North and Queensland Health branding.

You will be asked to indicate your availability and nominate a coordinating contact on the nomination form to arrange the filming across the filming period.