



NORTHERN TERRITORY

Allied Health

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nomination Information

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About the Awards

Welcome and Thank You

Thank you for your interest in nominating for the **Northern Territory Allied Health Excellence Awards** (the Awards). These Awards are designed to honour and celebrate the exceptional contributions of the allied health workforce across the Northern Territory. They recognise individuals and teams who demonstrate excellence in their profession and make a meaningful impact on the health and wellbeing of Territorians every day.

The Awards are open to allied health professionals, technicians, assistants, and teams working in any setting—across both public and private sectors—in the Northern Territory. Eligible nominees may work in:

- Hospitals
- Primary health care
- Rural and remote services
- Aged care
- Academia
- Education
- Research
- Management

If you know someone whose work exemplifies excellence in allied health, we encourage you to nominate them for recognition.

Award contact: AlliedHealthExcellenceAwards.Health@nt.gov.au

Eligible Professions

Allied health professionals are university-qualified practitioners with specialised expertise in preventing, diagnosing, and treating a wide range of conditions and illnesses. They are distinct from the medical, dental, and nursing professions.

Allied Health Professions eligible for nomination include, but are not limited to:

Allied health professionals:

- Audiologists
- Dietitians and Nutritionists
- Exercise Physiologists
- Medical Laboratory Scientists
- Medical Radiation Practitioners
- Occupational Therapists
- Optometrists
- Oral Health Therapists
- Orthoptists
- Pharmacists
- Physiotherapists
- Podiatrists
- Prosthetic and Orthotic professionals
- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Sonographers
- Speech Pathologists

Allied Health Technical support staff:

Allied health staff that work alongside allied health professionals are also eligible for nomination. These staff include, but are not limited to:

- Allied health assistants
- Prosthetics and Orthotics technicians
- Pharmacy technicians
- SEAT technicians
- Oral Health / Dental assistants who work alongside Oral Health Therapists
- Chaplains

If a profession is not listed above and you would like to confirm eligibility for nomination, please contact: AlliedHealthExcellenceAwards.Health@nt.gov.au

Rules and Conditions of Nomination

1. Eligibility

Nominations are open to allied health professionals, allied health assistants, and technicians employed in any setting or organisation within the Northern Territory (NT).

To be eligible, nominees must:

- Be employed by an NT-based entity;
- Reside and work in the NT at the time of nomination;
- Remain employed in a designated allied health role, or in a role that significantly utilises allied health expertise, or primarily supports allied health functions, at the time of the Awards ceremony.

Eligible work environments include, but are not limited to:

- Hospitals
- Primary health care
- Rural and remote services
- Aged care
- Academia
- Education
- Research
- Management

2. Honour Roll Exception

The “Honour Roll” category also accepts nominations for allied health professionals who have retired within the past 2 years.

3. Who Can Nominate

Nominations must be submitted by a health professional, peer, colleague, manager, or employer.

Nominations **will not** be accepted from:

- The nominee themselves (self-nominations);
- Patients/clients or their families;
- Family members of the nominee.

4. Submission Format

All nominations must be submitted electronically via the designated online platform. Hard copy submissions will not be accepted.

5. Word Count Compliance

Submissions must adhere to the word limits specified in the application form. Content exceeding the maximum word count will not be considered during judging.

6. Selection Process

Independent selection panels will assess nominations based on the criteria for each award category. All decisions made by the panels are final and not subject to appeal or further correspondence.

7. Confidentiality and Ownership

The selection process is confidential. Feedback will not be provided. All submitted materials become the property of the Office of the Chief Allied Health Officer and will not be returned.

8. Use of Personal Information

Personal information provided in nominations will be used solely for the purpose of assessment and judging.

9. Multiple Nominations

A nominee may be nominated in more than one category but can only be selected as a finalist in one category.

10. Previous Recipients

Previous award winners are ineligible for nomination in any category for two years following their win. *Exception:* Honour Roll recipients may be nominated at any time, regardless of prior recognition. Note: Honour Roll recognition can only be awarded once.

11. Professional Standing

Nominees must:

- Have no conditions, undertakings, limitations, or notations on their professional registration;
- Not be under performance management;
- Have no formal complaints lodged regarding inappropriate behaviour in the workplace.

Nomination Process and Dates

Nominations open: Monday, 6 July 2026

Nominations close: Sunday, 26 July 2026

Please note: Late submissions will not be accepted unless an official extension is announced.

Submission process: All nominations must be submitted electronically via the official nomination forms available at the [NT Allied Health Excellence Awards website](#).

Supporting documents: Attachments are only permitted for nominations in the **Honour Roll** category. While not mandatory, any supporting documents must be emailed directly to: AlliedHealthExcellenceAwards.Health@nt.gov.au following the completion of the online nomination form.

Word limits:

- General categories: Maximum of **500 words**
- Honour Roll category: Maximum of **1,500 words**

Nominee consent: All nominees will be contacted to confirm their acceptance of the nomination. Nominees reserve the right to decline participation.

Finalist Announcement

Up to three finalists in each award category will be announced in early September 2026 via NT Health's official social media channels.

Winner Announcement

Award recipients will be announced at the NT Allied Health Excellence Awards Ceremony on Friday, 16 October 2026.

Following the ceremony, the names of all finalists and award winners will be published through:

- Internal NT Health communications
- NT Health social media platforms
- The [NT Allied Health Excellence Awards website](#)

Terminology

The term "patients" also refers to clients or anyone receiving allied health services.

Nomination Categories and Criteria

Please see the appendix for examples of well written nominations with the type of information the judging panel are looking for in a nomination.

Early Career Excellence Award

The Early Career Excellence Award category recognises recent allied health graduates who have demonstrated exceptional potential during their first two years of practice. Nominees in this category are committed to fostering a positive workplace culture and take pride in being part of the allied health workforce in the Northern Territory.

The recipient of this award will be a high performer in their role, highly valued by colleagues, clients, and the broader team. They will show strong promise for future leadership and continued contribution to their profession.

Nominees must be:

- An Allied health professional

- Be working as an allied health professional no more than two years since graduation
- Be currently undertaking their role as a health professional in the Northern Territory in any capacity

Criteria for assessment:

- Provides exceptional healthcare and demonstrates safe, responsive and kind values
- Embraces opportunities to further their professional development and shows considerable career potential
- Highly valued by colleagues and patients in the healthcare setting

Excellence in Clinical Practice

The Excellence in Clinical Practice award recognises allied health professionals who demonstrate exceptional clinical expertise and make a significant impact on patient care and professional practice. The recipient will be a distinguished leader in clinical practice, highly respected by colleagues and patients alike, and will have made meaningful contributions to advancing their profession and improving patient outcomes.

Nominees must be:

- An allied health professional
- Currently undertaking their role as a health professional in the Northern Territory
- Nominated in relation to their contribution to clinical practice

Criteria for assessment:

- Have met the 'Must Have' criteria outlined above
- Provided or influenced exceptional healthcare and were safe, responsive and kind to their patients/families/communities
- Considerably contributed to their profession and/or patient outcomes, in the clinical context
- Highly valued by colleagues and patients in the healthcare setting

Excellence in Research or Quality Improvement

The Excellence in Research or Quality Improvement Award category applies to allied health professionals who deliver exemplary and impactful contributions to allied health related research or Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). The winner of this category will have demonstrated significant impact from their work, a dedication to improving health outcomes and/or service delivery through new knowledge. They will be highly valued in their field and considerably contribute to their profession and/or service.

Nominees must:

- Be a qualified allied health professional
- Be nominated in relation to their contribution to research or quality improvement relating to allied health

Criteria for assessment:

- Have met the 'Must Have' criteria outlined above
- Demonstrated exemplary and impactful contributions to allied health related research or quality improvement activity
- Demonstrated a commitment to innovation in allied health and improvements to health outcomes/system delivery
- Highly valued in their field and make a considerable contribution to their profession/team/service

Excellence in Allied Health Education

The Excellence in Allied Health Education category applies to nominees who demonstrate excellence in allied health education, supervision, mentoring or professional development. The winner of this category will make a significant contribution to developing the allied health workforce, will be highly valued by learners and colleagues, and will demonstrate a sustained and positive impact on developing others and strengthening allied health practice in the NT.

Nominees must:

- Be a qualified allied health professional
- Be nominated in relation to their contribution to allied health education, supervision, mentoring and/or professional development in the Northern Territory

Criteria for assessment:

- Have met the 'Must Have' criteria outlined above
- Demonstrated excellence in education, supervision, mentoring, or facilitation of professional development
- Contributed to building capability and confidence within the allied health workforce
- Demonstrated a sustained and positive impact on learners, colleagues, and/or service delivery
- Highly valued by learners and colleagues for their support, knowledge sharing, and commitment to developing others.

Excellence in Leadership

The Excellence in Leadership Award celebrates allied health professionals who demonstrate exemplary leadership across any setting in the Northern Territory. The recipient will be recognised for their ability to inspire and positively influence those around them, fostering growth, collaboration, and innovation. Highly respected by their peers and profession, they will have made a lasting impact on allied health through their leadership.

Nominees must:

- Be a qualified allied health professional

- Be nominated in relation to their contribution to leadership relating to allied health

Assessment criteria:

- Have met the 'Must Have' criteria outlined above
- Consistently delivers exemplary leadership resulting in significant outcomes for allied health and/or person-centred care
- Demonstrated high level influence impacting those around them in a positive and empowering way following safe, responsive and kind values
- Highly valued in their field, and by their colleagues and peers

Team Excellence Award

The Team Excellence Award category recognises allied health teams that demonstrate outstanding collaboration and deliver high-performing services or outcomes across any setting. The winning team will exemplify excellence in person-centred care and/or professional impact, achieved through exceptional teamwork, shared purpose, and collective expertise.

Nominated teams must:

- Be a team of at least two allied health professionals. This can include a subset within a whole practice or health service.
- Be a discipline specific or multidisciplinary allied health team currently undertaking their role in the Northern Territory.
- Be nominated as a collective delivering services or outcomes as a team, and which may consist of clinical employees, non-clinical employees and/or a mix of both

Criteria for assessment:

- Have met the 'Must Have' criteria outlined above
- Demonstrated exemplary and impactful contributions as a team, while exhibiting safe, responsive and kind values
- Demonstrated evidence based, person-centred care which has improved health outcomes through excellent teamwork
- Demonstrated commitment to working collaboratively, inclusively and improving service delivery through excellent teamwork

Excellence in Community Practice

The Excellence in Community Practice award recognises allied health professionals who deliver exceptional services or make a significant impact on community health, including in rural and remote settings. The recipient will be a standout contributor to community-based care, deeply valued by colleagues and the communities they serve, and will have made a meaningful difference to their profession, service delivery, and/or health outcomes.

Nominees must be:

- An allied health professional

- Currently undertaking their role as a health professional in the Northern Territory
- Nominated in relation to their contribution to community practice

Assessment criteria:

- Have met the 'Must Have' criteria outlined above
- Significantly contributed to their profession and/or patient outcomes, in the community context
- Leading the way in public health and/or community centred care responsive to patient or community needs
- Highly valued by colleagues and patients within the communities they serve

Excellence in Allied Health Assistance/Technical Support

The Excellence in Allied Health Assistance/Technical Support Award recognises individuals in technical or support roles who make a vital contribution to allied health services. The recipient will deliver high-quality, dependable assistance that directly enhances the work of allied health professionals and the care they provide. Their role will be marked by excellence, dedication, and the high value placed on their contributions by colleagues and services alike.

Nominees must be:

- An allied health assistant or technical support staff member
- Currently undertaking their role in the Northern Territory
- Working under allied health professional delegation

Assessment criteria:

- Have met the 'Must Have' criteria outlined above
- Demonstrated outstanding skills within their work unit
- Provides a high quality service, and demonstrates safe, responsive and kind values to their work area/patients/families/ communities
- Embedded and seen as an integral member of the team/service who is highly valued by colleagues and patients

Allied Health Honour Roll

The Allied Health Honour Roll recognises allied health professionals who have dedicated a significant portion of their career to serving communities in the Northern Territory. The winner of this category will be held in high esteem by their teams, services, and the broader profession, and will have made a profound and enduring impact on allied health in the NT through their long-standing commitment and contributions.

Nominees must be:

- An allied health professional
- Currently undertaking their role in the Northern Territory, or retired from service within two years of the awards nomination opening date

- Nominated in relation to their exemplary contribution to the allied health profession/s over many years of service

Assessment criteria:

- Have met the 'Must Have' criteria outlined above
- Demonstrated a history of distinguished service and made a lasting contribution to the profession/health service
- Exhibited leadership and provided inspiration to others
- Had a positive influence within their local community or on a wider NT-wide, national or international level
- Highly valued by colleagues, service and/or profession

Appendix 1: Frequently asked questions

Q: I'm a manager of an allied health team. Can I nominate my team, or is this considered a self-nomination?

A: Yes, managers and team leaders are eligible to nominate their teams for the Team Excellence award category. This is not considered a self-nomination.

Q: Is there a category for allied health professionals working in remote communities?

A: Yes. Allied health professionals working in remote communities can be nominated under the Excellence in Community Practice category, provided the nomination highlights outstanding work in a community setting. You may also wish to consider the Excellence in Clinical Practice category or other award categories, depending on the nature of the nomination.

Q: I'm a healthcare professional and regularly see a physiotherapist for my own care. Can I nominate my treating physiotherapist?

A: No. Nominations from patients or clients—even if they are healthcare professionals—are not accepted. However, you are encouraged to contact the individual's colleagues or manager, who may submit a nomination.

Q: I'm a healthcare professional and my child sees a speech pathologist. Can I nominate my child's speech pathologist?

A: No. Nominations from family members of patients or clients are not accepted, even if the nominator is a healthcare professional. You are welcome to encourage the speech pathologist's colleagues or manager to consider nominating them.

Q: Can I use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to help prepare my nomination?

A: Yes. AI tools may be used to assist with editing, such as refining wording, improving clarity, or meeting word limits. However, AI must not be used to generate entire responses or introduce content that is not based on genuine, verifiable achievements. All submissions must accurately reflect real work.

Appendix 2: Nomination examples

Below are examples of successful nominations. They are intended to provide an example of the amount and type of information that supports a successful nomination.

Early Career Excellence Awards

Eleanor is a vital member of the Palmerston Regional Hospital (PRH) Occupational Therapy team. She brings positive energy, fosters collaboration, creativity, and supports team wellbeing. Her contributions well exceed expectations for a new graduate.

In her nearly one year of service, Eleanor has demonstrated maturity and a patient-centred approach. She tackles challenges head-on, ensuring all aspects of a patient's story are considered for optimal outcomes. For example, she recently worked with a patient recovering from a stroke, coordinating with their family, NDIS providers, and community services to create a comprehensive care plan that addressed both immediate and long-term needs.

Eleanor advocates for patients within the hospital and with external stakeholders, showing a holistic and compassionate approach. She successfully advocated for additional resources for a patient requiring specialised seating equipment, ensuring they received the necessary support for their rehabilitation and discharge.

Eleanor consistently delivers high-quality care through her clinical skills, professionalism, and empathy. She listens to patients, collaborates on solutions, and motivates them towards health improvements and discharge goals. One notable instance involved a patient with severe anxiety about their recovery. Eleanor's empathetic listening and tailored therapeutic interventions in collaboration with the team psychologist helped the patient regain confidence and achieve their rehabilitation goals.

She actively seeks to expand her skills and knowledge, participating in QI projects, journal club, and hospital working groups, and shares her insights with the team. Eleanor was an active member of a quality improvement project aimed at reducing patient falls, which resulted in a 20% decrease in incidents over six months. Her presentations at journal club have also introduced innovative practices that have been adopted by the team.

Her commitment to the team and allied health is evident in her flexibility and support during unplanned absences. Eleanor stepped in to cover for a colleague on short notice, ensuring continuity of care for patients without any disruption. Her knowledge of the NT and Top End region enhances her ability to understand and address the unique challenges faced by patients from remote areas.

Eleanor's dedication to her patients and colleagues exemplifies the high standards of care and professionalism that NT Health strives to uphold. Eleanor demonstrates great potential in her future career as both an occupational therapist and future leader in allied health.

Excellence in Clinical Practice

Clara has consistently demonstrated outstanding dedication to the podiatry team and the broader organisation over the past three years. She works with Congress, an Aboriginal community-controlled primary health care organisation based in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), where Aboriginal community members lead and govern the health service. Within Congress's comprehensive primary health care model, podiatry plays a vital role—particularly in Central Australia, which has the highest rate of lower limb amputations in the country.

Since joining Congress in 2018, Clara has significantly advanced podiatry services through visionary leadership and innovation. She spearheaded the accreditation of the High Risk Foot Clinic Standards with the National Association of Diabetes Centres (NADC), positioning Congress as the first Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) to pursue and achieve this recognition. Clara also introduced an on-call podiatry telehealth service for primary health care clinics across Central Australia, integrating foot-offloading kits typically reserved for hospital settings.

Her team currently coordinates care for approximately 70 clients with active foot wounds, enabling them to remain in their communities and avoid unnecessary travel for specialist services. Clara also established an outreach podiatry service aligned with the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF) guidelines, visiting eight remote communities

six times annually. These visits are conducted in partnership with a diabetes educator, ensuring integrated and culturally responsive care.

Clara is deeply committed to building an Aboriginal allied health workforce. She collaborates closely with an experienced Aboriginal Allied Health Assistant who shares her passion for podiatry. This commitment to workforce development is underpinned by Clara's exceptional clinical standards and leadership, which allow her to deliver diverse services across a region facing critical health needs and high rates of diabetes-related foot complications.

In response to post-COVID workforce shortages, Clara implemented creative staffing solutions by engaging professionals with regional experience for short-term placements. This approach ensured continuity of care while avoiding the high costs associated with locum staffing. Remarkably, she has managed these responsibilities while pursuing postgraduate studies in the rural generalist pathway.

Clara's clinical excellence, strategic thinking, and unwavering commitment to community-led care are widely respected across Congress's multidisciplinary team. She is a champion of high-risk foot care and a driving force behind a culturally safe, community-governed model of podiatry—delivered where it is needed most, in the heart of Australia.

Team Excellence

The Adult Allied Health Team (AAHT) exemplifies excellence in multidisciplinary care, collaboration, and innovation. Comprising administrative and technical staff, physiotherapists (PTs), occupational therapists (OTs), a speech pathologist (SP), allied health assistants (AHAs), AHA trainees, and students, AAHT consistently upholds NT Health's core values of being Safe, Responsive, and Kind.

Key Strengths and Achievements

1. Exceptional Collaborative Problem-Solving

AAHT demonstrated remarkable flexibility and teamwork in response to an urgent request from the Aged Care Manager in Elliott. The team swiftly adapted travel plans, reorganised activities, and coordinated equipment to ensure vulnerable clients received timely assessments and essential support. Their unified response was instrumental in assisting the Elliott Aged Care team, with positive feedback highlighting the impact and effectiveness of their efforts.

2. Proactive Upskilling and Streamlined Service Delivery

In alignment with NT Health's values, AAHT redesigned its intake processes to improve efficiency. Through skill-sharing, PTs, SPs, and AHAs now prescribe and install personal alarms—traditionally an OT responsibility—significantly reducing wait times. This initiative, formalised through Clinical Task Instructions, reflects the team's commitment to safe, responsive, and kind care. AHAs have also been empowered to lead local delegation training, showcasing the team's dedication to professional development and valuing every role.

3. Community Engagement and Knowledge Exchange

AAHT actively engages with stakeholders to enhance community health outcomes. Their participation in a Tennant Creek housing expo promoted accessible housing and home modifications. Ongoing collaboration with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC) allied health team, including knowledge-sharing in diabetic foot screening, ensures culturally responsive and comprehensive care.

4. Commitment to Workforce Development

Despite staffing challenges, AAHT fosters a supportive learning environment for students and trainees. Feedback from a current allied health student described their placement as “more like being part of a team than a typical placement,” reflecting the team’s inclusive and collaborative culture.

5. Recognition and Regional Impact

AAHT’s contributions have been recognised through invitations to participate in a research project with the Menzies School of Health Research and to present to remote clinic general practitioners—affirming their influence and leadership in regional allied health practice.