



## Judging Panel and Assessment Process

### Eligibility checks

- The Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer (OCNMO) verifies all nominations meet the conditions as outlined on [NMEA website](#)
- Prior to progressing category nominations to panel, the OCNMO ensures nominees meet the eligibility requirements, are AHPRA registered (if applicable) and are nominated in the correct category.

### Judging panels

- Each category of the Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards (NMEA) is assessed by separate 3-person panel
- Panel members consist of valued members of the nursing and midwifery community, including members of NT Health Nursing and Midwifery Executive Committee, nursing and midwifery leaders from health organisations across the NT, representatives from NMEA Partner organisations and previous NMEA recipients.
- Panel members must declare conflicts of interests and are transferred to a different panel should a conflict be declared or recognised.
- Panels utilise the marking matrix (outlined below), and decisions are based solely from information provided in the nomination.
- Panels final shortlisting decisions are verified by the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer.
- Information contained in nomination, panel discussions and decisions are confidential.



## Panel Assessment Matrix

Nominations are individuals or teams which have been recognised for excellence in their dedication to provide safe, responsive and kind care to patients and communities in the Northern Territory.

Most categories are open to Enrolled Nurses, Registered Nurses and Midwives. Exceptions include;

- **Student of the Year** – recognises those enrolled and studying in a pre-registration course such as Diploma of Nursing, Bachelor of Nursing and/or Midwifery OR Master of Nursing (pre-registration)
- **Excellence in Aged and Residential Care** – Enrolled or Registered Nurses only
- **Enrolled Nurse of the Year** – Enrolled Nurses only
- **Nurse of the Year** – Registered Nurses or Nurse Practitioners only
- **Midwife of the Year** – Midwives

### Definition for rating criteria

<b>4. Exceptional:</b> mastery in award category. Sophisticated insights in nursing or midwifery practice as per the award category. Excellent contribution to their professional practice and the field of nursing or midwifery.	<b>3. High-quality:</b> Proficient in award category. Valuable insights in nursing or midwifery practice as per the award category. Excellent contribution to their professional practice and the field of nursing or midwifery.	<b>2. Satisfactory:</b> Competent in award category. Insights in nursing or midwifery practice as per the award category are demonstrated to a satisfactory level. Satisfactory contribution to their professional practice and the field of nursing or midwifery.	<b>1. Did not meet criteria:</b> Falls short of meeting the award category. Insights in nursing or midwifery practice is as per standard requirements and does not demonstrate outstanding behaviour as per the award. Contribution is at expected practice level their professional practice and the field of nursing or midwifery.
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Please mark the rating for each award nomination area criteria.



## Award 1. Student of the Year

To be eligible for the Student of the Year they must meet the following criteria;

- be enrolled in the following courses:
  - Diploma Of Nursing
  - Bachelor of Nursing and/or Midwifery
  - Master of Nursing (pre-registration)
- Not already hold registration with AHPRA i.e. this excludes anyone who is post initial registration

Criteria This award aims to recognise a Student of Nursing or Midwifery who has shown exceptional potential during their placement or employment .	4. Exceptional	3. High- quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<b>Q: Why should your nominee be Student of the year 2026?</b>				
Have met the 'Must Have' criteria outline above	Yes			No
Provided exceptional healthcare and were safe, responsive and kind to their patients/families/communities.				
Embraced opportunities to further their professional development. i.e. their passion and commitment				
Worked as a collaborative team member in the healthcare setting.				



## Award 2. Rising Star - Excellence in Early Career

Must be:

Enrolled nurse, registered nurse or midwife employed who have shown exceptional potential during their first five years of practice.

Criteria This award aims to recognise nurse and midwives who have shown exceptional potential during their first five years of practice.	4. Exceptional	3. High- quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<b>Q: Why should your nominee be Early Career Nurse or Midwife of the year 2026?</b>				
Have met the 'Must Have' criteria outline above	Yes			No
Provided exceptional healthcare and were safe, responsive and kind to their patients/families/communities.				
Embraced opportunities to further their professional development. i.e. their passion and commitment				
Worked as a collaborative team member in the healthcare setting.				



### Award 3. Excellence in Education

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High- quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This award acknowledges a nurse/midwife who demonstrates leadership and commitment to innovative, quality teaching and learning. The nominee supports others to identify and achieve their professional development, goals and works to ensure the appropriate support for learning are available.</p> <p><b>Q: How has the nominee provided outstanding commitment to their profession and improved educational practices and experiences, or learning outcomes for the NT?</b></p>				
Demonstrated leadership and commitment to innovative, quality teaching and learning to support safe, responsive and kind healthcare.				
Promoted and supported the fundamental role of lifelong learning in practice.				





#### Award 4. Excellence in Research/Quality Improvement

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High-quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This award recognises a nurse/midwife who consistently advocates for and/or implements quality improvement and research activities into the workplace.</p> <p><b>Q: How has the nominee delivered excellence in research and quality improvements in their profession?</b></p>				
Consistently advocated for and/or implemented quality improvements and research activities, which led to a change in practice, in the workplace				
Demonstrated their commitment to, and promotion of, quality improvement and application of evidence-based practice.				
Led and supported others in ongoing improvements to quality, research and workplace activities while exhibiting safe, responsive and kind values.				



## Award 5. Excellence in Aged and Residential Care

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High-quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p><b>This award recognises the outstanding performance of an Enrolled Nurse or Registered Nurse working in aged and residential care.</b></p> <p><b>Q: How has the nominee demonstrated excellence in aged or residential care nursing?</b></p>				
Demonstrated inclusive, innovative and courageous care to their patients/clients by exhibiting safe, responsive and kind values				
Contributed to deliver positive outcomes to the service and/or patient care in the aged or residential care setting				
Demonstrated commitment to driving positive outcomes for patients/clients through passionate and empathetic delivery of care				



## Award 6. Excellence in Leadership

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High-quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p><b>This award highlights outstanding leaders (i.e. clinical leaders, service directors or managers) who continually exhibit excellence in leadership.</b></p> <p><b>Q: How has the nominee demonstrated excellence as a leader?</b></p>				
Demonstrated inclusive, innovative, courageous and influential leadership to achieve team and/or organisational goals and exhibited safe, responsive and kind values				
Promoted self-leadership and led colleagues to improve a patient's/client's experience of the health care system				
Informed, inspired and influenced system changes to the delivery of quality health care services				
Are highly regarded amongst their peers and are recognised for their expertise				
Are an outstanding role model for others				





## Award 7. Excellence in Rural and Remote Nursing / Midwifery

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High- quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This award recognises exceptional commitment to the provision of safe, responsive and kind culturally appropriate health care by a nurse or midwife working in rural or remote setting in the NT.</p> <p><b>Q: How does the nominee show their commitment to improve health care services for those living in rural or remote settings?</b></p>				
Demonstrated outstanding commitment to ensure their practice is contemporary, person centred and culturally sensitive.				
Advocated to improve the delivery of health care services.				
Empowered people to make informed choices and improve health outcomes.				



## Award 8. Excellence in Primary Care, Public Health and Community Nursing/Midwifery

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High-quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This award recognises the exceptional commitment of enrolled nurses, registered nurses, nurse practitioners or midwives working in primary care, public health and community care settings.</p> <p>Eligible nominees may be working in public health, primary health, community mental health, domiciliary nursing, school health, child health, disability services, or practice nursing.</p> <p><b>Q: How does the nominee demonstrate excellence in Primary Care, Public Health and Community Nursing/Midwifery?</b></p>				
Demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving health outcomes through safe, evidence-based, person-centred care delivered with professionalism and clinical excellence.				
Advocated to improve the delivery of health care services.				
Empowered people to make informed choices and improve health outcomes.				



## Award 9. Team Excellence Award

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High-quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This award recognises a team who provide services and initiatives that benefit the patient and/or community and enhance patient and employee experiences. The team exhibit safe, responsive and kind values, and excel in effective collaboration with each other and others external from their team.</p> <p><b>Q: How has the team demonstrated excellence were the patient/client or community benefited?</b></p>				
Worked collaboratively (i.e. with patients, clients, families, carers and other health clinicians)				
Provided evidence based, person-centred care to improve health care outcomes				
Demonstrated a passion for their profession by “going the extra mile”				



## Award 10. Client Appreciation (Individual or Team)

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High-quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This is a consumer-nominated award to recognise a nurse/midwife or team who consistently provides extraordinary, safe, responsive and kind care. The nurse/midwife or team demonstrates an uncompromising commitment to elevating the patient experience by building connection with patients and their families through trust, kindness and empowerment.</p> <p><b>Q: How has the nominee provided outstanding care to you, your family, friend or community?</b></p>				
Consistently provides extraordinary, safe, responsive and kind care				
Demonstrates an uncompromising commitment to elevating the patient experience by building connection with patients and their families through trust, kindness and empowerment				



## Award 11. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurse or Midwife of the Year

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High-quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This award recognises an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurse or Midwife who has demonstrated leadership or excellence in one or more of the following areas: clinical practice, policy or leadership, research or teaching and learning.</p> <p><b>Q: Why should the nominee be the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurse or Midwife of the year?</b></p>				
consistently displayed commitment, compassion, resilience and professionalism.				
worked collaboratively with patients, communities and other health care professionals.				
provided excellent and outstanding care to improve outcomes for patients and/or communities.				





## Award 12. Enrolled Nurse of the Year

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High-quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This award recognises an enrolled nurse who has made an outstanding contribution in providing and coordinating safe, responsive and kind care to the people and the communities of the NT. This nurse shows a passion for their profession, goes the ‘extra mile’ and demonstrates a ‘can do’ positive attitude’.</p> <p><b>Q: Why should the nominee be the nurse of the year?</b></p>				
Consistently displayed commitment, compassion, resilience and professionalism				
Worked collaboratively with patients, communities and other health care professionals				
Provided excellent and outstanding care to improve outcomes for patients and/or communities.				



## Award 13. NT Administrator's Medal for Lifetime Achievement

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High- quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This award recognises a nurse/midwife who has made a lasting contribution to their profession.</p> <p>Nominees for this award are not required to be currently employed as a nurse or midwife or hold current registration.</p> <p>Q: In 1500 words or less, please describe how the nominee has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrated a history of distinguished service and made a lasting contribution to the profession.</li> <li>• exhibited leadership and provided inspiration to others.</li> <li>• positively influenced nursing and/or midwifery on a state, national or international level.</li> </ul>				
Demonstrated a history of distinguished service and made a lasting contribution to the profession				
Exhibited leadership and provided inspiration to others				
Positively influenced nursing and/or midwifery on a state, national or international level.				



## Award 14. Nurse of the Year

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High-quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This award recognises a registered nurse or nurse practitioner who has made an outstanding contribution in providing and coordinating safe, responsive and kind care to the people and the communities of the NT. This nurse shows a passion for their profession, goes the 'extra mile' and demonstrates a 'can do' positive attitude'.</p> <p><b>Q: Why should the nominee be the nurse of the year?</b></p>				
Consistently displayed commitment, compassion, resilience and professionalism				
Worked collaboratively with patients, communities and other health care professionals				
Provided excellent and outstanding care to improve outcomes for patients and/or communities.				



## Award 15. Midwife of the Year

Criteria	4. Exceptional	3. High-quality	2. Satisfactory	1. Did not meet criteria
<p>This award recognises a midwife who has made an outstanding contribution in providing and coordinating safe, responsive and kind care to the people and the communities of the NT. This midwife shows a passion for their profession, goes the 'extra mile' and demonstrates a 'can do' positive attitude'.</p> <p><b>Q: Why should the nominee be the Midwife of the year?</b></p>				
Consistently displayed commitment, compassion, resilience and professionalism				
Worked collaboratively with patients, communities and other health care professionals				
Provided excellent and outstanding care to improve outcomes for patients and/or communities.				