

National Conference 2026 - Awards Information Sheet

About Our Awards

The CATSINaM National Conference Awards celebrate the achievements, leadership, and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses, midwives, students, and allies.

The awards include **individual awards** that recognise the work of people, and **organisational awards** that recognise organisations making a strong contribution to cultural safety, workforce development, and collaboration. Together, they celebrate excellence in leadership, community service, education, cultural safety, research, and workforce development. Award recipients are celebrated at the CATSINaM National Conference Gala Dinner.

This information has been prepared for members and aligns with the approved CATSINaM Award Categories. It provides clear guidance on the different award categories, eligibility, and how to nominate. Assessment processes and prize details may vary from year to year.

We encourage members to nominate colleagues, mentors, organisations, and allies whose work deserves recognition. If you're unsure whether someone is eligible, we encourage you to nominate - eligibility will be confirmed during the assessment process.

Individual Award Categories

Early Career Award

Recognises an early career Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander nurse or midwife who has shown excellence in the early years of their profession. This award is intended for registered nurses or registered midwives with at least two years of experience.

Sally Goold Award

Recognises an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurse who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the nursing profession and to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Sister Alison Bush Award

Recognises an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander midwife who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the midwifery profession and to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Fellowship Award

A prestigious award recognising an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander nurse or midwife whose research has made a meaningful contribution to nursing and midwifery practice.

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Aunty Pam Mam Community Service Award

Recognises Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander nurses or midwives who make a strong contribution to community wellbeing beyond their formal professional role. This may include community outreach, health education, volunteer work, advocacy, or other activities that strengthen community health.

Education and Mentorship Award

Recognises an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander nurse or midwife who demonstrates excellence in education and mentorship, supporting and inspiring the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives.

Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue Leadership Award

Recognises an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander nurse or midwife who demonstrates outstanding leadership, including inspiring others, strengthening teams, driving system change, and advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Excellence in Cultural Safety Award

Recognises an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander nurse or midwife who demonstrates a strong commitment to culturally safe care, including leadership, advocacy, and practice that improves the safety and experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Lifetime Ally Award

Recognises a non-Indigenous nurse or midwife who has consistently demonstrated leadership and advocacy in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses, midwives, students, and care recipients. This award is determined by the CATSINaM Board of Directors.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Recognises an individual who has made an exceptional and lasting contribution to the nursing and midwifery profession across their lifetime. This award honours dedication, leadership, innovation, and influence and is determined by the CATSINaM Board of Directors.

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Organisation Award Categories:

Excellence in Organisational Leadership for Cultural Safety

Recognises organisations that demonstrate strong leadership and commitment to embedding culturally safe policies, practices, and systems.

Advancing Indigenous Workforce Excellence Award

Recognises organisations that actively recruit, support, retain, and advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives.

Collaborative Leadership Award

Recognises organisations that demonstrate respectful and effective collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations, and stakeholders.

Eligibility

Individual Awards

- Nominees must be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (except the Lifetime Ally Award).
- Nominees must be current CATSINaM members.
- Eligibility is based on the award category and professional role (enrolled nurse, registered nurse, or registered midwife).

Organisational Awards

- The individual nominating an organisation must be a current CATSINaM member.
- Organisations must not be insolvent.
- A supporting reference from a partner or stakeholder of the nominated organisation is required.

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Nominations

- **Nomination deadline:** Complete the nomination form by **COB 24 July 2024**. Late nominations will not be accepted.

Individual Award Categories:

- If you would like to nominate one person for several awards, submit one nomination form via [this LINK](#).
- If you would like to nominate two or more people, you must complete a separate nomination form for each nominee.
- The person nominated must be a current CATSINaM member.

Organisational Award Categories:

- If you would like to nominate one organisation for several awards, submit one nomination form via [this LINK](#).
- The individual nominating an organisation must be a current CATSINaM member.
- The nominee must provide a reference from a stakeholder or partner of the nominated organisation. References should be submitted to enquire@catsinam.org.au.
- The nominated organisation must not be insolvent.

Award Presentation

Award recipients are announced and presented at the CATSINaM National Conference Gala Dinner. Where recipients wish to attend in person, CATSINaM will provide sufficient notice to support travel and accommodation planning.

Important Note for Members

Award categories and intent are approved by CATSINaM. Assessment approaches, presentation arrangements, and prizes may change from year to year and are subject to organisational governance and sponsorship arrangements