



Awards Nomination Guide

2026



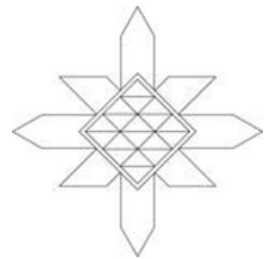
We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live, work and gather. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including Elders from other communities.

We acknowledge you, the many peoples, the keepers of the home fires in Aotearoa New Zealand:

-From the Tail of the Fish, up to the Head;
From the East Coast to the West;
And to the Heart of the Octopus in between;
Crossing over the water, to the Prow of the Canoe;
down to the Stern, and the Anchor;
Across to the Midships,
and from there to the Greenstone Coast;
And finally navigating across to the Chatham Islands!

Our warmest greetings to your Gatherings of Elders, to your many marae, your home places, and your families.

Greetings to you all.



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Foreword

It is a privilege to present the CPMEC Awards 2026, honouring excellence in medical education and training across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Through these awards, we recognise and celebrate educators and trainees who elevate the quality of medical education and training and exemplify professionalism, compassion, and a commitment to lifelong learning. The people who offer guidance, support and inspiration to junior doctors are every bit as influential and significant as the skills our trainees learn. Skills can be taught, but confidence, curiosity and professional integrity are nurtured through guidance, encouragement, and example.

The Clinical Educator of the Year award celebrates a clinician who demonstrates outstanding leadership in teaching and mentorship. As well as this, they foster environments where prevocational doctors can grow with confidence, curiosity and safety, knowing that they are genuinely supported and positioned for success.

The Prevocational Doctor of the Year award acknowledges a trainee who has shown exceptional dedication to their patients, colleagues, and their own personal development. Importantly, this award recognises a prevocational doctor who shares this dedication with and for the benefit of

their colleagues, teams and wider services.

The CPMEC Awards are not simply acknowledgements of individual achievement. They reflect the very best of our profession and the values we want to uphold across our health system: professionalism, compassion, collaboration, and a commitment to ongoing learning.

Authentic recognition of those who remain steadfast in their commitment to education and service is important and we celebrate not only what these individuals have achieved, but their very real influence on the future of medicine. These are contributions that shape safer care, stronger teams and a more supportive training environment for all who follow.



Dr Kenneth Clark
Acting Chair, CPMEC

Introduction

The Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils (CPMEC) is proud to announce that nominations for the 2026 CPMEC Awards are now open.

Since 2010, the CPMEC awards have been presented annually to prevocational doctors and clinical educators across Australia and New Zealand recognising those who have made a major contribution to improving prevocational medical education and training.

The CPMEC Awards acknowledge the outstanding contributions of individuals, teams, and organisations working to improve the experiences and outcomes of prevocational doctors. They shine a light on those who champion high-quality supervision, create culturally safe and supportive environments, and foster meaningful learning experiences during the early years of medical practice. Whether through direct clinical teaching, educational innovation, advocacy, or systemic change, the awards recognise a broad range of efforts that contribute to a strong, inclusive, and sustainable medical workforce.

We welcome nominations from across the prevocational medical education community and encourage all member organisations and stakeholders to put forward individuals and teams whose work deserves recognition.

Award Categories:

- Prevocational Doctor of the Year
- Clinical Educator of the Year

Process

Nominations for these awards can be made by self-nomination or peer-nomination*. If a nomination is being made for someone other than yourself, the approval of the nominee is required prior to submission.

* Please note that only prevocational doctors (PGY1s and PGY2s) can submit nominations for the Clinical Educator of the Year Award.

In advance of submitting a nomination, the nomination criteria for each award should be carefully read and understood. Submissions for each award can be completed through an online form provided to each jurisdiction.

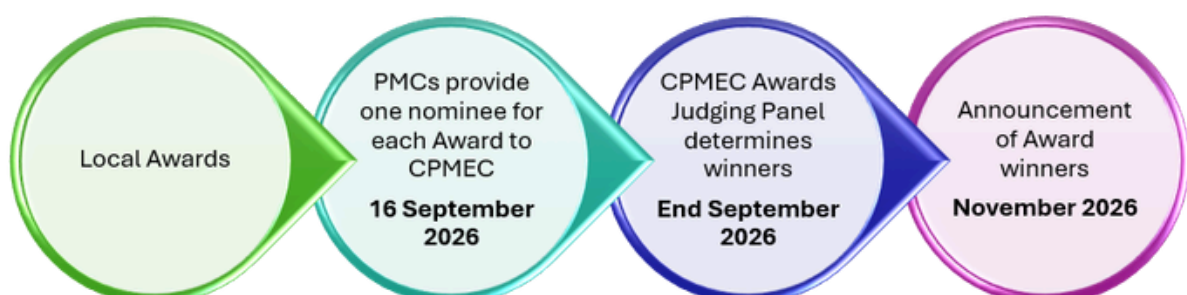
To submit a nomination, the online nomination form must be completed. The form includes key details about nominators and nominees, selection of the award criteria that has been met by the nominee, and a section for the nominator to provide a statement explaining how the nominee meets the award criteria and is recommended for the award.

Selection of award winners:

When the nomination period closes, each Prevocational Medical Council (PMC) will provide CPMEC with one jurisdictional nominee for each award. The CPMEC Awards Judging Panel will then review all nominations and evidence in accordance with the award criteria.

The CPMEC Awards Judging Panel will be made up of:

- CPMEC Chair
- New Zealand representative
- Prevocational Trainee - appointed by Expression of Interest
- Directors of Clinical Training - appointed by Expression of Interest
- Medical Education Officer - appointed by Expression of Interest



Prevocational Doctor of the Year

Since 2008 this award has been presented annually by CPMEC to prevocational doctors across Australia and New Zealand in recognition of those who have made significant contributions to improving prevocational medical education and training.

This award acknowledges prevocational doctors who are dedicated to their work and demonstrate commitment to improving outcomes for their peers, patients and health services.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for this award, the prevocational doctor nominated must:

- be in their PGY1 or PGY2 years. PGY3 doctors may be nominated, however their contributions MUST be restricted to their PGY1 and/or PGY2 years.
- have satisfactory clinical performance with the nomination endorsed by a Director of Clinical Training (or equivalent) to confirm the nominee's clinical responsibilities are met.
- have made contributions that go beyond standard expectations for PGY1/2 doctors.

Self-nominations are accepted for this award.

Award Criteria:

The nominee must meet at least two of the following criteria (next page):

1 Demonstrate consistent commitment to supporting colleagues or patients.

Example: The nominee demonstrates commitment to ensuring that prevocational doctors have a strong voice internally.

2 Consistently role model highly professional practice within their daily work.

Example: The nominee demonstrates a strong level of commitment to improving patient outcomes.

3 Demonstrates exemplary communication and teamwork across all aspects of their work.

Example: The nominee consistently collaborates with co-workers to deliver high-quality patient care.

4 Contribution to peer medical education activities.

Example: The nominee actively contributes to the planning, delivery, or coordination of education and training activities within their workplace.

5 Demonstrates commitment to peer wellbeing and support.

Example: The nominee regularly participates in organisation-led wellbeing initiatives and encourages peers to do the same.

6 Consistently supports access to rural/regional prevocational education and training opportunities.

Example: The nominee has actively pursued equitable access to training at a rural site by engaging with their health service, peers and local rural networks/organisation.

A statement addressing how the nominee meets the criteria and why they are recommended for this award is required within the nomination form.

Clinical Educator of the Year

Since 2010 this award has been presented annually by CPMEC to clinical educators across Australia and New Zealand in recognition of those who have made major contribution to the education and training of prevocational doctors in the years PGY1 and PGY2.

This award acknowledges a clinical educator who has made major contributions to the education and training of PGY1s and PGY2s within their health service.

Eligibility:

A clinical educator is someone who:

- teaches, supervises, mentors or supports PGY1 and PGY2 doctors
- has created a positive learning environment.

Nominations will be accepted from prevocational doctors (PGY1 or PGY2) only.

Award Criteria:

The nominee must meet at least two of the following criteria:

1 Consistently contributes to the teaching of prevocational doctors.

Example: The nominee has consistently delivered tailored content that meets the learning needs of prevocational doctors.

2 Developed innovative programs for prevocational doctor education.

Example: The nominee has designed and/or led an innovative and engaging education or training initiative for prevocational doctors.

3 Contribution to prevocational doctor mentoring and career guidance.

Example: The nominee has actively mentored prevocational doctors, with an ongoing commitment to individual development.

4 Consistently advocates for the advancement of prevocational doctor education, training and wellbeing.

Example: The nominee has actively advocated for the educational interests of prevocational doctors in the workplace that has led to tangible improvements for prevocational medical training.

5 Demonstrates commitment to further development of teaching skills.

Example: The nominee has actively pursued further learning in prevocational medical education and training.

6 Contribution to development and/or delivery of rural/regional prevocational education and training opportunities.

Example: The nominee has actively pursued equitable access to training at a rural site through the identification and removal of training barriers.

A statement addressing how the nominee meets the criteria and why they are recommended for this award is required within the nomination form.

Terms and Conditions

Eligibility Criteria:

Eligibility criteria are outlined under each award.

Nomination process:

- Those making nominations should discuss the nomination with and seek the approval of the nominee prior to submission.
- Nominators should review award and eligibility criteria to ensure that the nominee meets the required criteria for the award.
- A photograph of the nominee must be submitted at the time that the jurisdiction provides details of the nomination to CPMEC. Nominators and nominees agree any photos and/or references will be used by the local PMCs and CPMEC for the purpose of advertisement and promotion of the awards.

Nomination deadlines:

- PMCs will determine local deadlines for nominations for local awards to be made.
- Each PMC will provide CPMEC with details of one nominee for each award on or before **Wednesday 16 September 2026**.

Judging:

- The CPMEC Awards Judging Panel will select one winner for each award from the nominations received from PMCs.
- In the event that two finalists cannot be split by the CPMEC Awards Judging Panel, the Judging Panel may elect to award joint winners.
- The judging process is final and confidential.
- There is no requirement for the CPMEC Judging Panel to provide feedback to nominees or nominators.
- CPMEC will undertake due diligence checks of all finalists to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria.

Finalists:

Where practical, finalists may be announced at www.cpmec.org.au

Announcement of Award Winners:

Winners will be announced in November 2026.

Use of media, photographs and articles:

CPMEC reserves the right to use any media, photos or articles for future promotional purposes or publications, unless otherwise advised.



More information

Please direct questions and queries about the CPMEC Awards, nomination process and online nomination form to your local PMC or cpmecadmin@cpmec.org.au

