



Ministerial Award for Rising Stars in Cardiovascular Research

2026 Guidelines and Application Form



Instructions to applicants

Please read the instructions carefully before completing the application form. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Closing Date: 5pm, Friday 20 November 2026

Background

The Ministerial Awards for Cardiovascular Research are presented annually at the NSW Cardiovascular Research Network Showcase and Ministerial Awards ceremony to recognise and celebrate outstanding contributions to research in cardiovascular diseases, including diabetes, stroke, and renal disease.

The Ministerial Award for Rising Star in Cardiovascular Research specifically recognises up to two early- to mid-career researchers who are up to ten years post PhD.

Application for this Award is by nomination by a senior researcher or senior executive in a similar or related field.

Who can be nominated?

Any early- to mid-career (up to ten years post PhD, excluding career disruption) scientist, researcher, clinician, or health services specialist in NSW who has demonstrated achievement excellence in cardiovascular research.

Selection criteria

Achievement excellence in cardiovascular research is demonstrated by the researcher's track record.

A strong track record could include, but is not limited to:

- Specific research achievements
- Research impact and benefit
- Originality and significance
- Collaboration achievements
- Publications' record
- Grants awarded
- Awards and prizes

Eligibility criteria

The Ministerial Award for Rising Star is open to residents of NSW working in research in cardiovascular disciplines, including diabetes, stroke, and renal disease.

Note:

- Only individual researchers are eligible (not research teams).
- The Nominee must be a member of the NSW Cardiovascular Research Network (CVRN) and, preferably, be employed at an NSW CVRN Member Organisation. If not yet a member of the NSW CVRN, it is free to [join](#).
- Nominees must be no more than 10 years post PhD as at the closing date (excluding career disruption). The CVRN Ministerial Award Review Committee will consider exceptions based on evidence of equivalent experience and details of career interruptions relative to opportunity.
- Nominees should currently be working in NSW and be committed to carrying out their research/work in NSW in 2027.
- Nominees must either be permanent residents or citizens of Australia.
- Self-nominations are not eligible.

Nomination requirements

Nominators should hold a senior research or executive position and be from a similar or related field to that of the Nominee. Nomination forms should be completed by the Nominator and Nominee. A completed form should include:

- Nominator's reference and statement endorsing the Nominee;
- An outline by the Nominee of their research;
- Nominee's brief resume or curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages) and key publications (maximum 1 page) completed by the Nominee.

Entries with insufficient documentation, documentation in excess of requirements, or those received after the closing date, will not be considered. Submitted material will not be returned.



Renominations

Past nominees who were not selected for a Ministerial Award may be re-nominated, provided their nomination is updated to reflect achievements and contributions since the original nomination.

Previous Ministerial Award recipients are not eligible for re-nomination and cannot receive the same award more than once.

Selection procedure

The CVRN Ministerial Award Review Committee (Review Committee) may include representatives from the relevant CVD research community, both within NSW and nationally. The Review Committee will shortlist applicants against the selection criteria, considering the relevant career stage and experience of the Nominees, and any career disruptions as documented.

From the shortlist, the Review Committee will reach their decision on the recipients of the award solely on the material submitted by the Nominees and Nominators. The deliberations of the Review Committee will remain confidential. The decisions of the Review Committee in the selection of the Award recipients are final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

Award

The recipient(s) of the Ministerial Award for Rising Star in Cardiovascular Research will receive a framed certificate alongside public and peer recognition at the NSW CVRN Showcase and Ministerial Awards (Showcase).

The recipient(s) will also receive a cash prize of \$5,000 paid to their institution's research administration office; intended to support their research or to attend a conference relevant to their research.

Privacy legislation

Individuals, investigators or research institutions associated with NSW CVRN Ministerial Awards shall abide by the current [NHMRC Guidelines](#) issued pursuant to Section 95 of the Privacy Act 1988. All applications will be treated confidentially and will only be viewed by reviewers, review committees, and NSW CVRN staff.

Closing date

Nominations must be submitted by the Nominator.

Nominations for the Ministerial Awards must be received by 5pm AEDT on Friday 20 November 2026.

Following receipt, each nomination will be thoroughly checked for completion. When all relevant information has been obtained, the nomination will be submitted to the Review Committee for consideration.

When are recipients advised?

Shortlisted Nominees will be notified approximately two months prior to the Showcase. Shortlisted nominees may be requested to participate in promoting and marketing of the Awards and Showcase, prior to the ceremony.

The recipient(s) of the Award will be announced at the Showcase.

Following the Showcase, the recipient(s) will be advised officially in writing of the offer of the award. The name of the successful Award recipient(s) will be published on the NSW CVRN (Heart Foundation) website.

The Showcase will be held in May 2027 (Date TBC).

Are nominators advised?

Nominators are advised of the outcome of their nomination coincident with notification of shortlisted nominees.

More information or help

If you have any questions or require guidance, please contact Dr Shamona Eaves, NSW CVRN Manager (Shamona.eaves@heartfoundation.org.au).

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Nomination Form

Nominee Details

Title First Name Surname

Current Appointment

Current Institution

Preferred contact number Email

Date PhD awarded (institution)

Other Details such as Career Disruptions. Please provide a description of any career disruptions such as parental leave, extended carer's leave or any significant illness and approximate time of any disruptions.

Research Area (Basic-Biomedical / Clinical Medicine and Science / Public Health/ Data Sciences / Health Services)

Current Research Interests (key phrases only)

Signature

Date

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Nominator’s Details

Please provide your contact details to enable officers of the Review Committee to seek further information, if required.

Title

First Name

Surname

Current Appointment

Current Institution

Research Area

Current Research Interests (Key phrases only)

Preferred contact number

Email

Describe the nature of the Nominator’s relationship with their Nominee

Signature

Date

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Nominator's Reference - to be completed by the Nominator

Briefly outline the candidate's research/academic achievements including impact, outputs and collaborations and describe their standing relative to opportunity in their field. Include a description of what it is that sets them apart from their peers in the field and discipline in terms of achievements to date.

You may wish to consider:

- Specific research achievements
- Research impact and benefit
- Originality and significance of research
- Collaboration achievements
- Publications' record
- Grants awarded
- Awards and prizes

Maximum 500 words

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Nominee's Statement - to be completed by the Nominee

Briefly describe in plain language your research and its implications for cardiovascular disease and how it will benefit the community. Please note, this content may be used for media.

Maximum 200 words

Nominee's CV and Key Publications - to be completed by the Nominee

Please attach:

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Brief resume or curriculum vitae of the Nominee (Maximum 2 pages)

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Nominee's key publications (Maximum 1 page, no smaller than 11pt Calibri).

Completing and Submitting Nomination

Please complete this Nomination Form including:

- Nominee's and Nominator's contact details
- Nominator's Reference Statement
- Nominee's Statement.
- Nominee's 2 page curriculum vitae
- Nominee's list of key publications (max 1 page)

Incomplete submissions will not be considered by the Selection Committee

To Submit: Please email to CVRN@heartfoundation.org.au

Nominations must be received by 5pm AEDT on Friday 20 November 2026

Your Personal Information is being or has been collected by the National Heart Foundation of Australia ABN 98 008 419 761 (Heart Foundation, we, us, our) to facilitate services requested by you and/or to keep you informed about

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