



## Tasmanian Allied Health Professional Advancement Committee

### Allied Health Awards 2013

## Information Sheet for Applicants

The Tasmanian Allied Health Professional Advancement Committee (TAHPAC) was established after the 2007 National Allied Health Conference in Hobart to undertake the use and disbursement of funds generated by the conference.

The aim of the Committee is to support professional development opportunities for all Tasmanian Allied Health Professionals.

The Committee has expanded that support through the TAHPAC Allied Health Awards.

### **Purpose of the annual awards:**

- To reward allied health professional excellence in Tasmania
- To Promote the role of allied health professionals in the provision of all levels of health care

### **Awards:**

There are 3 categories of award each year. \$1000 will be awarded for each category. The categories will vary each year to enable recognition of excellence across the spectrum of Allied Health Professional practice.

The context of your submission may be any health service setting: acute care, primary health, aged or community, reflecting the breadth of roles of allied health professionals in the provision of health care for Tasmanians.

### **Award Categories 2013:**

#### **1. Putting Research into Action: the successful implementation of research findings to the benefit of patients**

This award seeks to recognise those allied health professionals who have translated the outcomes of their own or others' research and put them into practice. The judges are looking for clear evidence of the way the service has been improved to benefit clients as a result of changing practice according to research findings.

## 2. **Health Promotion: Allied Health at the forefront of health care**

This award seeks to recognise the significant role of allied health professionals in health promotion and preventative health care. The judges are looking for projects that have been successful in changing individual or group behaviour/attitudes towards a healthier lifestyle or have provided an environment (policy/community/organisational) supportive of change.

## 3. **Connecting with Community: Allied Health working in Partnerships:** This award seeks to recognise those allied health professionals who, through developing and maintaining effective and sustainable partnerships with other healthcare providers and/or across sectors, can show an improvement in the quality of health and well-being and improved client outcomes.

### **How to nominate:**

Applications may be made by individuals or practice related groups. Online application is the preferred mode of lodgement. However, if you do not have on line access a hard copy can be posted. (See **Lodgement of Applications** below.)

Applicants must be actively engaged in clinical or patient/client related work to be eligible for an award. Nominations will be accepted from sole practitioners, clinical teams, practice groups, researchers or organisations/agencies.

Each of these groups may self-nominate or be nominated by colleagues.

### **Conditions of entry:**

Applicants must be recognised as an allied health professional. The list of eligible professions is compiled from those recognised by the Australian Government and the Allied Health Professional (Tasmanian Public Sector) Industrial Agreement. (See **Eligibility** below).

A condition of the Award entry is acceptance of privacy conditions including publishing of Awards winner details and project content. (See **Confidentiality Terms of Agreement: Application Form**)

Applicants:

- must work and reside in Tasmania.
- may be employed in private practice, public sector, non-government and not for profit agencies.

- must have individually made a significant contribution to the conceptual development, execution and evaluation of the work.
- must demonstrate they have taken a leading role in an identifiable allied health project.

The submission must:

- relate to professional practice in Tasmania.
- outline work that has been in place for at least 6 months and can show definitively an impact on client/patient care, service delivery or professional identity
- be initiated and lead by a Tasmanian allied health professional.
- show how the gains can be re-produced in other work places.
- reflect substantially new work.
- not be for work previously recognised through an award or similar.

**The judging panel decisions will be final and the panel reserves the right not to award a prize in any category if it believes no application has met the requirements satisfactorily.**

## Eligibility:

Tasmanian Allied Health Professions eligible for these awards are<sup>1</sup>:

|                         |                                       |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Audiology               | Health Librarian                      | Pharmacy                  |
| Cardiac Perfusion       | Health Physics                        | Physiotherapy             |
| Chiropractic            | Medical Radiation Oncology<br>Physics | Podiatry                  |
| Dental Therapy          | Medical Imaging -<br>Radiography      | Prosthetics and Orthotics |
| Dental Hygiene          | Medical Science                       | Psychology                |
| Dental Prosthetics      | Nuclear Medicine Technology           | Radiation Therapy         |
| Dietetics and Nutrition | Occupational therapy                  | Social Work               |
| Environmental Health    | Optometry                             | Sonography                |

<sup>1</sup> This list is compiled to include those professional groups recognised by the Department of Health and Human Services (Tasmania) and the Department of Health and Aging (Australian Government).

|                     |            |                  |
|---------------------|------------|------------------|
| Exercise Physiology | Orthoptics | Speech Pathology |
| Genetic Counsellor  | Osteopathy |                  |

## Application Conditions:

- Entries must be submitted using the Awards Application Entry Form. Entries must be typed and be limited to 1000 words per category.
- The same project can be submitted against one or more of the categories listed. If applying for more than one category, a separate Application Entry Form must be used for each category entered. The category entered must be clearly stated on the Application Entry Form(s).
- Supporting attachments are optional and should be limited to no more than three (3) A4 pages.
- All entries must include details outlining how the prize money would be utilised for continuing professional development that will benefit patient/client care in your facility or practice.
- Award funds must be used within 12 months of receipt and details on the use of the funds must be provided within 12 months of receipt. (See **Report on Utilisation of Funds.**)
- Funds will be transferred to the account detailed on the Application Entry Form.

## Confidentiality:

- TAHPAC reserves the right to publish details of award winners and related project information. Information may be published on public website(s).

## How will applications be assessed?

A panel of judges will select the winners. Judges will be nominated to the panel by professional associations and jurisdictions from Tasmania and interstate. Judges will be senior allied health professionals with professional standing recognised by their peers.

**The judges' decision will be final. The judging panel reserves the right not to award a prize in any category if it believes no application has met the requirements satisfactorily.**

Each panel will consist of a:

- Chair to be elected by panel members;
- jurisdiction representative nominated by the National Allied Health Advisory Committee (NAHAC);
- nominee from Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH);
- nominee from the University of Tasmania.

If required, the panel may seek the advice of a profession specific senior allied health professional with standing recognised by their peers. This person would be nominated by the professional association of the project's Lead Clinician as specified on the application form.

### **1. Allied Health Research into Action: the successful implementation of research findings to the benefit of patients**

Judges will be looking for demonstration of:

- What research was undertaken or reviewed to change practice
- Why this research was chosen
- How was the research translated into practice – showing evidence of project planning, implementation and evaluation.
- The benefits to clients from this change in practice.
- Impacts on quality of client/patient care, work practices and service philosophy
- Multi-disciplinary, multi-service or inter-service approach
- Application of innovative thinking to identify a client/patient centred solution to a safety and quality issue

### **2. Health Promotion: Allied Health at the forefront of health care**

Judges will be looking for demonstration of:

- What project was undertaken, its objectives and philosophy
- How was the project undertaken – showing evidence of project planning, implementation and evaluation.

- The target behaviour(s)/attitude(s), how change was made and what impact this has had on the lifestyle of the patient/client (individual or group).
- Multi-disciplinary, multi-service or inter-service approach
- Application of innovative thinking to identify a client/patient centred solution to a safety and quality issue

### 3. **Connecting with Community: Allied Health working in Partnerships:**

Judges will be looking for demonstration of:

- Identification of the issue to be addressed
- What partnerships were formed and why
- How the collaboration was undertaken was undertaken with partners – dealing with competing priorities, different organisation policies and systems
- The benefits to clients
- Impacts on quality of client/patient care, work practices and service philosophy
- Multi-disciplinary, multi-service or inter-service approach
- Application of innovative thinking to identify a client/patient centred solution to a safety and quality issue

### **Lodgement of application:**

Application packages are available by emailing: [tahpac@gmail.com](mailto:tahpac@gmail.com)

Application packages consist of the Information Sheet for Applicants, Application Form and Report on Utilisation of Funds.

Application Forms should be submitted by email to: [tahpac@gmail.com](mailto:tahpac@gmail.com)

Or posted to: TAH PAC Allied Health Award, GPO Box 111 North Hobart

The Utilisation of Funds form is to be submitted to [tahpac@gmail.com](mailto:tahpac@gmail.com) after the training activity which must be undertaken within twelve months from the receipt of the award.

**Online application is preferred.**

### **Deadline for application:**

Applications close on Friday 20th **September 2013**.

**Notification of receipt of application:**

All applications will be sent an acknowledgment of receipt within one week of lodgement.