

Awards,
Scholarships &
Recognition
PROGRAM

ACNP

2026

MEET SOME OF OUR 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Heather May Herrick Scholarship, Advanced Practice Nurse intending to become a Nurse Practitioner 2025

"Attending the ACNP National Conference was an invaluable experience that significantly supported my development as I work toward becoming a Nurse Practitioner in palliative and aged care. A major highlight was the opportunity to build valuable professional connections. I would not have been able to attend the conference without this scholarship support. I am sincerely grateful to the Herrick family for providing this opportunity and to the ACNP for supporting my professional growth."

— Crystal Tsang



Indigenous, Rural and Remote Student Scholarship 2025

"The scholarship allowed me to attend the 2025 ACNP National Conference, an experience through which I felt deeply valued, inspired for the future, and genuinely included. Throughout the conference, I was in awe of the breadth of specialties and the innovative models of care showcased. The financial support from QUT meant I could fully engage in the conference without the burden of financial stress. This freedom created the time and space I needed to learn, reflect, and build meaningful networks."

— Peta Russell



[Apply Now](#)

Ausmed®

OLLIE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications Open: 1 April 2026**Applications Close:** 30 May 2026

This scholarship is named in memory of Olwyn (Ollie) Johnston one of the first endorsed nurse practitioners in Australia and a pioneer who paved the way for nurse practitioners nationally. Ollie passed away in 2006 but her life contribution to remote nursing will be remembered by her radio call sign “by Golly....it’s Ollie”.

This educational scholarship, sponsored by Ausmed, is offered to endorsed Nurse Practitioners for the purpose of growing the body of knowledge on the nurse practitioner role in Australia.

The scholarship may be used to support educational activities including:

- Professional Development courses
- Workshops or seminars
- Conference attendance
- Formal education course of study
- Observational placement

Eligibility Criteria

- A Nurse Practitioner (endorsed by NMBA) residing in Australia
- A current financial member of ACNP
- Working at least 0.6 FTE as a Nurse Practitioner in a clinical role

Selection Criteria

The scholarship will be awarded to the applicant who can best demonstrate that the proposed activity will add to the body of knowledge on nurse practitioner roles and models of care.

Applicants must complete the Selection Criteria and the declaration included in the online application.

Prize

This Scholarship is valued at up to \$5,000 for one individual. The exact benefit is determined by the Awarding Committee and may not be the full \$5,000.

The scholarship funds are to be used towards the education outlined in the application.

Announcement and Presentation

The recipient will be notified by late July 2026, to enable booking of transport and accommodation for attendance at the presentation during the National Conference Gala Awards Dinner, which will take place at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. All announcements are to be held in confidence until the formal presentation.

Obligation

The successful applicant is required to submit a brief report to ACNP within three months of completion of the education activity outlining how the scholarship funds were used, and will be required to complete an abstract to present at the ACNP National Conference, within the next 2 years.

How to apply

1. View full eligibility requirements and selection criteria on the [Ollie Scholarship webpage](#)
2. Fill out and submit your application via the [Ollie Scholarship webpage](#)

[Apply Now](#)

INDIGENOUS/RURAL & REMOTE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Applications Open: 1 April 2026

Applications Close: 30 May 2026

This scholarship has been established by the Queensland University Technology (QUT) specifically for Nurse Practitioner (NP) Students working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and/or a Rural and Remote area. This funding will provide NP students with the opportunity to network and update their knowledge and skills at the ACNP National Conference attended by over 450 delegates.

Objective

The objective of this scholarship is to connect future NPs with the broader NP network to support innovation in the development of new NP roles and models of care. We recognise that it is challenging for Nurse Practitioner Students in rural and remote areas to attend the conference due to cost and travel requirements. The Scholarship is targeted at NP students working in a Rural and Remote area providing services supporting health care needs for First Nations Peoples.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

- Be an Australian Citizen or hold a Permanent Resident visa and be registered with NMBA
- Be enrolled to study to become a Nurse Practitioner
- Meet one of the selection criteria listed: a Nurse Practitioner Student working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, and/or a Nurse Practitioner Student working in a Rural and Remote area

The selection criteria will be addressed using a combination of short and long answer questions.

Prize

- The scholarship will consist of \$3,000 towards registration to attend the ACNP National Conference, to be held at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, 14-16 September 2026, and travel fees associated with attending the conference
- 1 x year of ACNP membership

Announcement and Presentation

The recipient will be notified by late July 2026, to enable booking of transport and accommodation for attendance at the presentation during the National Conference Gala Awards Dinner, which will take place at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. All announcements are to be held in confidence until the formal presentation.

How to apply

1. View full eligibility requirements and selection criteria on the [QUT Indigenous / Rural and Remote Student Scholarship webpage](#)
2. Fill out and submit your application via the [QUT Indigenous / Rural and Remote Student Scholarship webpage](#)

[Apply Now](#)

HEATHER MAY HERRICK SCHOLARSHIPS



Palliative Care Australia
Matters of life and death



Palliative Care
NURSES AUSTRALIA

This scholarship program is offered in partnership with Palliative Care Australia (PCA) and Palliative Care Nurses Australia (PCNA).

Applications Open: 1 April 2026

Applications Close: 30 May 2026

The scholarship is named in memory of Heather May Herrick.

Heather received outstanding care, including palliative care and pain management from a Nurse Practitioner which made a huge difference to Heather and her family. After a long battle with cancer pain, thanks to a Nurse Practitioner, her last 2 months of life were comfortable.

In appreciation for the unique role of the Nurse Practitioner in Australia and the outstanding work that they do, Heather's family has funded a scholarship program aimed at supporting more Nurse Practitioners and Advanced Practice Nurses to deliver services to people like Heather, with the following priorities:

Essential Criteria

- End of life pain management
- Palliative Care
- Aged Care
- Working towards Advanced Practice or Nurse Practitioner role

Other Priorities

- Oncology
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- New and emerging NPs
- Rural and Remote NPs
- Intensive Care Nurses

Prizes

5 scholarships are to be awarded.

Each will consist of up to \$2,000* towards registration to attend the ACNP National Conference 2026, to be held at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, 14-16 September 2026, and travel fees associated with attending the conference.

Scholarships to be awarded in the following categories, according to the priorities listed

- Advanced Practice Nurses intending to become Nurse Practitioners
- Nurse Practitioners in the first 2 years of practice
- Nurse Practitioners or Advanced Practice Nurses in rural and remote areas
- Nurse Practitioners or Advanced Practice Nurses working in a Community Setting

Announcement and Presentation

The recipient will be notified by late July 2026, to enable booking of transport and accommodation for attendance at the presentation during the National Conference Gala Awards Dinner, which will take place at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. All announcements are to be held in confidence until the formal presentation.

How to apply

1. View full eligibility requirements and selection criteria on the [Heather May Herrick Scholarship webpage](#)
2. Fill out and submit your application via the [Heather May Herrick Scholarship webpage](#)

*Recipients will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship, with an additional \$500 available to those in Rural and Remote areas.

[Nominate Now](#)

NURSE PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

Nominations Open: 15 April 2026

Nominations Close: 30 June 2026

The ACNP Flagship award, Nurse Practitioner of the Year, is sponsored by HESTA.

This prestigious award is presented to a Nurse Practitioner (NP) who is a member of the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners that has demonstrated outstanding qualities in the areas of clinical work, mentoring and leadership.

This is an opportunity for the incredible work of Nurse Practitioners to be showcased at a National level by peers, colleagues and community members.

Eligibility Criteria

- A Nurse Practitioner (endorsed by NMBA) residing in Australia
- A current financial member of ACNP
- Working at least 0.6 FTE as a Nurse Practitioner in a clinical role
- A third party must nominate all nominees (self-nominations are not accepted)

Selection Criteria

The award will be given to the nominee who can best demonstrate contribution to the ACNP and the Nurse Practitioner profession, including excellence in clinical care and patient outcomes with evidence of mentoring, professional leadership and participation in research or quality improvement activities.

The nominator is to address the selection criteria in the online nomination form.

Prize

\$2000 monetary award to support the individual's Nurse Practitioner development

1 x registration to attend the ACNP National Conference 2027

1 x year of ACNP membership

Announcement and Presentation

The recipient will be notified by late August 2026, to enable booking of transport and accommodation for attendance at the presentation during the National Conference Gala Awards Dinner, which will take place at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. All announcements are to be held in confidence until the formal presentation.

How to apply

1. View full eligibility requirements and selection criteria on the [Hesta NP of the Year award web page](#)
2. Fill out and submit your nomination via the [Hesta NP of the Year award web page](#)

[Nominate Now](#)

NURSE PRACTITIONER MENTOR OF THE YEAR

Nominations Open: 15 April 2026

Nominations Close: 30 June 2026

This award is sponsored by the Australian Medicines Handbook.

The Mentor of the Year Award recognises the commitment of our members to growing our profession and fostering development in others working towards similar goals. The Mentor of the Year will not only be recognised for their support of at least one other Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Practitioner in training, but as a role model, who has a positive influence across the wider profession.

Eligibility Criteria

- A Nurse Practitioner (endorsed by NMBA) residing in Australia
- A current financial member of ACNP
- Working at least 0.2 FTE as a Nurse Practitioner in a clinical role
- A third party must nominate all nominees (self-nominations are not accepted)

Selection Criteria

The award will be given to the nominee who can best demonstrate contribution towards supporting the development of a Nurse Practitioner, via mentoring that has contributed to the improvement of others' clinical knowledge, leadership skills and delivery of evidence-based care, together with demonstrating their contribution to the ACNP and NP roles.

The nominator is to address the selection criteria in the online nomination form.

Prize

\$1000 Monetary Award

1 x year access AMH resources for the mentor to the value of \$550 (AMH Online, AMH Children's Dosing Companion and AMH Aged Care Companion)

1 x registration to attend the ACNP National Conference 2027

1 x year of ACNP membership

Announcement and Presentation

The recipient will be notified by late August 2026, to enable booking of transport and accommodation for attendance at the presentation during the National Conference Gala Awards Dinner, which will take place at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. All announcements are to be held in confidence until the formal presentation.

How to apply

1. View full eligibility requirements and selection criteria on the [AMH Mentor of the Year award web page](#)
2. Fill out and submit your nomination via the [AMH Mentor of the Year award web page](#)

[Nominate Now](#)

INNOVATION IN BUSINESS AWARD

Nominations Open: 15 April 2026

Nominations Close: 30 June 2026

This award is sponsored by Bank First.

The awardee will have demonstrated innovation in their business in relation to health management systems, administration and/or service provision. Innovation is defined as the multi-stage process whereby organisations transform ideas into new/improved products, services or processes, to advance, compete and differentiate themselves successfully in their marketplace.

Eligibility Criteria

- A Nurse Practitioner (endorsed by NMBA) residing in Australia
- A current financial member of ACNP
- Working as a Nurse Practitioner in your own business
- A third party must nominate all nominees (self-nominations are not accepted)

Selection Criteria

The award will be given to the nominee who can best demonstrate how their private practice model is innovative in delivering excellence in clinical care, including evidence of any operational challenges overcome and how it has improved patients' access to evidence-based healthcare.

The nominator is to address the selection criteria in the online nomination form.

Prize

\$2,000 monetary towards business and leadership development
1 x registration to attend the ACNP National Conference 2027
1 x year of ACNP membership

Announcement and Presentation

The recipient will be notified by late August 2026, to enable booking of transport and accommodation for attendance at the presentation during the National Conference Gala Awards Dinner, which will take place at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. All announcements are to be held in confidence until the formal presentation.

How to apply

1. View full eligibility requirements and selection criteria on the [Innovation in Business Award webpage](#)
2. Fill out and submit your nomination via the [Innovation in Business Award webpage](#)

[Nominate Now](#)

BEVERLEY McGAVIN AWARD for EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL LEADERSHIP

Nominations Open: 15 April 2026

Nominations Close: 30 June 2026

This award is provided by Dr Donald McGavin, and his three children Margaret Sood, Bruce McGavin and Heather McGavin, who have established this award in Beverley's honour.

Beverley was among the early graduates of a Nurse Practitioner program in the U.S., a devoted mentor for clinical nursing students, and an active voice for Nurse Practitioners on a vast array of committees. Her family wish to leave a legacy for Beverley and to give back to Nurse Practitioners in Australia, the country of her birth.

The awardee will have demonstrated excellence in clinical leadership in innovative care. This award recognises the invaluable work Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Practitioners in training contribute to the Australian Community, ensuring effective, innovative and efficient care of an individual's health issues in a complex and constantly changing environment.

Eligibility Criteria

- A Nurse Practitioner (endorsed by NMBA) residing in Australia
- A current financial member of ACNP
- A third party must nominate all nominees (self-nominations are not accepted)

Selection Criteria

The award will be given to the nominee who can best demonstrate excellence in clinical care and innovation in Nurse Practitioner practice, including evidence of their Nurse Practitioner model that has overcome barriers and improved patients' access to evidence-based healthcare.

The nominator is to address the selection criteria in the online nomination form.

Prize

\$1,500 monetary award to support continued clinical innovation or further the individual's leadership development

1 x registration to attend the ACNP National Conference 2027

1 x year of ACNP membership

Announcement and Presentation

The recipient will be notified by late August 2026, to enable booking of transport and accommodation for attendance at the presentation during the National Conference Gala Awards Dinner, which will take place at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. All announcements are to be held in confidence until the formal presentation.

How to apply

1. View full eligibility requirements and selection criteria on the [Award for Clinical Excellence Award webpage](#)
2. Fill out and submit your nomination via the [Award for Clinical Excellence Award webpage](#)

[Apply Now](#)

ACNP

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Nominations Opened: 1 July 2025**Nominations Close:** 30 June 2026

Fellowship of the ACNP has been established to recognise individuals who have made a substantial contribution to the College, and who have demonstrated professional excellence in nursing and/or the community's health. Applications are adjudicated against a selection of the goals of the ACNP and applicants must be current financial members.

Fellowship of the College aims to recognise members who are exemplary Nurse Practitioners and who make a substantial contribution to the College, their clinical specialty and the nursing profession. To be admitted as a Fellow of the College a member must meet the criteria and submit an application for admission as a Fellow to the Board, or be formally nominated by a member of the College.

Admission to ACNP as a Fellow is based on the following criteria:

1. Significant contributions to support the ACNP in achieving its objectives. This may be achieved in a variety of ways, which may include but not be limited to:

- Standing as a Board member or Council member of ACNP and being actively engaged as such
- Actively participating in the State Chapter activities and ACNP National networks
- Engaging in College activities and/or continuing professional development
- Participating in the College's policy work
- Being involved in national or state branch submissions for ACNP and/or representing the College at national, state and/or territory forums or professional and government committees
- Promoting the College

2. Significant contribution to the Nurse Practitioner role or patient outcomes in one of the following domains:

- Clinical Nursing
- Education/teaching
- Research and scholarship
- Policy and service development
- Professionalism and leadership

3. Demonstration of a significant contribution to the nursing profession and/or health of the community as a Nurse Practitioner in one of the following domains:

- Clinical Nursing
- Education/teaching
- Management/policy
- Research and scholarship
- Professionalism and leadership

Announcement and Presentation

The recipient will be notified during the presentation of Fellowship Inductees at the National Conference Gala Awards Dinner, which will take place at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. All announcements are to be held in confidence until the formal presentation.

How to apply

Fill out and submit your application online via the [Fellowship webpage](#)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2026 Timeframes

Scholarships

Applications open: 1 April
Applications close: 30 May
Recipients notified: by late July via email

Awards

Nominations open: 15 April
Nominations close: 30 June
Recipients notified: by late August via email

Fellowships

Nominations opened: 1 July 2025
Nominations close: 30 June for presentation in 2026
Recipients are notified at the ACNP National Conference Gala Awards Dinner

Presentation

All announcements are held in confidence until the formal announcement and presentation at the ACNP National Conference Gala Awards Dinner, which will take place at the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA, on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. All announcements are to be held in confidence until the formal presentation.

All winners will be notified as per the dates above (excluding Fellows), to enable booking of transport and accommodation for attendance at the presentation.

Submissions

Please note that:

1. Late submissions will not be accepted
2. Submissions that do not address the criteria will not be considered
3. All applications and nominations must be made via the online form with supporting documents attached in PDF format
4. Unsuccessful submissions can be resubmitted in future years

Judging

The judging will be conducted by the ACNP Awards and Scholarships Committee (unless otherwise specified). Final recommendations will go to the National Board for endorsement. Please note that the judging panel's decision is final.

Privacy

Applicant/nominee submissions are provided only to the judging panel.

Eligibility Criteria for all Awards and Scholarships

1. Applicants/nominees must be a financial member of the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners at the time of submission, presentation and utilisation of the award/scholarship prize (unless otherwise specified)
2. Applicants/nominees must have made a demonstrable contribution to the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners and the profession
3. Applicants/nominees must be an Australian Citizen or hold a Permanent Resident visa and be registered with NMBA
4. Board and Council members are not eligible for any awards or scholarships while in an official ACNP position
5. Applicants/nominees must complete the online application/nomination form and upload supporting documents in PDF format via the [Awards & Scholarships webpage](#)

NOTE: Additional eligibility criteria apply for each award and scholarship. Refer to the specific section for more details.

2026

A graphic featuring a large, glowing blue star in the background. In the center of the star, the text 'Awards, Scholarships & Recognition PROGRAM' is written in white and green. Below the star, a green laurel wreath is positioned, with a green ribbon banner across it that reads 'ACNP' in white. The entire graphic is set against a dark blue background with light blue bokeh effects at the bottom.

Awards, Scholarships & Recognition PROGRAM

ACNP

**Nominate a colleague or apply yourself for
an ACNP Award or Scholarship**

Ausmed Ollie Scholarship
QUT Indigenous/Rural & Remote Student Scholarship
Heather May Herrick Scholarship
HESTA Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award
AMH Nurse Practitioner Mentor of the Year Award
Bank First Innovation in Business Award
Beverley McGavin Excellence in Clinical Leadership Award

For further information and to apply or nominate online visit acnp.org.au/recognition