

PATIENT'S CHOICE  
**AWARDS**  
— 2026 —

# Awards Entry Guidelines





# About the Awards Gala

Now in its eighth year, the Patients Australia Awards Gala continues to be one of Australia's leading healthcare recognition programs, celebrating the individuals, organisations, and innovations that put patients first.

As the only awards in Australia that combine public nominations with patient voting, the program ensures those making the greatest impact are recognised by the very people whose lives they influence.

The Awards shine a light on excellence across the healthcare sector, from outstanding professionals and services to patient advocacy, innovation, and impactful initiatives. Each category recognises the dedication, compassion, and commitment driving better experiences and outcomes for patients.



## Why patients nominate

We believe those who experience healthcare firsthand offer the most meaningful perspective on what excellence truly looks like. By giving patients a voice through voting, the Awards reflect what matters most to those receiving care. This patient-led approach ensures winners are recognised not only for their achievements, but for the genuine impact they have on people's lives.

## Judging process

In addition to patient voting, an independent panel of judges will assess each shortlisted application against the specific criteria for each category. Our judges are experts across the healthcare sector, ensuring a fair and transparent process where winners are recognised for both measurable impact and real-world outcomes.



## Join Us

When: August 27<sup>th</sup> 2026

Where: Melbourne, Plaza Ballroom

Get your tickets online:

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-patients-australia-awards-gala-2026>

# Categories 2026

## Consumer Advocates

- Outstanding Patient Advocate
- Outstanding Patient Carer

## Healthcare Services

- Outstanding Hospital
- Outstanding Clinic
- Outstanding Digital Health Service

## Organisations

- Outstanding Mental Health Organisation
- Outstanding Chronic Disease Organisation
- Outstanding Cancer & Rare Disease Organisation

## Initiatives

- Outstanding Patient Research
- Outstanding Patient Innovation
- Outstanding Patient Campaign

## Healthcare Providers

- Outstanding Specialist
- Outstanding Community Pharmacist
- Outstanding General Practitioner
- Outstanding Nurse
- Outstanding Allied Health Professional

# How to Enter

## PATIENT'S CHOICE AWARDS 2026



The Patient's Choice Awards 2026 is your opportunity to recognise those making a meaningful difference in the lives of patients.

Start by choosing the award category that best reflects the individual, team, or organisation you would like to celebrate. These Awards honour those who go above and beyond to improve patient experiences, outcomes, and care.

Once you have selected a category, complete the online nomination form. You will be invited to share a short submission about what they have done, the impact they have had, and why they deserve recognition. Clear and genuine examples are all that is needed.

**Nominations open 1st June 2026 and close on Sunday 28 June 2026.**

Following nominations, patients and the broader community will be invited to have their say, voting to help determine the top five finalists in each category.

**Public voting opens 29th June 2026 and closes on Friday 10 July 2026.**

Winners will be announced at the Patient's Choice Awards Gala night on Thursday 27 August 2026, held at the Plaza Ballroom, Melbourne.

### **How nominations are assessed**

All nominations are assessed using a consistent and transparent framework across four key areas:

- Patient Impact & Outcomes
- Commitment to Patient-Centred Care
- Excellence & Leadership
- Collaboration & Contribution to the Health System

Each criterion is equally weighted (25%) to ensure a fair and balanced evaluation.

If you have any questions or need support along the way, feel free to reach out at [hello@patients.org.au](mailto:hello@patients.org.au). We would love to help.

# Follow us to Win

## PATIENT'S CHOICE AWARDS 2026



When you cast your vote in the Patient's Choice Awards 2026, you can also go into the draw to win one of three \$100 gift vouchers.

Simply follow Patients Australia on LinkedIn, Instagram and/or Facebook, then provide your social media handle for each platform when submitting your vote.

Each platform has its own prize draw, meaning you can enter up to three separate draws by following us across all three channels.

### How it works

- Follow Patients Australia on LinkedIn, Instagram and/or Facebook.
- Submit your vote in the Patient's Choice Awards 2026.
- Enter your social media handle for each platform you follow.
- For every platform you follow, you will receive one entry into that platform's prize draw.

### Prize Draw Details

- One winner will be selected at random from eligible voters on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.
- Each winner will receive a \$100 gift voucher.
- To be eligible, you must have submitted a valid vote and received a voting confirmation email.
- You must still be following Patients Australia on the relevant platform when the prize draw is conducted.
- The social media handle provided during voting must match the account following Patients Australia.

Full Terms and Conditions can be viewed [here](#).

## Outstanding Hospital

**For hospitals that set the benchmark for patient-centred care.**

This category honours hospitals that deliver exceptional experiences across the healthcare journey. From safety and quality care to communication and support, these organisations demonstrate a strong commitment to ensuring patients and families feel respected, informed and empowered.

## Outstanding Clinic

**Where personalised care and patient experience come together.**

This award recognises clinics that create welcoming, accessible and supportive environments for patients. It celebrates teams that build trust, deliver high-quality care and foster positive healthcare experiences through strong patient relationships.

## Outstanding Digital Health Service

**Recognising technology that improves the way patients access and experience healthcare.**

This category highlights digital health services that make healthcare more accessible, connected and convenient. It celebrates solutions that place patient needs at the centre while improving access, engagement and health outcomes.

## Outstanding Patient Research

**Advancing knowledge to improve patient outcomes.**

This category recognises research that contributes to better healthcare, treatment, services or patient experiences. It celebrates work that demonstrates innovation, relevance and a clear commitment to addressing issues that matter to patients and communities.



## Outstanding Patient Innovation

**Recognising ideas that challenge convention and improve lives.**

This award celebrates innovative solutions, programs, technologies or initiatives that address real patient needs. It honours those creating practical and meaningful improvements to healthcare experiences, access or outcomes.

## Outstanding Patient Campaign

**Driving awareness, action and positive change.**

This category recognises campaigns that have successfully elevated patient voices, influenced public understanding or inspired meaningful action. It celebrates initiatives that have made a measurable difference for patients, carers or communities.

## Outstanding Mental Health Organisation

**Creating safer, stronger and more supportive communities.**

This award honours organisations that improve mental health and wellbeing through compassionate, accessible and inclusive services. It celebrates those making a meaningful difference through support, advocacy, early intervention, recovery-focused care.

## Outstanding Cancer & Rare Disease Organisation

**Providing hope, support and advocacy when it is needed most.**

This category recognises organisations making a significant contribution to people affected by cancer or rare diseases. It celebrates those delivering specialised support, raising awareness and improving outcomes for patients and families.



## Outstanding Chronic Disease Organisation

**Championing excellence for people living with chronic health conditions.**

This award celebrates organisations making a significant contribution to people living with chronic disease. It recognises those delivering compassionate, person-centred support that helps people navigate the challenges of long-term illness.

## Outstanding Specialist

**Expert care delivered with compassion, communication and respect.**

This category honours specialists who combine clinical expertise with a genuine commitment to patient-centred care. It recognises those who ensure patients feel informed, involved and supported throughout complex health decisions and treatment journeys.

## Outstanding Community Pharmacist

**The trusted healthcare professional at the heart of the community.**

This award recognises pharmacists who go beyond dispensing medications to provide accessible advice, education and patient support. Their contribution helps people make informed decisions and manage their health with confidence.

## Outstanding General Practitioner

**Celebrating the doctors who are often the first and most enduring point of care.**

This award recognises GPs who build trusted relationships with their patients and communities. Through clinical excellence, advocacy and continuity of care, they help people navigate their healthcare journey with confidence and support.



## Outstanding Nurse

**Honouring those who make a difference when it matters most.**

This award celebrates nurses who demonstrate exceptional compassion, professionalism and dedication. Their contribution extends beyond clinical care, providing comfort, advocacy and support to patients and families every day.

## Outstanding Allied Health Professional

**Supporting better health, independence and quality of life.**

This category recognises allied health professionals whose expertise helps patients achieve meaningful health and wellbeing outcomes. It celebrates those who empower individuals through personalised care, education and ongoing support.

## Outstanding Patient Advocate

**For those turning lived experience into meaningful change.**

This category honours individuals who use their voice, experience and leadership to improve healthcare for others. It recognises advocates who have helped raise awareness, influence change and ensure patient perspectives remain at the centre of decision-making.

## Outstanding Patient Carer

**Recognising the quiet strength behind exceptional care.**

This award celebrates carers whose dedication, compassion and resilience have made a profound difference in the life of another person. It acknowledges the invaluable role carers play in supporting health, wellbeing and quality of life.



