



THE ARHEN PRIZES FOR RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH EXCELLENCE 2026

GUIDELINES

The Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN) is the national association for the 19 University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH) across Australia. ARHEN is governed by a Board of Directors comprising senior representatives from each of the UDRHs.

The ARHEN Board's priorities include:

- advocacy on rural and remote health education and research
- promoting the value and contributions of the UDRHs to stakeholders
- sharing best practice on rural and remote health education and research
- supporting First Nations academics, researchers, health workers and communities, and
- encouraging collaborative activities between UDRH staff from across the network.

About the ARHEN Prizes for Rural and Remote Health Excellence

The ARHEN Board has established the ARHEN Prizes for Rural and Remote Health to recognise UDRH staff who make a positive contribution to the network and demonstrate behaviours consistent with ARHEN values and priorities.

There are four categories of awards on offer:

1. Excellence in student education or support

This category is for UDRH staff working with students to deliver high quality rural health education and placements.

2. Excellence in community engagement or development

This category is for UDRH staff undertaking community engagement or development activities that address the needs of their local community.

3. Excellence in rural and remote research

This category is for UDRH staff who undertake research that progresses the knowledge base on rural health education and workforce strategies, or on the work of UDRHs more broadly.

4. Excellence in UDRH administration or operational support

This category is for UDRH staff who provide administrative or operational support that contributes to the smooth operation of their UDRH.

Within each category there is a major prize of \$2,500 and a highly commended prize of \$1500.

The major prize winner in each category also will receive a plaque recognising their contribution to ARHEN.

Eligibility

- The Awards are open to all staff employed at a UDRH and who have been at their current UDRH for 12 months or more and are resident in the region in which their UDRH operates.
- Applicants may self-nominate or be nominated by another person.
 - If you are nominating another person please ensure they are aware of the nomination and that you include all their relevant details in the application form and attach their curriculum vitae.
- UDRHs Directors and ARHEN Directors are not eligible to apply.
- There is no limit on the number of applications per UDRH.

Selection criteria

- There are three selection criteria that apply for all award categories with specific requirements for the research category.
 1. Criterion 1: Applicants should describe any unique, innovative or distinctive features of their work relevant to the category in which they are applying.

Note: For applicants in the research category, this must include an outline of how their research progresses the knowledge base on rural health education and workforce strategies, or on the work of the UDRHs more broadly.
 2. Criterion 2: Applicants should outline how their work adds value to their UDRH and the benefits or impact of their work for their colleagues, students or broader community.

Note: For applicants in the research category, this must include any emerging impacts of their research or proposed strategies to support research translation.
 3. Criterion 3: Applicants should outline how their work aligns with ARHEN priorities and creates a broader benefit for the wider UDRH network.

Application process

- Application forms are available on the ARHEN website (www.arhen.org.au).
- Applicants may nominate in one award category only.
- Applicants must address all selection criteria on the application form. Applications should be no more than 1000 words in length.
- Applicants may attach supporting materials which provides further evidence of their claims against the criteria such as photos, publications, presentations, media articles.
- Applicants must provide the names of two referees, one of whom must be their current UDRH director.
- Applicants must attach their curriculum vitae to their application.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications should be emailed to the ARHEN National Office at admin@arhen.org.au and include 'ARHEN Prize application' in the email subject line.
- Applications close on **Friday 13 November 2026**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Assessment Panel

The assessment panel will comprise the ARHEN Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer. All members of the assessment panel will be required to declare any conflicts of interest.

The ARHEN CEO will review all applications for eligibility and the assessment panel will assess applications against the selection criteria.

The assessment panel is able to award the prize based on applications alone but may decide to interview shortlisted candidates or seek further information from referees.

The ARHEN Board reserves the right to not award one or more prizes in any year.

Other requirements

Prize money will be deposited in the award recipient's nominated account. Award recipients are encouraged to use their prize money for professional development purposes.

The ARHEN National Office reserves the right to publish details of the prize recipient and their work on the ARHEN website, social media or via media releases.