



Health
Northern Sydney
Local Health District



**SURGICAL EDUCATION
RESEARCH & TRAINING
INSTITUTE**

RAY HOLLINGS SURGICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD - Guidelines

SURGICAL EDUCATION RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) Surgical Education Research & Training (SERT) Institute established the Dr Ray Hollings Surgical Excellence Award in recognition of the contribution Dr Ray Hollings has made to the surgery in the Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD).

A trust account in his honour has been established to fund the award annually to support surgeons undertaking quality improvement projects that will benefit patient care and or service delivery.

Dr Hollings was a general surgeon at RNSH for over 60 years, commencing as a Junior Medical Officer at RNSH in 1954. He was passionate about providing high quality patient care and supporting innovation and quality improvement activity across surgery. He was actively involved and chaired numerous surgical committees across NSLHD, providing leadership, expert advice and guidance on surgical issues. Dr Hollings was an examiner at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and served on the College of Surgeons NSW Committee for over six years, ending as Chairman for many meetings and events across the state. In 1988, prior to his retirement from surgery, Dr Hollings was awarded the Order of Australia in recognition of his distinguished career. From 1997 to 2016, Dr Hollings continued to support NSLHD as a surgical consultant for the Breast Screening Programme. He formally retired in 2016.

PURPOSE

The Ray Hollings Surgical Excellence Award aims to encourage and support consultant surgeons at Royal North Shore Hospital to undertake quality improvement projects that enhance surgical service delivery and patient care.

Example of projects include:

- Development of a new clinical audit process
- Implementation of a clinical protocol
- Development of a novel integrated allied health and surgical discharge plan

The Award is guided by the following NSLHD strategic objectives and SERT Institute initiatives:

NSLHD:

- Improve quality and safety of care
- Develop a rigorous approach to innovation for continuous improvement and transformational change
- Develop a culture to engage and empower our people

SERT Institute:

- Increase engagement and participation in academic activities across the RNSH campus
- To promote RNSH as a leading surgical academic centre of excellence where surgeons are engaged in both clinical practice and non-clinical activities including research, teaching and mentoring

Exclusions:

The Award does not support individual or departmental professional development or education programs.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Award, applicants will be required to meet the following three criteria:

1. Applicant Criteria

Applicants must:

- Hold a recognised specialist qualification in Surgery, Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS)
- Have a current clinical appointment within the RNSH and registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
- Be affiliated with a surgical department within the Division of Surgery & Anaesthesia (DoSA)
Note: this excludes ICU, Anaesthesia, Pain Management and Trauma Services)
- Be an employee of RNSH for a minimum of 12 months at the closing date of applications

2. Project Focus

The project:

- Must be a clearly defined quality improvement project within a surgical setting
- Should demonstrate that a specific problem(s) can be addressed, or significant opportunity created, through an improvement process
- Should fit in with one or more of the NSLHD objectives listed above

3. Benefit

- The project must benefit RNSH by contributing to a quality improvement activity, advancing clinical practices and processes and improving the quality of care for surgical patients at RNSH

Successful award recipients will:

- Submit a report (template to be provided) upon project completion or after 12 months, to outline the progress of the project, utilisation of funds and whether outcomes have been achieved
- Deliver a short presentation at the next annual Ray Hollings Award ceremony summarising aforementioned report
- Agree to participate in any formal recognition events relating to the Award as requested by the SERT Institute (e.g. CE award events, honour board ceremony, multimedia promotion)
- Agree to publication of any promotional events

Application submission:

- Applications must be submitted electronically using the Dr Ray Hollings Surgical Excellence Award online application form
- Late submissions will not be accepted after the closing date
- Please contact the SERT Institute directly if you have any administration questions or experience any technical difficulties while submitting an application

Email: NSLHD-RNSH-SERTInstitute@health.nsw.gov.au

SELECTION

Applications will only be considered if received by the closing date electronically via the online application form. Late submissions will not be considered.

All selection criteria should be addressed and supporting evidence/documentation included in the final application.

Application should clearly outline the nature and purpose of the quality improvement project and the benefits that may result for patients, the department and organisation as a whole.

The SERT Institute Committee will manage and coordinate the selection process. A selection committee will be established to review all applications and grant the Award. As a minimum, it will include a representative from the SERT Institute Executive, the Division of Surgery and Anaesthesia and an independent.

All successful and unsuccessful candidates will be notified formally of the application outcome via email within four weeks after the application closing date. Applications will not be returned and will be disposed in confidential waste.

AWARD AMOUNT

A maximum of \$10,000 will be offered each year. This amount may be divided and awarded to multiple surgeons, dependent on amount requested and quality of each application.

The grant will be formally awarded by Dr Ray Hollings or a family representative and published on the SERT Institute website and NSLHD communication channels such as newsletters, board reports and website.

Special conditions

The Award:

- Must be used within 12 months from the date of offer
- Must be used as outlined in the application
- Will be dispersed to a nominated bank account through the DoSA Business Manager to be utilised at the discretion of the winning applicant

APPLICATION DATES

The SERT Committee will call for submissions annually with an expectation of awarding the prize in the same year.

The Award will be advertised across RNSH through various promotional channels and on the SERT Institute website.

ENQUIRIES

If you have any questions relating to the Ray Hollings Award, please contact the SERT Institute:

NSLHD-RNSH-SERTInstitute@health.nsw.gov.au