



Northern Sydney
Local Health District



SURGICAL EDUCATION
RESEARCH & TRAINING
INSTITUTE

SURGICAL EDUCATION RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE

DR RAY HOLLINGS SURGICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Guidelines

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 with 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 Dr Ray Hollings Surgical Excellence Award aims to encourage and support consultant surgeons at RNSH 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
- Applications will only be accepted from surgical consultants

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the award, applicants will be required to meet the following 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 with RNSH and registration with the 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 the application

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
- Must be initiated within the 12 months upon receiving the award, if successful for the award

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

4. Successful award recipients will:

- Deliver a short presentation at the Dr Ray Hollings Surgical Excellence Award ceremony to summarise the proposal and impact of the quality improvement project
- Submit a report (template to be provided) upon project completion or after 12 months (whichever occurs first) to outline the progress of the project, utilisation of funds and whether outcomes have been achieved
- Deliver a short presentation at the next annual Dr Ray Hollings Surgical Excellence Award ceremony summarising the report
- Agree to participate in any formal recognition events relating to the award as requested by the SERT Institute (e.g. Chief Executive award events, honour board ceremony, multimedia promotion etc)
- Agree to the publication of any promotional material

SELECTION

Application submission:

- Applications must be submitted electronically using the Dr Ray Hollings Surgical Excellence Award online application form (REDCap)
- 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

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

The SERT Institute management team 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 candidates will be notified formally of the application outcome via email within four weeks after the application closing date.

AWARD AMOUNT

A maximum of \$10,000 will be offered every year. This amount may be divided and awarded to multiple surgeons, dependent on the 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
- The funds will either be transferred to a nominated trust account through the DoSA Business Manager or reimbursement can be made upon submission of payment receipts. The successful applicant(s) may use the funds at their discretion.

APPLICATION DATES

The SERT Institute will open applications from November 2024 – January 2025, with awards being presented in February 2025.

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

ENQUIRIES

If you have any questions relating to the Dr Ray Hollings Surgical Excellence Award, please contact the SERT Institute: NSLHD-RNSH-SERTInstitute@health.nsw.gov.au