

**New Zealand
Psychological Society**
Rōpū Mātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa



The Public Interest Award

Guideline Document

Updated Sept 2024

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Aims of the award

The Public Interest Award recognises valuable contributions to psychology in the service of the public interest. This might include but is not restricted to minorities or oppressed groups, educational matters, social or community problems, unemployment, mental health and psychological aspects of law.

Nature of the award

The New Zealand Psychological Society will make a donation of \$500 to the charity of choice of the recipient of the Public Interest Award.

Eligibility criteria

Nominees may be current members of the Society or they may be persons who are not members but who have made significant and valuable contributions in the service of the public interest in areas of concern to psychologists. For either member or non-member nominees the contributions being recognised in the nomination would normally have been made in the years immediately preceding the nomination. In assessing any nomination the Awards Committee will consider both the extent and significance of the public interest contribution made by the nominee, and also its impact on and significance to psychologists and the discipline and practice of psychology.

Nomination process

Nominations are invited through Society publications and the NZPsS website.

Two current members of the Society must make the nomination with the written consent of the nominee. The nomination must be accompanied by a statement of support outlining the grounds for the nomination, together with copies of supporting documents e.g. articles, reports etc (these may be in electronic format).

To assist the Awards Committee it is important that all information provided is full accurate and complete.

Nominees need to indicate if their nomination is successful whether they would be willing to be named in media reports on the NZPsS awards.

All communication regarding the Public Interest Award should be addressed to

Executive Director
New Zealand Psychological Society
Email: executivedirector@psychology.org.nz

Selection Process

Nominations for NZPsS Awards are reviewed by an Awards Committee appointed by the Executive of the New Zealand Psychological Society.

The Awards Committee makes a recommendation to the Executive. The decision of the Executive to confirm the recommendation or to decline it is final.

Timetable and presentation of awards

The timetable for the Public Interest Award is as follows

- Nominations close on the advertised date
- Nominees will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application
- The Awards will be announced/presented at the NZPsS Annual Conference by the President of the NZPsS
- Recipients will be identified and honoured in Society publications and on the NZPsS website

Communication Issues

The NZPsS may wish to communicate information on the awards to the media to increase public awareness about excellence in psychology practice, teaching and research. This will only occur with permission of successful nominees.