



ABORIGINAL, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND MĀORI HEALTH RESEARCH AWARD POLICY

1. PURPOSE

This policy governs the awarding of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM, the College) *Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori Health Research Award*, which is made in respect of a published research paper or conference presentation to be most significant in the field of emergency medicine as it relates to Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or Māori health.

2. BACKGROUND

Supporting and encouraging research into Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori health is an essential step in reducing current health disparities for Indigenous people and ensuring emergency departments are culturally safe places for Indigenous people to receive care, and be employed. This will ultimately lead to improved health outcomes, including reducing the disparity in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

The award will achieve this by:

- Fostering collaborative research partnerships that improve the cultural safety of emergency departments (EDs)
- Recognising the importance of participatory action research
- Encouraging ACEM trainee interest (thereby increasing trainee exposure) in Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori research

3. TERMINOLOGY

‘Published’ means publication in an online or printed refereed journal. It does not include articles which are not yet published but have been made available via early online access prior to publication.

‘Conference presentation’ means an oral presentation made at a conference, based on acceptance of a paper for presentation at the conference through an abstract submission process.

Research utilising **quantitative methods** includes methods that emphasize objective measurements and statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data collected through polls, questionnaires, and surveys, or by manipulating pre-existing statistical data using computational techniques. Quantitative research focuses on gathering numerical data and generalizing it across groups of people or to explain a particular phenomenon.

Research utilising **qualitative methods** involves examining people’s lives, experiences and behaviours, and the stories and meanings individuals ascribe to them. It can also investigate organisational functioning, relationships between individuals and groups, and social environments. It can involve the studied use and collection of a variety of empirical materials such as case studies, personal experience, life stories, interviews, observations, and cultural texts. Qualitative research may also have quantitative elements or aspects.

Participatory action research utilises reflection, data collection, and action that aims to improve health and reduce health inequities through involving the people who, in turn, take actions to improve their own health.

4. BODY OF POLICY

4.1 Nature of Award

The award consists of a monetary prize of \$1,000 and a certificate attesting to the award.

Where the research has the involvement of more than one Fellow or trainee:

- The monetary prize will be divided between those authors
- Each author or presenter will receive a certificate which includes the name of the lead and other eligible authors.

4.2 Eligibility Criteria

The award may be made to the author or presenter of research which, in the opinion of the ACEM Foundation, makes a significant contribution to emergency medicine as it relates to Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or Māori health.

An article or conference presentation which is within its first year of publication is eligible for consideration for this award if:

- (a) Its lead author or presenter is an ACEM Fellow or trainee
- (b) It is most significant in the field of emergency medicine as it relates to Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or Māori health.
- (c) It has been published in a refereed journal or presented at a conference
- (d) It has not previously been adjudicated for the award.

The award is made annually, where this is appropriate. If no applicant meets the criteria in a particular year, then the award will not be made.

4.3 Applications

Fellows or trainees who have authored an eligible article published during the immediately preceding financial year (1 July to 30 June), or presented at a conference during the immediately preceding financial year (1 July to 30 June) may apply for the award when invitations to do so are issued by the College.

Each application must be accompanied by a copy of the article or conference presentation, and by the relevant application form signed by all author Fellows and/or trainees. Where there is more than one author or presenter, the application must cite the lead author or presenter.

4.4 Selection Process

A panel of three (3) or more assessors convened by the ACEM Indigenous Health Subcommittee will adjudicate the applications and recommend to the ACEM Foundation a recipient for the award, based on the following criteria:

Relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and/or Maori Health The paper/presentation is specifically relevant to issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and/or Maori patients, not just as a subset of a larger research study.	25
Relevance to emergency medicine The paper/presentation has the potential to change current emergency medicine practice and influence emergency practitioners	15
Contribution to reducing health inequity The paper/presentation identifies, investigates and aims to address issues of health inequity	15
Demonstrates collaborative research partnerships The paper/presentation utilises meaningful engagement with community members throughout the entire research process	15
Presentation/content/clarity The quality of the writing/ presentation style	10
Quality of methodology The paper/presentation appropriately applies qualitative or quantitative research methodology	10
Originality The paper/presentation addresses a unique issue or utilises a novel approach	10
Maximum Total Score	100

- (a) The ACEM Foundation will determine the recipient of the award. The decision of the Foundation will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- (b) The award should be finalised no later than 30 days prior to the next Annual Scientific Meeting.
- (c) All parts of the selection process must be conducted in accordance with the College Conflict of Interest Policy.

4.5 Presentation of Award

The award certificate will be presented to the Lead Author by the College President during the Annual College Ceremony.

5. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- COR139 Conflict of Interest Policy
- AP618 Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Maori Health Research Award Application Form
- AP619 Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori Health Research Award Scoresheet

6. DOCUMENT REVIEW

Timeframe for review: every two (2) years, or earlier if required.

6.1 Responsibilities

Document authorisation: ACEM Foundation
Document implementation: Indigenous Health Subcommittee
Document maintenance: ACEM Foundation & IEMC Coordinator

6.2 Revision History

Version	Date of Version	Pages revised / Brief Explanation of Revision
v1	18/10/2017	Document created