New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response & Healthcare Awards

Official Guide

2026

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT TRAUMA CHARITABLE TRUST TRADING AS

NATIONAL ROAD TRAUMA CENTRE

A Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues

It is both an honour and a privilege to present this Official Guide to the New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards.

These Awards exist to recognise the extraordinary contribution of ordinary people who make a profound difference every day—on our roads, in our communities, and within our healthcare and emergency response systems across Aotearoa New Zealand.

The stories behind these nominations reflect courage, compassion, ingenuity and dedication. They remind us that while road trauma presents one of the greatest challenges to our nation, it is the spirit and commitment of individuals and organisations that continue to drive meaningful change and save lives.

I encourage you to use this guide as a resource in preparing your nomination and to take the time to share the exceptional work of those who deserve to be celebrated.

Together, through recognition, collaboration and shared purpose, we can inspire excellence that advances harm prevention, strengthens patient-centred care and supports a connected continuum of care for everyone affected by road trauma.

Ngā mihi nui



John Barr

Independent Chair

New Zealand Road Safety Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Executive Comittee

A Message from the Trustees

On behalf of the Road Traffic Accident Trauma Charitable Trust trading as the National Road Trauma Centre, we are delighted to present the Official Guide to the New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards.

These Awards recognise excellence across the road trauma continuum and acknowledge individuals and organisations whose leadership, compassion, innovation and dedication contribute to preventing harm and improving outcomes throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

At the National Road Trauma Centre, we are committed to a safe system approach to harm prevention and a patient-centred continuum of care spanning prevention, emergency response, hospital care, rehabilitation, psychological recovery and long-term wellbeing.

We extend our sincere thanks to every nominator, nominee, member of the New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Executive Committee, sponsor, supporter and volunteer whose commitment makes these Awards possible. We also acknowledge the many organisations and individuals working collaboratively to reduce the impact of road trauma and improve outcomes across New Zealand.

We hope this Guide provides a valuable resource throughout the nomination process and we look forward to recognising the outstanding people and organisations whose work continues to make an influfencial difference.

Together, through recognition, collaboration and shared purpose, we can inspire excellence that advances harm prevention, strengthens patient-centred care and supports a connected continuum of care for everyone affected by road trauma.

Dr Darren Walton
Trustee

Jason Tippet
Trustee

Sarah Dean
Trustee and Founder

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About the National Road Trauma Centre

The Road Traffic Accident Trauma Charitable Trust trading as the National Road Trauma Centre, was established in 2010 in response to the significant and lasting impact of road trauma on individuals, families and communities throughout New Zealand.

The Trust was founded to improve outcomes for people affected by road trauma by supporting prevention, education, research and collaboration across the road safety, emergency response and healthcare sectors. It was the first charitable trust of its kind in New Zealand dedicated to reducing the impact of road trauma through a coordinated and patient-centred approach.

In 2012, the Trust established a partnership with the Canterbury Charity Hospital to improve access to clinical support for people affected by road trauma.

Recognising the need for a broader national focus, the Trust formally adopted the trading name National Road Trauma Centre in 2020 and launched its first Strategic Plan. This marked the beginning of a new strategic direction centred on harm prevention, patient-centred care, collaboration and system improvement.

Today, the National Road Trauma Centre works with government agencies, emergency services, healthcare providers, researchers, industry partners and community organisations to reduce the impact of road trauma across New Zealand through education, research translation, advocacy and leadership.



Awards History

In 2017 the Road Traffic Accident Trauma Charitable Trust trading as the National Road Trauma Centre dedicated distinguished awards to those involved in post accident care and recovery, first responders and those in road crash prevention. These Awards were to be included as part of its annual Road Accident Remembrance Day ceremony. The Awards were established and led by its Founder, Sarah Dean who was the inaugural Chair.

The Award categories consisted of Canterbury Road Trauma Award for Public Service, Canterbury Road Trauma Prevention Award and Canterbury Road Trauma Award for Community Service.

The Canterbury Road Trauma Award for Public Service and Canterbury Road Trauma Award for Community Service were industry specific and recognised those in the community who may otherwise not be acknowledged.

Given the Awards would be open to government and lay personnel the Trust approached the Honours Unit, Cabinet Office to ensure the Awards would not conflict with the New Zealand Royal Honours system.

The Honours Unit provided guidance to the Trust that it consider a medallion in a presentation case. This would utilise the design benefits of a medal, without the broader issues around the approval of wear on formal uniform for recipients.

The Honours Unit directed the Trust to the New Zealand America’s Cup, 1995 Medallion. This was issued under the New Zealand Honours system to recognise those who contributed to the America’s Cup victory in 1995 – it was struck as a ‘one-off’ Award and was presented to 79 recipients.

After the formal advice received the Canterbury Road Trauma Awards Committee decided the Award recipients would be presented with a medallion.

New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards

The New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards recognise outstanding individuals, organisations and communities whose leadership improves outcomes for people affected by road trauma throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

About the Awards

The original Awards were established by Sarah Dean in 2017. Building on this foundation, Sarah Dean founded the New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards in 2021, establishing a national Awards programme to recognise outstanding contributions across New Zealand.

The Awards are for ordinary people doing exceptional work, day in, day out, across New Zealand.

The Awards are designed specifically for industry professionals in emergency services, hospital care, post hospital care, road safety and those in the community who are contributing to improved road trauma outcomes who may otherwise not be acknowledged.

Each Award recipient receives a medallion and a certificate for their meritorious efforts at a formal ceremony at Westpac The Terraces, Event Space, Christchurch on **Thursday, 18 March 2027**.

The New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards has three Award categories:

- National Award for Emergency Response and Healthcare (formerly Canterbury Road Trauma Award for Public Service)
- National Award for Road Safety (formerly Canterbury Road Trauma Prevention Award)
- National Award for Community Service (formerly Canterbury Road Trauma Award for Community Service)

Each Award recipient receives a medallion and a certificate for their meritorious efforts in a formal ceremony at Westpac The Terraces, Event Space, Christchurch on **Thursday, 18 March 2027**.

A National Perspective

In 2020, the Road Traffic Accident Trauma Charitable Trust trading as the National Road Trauma Centre commenced a programme of stakeholder engagement to support the development of a national Awards framework.

Building on the Awards established by Sarah Dean in 2017, Sarah Dean founded the New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards in 2021, creating a national platform to recognise outstanding contributions across road safety, emergency response, healthcare and community service.

The Awards bring together respected professionals from across New Zealand who contribute their knowledge and experience through the Awards Executive Committee and wider programme.

Through a national approach, the Awards provide an opportunity to recognise individuals, organisations and communities whose work may otherwise go unacknowledged, while encouraging collaboration and the sharing of knowledge across sectors.

Today, the Awards continue to celebrate excellence, leadership and service while strengthening connections between professionals and organisations working to improve road safety, emergency response, healthcare and road trauma outcomes throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

National Award for Emergency Response and Healthcare

The National Award for Emergency Response and Healthare has two Award categories.

- Recognition of outstanding individuals, groups or organisations in healthcare or in emergency services who respond to road trauma for a particularly noteworthy response to either an incidence, or incidences of road trauma.
- Recognition for their contribution to improved processes of care for road trauma victims.

This Award is open to distinguished individuals, groups or organisations in healthcare and emergency services who respond to road crashes and road trauma victims.

Nominations are open to full-time permanent members, part-time members, volunteers or auxiliary members who provide or lead front line community responses to emergencies and/or healthcare.

Nominations are open to healthcare professionals who are fully qualified, currently obtain an annual practising certificate and are a registered practitioner with the appropriate healthcare authority.

In some circumstances a group of persons may have been involved in a single incident. When nominating multiple people we require the details of each individual involved. Please refer to Award Entry Guidance for further information.

National Award for Road Safety

The National Award for Road Safety, recognises outstanding achievements by industry professionals from non-profit organisations, and private and public organisations which improve road user safety through excellent practice, design or technical application in public education and prevention initiatives.

This may include initiatives across all modes of land transport and may include engineering and technology, network safety optimisation, demand management and road crash reduction.

In some circumstances a group of persons may have been involved in the project being nominated. When nominating multiple people we require the details of each individual involved. Please refer to Award Entry Guidance for further information.

National Award for Community Service

The National Award for Community Service recognises members of the community who have provided outstanding care or support to a road trauma victim at a road crash site or made an influential difference to their treatment, recovery or rehabilitation.

This Award is open to members of the general public who do not meet the criteria for the National Emergency Response and Healthcare Award.

In some circumstances a group of persons may have been involved in a single incident.

When nominating multiple people we require the details of each individual involved. Please refer to Award Entry Guidance for further information.

Award Examples

National Award for Emergency Response and Healthcare

- Increased patient care capacity or patient care quality.
- Addressed an identified need, enhancing outcomes or improving a product, service, process or system that as a direct result will benefit those in their region or nationally.
- Enhanced or assisted in the further development of a product, service, process or system that as a direct result will benefit those in their region or nationally.
- Developed effective ways that minimise the impacts of disability or death after road trauma locally, regionally or nationally.
- Worked with local, regional or national organisations and bodies to put in place emphasis on patient care and/or improve response time for road crash patients.
- Worked with other local, regional or national organisations or agencies to improve response times.
- Used an application of unique skill or creative imagination to solve problems associated with the response to road trauma and road trauma victims.
- Developed new services for population groups that traditionally struggle to access healthcare.

National Award for Road Safety

- Projects or programs that use innovative concepts at a local, regional or national level.
- Innovative management approaches to overcoming workplace road safety.
- Innovative interventions to an identified road trauma risk.
- Effective communication or marketing programmes or campaigns that promote safer roads and safer driving.
- Improved processes that significantly enhances road safety in areas such as planning, programming, project delivery, construction, and/or maintenance.
- Strengthened capacity for infrastructure, roadworks site safety, construction quality, data management, performance tracking, monitoring and evaluation.
- Improvements generating greater public awareness that produces a positive change in transportation safety culture e.g. community events, media publications.
- Addressing an identified need, enhancing an outcome, or improving a product, service, process or system that as a direct result will benefit the wider community, particularly those in their region or nationally.
- Road safety initiatives, schemes or products that are proven to contribute to improved road safety, particularly for those in their region or nationally.

National Award for Community Service

- Making an influential difference, contribution or assistance at the scene of a road crash, such as acts of notable courage, rendering life saving first aid, life saving site logistics or the minimisation to serious injury and harm.
- Providing excellent service or care at the community level and offering outstanding support within primary healthcare, post trauma or personal healthcare.
- Community service directed towards the rehabilitation of those directly impacted by road trauma based on personal (or professional) capacity.

Award Entry Guidance

In preparing an application, the Executive Committee requires a detailed account of the nominees contribution, particularly addressing how their service could be considered extraordinary.

- The 2026 New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Programme recognises eligible incidents, accidents, services and contributions occurring up to and including **31 December 2026**.
- Incidents, accidents, services or contributions occurring after **31 December 2026** will be eligible for consideration as part of the 2027 New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Programme, subject to the published Award Criteria and nomination requirements.
- Please ensure you have referred to the New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Criteria, Nomination and Evaluation Process. We suggest you prepare your entry submission in advance and give yourself plenty of time to complete the nomination process before the deadline.
- Submit your nomination online at www.roadtrafficaccidenttrust.org.nz and click 'Nominate Now'. Paper nomination forms are also available should they be required. Please contact the National Road Trauma Centre.
- Complete the appropriate Assessment Criteria for the applicable Award category and note that a 500 word limit applies (in total).
- Links to multimedia may also be included in the submission or submission attachments.
- Letters of support for the National Award for Community Service are compulsory, the National Road Trauma Centre may be contacted for guidance.
- Submissions for the 2026 Awards will be accepted from **Monday, 7 September 2026** until 11.59pm, **Sunday, 31 January 2027**
- Please note, no late submissions will be accepted.

The New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Executive Committee have an agreement with the New Zealand Honours Unit, Cabinet Office, that if any significant or deserving nomination deemed by the Executive Committee to meet the criteria for recognition by the New Zealand Royal Honours System, including the New Zealand Government Bravery Awards, then the Applicant will be notified by the Executive Committee by way of letter.

The formal decision to proceed with an Award nomination or withdraw the application, to instead nominate for a New Zealand Royal Honour, will be made by the Nominee and/or Applicant.

Award Nomination and Evaluation Process

- Nominations Open: **Monday, 7 September 2026**
- Nominations Close: 11.59pm, **Sunday, 31 January 2027**
- Nominations must not exceed the word limit applied to each Award category.
- Upon submission nominators certify the accuracy of the credentials of the nominee. Nominators may choose to decide whether they wish to formally notify the nominee of the application or whether it should remain confidential.
- All nominations must be submitted, using the online submission form, to the New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Executive Committee via the Trust's website.
- The New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Executive Committee will review nominations based on the significance of the nominee's contribution to the reduction of road trauma, and effective change implementation to a product, service, process or system that as a direct result will produce a long-term benefit to those in their region or nationally.
- Nominations for the Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards and National Award for Road Safety must be accompanied by a letter of support from the nominee's Manager. Nominations should be checked for accuracy prior to submission. Any nomination form that does not indicate manager's consent will be disregarded.
- Nominations for the National Award for Road Safety should be supported by information regarding the impact of the initiative in preventing road trauma (preferably the results of a post-implementation evaluation rather than a pre- implementation estimation), in the nation or region.
- Self-nominations or non-organisation nominations for the National Award for Community Service will not be accepted without one written reference in support being provided by a reputable organisation, such as the New Zealand Police or a Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand.
- Nominees must agree to be contacted by a representative of the Road Traffic Accident Trauma Charitable Trust trading as the National Road Trauma Centre ('Trust'), to verify any information submitted and the eligibility of the nominee.
- Nomination in a previous year does not prevent a nomination again for future Awards. However, any new nomination must focus on a different significant contribution or updated long-term contributions.
- If any nomination deemed by the Executive Committee to meet the criteria for recognition by the New Zealand Royal Honours System, including the New Zealand Bravery Awards, the nominator will be notified by the Executive Committee by way of letter. The formal decision to proceed with a New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Road Safety Award nomination or withdraw the application, to instead nominate for a New Zealand Royal Honour, will be made by the nominee.

Award Nomination and Evaluation Process

- Unless relating to long-term contributions by a nominee, any nomination should be related to a road crash (or crashes) that occurred within the previous two years before the nomination closing date.
- All applicants must be deemed to be a ‘fit and proper person’. In general terms, a fit and proper person is a person who is someone of good character, who abides by the laws of New Zealand and elsewhere, and is likely to continue to do so. A ‘person’ may be an ‘individual’ or an ‘organisation’, that does not have past complaints or history of behavioural problems especially relating to transport- related safety. History of significant transport-related offences, or criminal convictions (in New Zealand or overseas), includes charges and convictions relating to violence or sexual offences, drugs or firearms offences, or offences involving organised criminal activities.
- The Executive Committe will meet in mid to late **February 2027** to decide on the official Award recipients.
- To promote consistency, fairness and transparency, all eligible nominations are assessed by the Executive Committee using an Assessment Matrix. The matrix aligns with the published Award Criteria for each Award category and provides a structured framework for evaluating nominations.
- Until Award winners are announced, the Executive Committee’s deliberations and decisions are confidential. The Executive Committee is not permitted to discuss or disclose the contents of nominations outside the confines of the Executive Committee discussions and meetings. All papers in relation to the Awards are the property of the Trust.
- If applicable, the Executive Committee, at their sole discretion, may choose one further Award recipient per category.
- The Executive Committee’s decision is final and made at its sole and complete discretion. No correspondence will be entered into.
- Winners will be notified by phone and email after the nomination close-off date by a representative of the Trust by late **February 2027**.
- Winner’s details, such as name, employer, workplace, imagery and other details as provided in the nomination will be released to selected media prior to the Official Awards Ceremony. If required other significant parties may be informed.
- Winners will be invited to attend the annual Awards presentation as part of the Official Awards Ceremony, where the recipient/s will receive their Award and be invited to respond.
- Winners may be asked to engage in a brief media interview (which would include photographs) with the Trust. The information provided in the interviews may be used for promotional or publicity purposes by the Trust.

Award Nomination and Evaluation Process

- If the National Award for Emergency Response and Healthcare or Road Safety recipient is not present at the Official Awards Ceremony the Award will be presented to the recipient's regional representative and the region will take responsibility for presenting the Award to the recipient at a suitable occasion.
- If the National Award for Community Service recipient is not present at the Official Awards Ceremony the Award will be presented to the recipient by a suitable representative or a member of the Executive Committee at a later date.
- Winners will be responsible for arranging their own accommodation and travel requirements.

Confidentiality

Upon receipt, applications are collated and prepared by the National Road Trauma Centre for presentation to the Executive Committee.

All nominations are strictly confidential and the information provided will be used only to assist the Executive Committee in considering the merits of the nomination.

The New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Executive Committee and Awards Secretariat keeps all nominations confidential to respect privacy. We ask for the cooperation of nominators and others involved in respecting this policy.

The Medallion

Specifications

Design: Antique Laurel Medallion Colour: Gold Size: 50mm diameter with 25mm dia. blank space for engraving. Engraving: Recipient name and formal Award category.

Wearing of Medallion

The New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Award medallion specificiations have been specificially designed to utilise the design benefits of a medal, without the broader issues around the approval of wear on formal uniform for recipients.

For further information, please refer to the formal guidance 'Rules relating to the acceptance and wearing of Commonwealth, foreign and international Honours by New Zealand citizens' , issued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Laurel Wreath

Meaning

A laurel wreath is a round wreath made of connected branches and leaves of the bay laurel (Laurus nobilis), an aromatic broadleaf evergreen. The symbol of the laurel wreath traces back to Greek mythology.

In common modern idiomatic usage, it refers to a victory. This is the very essence of the Awards, to recognise and honour outstanding contributions of individuals who make an influential difference. Their achievements deserve to be recognised with a legacy that will last a lifetime.





Governance

The Road Traffic Accident Trauma Charitable Trust trading as the National Road Trauma Centre is a dedicated charitable organisation committed and to enhancing the lives of others. The Trust recognises the importance of appropriate governance and the integral role it plays in the day-to-day life opertional as a charitable organisation. Adherence to high standards of governance allows the Trust to optimise organisational performance, establish appropriate risk management systems, create sustained value for the commnity.

The Road Traffic Accident Trauma Charitable Trust trading as National Road Trauma Centre governance practices are continually reviewed and updated to reflect industry guidelines and standards, and compliance under the Charities Commission.

New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Executive Committee

The New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Executive Committee is represented by well-respected members of the community practising in either community service, medical science, risk management, engineering, road safety, or emergency services and representatives from relevant central government agencies.

The purpose of the Executive Committee is to:

- Annually review and provide feedback on the Awards criteria as required.
- Provide oversight of the Awards process and provide feedback on Awards as required.
- Review Award nominations fairly and impartially.
- Ensure sufficient due diligence has been provided by the Nominee to ensure Award recipients are deemed ‘fit and proper’ persons.
- Provide recommendations on recipients for the Awards. If the vote is not unanimous, then a vote of two thirds majority would apply.
- Provide formal advice on other matters as required to the National Road Trauma Centre.

New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards Executive Committee Members

Prof. Mike Ardagh

Emergency Medicine Specialist

University of Otago

John Barr

Chair

New Zealand Road Safety Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards

Mark Bailey

Health Partner - Acute Services

Accident Compensation Corporation

Inspector John Fagan

Road Policing Manager: Northland

New Zealand Police

Peter Gallagher

Chief Advisor Operations

Fire and Emergency New Zealand

Ken Franklin

CEO and Independent Chair

HEMS New Zealand Ltd (HEMS) and HEMS Clinical Ltd

Prof. Gary Hooper

Head of Department, Orthopedic Surgery & Musculoskeletal Medicine

University of Otago (Christchurch)

Emeritus Prof. Alan Nicholson

Road Safety Specialist, Civil and Natural Resources Engineering

University of Canterbury

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Strategy Director Safety,

New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

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Auckland Transport

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We also acknowledge the past and present members of the Awards Executive Committee for their continued contribution to the development and delivery of the Awards.

Thank you for your generosity, encouragement and commitment to the Awards programme.

Disclaimer

It is intended and agreed that the conduct of the New Zealand Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards shall not give rise to any legal obligations or duties, valid or enforceable in any way against the National Road Trauma Centre.

More Help and Further Information

If you have any questions about the Awards or require assistance with preparing or submitting a nomination, please contact the National Road Trauma Centre.

Our Frequently Asked Questions Guide is also available to provide further guidance throughout the nomination process.

Email: sarah@nationalroadtraumacentre.org.nz

Phone: 027 324 0918