



**ROBERT PENHALL
EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AWARD**

Criteria

1. The research is to be about older people, will benefit older people and has long term applicability.
2. The awards are open to researchers developing a research profile in gerontology. Applicants may be a current PhD student or have been awarded a PhD within the last five years, and must be resident in South Australia at time of submission.
3. Applicants must have made a substantial intellectual input and had a major role in the conduct, analysis and reporting of results.
4. The research is to address at least one of the following outcomes:
 - 4.1. Improving quality of life
 - 4.2. Identifying and reducing inequalities
 - 4.3. Addressing the social determinants of health
 - 4.4. Generating new knowledge and evidence
 - 4.5. Policy development in the human services or government sectors to improve quality of life
 - 4.6. Integrated services and approaches
 - 4.7. Improving the performance and equity of the human services sector
 - 4.8. Development of sustainable and transferable outcomes.
5. The research needs to include some form of empirical analysis, whether quantitative or qualitative.
6. The research is to have been published or accepted for publication.
7. Awardees will be expected to make a presentation based on their research at the South Australian Gerontology (SAGe) Conference in 2027.

Rules

1. Candidates must submit one entry only.
2. For collaborative research projects (e.g. multi-author papers), applicants must be able to demonstrate their role in the research project and which aspects of the research process were theirs alone and reflects their intellectual property.
3. One key collaborator (e.g. PhD supervisor) is asked to provide information regarding their role and that of the applicant, and their suitability for the award.
4. The Award will be presented to an entry from any category, subject to relative merit.
5. Each year AAG (SA) will appoint a panel of three or more persons to judge entries. The panel's decision is final and if, in the opinion of the panel, entries are not of sufficiently high standard to justify an award, the panel reserves the right not to offer an award.
6. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

Procedure

1. Entry must be made using the attached application forms.
2. Each application must include:
 - A statement (not more than 500 words) that summarises the submitted work, explains your role in its development, how it fits within your broader research program and describing how you have ensured quality
 - A statement from the applicant (not more than 250 words) describing the significance and impact of the submitted work
 - A statement from the applicant (not more than 250 words) describing the novelty and innovation of the submitted work
 - A statement from a senior researcher who is also a key collaborator, stating their role and verifying the applicant's role in the submitted work.
 - Complete copy of the paper/research product
 - Brief Curriculum Vitae (1-2 pages)
3. All applications must be submitted electronically via [this link](#) **by 5pm (SA time) Friday 25th September 2026.**