

Dan Haslam Memorial Award

A Perpetual Award Recognising Integrity, Service, Ethics and Compassion in the Australian Medicinal Cannabis Sector

Overview

The Dan Haslam Memorial Award is an honour bestowed on an individual in recognition of outstanding contributions to Integrity, Service, Ethics and Compassion relating to medicinal cannabis in Australia. It commemorates the life and legacy of Dan Haslam, whose courageous personal journey and public campaigning played a pivotal role in changing Australian perceptions and legislation surrounding medicinal cannabis. The perpetual award was announced on the 10th anniversary of Dan's death, with the inaugural recipient of the award to be announced during Medicinal Cannabis Awareness Week at the AMCA UIC Conference 2026, to be held in Brisbane on the 26-28 February 2026.

Background

Dan Haslam was diagnosed with stage 4 bowel cancer as a 20-year-old in 2010 and, in seeking relief from the side effects of chemotherapy in 2014, Dan became an outspoken advocate for the legalisation of medicinal cannabis. His efforts galvanised public support and helped spark national conversations, ultimately influencing political action and reform. The award serves both as a tribute to Dan's courage and as an inspiration for others to continue the push for compassionate, evidence-based healthcare solutions.



Purpose

The award is designed to recognise individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment to advancing the cause of medicinal cannabis, whether through research, advocacy, patient support, education, product supply or development, or policy reform. Recipients are those who embody the spirit of perseverance and positive change that Dan Haslam exemplified. The award aims to provide valued recognition in the sector and is intended to become highly respected and sought after.

Criteria

- Significant contribution to the Australian medicinal cannabis sector in areas such as research, advocacy and awareness in Australia
- Demonstrated compassion and commitment to improving patient access and outcomes

- Efforts resulting in tangible progress, such as legislative change, community education or improved access for patients
- Embodiment of the values of courage, empathy and leadership
- A key criterion will be acting with a patient-centred focus demonstrating integrity, service, ethics and compassion

Legacy

The Dan Haslam Memorial Award not only honours the memory of a remarkable individual but also encourages ongoing efforts to ensure safe and equitable access to medicinal cannabis for Australians in need. It stands as a symbol of hope and a call to action for advocates, healthcare professionals and policymakers.

Who can nominate?

Anyone can nominate; however self-nomination is not encouraged. Once you have nominated someone for the award, you are encouraged to advise your nominee that they have been nominated, as they may be contacted prior to the award being finalised.

How do you nominate?

Nomination is by completion of the Nomination Form and submitting it to info@ausmca.org by the 11 February 2026.

How is the Recipient of the Award determined?

The Recipient will be determined by vote by an appointed judging panel, along with input from the Chief Editor of Cannabiz.

What does the recipient receive?

The Recipient will receive a Trophy, to be held by the Recipient for a year at their home, workplace or business.

Each year, the Perpetual Trophy will be engraved with the Recipient's name. In addition, the Recipient will receive a graphic medallion to use in their electronic signature, marking them as that year's Recipient.

The Recipient will receive a certificate to recognise their success as a recipient of the Award. The Recipient will also receive a Full Pass (which includes Socials +/- Accommodation and Transport) to the following AMCA/UIC Conference.

Cannabiz will publish an editorial to acknowledge the Recipient, and the Recipient's name will be featured in the next sector association newsletter. The Recipient will also be encouraged to contact local and state media outlets to publicise their achievement.