

Mental Health Ireland Kevin Plunkett Award

The primary focus of the *Mental Health Ireland Kevin Plunkett Award* is to recognise the contribution of mental health nurses who have distinguished themselves in their role and to further contribute to building nursing practice excellence and improving care and services for people using services and their families. In line with Mental Health Ireland's strategy of co-production, the active involvement of people with lived experience, is paramount at all stages of the process.

Mental Health Ireland wish to recognise the work of Mental Health Nurses working throughout Ireland. The Kevin Plunkett award is named after the former Area Director of Nursing for Waterford/Wexford Mental Health Service who passed away in May of this year. Kevin was a dedicated mental health nurse and mental health volunteer who showed great courage and leadership throughout his career.

On Oct 10th, *World Mental Health Day*, Mental Health Ireland are introducing this new initiative and invite nominations for Registered Psychiatric Nurses working in Ireland. The *Mental Health Ireland Kevin Plunkett Award* will recognise and celebrate RPNs who have shown innovation in areas which may include; *Mental Health Promotion, Co-Production, Facilitating Recovery, Service Quality, Innovation and Improvement Public Understanding or Community engagement*.

We wish to recognise Mental Health Nurses who bring new thinking or fresh insights aligned to the recommendations of the new national mental health policy '*Sharing the Vision*' and Mental Health Ireland's own strategy. We also wish to acknowledge best practice, innovation, sustainable and impactful change being brought about by RPNs at all levels. Nominations will be accepted for nurses working in the public and private sector, hospital or community settings, NGOs, research, service improvement and the academic centres.

In keeping with MHI's co-production principles, a *Working Group* has been convened which includes a Mental Health Ireland Board Member, an Area Director of Nursing nominee, a member of Kevin Plunkett's family and a Person with Lived Experience. Nomination and application is made via mental Health Ireland's website.

Closing date for applications is **Wednesday, Dec 15th 2021**.

Awards may be utilised to advance; *Further Education / Training / Research / facilitate Educational Travel / Study / Conference attendance / Innovate / Pilot projects (small scale)*. Partnerships and evidence of co-production with people who use mental health services, family members will be distinct advantage.

Mental Health Ireland does not accept funding from or work in partnership with the Pharmaceutical, Alcohol or Gambling industries, the awards will reflect this position.

The nomination processes will allow for self-nomination, nomination by peers, service users, supervisors and colleagues. The nominee must agree to have their name go forward.

Awardees must utilise the award within 12 months of allocation and will be expected to provide on the impact or success of their work so that the outcomes can be disseminated and shared. The continued ownership of the Intellectual Property would remain with the nominee, the support *Mental Health Ireland Kevin Plunkett Award* should be acknowledged in subsequent presentations.

The international theme for *World Mental Health Day* in 2021 is '*Mental Health in an Unequal World*' and the *Mental Health Ireland Kevin Plunkett Award* is now officially launched and ready to accept nominations.

Criteria for Consideration of Award

Applications for awards should be for the purposes outlined below in section N and which will take place within a year from the date of award being granted (2022).

Application needs to be for a well-defined purpose, which will make a clear contribution to building nursing practice and excellence as well as improving care and services for people using services and their families.

Must include a detailed budget explaining how the award is to be utilised and spent.

Applicants must indicate any other sources of funding they have applied for, and the amount of support (if any) received. Must indicate specifically what this award will be used for.

Awards cannot be awarded retrospectively.

Awards are for the following purposes:

- Travel awards*.
 - Travel to conferences, research institutes, practice site visit, clinical practice placement to obtain further experience or to shadow a recognised expert,
 - Travel awards for undergraduate students participating in recognized conferences and or programmes associated with their degree or as a member of a recognised association/network—up to €200 (UK), €350 (Europe) and €500) (rest of world).
- Awards to cover course fees, training and educational projects which are being undertaken within or as part of a recognised and accredited programme.
- Awards to support publication of books by academic and other staff. Proof to show the book is being published must be produced before any award is released.
- Mental Health Ireland will require acknowledgement of their support in the publication along with a copy of the book. Should the book be a commercial success, the applicant is expected to return the award. Maximum award: €1,500.
- Awards to health care groups and or College Societies towards cultural and other educational events that are aligned with the aims of this award scheme. **Note that**

the cost of accommodation or food and drink for receptions and similar occasions will NOT be covered.

- ‘Seed’ money to develop proposals that might attract large grants from other bodies. The larger proposal must align with the aims of this award scheme.

*Travel grants for those including postgraduate students or postdoctoral fellows already in receipt of sponsorship from funding agencies such as HRB, IRC, IRCSET and SFI or other funding agencies will **not** be covered.

Nomination Criteria

Who can be nominated?

Registered Psychiatric Nurses working in Ireland in public or private health services, in education, research, recovery, mental health promotion, service improvement or the NGO sector.

Entries can be accepted from nurses nominating themselves/team or can be submitted on behalf of another nurse/team. The team may include other colleagues and services users.

Non-nursing colleagues, such as managers or members of the multi-disciplinary team and service users may also nominate a nurse for this award.

Nominees should demonstrate the potential to make a significant contribution in furthering the development of psychiatric nursing practice, leadership, management, education and or research.

This potential contribution may be achieved in many ways such as

- through the conduct of a defined project,
- attendance at a specific course, workshop, conference or congress,
- undertaking travel to visit, work alongside or observe a recognised expert in the field
- to publish work.

How to enter:

Entries must be submitted online at www.mentalhealthireland.ie/education. We recommend nominators write the body of their entry in a separate document first, then copy and paste it into the entry form, to avoid the risk of submissions being lost. Please retain a copy of the nomination.

A short explanation of why you are submitting this nomination must be provided

If you are nominating a person/team you must obtain their consent to be nominated.

Nominees should also obtain the support of their line manager for the nomination.

| The nomination information will be considered by the adjudication panel as part of the adjudication process.

1. **Title**

Please give your entry a title. For Example – *“Co-production in Recovery Based Practice in an In-Patient setting”* (max 25 words)

2. **Name of the applicant/nominee** – i.e. who is the person getting the award?

3. **Name, Postal & Email Address, Title, Day time contact number of Nominator**

4. **Key aims**

Describe the key aims of the proposed initiative, Project, Visit, Course, Conference etc. What are the reasons for doing it and how will it be implemented?
(200 words)

5. **Key roles**

Clearly explain the role you/the nominee has in leading the initiative and its implementation.
(200 words)

6. **Team or individual nominee?**

Please list the full name, job title and workplace of the nominee(S).

If the nominee is a team (either your own or another team), please check carefully and list the full name, job title, workplace and role of each team member, and briefly describe how each has contributed to the entry.

7. **Challenges**

Outline potential challenges in implementing the initiative and how they will be addressed.
(200 words)

8. **Evaluation**

Describe the potential of the initiative to improve patient experience, health outcomes and nursing practice.
(200 words)

9. **Sharing best practice**

Describe the plans to disseminate the initiative or share their innovation?
(100 words)

You can also add up to three supporting files

- Acceptable file formats are .doc, .docx, .pdf, .jpg, .png
- You can include case studies, evaluation reports, images, graphs – any information that will support your submission.
- The maximum file size in total is 6MB (2MB per file)

Category judging criteria:

- How creative/innovative is the initiative? How much has the project contributed to nursing knowledge, practice and service improvement?
- How instrumental was the nominee in setting up and leading the initiative?
- Consider the level of obstacles the nominee overcame to get the initiative up and running.
- What level of evaluation has been undertaken/is planned?
- How has the nominee disseminated their initiative? What impact has the initiative had? Consider the impact the initiative has had on service user experience, health outcomes and nursing practice.
- In what ways does the nominee stand out as a nurse leader and ambassador for the profession?
- How the findings can be replicated or brought to scale to the benefit of others