The Tony McMichael Public Health Ecology and Environment Award

Rewarding significant, discernible contributions in the combined domains of public health and ecology or environmental health.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Background

Professor Tony McMichael is a world leader in research on and advocacy for incorporating ecological and environmental factors into the field of public health. Public health is the art and science of preventing illness and promoting health through the organised efforts of society. Tony has long promoted the importance of the interrelationship of the human species with our environment including our effects on that environment and subsequently the capacity for the environment to provide humanity with the clean air, fresh water, soil, food, and spiritual and emotional wellbeing, necessary for humanity to flourish, survive and prosper. Additionally he has researched and publicised the effects of changes to the natural environment and how this affects our relationship with other animal species, and their diseases.

Standing on the shoulders of Paul and Anne Ehrlich, his first definitive work in this field was *Planetary Overload*, ahead of many in 1993, which explored environmental problems arising from unrestrained population growth and intensified economic activities, and how those effect human health. He worked on lead effects on human health and on mental health. In the past two decades his focus has narrowed more onto the effects of global warming. He has been involved with raising the profile of human health in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change since its second report in the mid-1990s. In the following decade he worked for the WHO to estimate the effects that climate change was already having on humanity.

More recently (2001 – 2007) he was the Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University, and from 2007 to 2012 head of the Environment, Climate and Health Research Program at NCEPH. In his retirement, he continued his efforts to minimise the environmental disaster humans are so actively visiting on themselves. Tragically he died in 2014.

Eligibility for nomination

Eligibility for nomination is open to a person (not just PHAA members) who has made a significant, discernible contribution in the combined domains of public health and ecology or environmental health, which is consistent with and has contributed to fulfilling the aims of the PHAA and the EESIG.

A significant contribution includes:

- published peer-reviewed research, and/or translation of research from academic literature into the public and policy domain, and/or
• extensive advocacy based on such research and knowledge, and/or promotion of this field and research to government, business or the public.

Discernible means that this activity is recognised widely within the public health, ecology and environment field and has had a demonstrable effect on government or organisational policy or operations. This will be assessed by the selection panel.

The nominee must have been active in this field for at least 12 months.

Nominator and seconder

A person must be nominated by a 2nd party. This nomination must be seconded. The nominator and seconder must be current members of PHAA.
Anyone who wishes to nominate another person for this Award must supply comprehensive yet brief and concise (less than two pages) information to support the nomination against the eligibility criteria.

Selection process

Nominations for this award will be called for annually in February.
Nominations will close 30 June each year and are to be sent to aspetert@bigpond.com.
Nominees will be shortlisted by the EESIG Committee against the criteria (below).
The award will be presented where possible at a suitable opportunity during the annual Australian Public Health Conference or Population Health Congress.

Selection criteria

Each nomination will be assessed by each panel member against the following criteria:
• Operating within the fields of ecology or and environment and/or public health
• Active for 12 months or more
• Has made a significant contribution in research, translation and/or advocacy
• Is widely recognised within the field for this contribution
• This contribution has raised awareness of the health dimensions of ecological and/or environmental factors in public or in health professional circles; and/or has had an effect on government or organisational (business / NGO) policy

The shortlisted applications will be assessed by the Board of PHAA with the advice of the EESIG presented by the Ecology and Environment SIG Convenor.

More than one award may be made each year if more than one nomination of an exceptional calibre are received. In the absence of a nomination of suitable standard, no award may be made.

Keynote at Conference

The successful awardee will be invited to give a key note address at the Australian Public Health Conference or Population Health Congress in the year they receive their award.