



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY STUDENT & EARLY CAREER GROUP (SECG)
AAG SECG HELEN BARRIE NATIONAL PRIZE

2026 Guidelines for Applicants

1. Overview

The purpose of the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) is to improve the experience of ageing through connecting research, policy and practice. The AAG's Student and Early Career Group (SECG) provides a forum for newcomers to gerontology and associated fields to share their professional and personal experiences and achievements in ageing-related work or study. This prize is targeted at student and early career researchers and practitioners. In its fourth year, three prizes will be awarded with a total value of \$1750.00.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the prestigious AAG SECG Helen Barrie National Prize (The Prize) is to both recognise and highlight the outstanding research contributions of student and early career researchers to ageing research and practice, and to provide a forum through which these contributions can be widely disseminated to AAG members.

2026 is the fifth year of The Prize and will be giving three (3) grants listed below. Applications close on 27th of February 2026.

3. Dr Helen Barrie

Dr Helen Barrie is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of South Australia, Director of The Australian Alliance of Social Enterprise and Inclusion Stream Leader of the Centre for Markets, Values and Inclusion. As a social gerontologist and geographer, her research has focus on Australia's changing and ageing population, the implications of this for society and communities, and the interaction between people and the built environment. She has been a passionate member of the AAG since 2006, was integral in developing the student section of the AAG, is a past State and National President of the AAG and was awarded life membership in 2017.

4. 2026 AAG SECG Helen Barrie National Prize Round

The Prize this year is made possible by the AAG, and in 2026 through industry contributions from Consultation.



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The 2026 AAG SECG Helen Barrie National Prize round will consist of three prizes:

- \$1,000 – Winner
- \$500 – Finalist
- \$250 – for The 2026 Helen Barrie AAG SECG National Special Prize for innovation in aged care reforms and reach*

*This prize is a special category for 2026 and will be given to a student or early career researcher who submits an application with a research focus on innovation in aged care reforms and reach. This prize has been made available by the Consultation. Candidates who indicate that they are eligible for this special category, will also be considered for the first and second prize, but will only be awarded a single prize.

5. Key dates

Applications open 13th January and close 27th February 2026, 5pm AEDT. All items must be submitted electronically.

Applicants will be notified of the outcomes by the Friday 17th April 2026.

Recipients must confirm their acceptance of the prize in writing within one week of the offer. Prize certificate and funds will be awarded after their presentation at the AAG SECG webinar in 2026.

6. Eligibility criteria and prize rules

- a) Candidates must be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident of Australia or have an appropriate work visa.
- b) Candidates must submit one application only, and applicants will be awarded only one prize.
- c) The prizes are open to researchers developing a research profile in ageing research. Applicants must be a current PhD student or have been awarded their PhD within the last five years (or longer relative to opportunity, e.g., where there has been significant career interruption such as parental leave, carer's responsibility, or illness).
- d) Previous winners of state-based AAG awards for SECG members (including the Robert Penhall Award or other state awards of the same kind) are not eligible to apply.
- e) The research project presented must have been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
 - The article must be original research or a review paper. It cannot be an editorial, letter or short report.
 - The article must be published or accepted for publication and *in press* in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.



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- The candidate must be a senior author of the paper (first author, equal first author, senior last author, equal last author).
 - The candidate must have been a PhD student or early career researcher at the time the paper was accepted for publication.
 - The article must have been published (or accepted) in the current or previous calendar year.
- f) Candidates must be financial members of the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) at the time of applying for the prize. Intending applicants who are not AAG members can sign up for membership [here](#).
- g) 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 project were theirs alone and reflects their intellectual property.
- h) Candidates must supply a Senior Researcher Statement (e.g. from a PhD supervisor or researcher's academic supervisor) regarding the applicant's role in the research project and their suitability for the prize.
- i) Winners will be chosen based on the research quality (50%), significance and impact (25%), and innovation (25%) of the research work. The judging panel will score and rank applications according to these criteria.
- j) As a condition of the prize, winners must present their prize-winning research work at an AAG SECG webinar in April 2026. This must be a 15-minute presentation (plus 5 minutes question time) based on their research publication.
- k) Unsuccessful applicants may apply again in future rounds; however, a publication can only be submitted once per prize round. Future applications must be new published (or accepted *in press*) research.
- l) Winners will be announced on the AAG and AIIP websites, AAG and AIIP social media pages and through e-newsletters. Winners must consent to publication and promotion of the prize through these avenues.

7. Application Process

1. Entry must be made using the Application Form for the 2026 AAG SECG National Helen Barrie Prize.
2. Each application must include:
 - A statement that summarises the applicant's research project and the significance and contribution of the project to ageing research (not more than 500 words)



**AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY STUDENT & EARLY CAREER GROUP (SECG)
AAG SECG HELEN BARRIE NATIONAL PRIZE**

- A statement from a senior researcher who is also a key collaborator, stating their role and confirming that of the applicant in this research project (not more than 250 words).
- A copy of the published manuscript (or accepted *in press* manuscript) of the presented research.
- Brief Curriculum Vitae (2 pages maximum)



AAG
Australian
Association of
Gerontology

SECG
Student and
Early Career
Group

PARTNERED WITH



Consultation
Helping organisations flourish

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2026 Application Form

STUDENT OR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER DETAILS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| TITLE | |
| NAME | |
| CURRENT POSITION | |
| ORGANISATION | |
| ADDRESS | |
| TELEPHONE | |
| EMAIL | |
| RESIDENCY STATUS | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Resident or appropriate work visa |
| I AM A | <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Student <input type="checkbox"/> Early Career Researcher Was your PhD awarded within the last 5 years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, do you have any Relative to Opportunity considerations that you would like the judging panel to take into account? |

Please provide Relative to Opportunity considerations here (no more than 200 words)

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| | |
| PUBLICATION TITLE | |



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| | |
|---|--|
| THE ARTICLE IS | <input type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted for publication / in press* * Attach evidence of the acceptance of your article for publication, including the date of acceptance |
| I AM APPLYING FOR <i>(You can tick more than one option)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> The Helen Barrie AAG SECG National Prize <input type="checkbox"/> The Helen Barrie AAG SECG National Special Prize for research on innovation in aged care reform and reach. |

PLEASE ENSURE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE INCLUDED WITH THIS APPLICATION FORM

1. A copy of the published manuscript (or accepted manuscript) of the presented research
2. Brief Curriculum Vitae (2 pages maximum)
3. Applicant statement summarising the applicant’s role in the research project
4. Senior Researcher’s Statement in support of the applicant.

DECLARATION

- I declare that I have read the 2026 Guidelines for Applicants for the Helen Barrie AAG SECG National Prize and agree to abide by them.
 YES NO

- If my application is successful, I will be available to make a presentation at the Australian Association of Gerontology Student and Early Career Group webinar in 2026.
 YES NO

Signature.....Date.....

APPLICANT STATEMENT



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Please provide a statement below that summarises your research project and the significance and contribution of the project to ageing research (not more than 500 words).

State the project aims and describe the methodology and results. Explain how this research contributes to a significant problem in ageing research. Explain the originality of the research and how this research translates into real world impact/practice. Describe the impact following publication of your work (e.g. media coverage, citations, uptake by stakeholders).

For collaborative projects, please demonstrate your role in the research project, including those aspects of the research process that were yours alone and reflect your intellectual property.

<enter below here>



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 AAG SECG HELEN BARRIE NATIONAL PRIZE

SENIOR RESEARCHER STATEMENT

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| APPLICANT'S NAME | |
| PUBLICATION TITLE | |
| SENIOR RESEARCHER'S NAME | |
| ADDRESS | |
| TELEPHONE/s | |
| EMAIL | |

I verify that the applicant has made a substantial contribution to this work.

Please refer to the [NHMRC guidelines for determining Authorship](#), as a guide for the criteria to be applied to describe contributions.

Please provide a short statement (not more than 250 words) regarding the applicant's suitability for this prize.
 Describe the applicant's development of an impactful career in ageing research.