

**New Zealand  
Psychological Society**  
*Rōpū Mātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa*



**Dame Marie Clay Award**

**Guideline Document**

Updated Sept 2019

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### **A brief history of the award**

The Dame Marie Clay Award was established in 2008 to honour Dame Marie Clay in recognition of her contribution to education and developmental psychology. Marie Clay had a distinguished career spanning 60 years and is known as one of the most distinguished researchers in educational literacy in the world.

She was the first female professor at Auckland University and is best known for developing the "Reading Recovery" programme designed to help young children with early reading difficulties. The programme was adopted in New Zealand and overseas. Marie Clay was made a Dame 1987 and was named New Zealander of the Year in 1994.

The Dame Marie Clay Award was first offered in 2009.

### **Aims of the award**

The Dame Marie Clay Award recognises valuable contributions to educational and developmental psychology in NZPsS Members through original research (researcher) the dissemination of research (teacher) or best practice (exemplary practitioner).

### **Nature of the award**

The recipient of the Dame Marie Clay award receives \$1000. The Award is offered biennially and is jointly funded by the New Zealand Psychological Society and the Marie Clay Literacy Trust.

### **Eligibility criteria**

To be eligible for the Dame Marie Clay Award, nominees must be current members of the NZPsS and have been a member for a minimum of two years prior to application.

### **Nomination process**

Nominations are invited through Society publications and the NZPsS website

Two Full Members of the Society must make the nomination with the written consent of the nominee.

The nomination must be accompanied by a statement of support (max. 500 words) together with copies of supporting documents e.g. articles, reports etc.

The nominee will be required to provide a CV and a written statement in support of their nomination.

To assist the Awards Committee it is important that all information provided is accurate and complete.

Nominees need to indicate, if they are conferred the award whether they would be willing to be named in media reports on the NZPsS awards.

All communication regarding the Dame Marie Clay Award should be addressed to:

Executive Director  
New Zealand Psychological Society  
PO Box 10536  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6143

Email: [executivedirector@psychology.org.nz](mailto:executivedirector@psychology.org.nz)

### **Selection Process**

Nominations for NZPsS Awards are reviewed by an Awards Committee appointed by the Executive of the New Zealand Psychological Society.

The Awards Committee makes a recommendation to the Executive. The decision of the Executive to confirm the recommendation or to decline it is final.

### **Criteria for the evaluation of nominees**

The Awards Committee will be considering nominees for the award in terms of noteworthy and valuable contributions to educational and developmental psychology through original research (researcher) the dissemination of research (teacher) or best practice (exemplary practitioner).

The Award may be made for achievements accruing over a substantial career period or for more recent achievements (e.g. within the five years preceding the nomination).

### **Timetable and presentation of awards**

The timetable for the Dame Marie Clay Award is as follows

- Applications close on the advertised date
- Nominees will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application
- The Awards will be announced/presented at the NZPsS Annual Conference by the President of the NZPsS
- Recipients will be identified and honoured in Society publications and on the NZPsS website

### **Communication Issues**

The NZPsS may wish to communicate information on the awards to the media to increase public awareness about excellence in psychology practice, teaching and research. This will only occur with permission of successful nominees.