

# Medical Student Award Annual Essay Competition 2026

The New South Wales State Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons aims to encourage medical students to adopt careers in surgery and has run an Annual Essay Competition for Medical Students in New South Wales since 2010.

## The Topic for the Essay:

“If tasked with establishing a rural surgical service in Australia, how would you design it to ensure safety, equity and sustainability?”

## Award

- Medal and Certificate of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (Medical Student Award).
- The Award will be presented to the winner at the NSW State Office in October 2026.
- The winner of the essay competition will be acknowledged in the NSW Chair’s Newsletter and the essay will be published on the College website on the NSW State page.

## Guidelines

- The competition is open to all final year Medical Students of a NSW Medical School.
- All entries must be in English and relevant to the topic specified.
- Only one entry per participant is allowed.
- Present the entry in Microsoft Word document or in PDF format, the maximum word count is 3,000 words including headings.
- Essays must be submitted by Monday, 27 July 2026.

## Judges

The entries will be assessed by a panel comprising NSW State Committee Executive Members of the College. Judges described entries to the competition in 2025 as ‘enjoyable to read’ and expect a similarly high calibre of writing for 2026.

## Submission

Please submit your entry to: [NSW.Committee@surgeons.org](mailto:NSW.Committee@surgeons.org) or contact the College 02 8298 4500 for further information.