

NZSSD Honorary Life Membership

Criteria and Nomination Process

1. Purpose of Honorary Life Membership

Honorary Life Membership is the highest recognition awarded by the New Zealand Society for the Study of Diabetes (NZSSD). In accordance with the NZSSD Constitution, an “Honorary Life Member can be nominated from the ordinary membership in recognition of outstanding service to the Society.” This award acknowledges individuals who have demonstrated significant, sustained, and high-quality contributions that have advanced diabetes care, scholarship, and the work of the Society.

2. Eligibility Criteria for Nomination

Nominations for Honorary Life Membership should reflect the nominee’s:

2.1 Distinguished Contribution

- Demonstrated outstanding service to NZSSD and to diabetes care, research, education, or leadership in Aotearoa New Zealand.

and

- Recognised as having made a lasting, meaningful impact on the field of diabetes and the work of the Society.

2.2 Length and Quality of Service

- A substantial period of involvement with NZSSD (typically ≥ 10 years)

and

Evidence of sustained, high-quality contribution

2.3 Professional Conduct and Standards

- Demonstrates integrity, professionalism, and behaviour consistent with the values and objectives of NZSSD.

and

- Acts as a positive role model for the diabetes workforce and wider membership.

2.4 Advancement of the Field

- Contributions that have advanced diabetes care, policy, practice, professional development, or scientific understanding in Aotearoa New Zealand.

2.5 Service Reflecting Credit to the Society

- The nominee's work should enhance the reputation of NZSSD and the broader diabetes community.

2.6 Financial Membership

- The nominee must be a current financial member of NZSSD at the time of nomination.

Note: Meeting the minimum criteria does not guarantee the award of Life Membership; nominations are considered holistically and at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

3. Nomination Process

3.1 Call for Nominations

- Each January/February, a mail-out is sent to NZSSD members inviting nominations for Honorary Life Membership.

3.2 Initial Submission

- A letter or email proposing a nomination must be submitted to the NZSSD Secretary.
- Nominations will only be accepted from current NZSSD members
- The Secretary will acknowledge receipt of the nomination via email.

3.3 Executive Committee Review (March Meeting)

- All nominations are tabled for discussion at the March Executive Committee meeting.
- The Executive makes a consensus vote on whether each nomination should proceed to the next stage.
- At most, only one recipient for Honorary Life Membership will be awarded per year

3.4 Request for Full Nomination Overview

- If the Executive supports proceeding to the next stage, the nominator will be contacted and asked to provide:
 - A fuller written overview of the nominee's career,
 - Key achievements and contributions,
 - A clear rationale for why Honorary Life Membership is fitting.
 - Provide a "seconder" for the nomination

3.5 AGM Preparation

- Life Membership nominations are added as an agenda item for the AGM (including the number of nominations received).
- A Life Membership certificate is prepared using the agreed NZSSD template.
- The purchase of a gift for the recipient will be delegated to an Executive committee member (usually the Honorary Secretary).

3.6 Presentation at AGM

- At the AGM, the nominator (if present) or an Executive representative will read the prepared overview of the nominee.
- The nominee will be formally presented with:
 - An Honorary Life Membership certificate
 - Gift

3.7 Publication

- The recipient's name and the year of the award will be added to the Honorary Life Members list on the NZSSD website
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4.0 Recognition of Life Membership

- Annual NZSSD membership fee waived
- 50% reduction of Annual Scientific meeting registration fee
- The recipients name will be listed on the NZSSD website as an Honorary Life Member