

press release

2026 Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize expands to New Zealand

Sydney, Australia, 3 June 2026: Following the success of its inaugural Australian program last year, the [Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize](#) is returning in 2026 and expanding to New Zealand for the first time. The Prize continues its mission to champion early-to-mid career women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) across the region.

It is a critical time for Australia's STEM and medical research sector. While women make up 52 per cent of the health and medical research workforce, only one in four hold the most senior roles – highlighting a persistent gap in leadership representation.¹

Limited visibility of senior female role models remains a key barrier to attracting and retaining women in STEM, reinforcing the need for greater recognition and support of emerging leaders in science and medicine.

Applications are now open across Australia and New Zealand, with the Prize aiming to support and elevate the next generation of women in science and medicine through recognition, funding and access to an alumni network. Established by global healthcare company [Novo Nordisk](#), the program recognises emerging researchers making significant contributions in science and medicine.

The Prize also includes a AUD50,000 cash award for one winner, alongside AUD5,000 for each of seven finalists.

Named in honour of Dr Marie Krogh (1874–1943), a pioneering Danish physician and co-founder of Novo Nordisk, the prize celebrates her legacy as one of the first women in Denmark to earn a doctorate in medicine. Dr Krogh played a key role in developing insulin treatment protocols, alongside her husband, Nobel Laureate August Krogh and together, were instrumental in helping to transform diabetes, a chronic condition she lived with, from a fatal diagnosis into a manageable condition.

“The Marie Krogh Prize reflects our continued commitment to recognising the vital contributions women are making across science and medicine, while helping ensure emerging talent has the visibility, support and opportunity to thrive. By celebrating these leaders and their achievements, we hope to inspire the next generation of women considering a career in STEM,” said **Dr Ana Svensson, Senior Medical Director, Novo Nordisk Oceania, who returns this year as Chair of the Prize Judging Panel.**

The inaugural 2025 Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize was awarded to Associate Professor Ines Pires da Silva, Medical Oncologist at the Melanoma Institute Australia, in recognition of her contribution to advancing melanoma research and care.

Applications for the 2026 Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize open on Wednesday 3 June and close on midnight AEST, Sunday 5 July 2026. Finalists will be announced on Wednesday 16 September, with the awards dinner to be held in Canberra, Australia, on Tuesday 13 October.

¹ Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, [10-year Agenda for Women's Equity in Australia](#)

Full details, including submission deadline, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions, are available on the website: www.mariekroghprize.com.au.

About Novo Nordisk

Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company founded in 1923 and headquartered in Denmark. Our purpose is to drive change to defeat serious chronic diseases built upon our heritage in diabetes. We do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to our medicines and working to prevent and ultimately cure disease. Novo Nordisk employs about 68,800 people in 80 countries and markets its products in around 170 countries.

Novo Nordisk has been operating in Australia since 1976. We deliver medicines to more than 1.6 million patients in Australia for the treatment of diabetes, obesity, rare diseases and other serious chronic diseases. For more information, visit www.novonordisk.com.au

About the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize

The Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize is a prestigious award that aims to recognise and celebrate outstanding women in science and medicine who embody the core pillars of Innovation, Impact and Leadership. It aims to highlight groundbreaking scientific research that demonstrates originality and advances knowledge through creative approaches and novel solutions.

The Prize also aims to honour contributions that have a measurable impact on healthcare – improving patient outcomes, shaping public health policies or transforming clinical practices and seeks to acknowledge exceptional leadership and community engagement, particularly in fostering collaboration, mentoring future leaders and empowering young women in science and medicine.

Through these pillars, the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize seeks to inspire a legacy of excellence and transformation in health research and beyond.

www.mariekroghprize.com.au

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