

Menzies School of Health Research acknowledges the importance of recognising outstanding achievement by a student undertaking a coursework award.

The Val Asche Memorial Prize for Academic Excellence is awarded on an annual basis to those students who completed their coursework award with the highest grade point average the previous academic year.

Dr Valerie Asche was the head of the microbiology research unit at Menzies School of Health Research from 1986 to 1994 under its founding director Professor John Mathews. Dr Asche supported this award for 19 years before sadly passing away in 2019. Dr Asche's family maintains an interest in education and continues to support academic excellence among Menzies students.

A prize of a book voucher is awarded to each of the five students whose academic performance has been outstanding in the completed courses: **Master of Public Health/Master of Health Research, Master of Public Health, Master of Health Research, Graduate Diploma of Public Health and Graduate Diploma of Health Research.**

Procedures for Funding

- 1.1 The Asche Family donates \$2000 annually through Menzies Education.
- 1.2 Menzies Education processes the donation with Menzies Finance who deposit the funds into the Menzies Education account code: E00001
- 1.3 Menzies Communications/Menzies Development Team acknowledges the donation to the Asche Family, providing a letter of thanks and donation receipt.

1. Eligibility

To be awarded a prize, a student must:

- 2.1 Have completed the accredited course in which they are enrolled
- 2.2 Attain a Grade Point Average of at least 6.0
- 2.3 Have completed a minimum of 80% of the scheduled program at CDU, based on units or approved cross-institutional elective units

2. Determination of Recipient

- 3.1 Selection of a recipient is based on academic merit only using the Grade Point Average which is available on the students' academic history through *Callista* - the CDU student management system
- 3.2 Where a student has been granted credit for specific courses or units for studies whilst enrolled in another program at CDU or another institution, the graded results will be included in the calculation of the grade point average

4. Guidelines

The following guidelines apply:

- 4.1 A copy of this policy must be provided to the sponsor at the time the prize is negotiated
- 4.2 Eligible students are identified by Menzies Education after Semester 2 Grade Release each year and their Grade Point Average is recorded and ranked
- 4.3 In the event that 2 or more students attain the same Grade Point Average and it is not possible to distinguish between two or more candidates, the prize may be shared
- 4.4 The prize shall only be awarded when there is a candidate of sufficient academic merit who meets the criteria for the award
- 4.5 Each recipient is notified in writing by Menzies Education
- 4.6 The Asche Family shall be notified of all prize recipients by Menzies Education

4.7 At the time of prize notification, each recipient is requested to provide a brief bio, photo, and signed media release form so that Menzies can profile the winners on the Menzies website and in social media.

4.8 The decision by Menzies Education is final

5. Post Selection

5.1 Menzies Communications and Menzies Education develop an appropriate certificate for the winner of the prize

5.2 Menzies Education will prepare a package for the award recipient, containing a certificate, book voucher prize, letter of congratulations – with information about their benefactor: the late Dr Val Asche

5.3 This package will be presented to the award recipient at the CDU Graduation for Menzies students. In the even the award recipient cannot attend the graduation ceremony, Menzies Education will arrange to send the prize to the recipient.

5.4 Menzies Communications will post a profile/bio of the award recipients on the Menzies Education website [prize page](#).