About the National Suicide Prevention Research Fund

In recognition of the impact of suicide on every Australian, the Australian Government has dedicated $12million to the establishment of the first National Suicide Prevention Research Fund (SPRF).

The world-first fund is designed to provide sustainable financial support for Australian suicide prevention research and ensure outcomes have the greatest impact by addressing nationally agreed priorities.

Research Priorities for SPRF

Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA) has established priorities for funding research through the SPRF and other sources that SPA brings into the funding pool. All categories of funding will be advertised with these priorities as the focus. Where partner funding is available and a specific area of focus is noted (eg rural and regional suicide prevention) this will be an additional priority area.

The following priorities have been established for the SPRF funding program:

1. What works to prevent suicide and suicidal behaviour? For whom? Why? Studies of indicated, selective and universal interventions will be considered, with particular emphasis being given to studies of indicated interventions. Studies employing any type of research design will be considered, providing they can yield meaningful data on effectiveness and, where possible, cost-effectiveness.

2. What factors are protective against suicide? What are the mechanisms by which these protective factors operate? How might we bolster these protective factors for individuals in different communities and/or from different target groups and/or social and cultural backgrounds? Again, studies employing any type of research design will be considered, providing they can yield meaningful data on protective factors and their promotion.

Applicants to SPRF should include a knowledge translation plan as part of their Research Proposal. Based on the priority areas, where applicable, SPA may consider additional weightings when finalising the selection of recipients for funding.

The research is clearly designed to create new knowledge and/or extend existing knowledge through innovative design, novel interventions and/or evaluation

There is clear evidence of collaboration, and where appropriate, involvement of those most affected by suicide throughout the entire research process

The research is outcome focused with clear translational goals and is future oriented

Scholarship Guidelines Updated: 26th June 2018
About this scheme

This Higher Degree Research Scholarship scheme provides funding for successful applicants to attain a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

Aim

The aim of the scheme is to support outstanding graduates early in their research career so they can be trained to conduct research that is relevant to all aspects of suicide prevention and that is internationally competitive so they can develop a capacity for original independent research within Australia.

Who should apply?

Candidates who wish to attain a research focused PhD.

Objectives of the scheme

- support excellent clinical and applied research for a candidate undertaking a research higher degree directly related to the reduction of suicide in Australia
- advance promising early career researchers and promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways
- enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments
- expand Australia’s knowledge base and research capability; and
- enhance the scale and focus of research relevant to the SPRF priorities.

Funding information

Commencement

The funding Commencement Date for scholarship holders is between 1 January and 31 March 2019.

Duration

The duration of funding will be for three years with provision for additional time where career interruption may have occurred.

| Scholarship funding level | The total scholarship value is $105,000 including 30 per cent on-costs. This will be provided in annual instalments of $35,000 payable on receipt of progress reports at the conclusion of each calendar year. |
| Scholarship funding duration | Three consecutive years on a full-time basis. Flexibility in regard to full-time, part-time or other time periods may be negotiated with SPA so long as the total duration does not exceed six consecutive years. |
Funding partners

There will be up to six scholarships offered to researchers in the 2018. Three of these will be funded directly through the SPRF.

In 2018 up to a further three scholarships will be funded by SPA partners supporting research into suicide and its prevention.

This scholarship will be awarded to a candidate who will be undertaking their research at a regional university and who will be investigating aspects of suicide and its prevention for people living and working in regional or rural Australia.

Regional Australia Bank is a 100% customer owned bank that has been helping regional Australians achieve their lifestyle goals for almost 50 years. They have a strong reputation for being flexible, personable and being able to make the complex simple. With its roots in regional NSW and customers right across Australia, Regional Australia Bank has grown to be one of the premier banking alternatives to the ‘Big Four’ banks. Regional Australia Bank continues to add value to members by recognising everyone’s circumstances are different and as such provide personalised financial solutions, working with members to save time, money and effort.

This scholarship will be awarded to a candidate addressing any area of suicide and its prevention. Special consideration will be given to those with an interest in investigating physical activity and its role in any aspect of suicide and its prevention.

The Anytime Fitness Scholarship Program is the outcome of a national community awareness and fundraising event held in partnership between Anytime Fitness and SPA. For two years in a row, Anytime Fitness Australia has teamed up with SPA to host a national 24-hour Treadmill Challenge. The most recent event, held on the 25th-26th of May 2018, saw close to 300 Anytime Fitness gyms across the country open their doors and encourage their communities to Tread Together for suicide prevention, raising over $400,000 for the SPRF. Anytime Fitness is pleased that the funds raised through these events will go towards valuable research aimed at saving people’s lives.

Eligibility Requirements

Organisation

Organisations listed by the ARC and the NHMRC as Administering Institutions are eligible to participate in this scheme.

PhD candidates working in, or alongside, community based organisations will be especially welcomed.

Participant Eligibility

Only applicants undertaking or commencing a research higher degree related to suicide and its prevention will be considered for these scholarships.
Limits on Proposals

Successful recipients may only hold one scholarship during the period in which the research higher degree is being undertaken.

Candidate

To be eligible for funding, a successful applicant must be enrolled at the Administering Institution. Those with pending applications are eligible, however successful enrolment is a condition of funding being awarded. Applications can be made by those currently engaged in Bachelor Honours or Masters by research who intend to enrol in a PhD. Notification of the outcome of current studies must be made to SPA by 3rd December 2018. Successful applicants in this situation can be held off pending honours outcome.

The scholarship will be administered through the recipient’s university. However, opportunities to work within another SPA approved institution, such as a hospital, mental health service or community based organisation, during the course of the scholarship will be encouraged.

Up to one third of the funding period may be spent outside Australia or engaged in international travel with approval of the principal supervisor and SPA.

The scholarship may be taken on a full-time or part-time basis and SPA will offer flexibility within this if required provided that the funding duration does not exceed six years from the date of commencement (excluding any approved leave of absence).

The Administering Institution must ensure the recipient has access to the following leave entitlements in line with the Administering Institutions normal practice:

a. Maternity Leave;
b. Partner/Parental Leave; and
c. Recreation Leave.

Selection Process

Selection Criteria

Proposed Quality and Innovation: 30%

1. Does the research directly address suicide and its prevention?
2. Is the conceptual/theoretical framework innovative and original?
3. Will the aims, concepts, methods and results advance knowledge?
4. What is the potential for the research to contribute to the agreed research priorities?

Feasibility: 20%

5. Do the project’s design, leadership and budget provide confidence in the timely and successful completion of the research?
6. Is there a supportive and high quality environment for the candidate, their project and for Higher Degree by Research students where appropriate?

7. Are the necessary facilities available to complete the research?

Benefit and Collaboration: 15%

8. Will the completed project produce significant new knowledge and/or innovative social and/or cultural benefit to the Australian community?
9. To what extent will the candidate build collaborations across research organisations and/or with other disciplines?
10. Will the proposed research be cost-effective and value for money?

Candidate: 35%

11. Evidence of past performance
12. Time and capacity to undertake the proposed research.
Statement by Principal Supervisor

The supervisor, based at the Administering Institution, must provide a statement in relation to the candidate which:

a) indicates that this area is a core or emerging research strength and describes the level of resources to be provided to support the successful candidate (for example, support for project costs)

b) details opportunities for the candidate to demonstrate the level of independence required to be competitive for research and/or research and teaching pathways at the Administering Institution; and

c) if the candidate is also working within a community based industry organisation, the application should be supported by a letter from the chief executive or an approved supervisor from within the organisation.

THE NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION RESEARCH FUND
IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Keep in touch

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Scholarship Guidelines Updated: 26th June 2018