



Suicide Prevention
Australia

**Application Guidelines
2020 Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

*The Suicide Prevention Research Fund
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Australian Government
Department of Health

About the Post-Doctoral Fellowship

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship provides funding for successful applicants who have already attained a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) to further their research career.

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship aims to build research capacity in the following

- i. 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.
- ii. the protective factors against suicide and the mechanisms by which these protective factors operate? Studies employing any type of research design will be considered, providing they can yield meaningful data on protective factors and their promotion.

Objectives

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship aims to:

1. Develop and expand evidence to support innovative interventions across the spectrum of suicide prevention
2. Foster the expansion and development of research leadership in suicide prevention
3. Enhance the scale and focus of research relevant to the Suicide Prevention Research Fund priorities
4. Contribute to the evidence base to inform and improve future services, systems and policies related to suicide prevention in Australia.

Who should apply?

Researchers who are up to five years' post-doctoral study and who can demonstrate the following:

- Record of contributing to quality publications
- Capacity for leadership in the suicide prevention research field
- Commitment to the application of their research, and
- Articulation of a career development strategy that has relevance to suicide and its prevention

Award value

The total Fellowship value is up to \$300,000 over two years full-time and up to four years part-time.

Key dates 2020

Application period	Opens 6 April 2020	Closes 18 May 2020
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How to apply

Applications can be made via [this link](#).

Selection Criteria

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| 1. The Fund | 15% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with Suicide Prevention Research Fund priorities and the objectives of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship | |
| 2. The Research | 30% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific merit of the research design, methods and measures • Demonstrates how the research can contribute to practical interventions in suicide prevention • Potential for translation of knowledge to the broader suicide prevention community • Informed by or collaboration with people with lived experience | |
| 3. The Researcher | 30% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research experience and track record of achievement relative to career opportunity • Shows potential for further career development in health, social or medical research • Development of a clear career development strategy | |
| 4. The Research Environment | 25% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated ability of the Administering Institution to provide a supportive research environment including existing relevant research program and infrastructure • Provision of adequate academic, senior-level supervision of the researcher and associated research | |

Review Panel

The Review panel consists of experienced researchers, those with lived experience and service provision expertise who assist at various stages of assessment of the grant applications and are appointed through the [Research Advisory Committee](#).

Application Process

Stage	Actions
1	Post-Doctoral Fellowship application submitted to Suicide Prevention Australia (by closing date)
2	Applications considered by reviewers using a standardised assessment process
3	Selected applications considered by reviewers using a standardised assessment process
4	Selected applications considered by Research Advisory Committee for recommendation to Suicide Prevention Australia Board
5	Suicide Prevention Australia Board considers final recommendations

Feedback/Appeals Process

The decision of the Board is final and any appeals about the merits of a decision will only be considered in terms of whether due process was followed. Complaints about administrative process must be made in writing, signed by the complainant, and addressed to the Chair, Research Advisory Committee, specifying the nature of and grounds for the complaint.

Funding requirements

Commencement

The funding commencement date for Post-Doctoral Fellowship recipients is as soon after the award has been announced and subsequent contractual arrangements have been completed but no later than 1 January of 2021. However, exceptions will be made in the current challenging circumstances on a case by case basis.

Duration

The funding is for a two year full-time equivalent position with provision for up to four years where there is career interruption with prior agreement from Suicide Prevention Australia.

Career interruption

A career interruption is defined as a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work due to pregnancy, major illness/injury and/or carer responsibilities.

An applicant is able to provide a brief explanation of any career interruptions that may be relevant to their most recent five-year research career history. This will ensure that their track record, and the scientific quality and significance and/or innovativeness of the application, are assessed objectively taking all relevant factors into account.

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship enables a two year full-time equivalent position to be over four years to accommodate flexible working arrangements in the case of career interruption. This would require prior agreement with Suicide Prevention Australia.

Limits on proposals

The funding covers salary only and does not include research operating costs. Costs of undertaking the Post-Doctoral Fellowship research project must be supported by the Administering Institution and this support must be clearly indicated at all stages of the application.

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship is for those not currently funded in a Fellowship or about to commence a Fellowship.

Applicant requirements

Institutional support

Institutional support must be provided. Only those Institutions listed by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as Administering Institutions are eligible to participate in this scheme.

Applications must be submitted to Suicide Prevention Australia by the due date. Prior to submitting the application, the applicant should advise the Administering Institution's Research Grants Office of their intent to apply for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship and ensure that they follow the requirements of the Administering Institution.

Partner Organisation

Applicants for this award may identify a Partner Organisation in suicide prevention or postvention in Australia with whom they will partner for the duration of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship for their particular research.

Applicants for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship should note that this is not mandatory. However, identification of a Partner Organisation with whom they will partner for the duration of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship, and any in-kind or cash contributions by the Partner Organisation will be favourably considered.

A Partner organisation is defined as:

A suicide prevention or postvention service or program in Australia that is implemented to address, prevent or respond to suicidal behaviours and their impact on people, families, communities and the Australian population.

Incorporating Lived Experience of Suicide

A lived experience of suicidal behaviour is one where a person has experienced suicidal thoughts, survived a suicide attempt, who has self-harmed, cared for someone through a suicidal crises or who has been bereaved by suicide. Each lived experience of suicide is a personal life experience and has a unique perspective.

Applications for funding through the Post-Doctoral Fellowship seeks the incorporation of lived experience and as a result the inclusion of new knowledge that is co-created with lived experience.

This inclusion aims to guide Post-Doctoral researchers and any Partner Organisations in their enrichment of project outcomes for relevance, purpose and benefit to the end user.

This inclusion is so, wherever possible, every research project uses co-creation processes and principles at the earliest possible entry point of the project.

It is intended that applications will demonstrate the inclusion of lived experience and detail how this is achieved across ideation, design, implementation and evaluation of outcomes.

A guide to incorporating lived experience in research can be found [here](#).

Researcher eligibility

Post-Doctoral Fellowships are open to researchers undertaking research related to any aspect across the spectrum of suicide prevention.

The recipient must be based at the Administering Institution for the duration of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship period.

The research must be conducted in Australia for the benefit of Australians. If the applicant is not an Australian citizen they are required to obtain a legal right to work and reside in Australia prior to the commencement of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

PhD Qualification

Applicants whose thesis is currently under examination are eligible provided that their thesis has already been submitted and proof of submission may be requested. The Post-Doctoral Fellowship will not commence until formal advice is received by Suicide Prevention Australia that the PhD has been awarded.

Area(s) of Research

Applicants are required to indicate the primary and secondary (if applicable) areas which their research will focus on. The categories have been developed in reference to the WHO report - Preventing suicide: A global imperative, 2014.

Resumes

The applicant's resume must be submitted at the time of application as per the template provided.

Ethics approvals

Applicants should be aware of any ethics approvals required for the commencement of their research.

Consent to provide information to International Assessors

In some situations, applications may be provided to overseas assessors for peer review.

In the case under Commonwealth privacy laws, Suicide Prevention Australia will require permission from the applicant to disclose any information contained in the application.

Grant conditions**Funding agreement**

The successful applicant's Administering Institution will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Suicide Prevention Australia.

The funding agreement will be prepared by Suicide Prevention Australia and is not open to negotiation.

Research reporting

Grant recipients will be required to provide Suicide Prevention Australia with progress reports and a final report on the research and the findings, as agreed.

Communication and promotion

By submitting an application, consent is being given for contact for (but not limited to) operational feedback, public relations opportunities (such as commentary and interviews) and for inclusion on websites, social media, media releases and mentions in Ministerial announcements.

Communication of the findings of the research through conferences, forums and communication with Suicide Prevention Australia Members will be expected (as appropriate).

Wherever possible, academic journal publications of the research should be on an open access basis.

Availability of recipients for future peer reviewer opportunities

By submitting an application consent is being given to being contacted for future peer review opportunities.

Support from Administering Institution

The application should include a Letter of Support from the researcher's Academic Supervisor. This is a minimum requirement. Applicants are also able to include a letter from Head of School or Department.

The Letter of Support should include:

1. The supportive elements of the research environment provided by the Administering Institution
2. Knowledge of the researcher and their academic record
3. Assessment of the viability of the research proposal
4. Commitment to providing support to the researcher and their research

Support from Partner Organisation

The application should include a Letter of Involvement if the applicant will be partnering with a Partner Organisation for the duration of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

The Letter of Involvement should include:

1. The supportive elements of the research environment provided by the Partner Organisation
2. Knowledge of the researcher and their academic record
3. Assessment of the viability of the research proposal
4. Commitment to providing support to the researcher and their research

Enquiries

If you have enquiries regarding the research grant program please contact Suicide Prevention Australia on +61 (2) 9262 1130 or email sprf@suicidepreventionaust.org