

Suicide Prevention
Australia

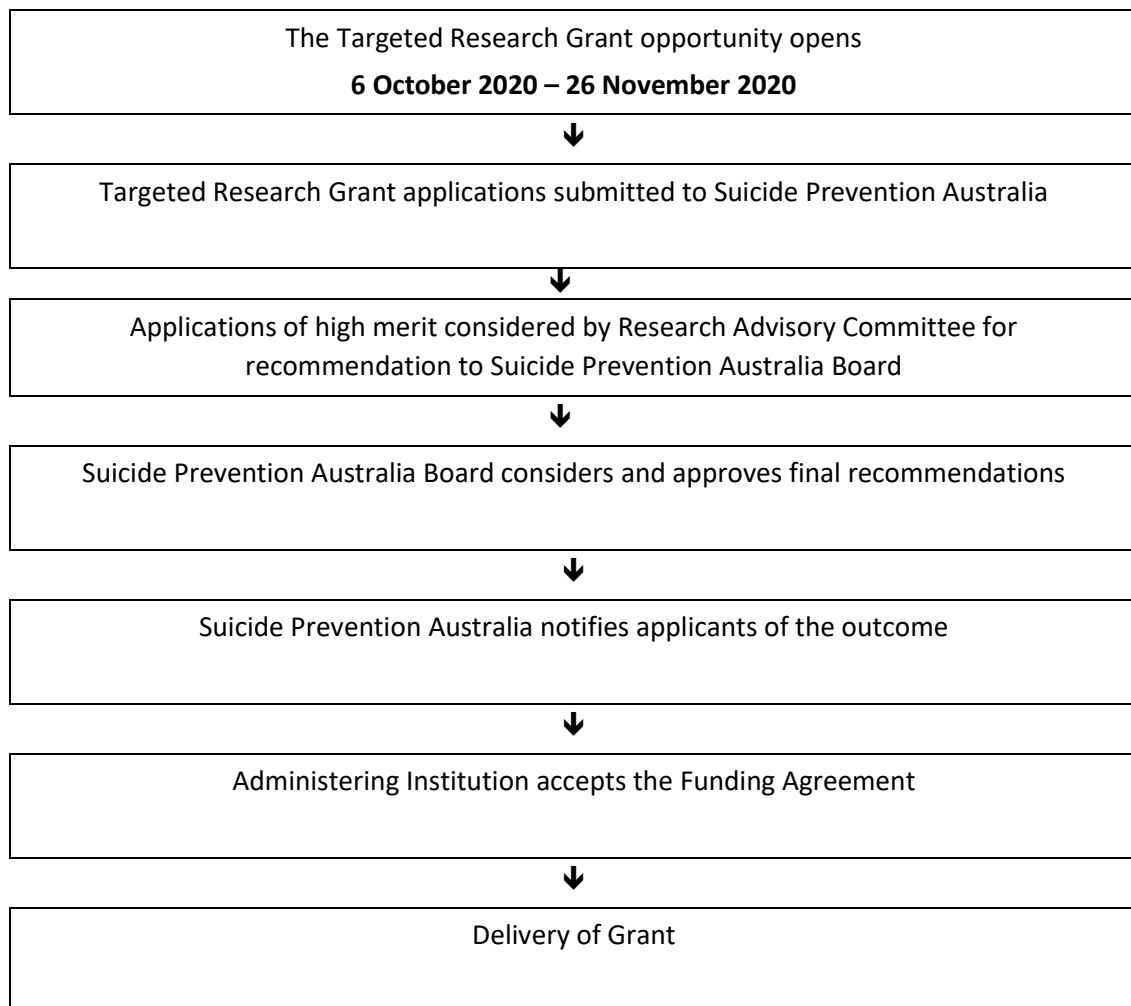
Guidelines
2020 Targeted Research Grant

*The Suicide Prevention Research Fund
is supported by*



Australian Government
Department of Health

The Targeted Research Grant 2020 Process



1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the 2020 Targeted Research Grant opportunity. Applicants must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose, intended outcome and priorities of the grant opportunity
- the eligibility and selection criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grants will be monitored
- responsibilities and expectations of grantees in relation to the opportunity

2. About Suicide Prevention Australia and the Suicide Prevention Research Fund

Suicide Prevention Australia is the peak body for suicide prevention in Australia, representing over 240 Members and Associates. We work to build a stronger suicide prevention sector, a more aware and engaged community, and a more effective regulatory and funding environment.

In recognition of the impact of suicide on every Australian, the Suicide Prevention Research Fund was established by the Australian Government to support research into suicide prevention. Suicide Prevention Australia manages the fund on behalf of the Australian Government.

The objective of the Suicide Prevention Research Fund is to build evidence to enable continued improvements in suicide prevention models and strategies, including for at risk groups, at the national and regional level. The Fund will support research that increases knowledge about the prevention of suicide and effective interventions that reduce the onset and the impact of suicidal behaviours. The Fund will also support research into how to effectively design and deliver suicide prevention policies, programs and services that support individuals, families and communities.

3. Targeted Research Grant

The Targeted Research Grants will support research partnerships between researchers in suicide prevention and suicide prevention/postvention programs and services to meet the objectives of the fund.

In view of current priorities for whole of government and whole of community approaches to suicide prevention, researchers are strongly encouraged to partner with organisations implementing suicide prevention or postvention programs and services in health and mental health, alcohol and other drugs, justice settings, children's services, homelessness services, family violence, or within broader community-based settings

The Targeted Research Grants is intended to support larger-scale research collaborations, including multi-centre research and/or cross-jurisdiction projects which aim to evaluate suicide prevention interventions, and improve understanding of fidelity and scalability of programs within States and across jurisdictions.

The Targeted Research Grant Priorities are the following two specific areas of research:

- 1) Multi-site research to advance the evidence base for non-clinical alternatives to emergency departments and hospital-based care for people experiencing suicidal crisis or distress, for example "safe spaces" or similar models.
- 2) Multi-site research to advance the evidence base for aftercare approaches (assertive follow-up or care received by people following a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis), delivered across diverse locations and considering expanded entry points into the service and/or effectiveness for priority populations to inform best-practice implementation and scaling of the approach.

4. Grant amount and grant period

Grant Amount

The total funding allocation for this scheme is \$3 million. Individual grants will not exceed \$1.5 million.

Applications from an [Administering Institution](#) must include one or more Partner Organisations.

Applicants are required to seek contributions of cash or in-kind support from Partner Organisations which should be clearly incorporated in the overall budget.

The amount of funding for a Targeted Research Grant will be based on assessments of the requested budget. Applications must clearly justify the requested budget and how the budget will support the proposed research. Suicide Prevention Australia will consider this information and may recommend reductions the budget to ensure the research aims and objectives can be achieved while ensuring value for money.

Grant period

Funding for a Targeted Research Grant can be requested for a maximum 3 years.

5. Eligibility

Administering Institutions

Applications will only be accepted from National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Australian Research Council (ARC) approved [Administering Institutions](#).

Prior to submitting the application, the applicant should advise the Administering Institution's Research Grants Office of their intent to apply and ensure that they follow the requirements of the Administering Institution.

Chief Investigators and Co-Investigators

Researchers at any career stage can apply for a Targeted Research Grant. The Chief Investigator must be based in a recognised Administering Institution and research must be conducted in Australia for the benefit of Australians. If the Chief Investigator is not an Australian citizen, evidence that they have a legal right to work and reside in Australia will be required.

A full CV for the Chief Investigator is to be included with the Application Form, in the approved format.

Details of the Co-Investigators on the research team, and their role in the research, are to be included on the Application Form. Individuals can only be listed as a team member on one grant application in this round of funding.

Partner Organisations

As a condition of the grant, applicants are required to partner with at least one organisation delivering suicide prevention or postvention programs or services in Australia. These may include government, non-government, and private sector organisations.

For the purposes of this Grant a suicide prevention or postvention program or service is one that addresses, prevents or responds to suicidal behaviours and their impact in settings such as health and mental health, alcohol and other drugs, justice settings, children's services, homelessness services, family violence, or within broader community-based settings.

Details of the Partner Organisation and the extent to which they are actively involved in the research, including the extent to which researchers have access to the staff and clients of the program or service, must be demonstrated through the application. This is to include how they will function as a partner for the purpose of the research and their commitment to implementation/translation of positive outcomes from the research.

A signed letter of involvement is to be included with the Application Form.

Partner Research Institution

Applicants partnering with other Research Institutions are to provide details of the Partner Research Institution and their involvement in the research on the Application Form.

Multiple applications/grants

Limits apply to the number of grants that a Chief Investigator may concurrently hold and/or apply for funded by the Suicide Prevention Research Fund.

Chief Investigators who are recipients of the Targeted Research Grant may only apply for/hold one such grant during the period in which the research is being undertaken.

Chief Investigators may be the recipient of other previously awarded Suicide Prevention Research Fund grants.

Suicide Prevention Australia may compare the research proposed in grant applications with grants previously funded, currently funded, and funded by other agencies (e.g. National Health and Medical Research Council or Department of Health) and published research. Suicide Prevention Australia will not fund research that it considers duplicates research that has previously been or currently is funded.

6. What the grant money can be used for

Funding provided by Suicide Prevention Australia for a Targeted Research Grant must be spent on costs directly incurred in the grant.

The cost must be integral to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the grant as set out in Application Form, as approved by Suicide Prevention Australia.

The Suicide Prevention Research Fund will not fund:

- Capital works (e.g., buildings or maintenance or purchase of major equipment, purchase and lease of land/vehicles)
- Commercial activities
- Core organisational operating costs including service delivery

7. The selection criteria

Applications for the Targeted Research Grant opportunity are assessed by reviewers against the selection criteria listed below:

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| 1. Scientific quality of the research proposal | 25% |
| 2. Quality, completeness and feasibility of knowledge translation and dissemination plan | 20% |
| 3. How the research builds on existing research into suicide prevention and addresses at least one of the targeted research priorities | 15% |

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|--|-----|
| 4. The extent to which the partner organisation, as defined in Section 5 of the guidelines, is actively involved in the research | 20% |
| 5. How the perspectives of people with lived experience of suicide are being incorporated into the research project | 20% |

COVID-19 official public health guidance

The research application will need to demonstrate adherence to COVID-19 official public health guidance from the relevant jurisdiction(s) and the Australian Government.

Health research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Applicants proposing to undertake research which specifically relates to the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, or which includes distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations or data, should be aware of, and must refer to, the following documents in formulating their proposal:

- *NHMRC Roadmap 3: A strategic framework for improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health through research*
- *Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders, and*
- Keeping Research on Track II (a companion document on how the values and principles outlined in the *Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders* can be put into practice in research).

8. Application

Process

Applications can be made via the application form available on the Suicide Prevention Australia website.

Applications are to include:

- Application form
- Chief Investigator CV
- Detailed project budget
- Partner Organisation/s signed letter of involvement. This includes an understanding of the research project and timelines, proposed involvement and commitment, and any in-kind financial support. The service organisation should also include a summary of how the research aligns to the organisations purpose, strategic goals and activities.

Ethics approvals

Applicants should be aware of any ethics approvals required and related funding milestones. Once obtained, a copy of the ethics approval is to be provided to Suicide Prevention Australia.

Co-design with people who have a Lived Experience of Suicidal Behaviour

Research funded through the Suicide Prevention Research Fund is to be co-designed with people with lived experience of suicidal behavior.

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.

Applications for funding through the Targeted Research Grant should incorporate the perspectives of people with lived experience of suicide behaviours in the proposed research and demonstrate co-creation processes and principles at the earliest possible entry point of the project.

Information is provided to assist the applicant with this process and can be found [here](#).

Questions

For questions during the application process please contact Suicide Prevention Australia by email at: sprf@suicidepreventionaust.org

9. Grant selection process

Assessment process

Suicide Prevention Australia's review process is designed to provide a rigorous, fair, transparent and consistent assessment of the merits of each application to ensure that only the highest quality, best value-for-money research is recommended for funding.

Suicide Prevention Australia will consider applications through a targeted competitive grant process. Applications are required to meet eligibility requirements as set out in these guidelines and are assessed against the selection criteria.

An initial assessment of applications against the selection criteria will be undertaken and applications of high merit will be reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee. The outcome of this review will be used to create a shortlist of applications, on which funding recommendations to the Suicide Prevention Australia Board will be based.

Approval and notification process

The Suicide Prevention Australia Board will consider the shortlist of applications recommended by the Research Advisory Committee and approve the applications to be funded.

Chief Investigators whose applications are approved for funding will be provided with a letter of offer. This will be offered under embargo for possible Commonwealth Government announcements and Suicide Prevention Australia will confirm when the embargo has been lifted.

Administering Institutions responsible for administering approved applications will be provided with a Funding Agreement. The Administering Institution is responsible for accepting the Funding Agreement through a signing/acceptance process with Suicide Prevention Australia.

Grantees may be required to supply additional information before the Funding Agreement is executed by both parties and payments commence.

10. Funding Agreement

All grants are offered in accordance with the Funding Agreement, which is a legal agreement between Suicide Prevention Australia and the Administering Institution. In accepting the Funding Agreement, the Administering Institution is agreeing to the conditions contained in the Funding Agreement.

A grant will not commence, nor grant funds be paid, until the Funding Agreement between Suicide Prevention Australia and the Administering Institution is accepted by both parties and executed by Suicide Prevention Australia.

Suicide Prevention Australia expects the highest levels of research conduct and integrity to be observed in the research that it funds. Administering Institutions and Chief Investigators are bound by the conditions of the Funding Agreement. Suicide Prevention Australia funded research must be conducted in accordance with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*.

The Chief Investigator and Administering Institution must acknowledge the Suicide Prevention Research Fund Grant administered by Suicide Prevention Australia in any correspondence, public announcement, promotional or advertising material, publication, research report or other material, output produced through the Research Activity.

Payments

Payments will commence in accordance with the Funding Agreement payment schedule once the grant terms have been agreed to and the Funding Agreement has been signed and executed by the Administering Institution and Suicide Prevention Australia.

All amounts referred to in these Grant Guidelines are exclusive of GST, unless stated otherwise. Administering Institutions are responsible for all financial and taxation matters associated with the grant.

Suspension and variations

Suicide Prevention Australia funding may be suspended for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, requests made by the Chief Investigator. Requests for variations to the Funding Agreement will be considered by the Research Advisory Committee.

Funding may also be suspended by Suicide Prevention Australia when it is reasonable to consider there has been a failure to comply with a Policy or Guideline, or on the basis of a Probity Event or an investigation of alleged research misconduct, as set out in the Funding Agreement.

Following the award of a grant if a Partner Organisation withdraws/reduces their contribution, the Chief Investigator/Administering Institution is required to provide a detailed explanation on the contribution/s, which will no longer be available, the consequent effect on the grant relevant to the original proposal and outcomes of the research project. Consideration can be made by Suicide Prevention Australia for additional Partner Organisation/s being added to the Grant (as a standalone addition or as a replacement).

Reporting

Administering Institutions are required to report to Suicide Prevention Australia on the progress of the grant and the use of grant funds. Where an institution fails to submit reports (financial or otherwise) as required, Suicide Prevention Australia may take action under the provisions of the Funding Agreement. Failure to report within timeframes may affect eligibility to receive future funding.

Financial reports are required in a form prescribed by Suicide Prevention Australia in accordance with the Funding Agreement. At the completion of the financial acquittal is also required.

The Funding Agreement requires the Chief Investigator to prepare non-financial reports for each Research Activity in a form prescribed by Suicide Prevention Australia in accordance with the Funding Agreement.

Information included in the reports provided may be publicly released. Use of this information may include publication Suicide Prevention Australia's website, publicity (including release to the media) and the promotion of research achievements.

All information provided to Suicide Prevention Australia in reports may be used for internal reporting and reporting to government. This information may also be used by Suicide Prevention Australia when reviewing or evaluating funded research projects or funding schemes, or designing future schemes.

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).

Open Access Policy

Suicide Prevention Australia supports the sharing of outputs from Suicide Prevention Australia funded research including publications and data.

Wherever possible, academic journal publications of the research should be on an open access basis with appropriate acknowledgement of the Suicide Prevention Research Fund.

This approach will help to increase reuse of data, improve research integrity and contribute to a stronger knowledge economy. Open access will also assist with reporting and demonstration of research achievement, improve track record assessment processes for the long term and contribute to better collaborations.

11. Probity

Complaints process

Applicants or grantees seeking to lodge a formal complaint about Suicide Prevention Australia process related to funding should do so, in writing, within 28 days of the relevant Suicide Prevention Australia decision or action.

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.

Privacy: confidentiality and protection of personal information

Suicide Prevention Australia treats applicants' personal information in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles, and the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Suicide Prevention Australia may share confidential information with the Australian Government, Department of Health and Grants Hub.

Acknowledgement

Suicide Prevention Research Fund Grants have been developed in partnership with the Australian Government, Department of Health.