



Suicide Prevention
Australia

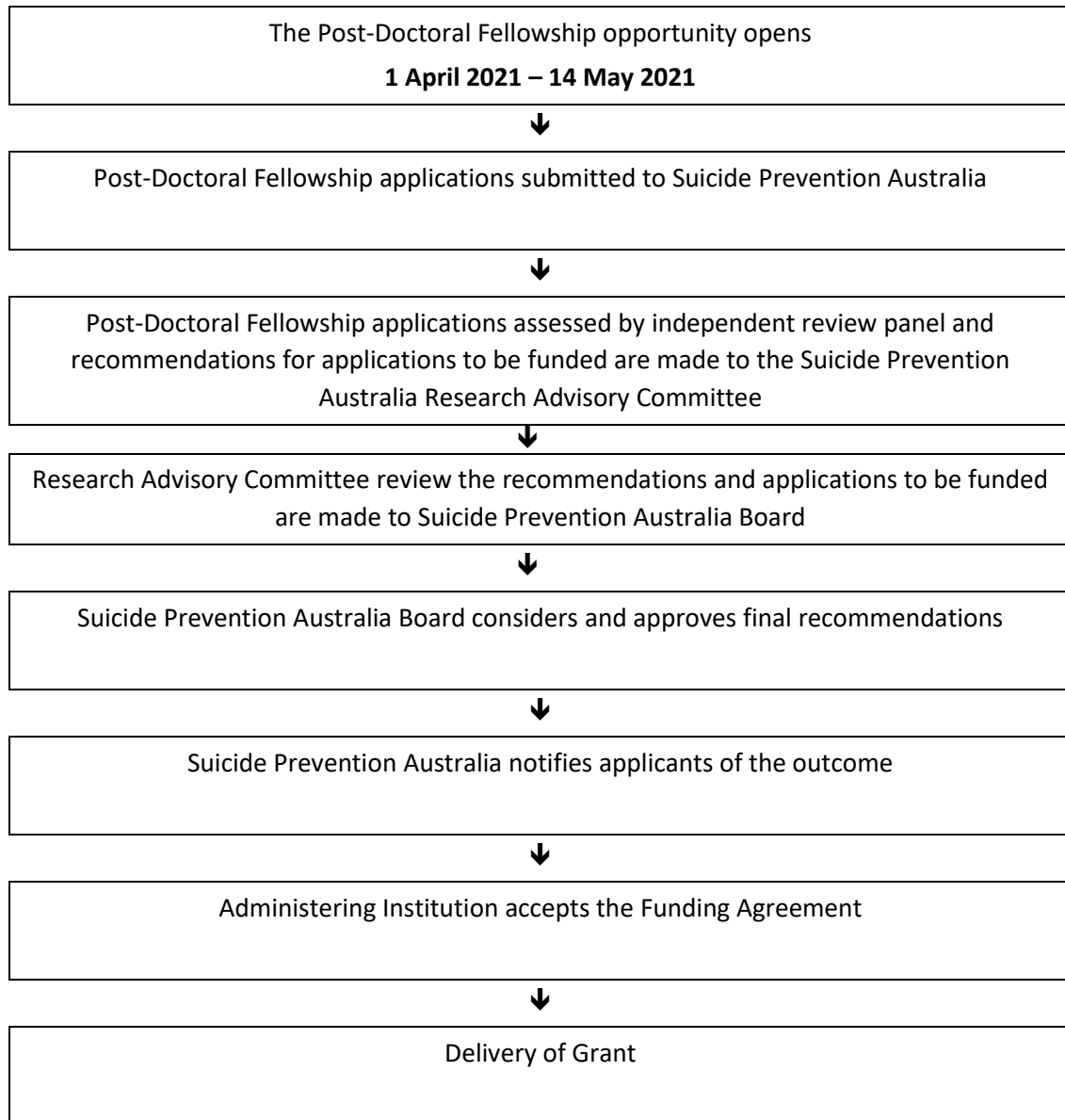
Guidelines
2021 Post-Doctoral Fellowship

*The Suicide Prevention Research Fund
is supported by*



Australian Government
Department of Health

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship Process



1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the 2021 Post-Doctoral Fellowship opportunity. Applicants must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose, intended outcome and priorities of the opportunity
- the eligibility and selection criteria
- how 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.

The Suicide Prevention Research Fund aims to address gaps in suicide prevention research. You can find out more about current gaps in research [here](#).

3. 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

- 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.
- 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.

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship aims to:

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

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit research applications that build on the findings of Suicide Prevention Research Fund research, commissioned by the National Suicide Prevention Taskforce, undertaken in 2020:

- Experiences of people with lived experience of suicide
- The role of housing insecurity and homelessness in suicidal behaviour
- The role of alcohol and other drugs in suicidal behaviour
- Interventions to reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviours among children in contact with the child protection system
- Interventions to reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviours in people who have had contact with the criminal justice system

You can find out more about this research [here](#).

4. Grant amount and grant period

Grant Amount

Individual Post-Doctoral Fellowships will not exceed \$300,000.

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.

Applicants for this award may identify a Partner Organisation with whom they will partner for the duration of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship for their research. Applicants are required to seek contributions of cash or in-kind support from Partner Organisations which should be clearly incorporated in the overall budget.

Grant period

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.

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.

Applicants

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.

Researchers who are up to five years' post-doctoral study and who can demonstrate the following are eligible to apply for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship:

- 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

A full CV for the applicant and details of the Post-Doctoral Supervisor are to be included with the Application Form, in the approved format.

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.

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.

Partner Organisations

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 research.

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.

Limits on Applications

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

6. The selection criteria

Applications for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship opportunity are assessed by reviewers against the selection criteria listed below:

1. Scientific quality of the research proposal	30%
2. Alignment with Suicide Prevention Research Fund priorities and the objectives of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship	20%
3. Researcher experience	30%
4. Demonstrated ability of the Administering Institution to provide a supportive research environment and adequate supervision	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).

7. Application

Process

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

Applications are to include:

- Application form including budget
- Applicant CV
- 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.
- Written References
- Thesis Results

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 crisis or who has been bereaved by suicide.

Applications for funding through the Suicide Prevention Research Fund 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

8. 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 research is recommended for funding. Applications are required to meet eligibility requirements as set out in these guidelines and are assessed against the selection criteria.

Post-Doctoral Fellowship applications are assessed, against the selection criteria, by an independent review panel followed by a review panel meeting. The outcome of this review will be used to create a shortlist of applications, on which funding recommendations to the Suicide Prevention Australia Research Advisory Committee will be based.

The review panel consists of experienced researchers, those with lived experience and service provision expertise and are appointed through the Research Advisory Committee.

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.

Applicants 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.

9. 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 Research Fellow 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 on 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.

10. 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.