



Application Guidelines Implementation Science Grant

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Australian Government
Department of Health

About Suicide Prevention Research Fund Implementation Science Grants

In line with the priorities of the Suicide Prevention Research Fund, the Implementation Science Grant supports research into the process of scaling up the implementation of evidence into practice.

Implementation science is “the scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices into routine practice, and, hence, to improve the quality and effectiveness of health services”¹. Implementation science seeks to systematically close the gap between what we know and what we do by addressing barriers that may halt the uptake of suicide prevention interventions.

These grants support research that aims to improve the understanding of how to design, implement and promote systematic uptake of evidence-based interventions.

The aim of the grant is to fund innovative research to address the implementation gap and progress interventions towards practice.

Who should apply?

The Implementation Science Grant supports researchers at all stages of their career.

Award value

The total grant value is up to \$50,000 over one to two years.

Key dates

Application period	Open 9 November 2023	Close 6 December 2023
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How to apply

To apply, email your completed application to sprf@suicidepreventionaust.org

Selection Criteria

1. Alignment with [Suicide Prevention Research Fund priorities](#) and the objectives of the Implementation Science Grant, addressing 25%
 - a. The significance of the problem
 - b. The evidence and practice gap
 - c. Implementation of an existing intervention
2. Research rationale, design, methods, key deliverables, analysis plan, timelines, budget and implementation plan 25%
 - a. Describe the research methods, analysis plan and milestones
 - b. How will the project be implemented within a maximum of 24 months?
 - c. How will the project engage with partner organisations and other service providers to achieve the aims?

¹ Eccles, M.P., Mittman, B.S. Welcome to Implementation Science. Implementation Sci 1, 1 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1748-5908-1-1>

3. Feasibility of knowledge translation strategy, sustainability requirements, risks and risk mitigation strategies, and impact to suicide prevention/aftercare/postvention 35%
 - a. Describe the potential knowledge generated that will contribute to suicide prevention/aftercare/postvention
 - b. Describe the impact to suicide prevention/aftercare/postvention
4. Evidence of incorporation of lived experience in the co-creation of the project 15%

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	Applications submitted to Suicide Prevention Australia (by closing date)
2	Applications assessed by Reviewers using a standardised process
3	Assessed applications shortlisted by Reviewers using a standardised process
4	Shortlisted 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 Implementation Science Grant recipients must occur by 30 June 2024.

Duration

The funding is over one to two years.

Applicant requirements

Institutional support

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 and ensure that they follow the requirements of the Administering Institution.

Partner Organisation

Applicants for this grant are encouraged to partner with an Organisation for the duration of the research period. High quality applications are those with a clear link with a service provider. Details should be provided in the application form.

Researchers working in, or alongside, Organisations are eligible to participate when collaborating with Administering Institutions.

Research(er) eligibility

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 research.

In addition:

- Grants must be administered by a recognised Administering Institution which may be based in any State or Territory;
- The team must include a Lead Investigator who is based in a recognised Administering Institution for the duration of the research project;
- Teams can be made up of individuals from service organisations and those with lived experience as appropriate to the research project;
- Individuals can only be listed as a team member on one grant application in this round of funding;
- Grant applications will only be considered where the research undertaken is primarily related to suicide and its prevention;
- The grant is intended to fund projects that focus on testing the feasibility of existing interventions and/or implementation strategies for projects ready for scale-up or wider uptake in real-world settings.

Incorporating Lived Experience

We encourage applicants to incorporate the perspectives of lived experience of suicide as far as possible, relative to the research and methodology. This will ensure that new knowledge is co-created with lived experience.

Lived experience of suicide includes experiencing suicidal thoughts, surviving a suicide attempt, having self-harmed, having cared for someone through a suicidal crisis, or having been bereaved by suicide. Each lived experience of suicide is a personal life experience and has a unique perspective.

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.

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

Primary Area of Research

Applicants are required to indicate the primary area which their research will focus upon. The categories have been developed in reference to the World Health Organisation report - Preventing suicide: A global imperative, 2014² and Public Health Models.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

The Lead Investigator's CV must be submitted at the time of application as per the template provided.

References

One written reference for the Lead Investigator must be submitted at the time of application, and may include:

- The current position of the referee
- How the referee knows the Lead Investigator and for how long
- How the Lead Investigator is qualified to work on the research and their contribution
- Personal characteristics and specific skills of the Lead Investigator
- Any additional information the referee believes to be relevant

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.

Use of Funds

The total funding request cannot exceed \$50,000 (excl GST).

Funds can be used for costs associated with conducting research and translation activities, including salaries.

Indirect costs, including on costs, are not permissible under this grant.

² https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/131056/9789241564779_eng.pdf

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 Head of School or Department. There can be only one Administering Institution for the application.

The Letter of Support should include:

1. An understanding of the research, timelines and proposed involvement and support;
2. Endorsement of the Lead Investigator and their proposal;
3. Assessment of the viability of the research proposal;
4. Commitment to providing support to the Lead Investigator and their research.

Involvement of Partner Organisation(s)

The application should include a Letter of Involvement if there will be a partnership with an Organisation(s) for the duration of the research. This should be signed by the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Director of the Organisation.

The Letter of Involvement should include:

1. Support for the research, timelines and proposed involvement;
2. Commitment to providing support to the Lead Investigator and their research;
3. A summary of the Organisation's purpose, strategic goals, activities, organisational structure and key financials.

Enquiries

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