



Suicide Prevention
Australia

Application Guidelines Innovation Research Grant

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Australian Government
Department of Health

About Innovation Research Grants

In line with the priorities within the National Suicide Prevention Strategy and/or the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy or a population identified within the strategy, the Innovation Research Grant supports research which will enable one or more of the following objectives:

1. The generation of new knowledge about suicidal behaviour;
2. The provision of greater insights on the interruption or prevention of suicidal behaviour;
3. The exploration of new ways or improved practices in suicide prevention;
4. The undertaking of the testing and piloting of new services and programs for suicide prevention;
5. The provision of meaningful relationships between research and the application to services and program innovation.

This grant is intended to enable the successful project team to position themselves to competitively apply for further research funding which will further advance understanding of suicidal behaviour and prevention.

This grant program seeks to fund research where the research objectives are more exploratory in nature or more developmental in design.

The proposed research should clearly describe the objectives and nature of the innovation being explored. The conceptual and design rigor of the research methods should demonstrate how knowledge will be generated to break new ground or form different understandings about suicidal behaviour and suicide prevention.

Who should apply?

The Innovation Research Grant supports researchers at all stages of their career, however there is a requirement that Early- and Mid-Career researchers be included and play a leadership role in the project.

Award value

The total grant value is up to \$500,000 over a period of one to three years.

Key dates

Application period	Open 28 April 2026	Close 23 June 2026
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How to apply

Applications can be emailed to sprf@suicidepreventionaust.org

Selection Criteria

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| 1. Alignment with one of the priorities and/or populations identified in the National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025-2035 and/or the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025–2035 | 20% |
| 2. Scientific merit of the research rationale, design, methods, key deliverables and evaluation | 30% |
| 3. Feasibility of knowledge translation strategy, sustainability requirements, risks and risk mitigation strategies, timelines, and budget | 20% |
| 4. Evidence of incorporation of lived experience in the co-creation of new knowledge | 10% |
| 5. Track record of research team | 20% |

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 Innovation Research Grant recipients must occur by 1 January 2027.

Duration

The funding is for a duration between 1 to 3 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 may wish to partner with an Organisation for the duration of the research period. In this instance, details should be provided in the application form.

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

Researcher 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;
- The team must include early career researcher/s and/or mid-career researcher/s who are expected to take a supported leadership role.
- 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;
- We actively encourage applications from people with Lived experience, Lived experience-led research, partnerships with industry, service providers and policy makers

Career Stage

Eligibility Requirements (ERC/MRC Applicants Only)

Applicants must provide the following information at the time of application:

- PhD Conferral Date, applicants must specify the official date of PhD conferral.
- Career Stage, applicants must select one of the following categories:
 - Early Career Researcher (ECR) within five years of their PhD conferral
 - Mid-Career Researcher (MCR) between five and ten years post-PhD conferral

Career Disruption (ERC/MRC Applicants Only)

Applicants must indicate whether they have experienced a career disruption outside the standard timeframe. Career disruption may include, but is not limited to, parental or carer leave, caring responsibilities, illness or disability, natural disasters, or other significant personal or professional interruptions. Applicants must specify the relevant time period(s) of the disruption and describe any impact on research productivity, outputs, or career progression.

Incorporating Lived Experience

We encourage applicants to incorporate the perspectives of lived experience of suicide as far as possible, relative to the research question 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, 2014](#)¹ and Public Health Models.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

All Curriculum Vitae (CVs) must be submitted at the time of application using the prescribed template.

- The Lead Investigator's CV must be completed and submitted in full using the provided template.
- The Co-Investigator(s)' CV(s) must also be completed and submitted at the time of application using the same template.

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 and for how long
- How the Lead is qualified to lead the research
- Specific skills of the Lead
- Any additional relevant information

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.

¹ https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/131056/9789241564779_eng.pdf

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 \$500,000 (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.

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 Innovation Grant please contact Suicide Prevention Australia on +61 (2) 9262 1130 or email sprf@suicidepreventionaust.org