

VicHealth ARC Linkage Projects and NHMRC Partnership Projects Grants

Frequently Asked Questions for 2015

The VicHealth NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant will be advertised **concurrently** with the VicHealth ARC Linkage Project Grant. Applicants are advised that they can only apply for VicHealth to be an industry partner on **either** an NHMRC Partnership Grant **or** an ARC Linkage Grant. Applicants are advised to review the NHMRC Partnerships Grants and ARC Linkage Grants funding rules, requirements and instructions to applicants to decide which grant better suits their research project.

Please ensure you read the VicHealth ARC Linkage Projects Guideline, and the NHMRC Partnership Projects Guideline before you apply.

Applicants are advised to also read the VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion before applying.

Please review the following documents prior to making a decision on which Commonwealth grant to apply to VicHealth to partner on:

- NHMRC Partnership - [Scheme specific funding rules](#)
- NHMRC Partnership - [Advice and Instructions to Applicants](#)
- ARC Linkage Project – [Funding Rules](#)
- ARC Linkage Project – [Changes to the Funding Rules](#)
- ARC [Medical Research Policy](#)
- ARC [Medical Research Policy FAQ's](#)

How many Stage 1: Expressions of Interest do you receive and how many will you support?

We expect to receive a large number of Stage 1 applications. Applications that are strongly aligned with our criteria outlined in the Guidelines will be shortlisted and asked to complete a Stage 2 full application. VicHealth will support up to 10 projects to proceed with a full application to either the ARC or NHMRC.

How much cash does VicHealth offer?

Each successful project will receive between \$25,000 and \$50,000 cash per year, for up to three years. Applicants will be asked to nominate an amount in this range and justify expenditure in the budget section of Stage 2: Full Application. VicHealth reserves the right to negotiate with successful applicants in relation to their requested funds.

How will my Stage 1: Expression of Interest be assessed?

All applications are reviewed internally by senior VicHealth staff with content knowledge to ascertain if they align with VicHealth's Action Agenda for Health Promotion and at least one research priority as outlined in the Guidelines. Shortlisted applications will then be asked to complete a Full Application.

How will my Stage 2: Full Application be assessed?

Full Applications are externally reviewed by two experts who hold a PhD in the specific or broader field of the proposed research project, on the basis of established selection criteria. Conflict of interest processes are managed and transparent. Final decisions are then made by a Panel that consists of VicHealth managers and the Programs Group Executive Manager, plus an external expert in research and evaluation.

I am experiencing issues logging in using Google Chrome/Google.

Please try either clearing your cache, or try using another browser such as Internet Explorer or Firefox instead.

Can I request an extension?

No. Under no circumstance will late applications be accepted.

I am a PhD student, can I apply?

Research Officers, Research Assistants, and current PhD students cannot usually apply as Chief Investigator for these grants. However it is entirely acceptable to include provisions for a PhD student in the proposal.

How much detail do I need to include?

Stage 1: Expression of Interest is a brief overview of the research proposal. The main thing to do is demonstrate how closely aligned to VicHealth's research priorities and strategic imperatives your proposal is, and briefly outline the project objectives, expected outcomes and methodology. Please refer to the Guideline for further information on application and assessment criteria. Stage 2: Full Applications will require further expansion of your project description, information on your research objectives, expected outcomes, research team track record, methodology, budget and expenditure justification. Please refer to the selection criteria in the Guideline for more information on how to pitch your proposal.

Do I need to include references?

For Stage 1: Expression of Interest applications, you may cite sources to support key information or statistics in-text. For Stage 2: Full Application, you will be required to reference throughout your application, and will be able to upload your reference list as a word document or PDF.

I already receive funding from VicHealth – can I apply?

Yes, but in the interests of equity, funding may be prioritised towards applicants who are not currently in receipt of VicHealth funding for any other project. All applications will be assessed on merit.

Can I add appendices such as CV's?

There will be a section in Stage 2: Full Application to add the research team's track record and recent relevant publications.

What if my organisation is not incorporated?

The organisation does not have to be incorporated under the "corporations act" - we will accept "Other incorporated". This is the case for most universities and charitable institutions.

My institution does have a connection with the alcohol industry due to its brewing and/or wine making courses. Does this exclude us from applying?

This criterion refers to funding received from the alcohol industry for research purposes only. If you receive in-kind support from the industry for your facilities, sponsorship to promote the related course or to hold an event etc, you will not be excluded from applying. Please contact us if you need further clarification or to discuss your situation.

Can I include tables in my application?

You will have an opportunity to attach an additional document which may include tables and diagrams to support your proposal in Stage 2: Full Application. This is not an option for Stage 1: Expression of Interest.

The project Chief Investigator is based interstate, can they still be the CI on this application?

Yes. As long as at least 50% of the research project is being conducted in Victoria.

Can my project be based in states other than Victoria?

Yes, however at least 50% of the research project must be conducted in Victoria.

Can the administering organisation (AO) be based interstate?

For these grants, the AO may be based interstate however VicHealth prefers that the AO is based in Victoria. At least one CI must be based in Victoria, and at least 50% of the project must be based in Victoria.

Can I apply for a different funding amount each year?

No. If you require different amounts each year, please average out an amount to apply for the same dollar amount each year over the duration of the project. Stage 2 applicants will be asked to complete a basic budget template and justify expenditure in their application.

What kind of in-kind support/contribution is available from VicHealth?

In-kind support can be negotiated with staff at VicHealth depending on specific expertise or skills needed, but may include:

- Meeting periodically with researchers and partner investigators;
- Participation in the project advisory committee;
- Access to VicHealth resources, including internal data;
- Provision of resources and services to assist with dissemination of project outcomes including; expertise and advice on written reports; co-authoring peer reviewed publications; access to workshop venues and support to publicise and disseminate project activities and publications;
- Media and knowledge translation support for profiling research outcomes locally and nationally including help to put together press releases, and advice around appropriate media contacts.

What are the funding conditions of VicHealth if successful with the ARC or NHMRC?

If your proposal is successful with the Commonwealth your AO and any partner organisations will be required to enter into VicHealth's Standard Collaborative Funding Agreement.

Successful applicants are also required to submit annual reports and certified financial statements, the report templates can be found on the VicHealth [website](#).

What do you mean by "applicant".

Applicant refers to the CI and AO applying for or linked to a particular project proposal. CI's can apply for multiple projects.

Can I apply for multiple grants?

CI's may apply to VicHealth on multiple project applications for both ARC and NHMRC grants, but can not apply to both (NHMRC and ARC) for the same project.

Can I be CI on multiple grants?

Yes

Are the funding years negotiable?

No. If successful with the NHMRC, funding from VicHealth will commence in the 2016/2017 financial year.
If successful with the ARC, funding will commence in the 2017/2018 financial year.

Can I apply for an extension from VicHealth to apply to the Commonwealth in another round?

No.

If you have any further queries please contact:

Emma Cook on ecook@vichealth.vic.gov.au.