

# Grant Guidelines

## National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Projects Grant for VicHealth Partnership 2018

These grants are for research organisations deemed eligible by the NHMRC, who intend to apply to the NHMRC for a Partnership Projects Grant in 2018.

The 2018 VicHealth NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant will be advertised concurrently with the 2018 VicHealth ARC Linkage Projects Grant. Applicants are advised that they can only apply for VicHealth to be an industry partner on either a NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant or an ARC Linkage Project Grant. Applicants are advised to review the NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant and the ARC Linkage Projects Grant funding rules, requirements and instructions to applicants to decide which grant better suits their research project.

It will be the applicant's responsibility to ensure that VicHealth is an eligible partner and that the requested VicHealth involvement is in accordance with the rules of the NHMRC Partnership Projects scheme.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their application is complete and accurate.

A successful partnership represents a commitment on behalf of VicHealth to (a) partner in and (b) provide support for the NHMRC Partnership Projects application. This commitment is only applicable for the partnership project application round specified in the application.

VicHealth must be given an opportunity to review the final NHMRC Partnership Projects application prior to submission, and reserves the right to withdraw as a partner at that time should VicHealth consider the final partnership project application is not a suitable project for VicHealth to partner in.

### Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted using the online application form available on the VicHealth website. Acknowledgement will be by return email. Please call (03) 9667 9014 if you do not receive a confirmation email.

For questions regarding the funding round and guidelines please email [researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au) or call 03 9667 9014.

### Important information

Key dates	
Opening date for Expressions of Interest	10am, Tuesday 29 May 2018
Closing date for Expressions of Interest	1pm, Thursday 19 July 2018
Notification to Shortlisted applications	Late August 2018
Peer Review Process	August to October 2018
Announcement of successful partnerships	November 2018
NHMRC Partnership Projects grant application deadline	Continuous application process (apply by 30 April 2019)
Commencement of VicHealth funding	2019/2010 financial year

## Getting started

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### Are you eligible for this grant?

Before applying, please ensure you have thoroughly read and understood these Guidelines and the:

- [VicHealth's Privacy Statement](#)
- [VicHealth's Website Terms of Use](#)
- [Information for all applicants](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [NHMRC Partnerships funding rules, requirements and instructions to applicants for 2018](#)

## About VicHealth

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VicHealth is a pioneer in health promotion – the process of enabling people to increase control over and improve their health. The primary focus of VicHealth is promoting good health and preventing chronic disease. VicHealth's current research aligns with the VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion, which prioritises five areas for our work.

The Action Agenda is our strategic plan to 2023, with 10-year goals and 3-year priorities on the following strategic imperatives:

- Promote healthy eating
- Encourage regular physical activity
- Prevent tobacco use
- Prevent harm from alcohol
- Improve mental wellbeing.

More information about VicHealth is available at [www.vichealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au)

## About the partnership opportunity

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This award provides a mechanism by which researchers can approach VicHealth to become a partner on their NHMRC Partnership Projects application. VicHealth is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from researchers for NHMRC Partnership Projects that focus on health promotion and public health research and development, and that address our [strategic imperatives](#) and identified [research priorities](#).

VicHealth is aiming to support projects which:

- develop strategic research partnerships between higher education institutions and practitioners and policy makers to advance knowledge in health promotion and public health
- have small cross-disciplinary teams working on practical problems that have the potential to generate large health gains for Victorian population groups
- generate applied research outcomes that can be used to make a difference to the health of Victorians
- generate research and knowledge that is immediately useful for health promotion practice
- address the communication and translation of research in innovative ways.

# VicHealth NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant eligibility criteria and conditions

As this is a proposal for VicHealth to partner in an application to the NHMRC, all eligibility criteria of the NHMRC Partnership Scheme to which the application is made must be met. Additional eligibility criteria are below:

- The proposed project must address at least one of the research priorities identified by VicHealth (on page 3–4 of this document) and align with our strategic imperatives. Please refer to [VicHealth's Action Agenda for Health Promotion](#) for more information on our strategic imperatives.
- The project must be aligned with VicHealth's health promotion focus of preventing chronic disease at a community or population level (projects with an individual focus or those addressing disease treatment or management will not be considered).
- The project must be administered by an Australian-based organisation that is a NHMRC administering institution and a minimum of 50 per cent of the research project must be conducted in Victoria (the administering organisation may be based interstate).
- Applicants must apply to the NHMRC by 30 April 2019.

## Research priorities

### Physical Activity

**Goal:** 300,000 more Victorians engage in physical activity

- Active leisure time for children (5–12 years): Identifying and testing strategies and approaches to shift and change children's leisure time to include more physical activity.
- Young people's (12–17 years) use of public space: Improving understanding of how public space design principles and practices can best be utilised to enhance engagement and utilisation for physical activity amongst young people.
- E-sports and the gamification of physical activity: Improving understanding of the relationships between engagement with e-sports, and health and social behaviour and outcomes (e.g. physical activity, social connection, gender equality, gambling).
- Parental attitudes towards physical activity: Improving understanding of what parental attitudes towards children's physical activity in various settings are, how this relates to children's physical activity outcomes, and how positive parental attitudes might be shaped and reinforced.

### Healthy Eating

**Goal:** 200,000 more Victorians adopt a healthier diet

- Our changing food environments: Exploring the impact that changing food environments (e.g. rise of digital food delivery services, social media, reliance on convenience and fast food options) is having on dietary behaviours and the way we eat, with a focus on impacts for young people, and differential impacts for people from different socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Junk/fast food supply, access and consumption by children and young people: Strategies to reduce junk food consumption by children and young people through increased understanding of the value and interaction with junk food, its marketing and promotion (e.g. advertising and sponsorships) and exploring the barriers to consumption of a healthy diet.
- Fruit and veg (ways we eat): Exploring food values, norms, attitudes and behaviours for their impact on fruit and vegetable consumption and strategies to improve consumption.

## **Alcohol**

**Goal:** 200,000 more Victorians drink less alcohol

- High alcohol harm localities: Informing, trialling and implementing policy and program initiatives to reduce harm in localities and communities with high rates of alcohol-related harm.
- Characterising and testing interventions for risky drinkers: Improving the understanding of the demographic, behavioural, attitudinal, normative, social and cultural markers of those who engage in risky drinking and then testing a tailored intervention aimed at reducing the risky drinking.
- Drinking at home: Improving understanding of alcohol consumption in the home, including (but not limited to) demographic and behavioural descriptors, what is being consumed, how much and why, where the alcohol is being purchased. The findings should be structured to inform the development and testing of possible interventions.

## **Tobacco**

**Goal:** 400,000 more Victorians tobacco free

- Cessation amongst Aboriginal Victorians: Trialling interventions to understand what works to increase smoking cessation amongst Aboriginal Victorians.
- Developing deeper insights into people who smoke beyond sociodemographic markers: Improving understanding of those who smoke including (but not limited to) the environmental, social, cultural, psychological, normative and attitudinal drivers of people who have recently commenced smoking and those who continue to smoke.
- Tailored cessation support in primary care for people with complex needs: Develop and trial new approaches to supporting cessation attempts amongst those with complex needs in primary healthcare settings (e.g. general practice, community health) with the aim of increasing successful cessation attempts and preventing relapse.

## **Mental Wellbeing**

**Goal:** 200,000 more Victorians resilient and connected

- Young people's connection to communities: Improving our understanding of what types of communities (geographic, neighbourhood, online, other) young people are connected to and how to strengthen these links to prevent increasing isolation and loneliness.
- Gender equality through policy change: Improving our understanding of the policy levers for creating social change towards gender equality, and tracking and demonstrating the impacts of policy and legislation change.
- Community resilience and social connection: Developing and validating community-level indicators of resilience and social connection / social cohesion for improved wellbeing; improving our understanding of what works to build the resilience and social connectedness/social cohesion of a community.

## **Health Equity**

**Goal:** Reducing health inequities

- Measuring health inequities: Developing, trialling and validating approaches for measuring health inequalities in Victoria and Australia that capture the influence of social position on health outcomes.
- Early childhood interventions: Developing, testing and implementing priority interventions for promoting health equity throughout the early childhood years (0–8 years).

## Special conditions

VicHealth must be given the opportunity to review the final NHMRC Partnership Projects application prior to submission to the NHMRC and responsibility rests with the applicant to ensure the final project application is provided to VicHealth at least 14 working days prior to the NHMRC Partnerships closing date to allow VicHealth to review and if necessary sign the application. If there are any other requirements on the part of VicHealth in relation to the application process (e.g. letter of support) the applicant must request these at least 14 working days before they are required.

Health promotion is a broad and complex field and the success of our grant schemes rely on willing assessors. For this reason, there is an expectation that applicants be willing and available to review applications for VicHealth's future grant rounds.

## Funding available

VicHealth will provide between \$25,000 and \$50,000 cash plus up to \$12,500 in-kind support per annum for each project, for up to three years. The applicant must nominate an amount within this range and justify expenditure in the budget section of the application. Funds will not be contributed until the NHMRC Partnerships grant application has been successful. VicHealth reserves the right to negotiate with successful applicants in relation to their requested funds.

VicHealth will not support funding for any of the below:

- x biomedical and clinical research that does not have a clear link to health promotion. We will not fund laboratory-based science or health services research unless there is a strong rationale for its relevance to health promotion.
- x research which is unrelated to the research priorities listed in these guidelines
- x capital works (e.g. buildings or maintenance or purchase of major equipment, purchase and lease of land/vehicles)
- x commercial activities or individual persons
- x core organisational operating costs
- x projects that are considered by VicHealth to be the funding responsibility of local, state or federal government (e.g. population-based surveillance)
- x Organisations that accept any form of sponsorship, support or research funding from sources connected to the tobacco, alcohol or other industries which may pose a reputational risk to VicHealth
- x projects that have commenced or have already been funded to commence
- x videos, films, publications, conferences or travel in isolation of the specific project.

## Funding from the tobacco industry, alcohol industry and/or other like bodies

Funding will NOT be granted if any of the researchers and/or their host organisations are in receipt of any support from the Australian Tobacco Research Foundation, or other like bodies which may pose a reputational risk to VicHealth.

Funding will also NOT be granted if any of the researchers and/or their host organisations are in receipt of funding for RESEARCH purposes from the alcohol industry or any of its organisations.

Other industry partner(s) for the ARC Linkage Projects grant seeking funding from VicHealth must not be in receipt of any support from the Australian Tobacco Research Foundation or other like bodies which may pose a reputational risk to VicHealth.

## Application assessment

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VicHealth will review applications for adherence to the funding criteria and completeness. Applications that are incomplete or do not meet the funding rules will be deemed ineligible and not considered further. Correctly completed applications will be assessed as below.

EOIs will be assessed in two stages, firstly via internal review by VicHealth with the highest scoring proposals moving on to be assessed by two external experts holding a PhD in the specific or broader field of the proposed research project. Funding recommendations will be made at a panel consisting of VicHealth staff and relevant experts. Recommendations will be considered by VicHealth in accordance with delegation of authority.

### Stage 1: Internal review

EOI applications will be assessed for eligibility and shortlisted by VicHealth against the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Alignment with VicHealth's stated research priorities	50
Potential of the research project to deliver significant new knowledge for VicHealth and our stakeholders	50

### Stage 2: Review and ranking

Shortlisted applications will be assessed by two external experts whom hold a PhD in the specific or broader field of the proposed research project, based on established selection criteria. Stage 2 applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Scientific quality of the proposal and methodology	30
Benefit and impact for health promotion research, policy and practice	30
Feasibility of the project considering team expertise and resourcing (e.g. budget, staffing, timelines)	20
Extent to which project will utilise cross-sectoral collaborations and partnerships	20

A panel consisting of VicHealth staff and relevant experts will make recommendations to VicHealth based on the alignment with the above criteria and external reviews. Recommendations will be considered by VicHealth in accordance with delegation of authority.

### Completing the application

Applications must be completed online via an application form on our website, under ['Funding – Research Grants – NHMRC Partnerships'](#).

Applications sent via email or hardcopy will not be accepted.

VicHealth will not make requests for missing documentation or provide opportunities to amend incorrectly completed applications. Incomplete or incorrect applications missing such documentation will be deemed ineligible.

Applications must be endorsed by the Research Office of the Administering Institution and submitted online by the due date and time.

## Funding agreements

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By applying, you confirm that if you are successful in receiving VicHealth funding you will agree to the terms and conditions in the VicHealth Collaborative Research Agreement. For a copy of the agreement, please email [researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au)

It is a contractual requirement that all multi-year grants are required to submit annual progress reports and financial statements to VicHealth. One year after the final report is received VicHealth will require information from the Chief Investigator on the outputs and application of results from the research. Funded researchers are required to provide this information annually until no further publications, presentations or impacts emerge from the study.

VicHealth also requires researchers to provide (in addition to a final report) a 3000–5000 word research summary at the completion of the research. Research summary reports must be suitable for publication on the VicHealth website, within three months of completion of the project. Funding recipients may also be requested to participate in VicHealth research forums or further evaluation activities.

## Obligations of successful applicants

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### Reporting requirements

Successful applicants are required to provide VicHealth with:

- a copy of the final NHMRC Partnership Projects application prior to submission
- the outcome of the NHMRC application
- any changes in the partnership arrangements and other information provided in the application
- a copy of any reports provided to the NHMRC, either as a requirement of the funder or for any other reason
- a VicHealth annual progress report after the first full year of funding and a yearly financial acquittal relating to the expenditure of VicHealth funds.

These documents must be submitted to VicHealth in a timely fashion and/or as requested.

### Media coverage of the research

Funding recipients are expected to make the results of their research available through the usual scientific channels. The support of VicHealth must be acknowledged in any publications or media publicity arising from the research supported by VicHealth. One copy of any reprints or published paper shall be sent to VicHealth via [researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au)

VicHealth recognises that publications and presentations associated with the research project have a strong public good element and that public dissemination of successful project outcomes can be of key interest to the media. We ask that you contact VicHealth **in advance** of publications going to press or conference presentations occurring. It is the responsibility of the funding recipient and the institution to give VicHealth notice **in advance** and to accommodate any reasonable requests from VicHealth to participate in any publicity. In addition, funding recipients may be called upon by VicHealth to participate in promotional initiatives relating to the research project.

### Knowledge translation

A central priority of VicHealth is knowledge translation – addressing the gap between what is known from research and the implementation of this knowledge, by stakeholders, with the intent of influencing and improving policy and practice. During the contractual process researchers will be expected to work with VicHealth to create a translation plan which describes how the research will be translated to inform policy or practice.

## Conduct of research and ethics requirements

Research funded by VicHealth shall be conducted in accordance with the *Australia Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)*. Ethics approvals required for the project must be obtained and maintained for the duration of the project and copies of these approvals shall be provided to VicHealth within 30 days of approval or as requested.

## Further information

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If you have queries after reading these guidelines, or wish to speak with VicHealth staff regarding the VicHealth NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant, please email [researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au) or call 03 9667 9014. If you have any problems using the online application form please contact our help desk on 03 9667 1380 or email [helpdesk@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:helpdesk@vichealth.vic.gov.au) Applicants are also advised to consult the 2018 VicHealth [NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant FAQs](#) on the VicHealth website.

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation  
PO Box 154 Carlton South  
Victoria 3053 Australia  
T +61 3 9667 1333  
F +61 3 9667 1375

[vichealth@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:vichealth@vichealth.vic.gov.au)  
[vichealth.vic.gov.au](http://vichealth.vic.gov.au)



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