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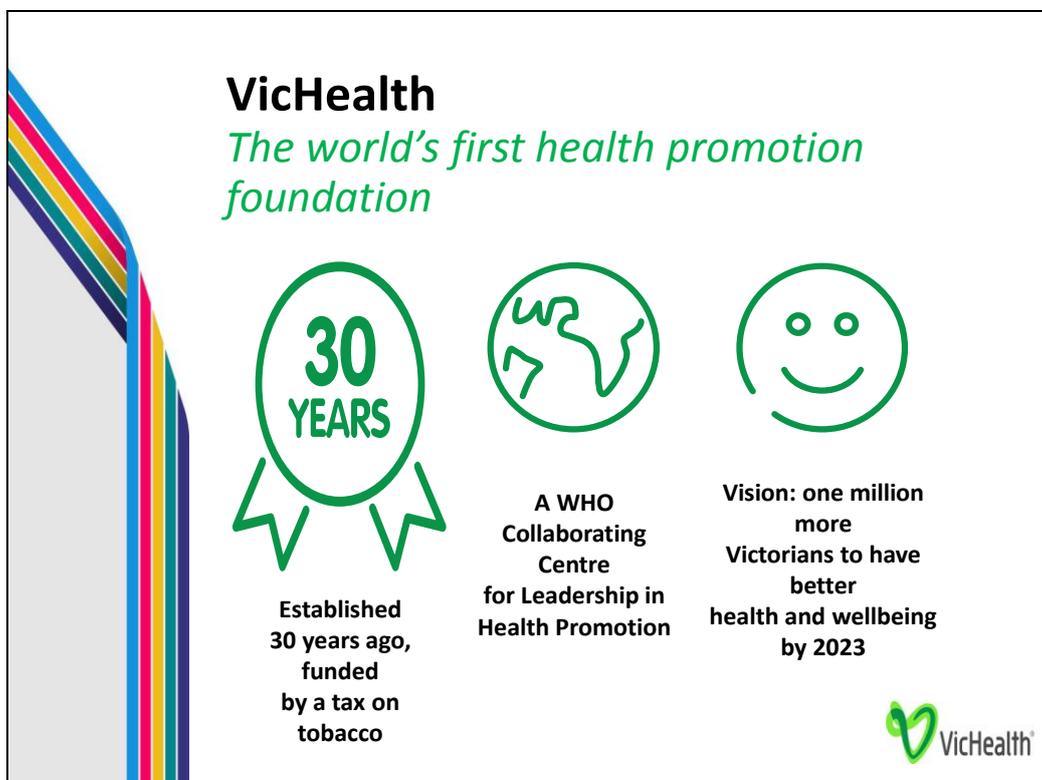
**VicHealth Partnership
Grants: Webinar
Briefing Session**

**Tuesday 26 November:
Research Partnership Grants**



Thank you for joining today's webinar to learn more about VicHealth's Research Partnership Grants.

I'm Dr Annemarie Wright and I will be talking through the grant information with you today. I'd like to start off by providing you with some background on VicHealth, in case you are not familiar with our work and our strategic imperatives.



At VicHealth, we work with our partners in health, sport, the arts, workplaces, research and education to discover, implement and share solutions for long-term health.

How do we do this?

- * By promoting good health and preventing illness, more Victorians will have better health and wellbeing, which means they will have more time and energy for the things they enjoy.
- * VicHealth has a broad reach, and has been designated a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Leadership in Health Promotion, with a focus on promoting health in Australia and the Western Pacific Region which is home to 1.8 billion people in 37 countries.
- * Overall, our vision is for one million more Victorians with better health and wellbeing by 2023



- * Guiding this vision, VicHealth has a 10 year Action Agenda, from 2013-2023
- * This year we had our latest refresh to renew our commitment to our 5 strategic imperatives
- * This refresh also strengthens the application of our core areas of work: health equity, research and arts

VicHealth’s Action Agenda has defined five key goals for 2013-2023, in areas with the largest potential to reduce disease and deliver the greatest measurable benefits for the health of all Victorians.

For Physical activity, the aim is to:

- Increase physical activity levels of less active people with a focus on:
- Fear of judgement experienced by women
- Social sport, active recreation and play
- Walking and active travel

For Tobacco, our aim is to:

- Further reduce tobacco use, with a focus on:
 - Preventing uptake among young people

- Supporting people to quit, particularly those from disadvantaged groups
- Reducing the appeal of tobacco products

For our Mental wellbeing strategy:

To increase mental wellbeing, we will focus on: Positive social connections among young people and gender equality

Healthy eating strategy

Further increase access to healthy foods and drinks in Victoria, with a focus on:

- Sports settings
- Fruit and vegetable consumption
- Food cultures

Alcohol strategy

To prevent harm from alcohol products, with a focus on:

- Changing risky drinking cultures
- Enabling environments to support low-risk drinking



VicHealth Partnership Grants

- Our new approach to grant-making
- Opportunities will be available twice per year

Round 1 – Opened 19 November 2019

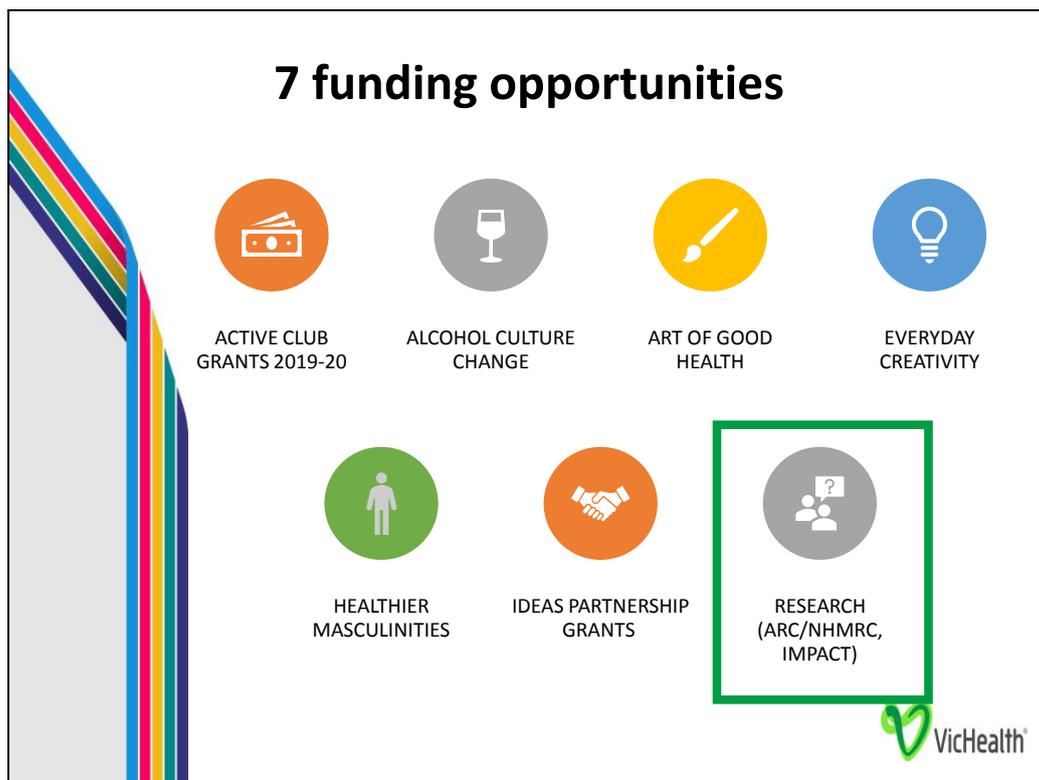


Now onto VicHealth's newly launched Partnership Grants, **our new approach to grant – making.**

- * VicHealth knows there are a range of organisations who share our vision to improve the health and wellbeing of the Victorian community.
- * The Partnership Grants will make it easier for organisations to access the funding they need to drive outcomes that directly contribute to this shared vision.

Opportunities for funding will be available twice per year

- * Organisations will be given plenty of notice about relevant upcoming opportunities, so they can spend more time planning strategic partnerships and delivering grant activities, and less time writing the grant applications.
- * In future, there will be two major grant funding opportunities each year



- * This round, round 1, will include 7 different funding types. You can find more information about all of the available grant opportunities on the VicHealth website, under the funding tab.
- * Today I'll be talking through the Research Partnership Grant, but I will briefly touch on the other funding opportunities available

- 1. Active Club Grants**
- 2. Alcohol Culture Change Partnership Grant**
- 3. Art of Good Health Partnership Grant**
- 4. Everyday Creativity Partnership Grant**
- 5. Healthier Masculinities Partnership Grant**
- 6. Ideas Partnership Grant**
- 7. Research:**

I will of course go into depth on our Research Partnership Grants in today's webinar.



- * Before we get into today's webinar, I will cover off on some housekeeping.
- * We encourage you ask questions throughout this webinar. There is a chat function and a question function, my colleague Emma is here with me to answer your questions as they come in.
- * We will answer some questions as we go and some we may save until the end.
- * When we answer questions we may allow for everyone to see the response, which means that if someone has the same question as you, you may find the answer is already on the screen.
- * If any technical issues arise and it becomes too hard to progress, we can stop the webinar and I can send you through a copy of the slide deck and all of the information via email. Hopefully we won't encounter any tech issues today.
- * In the handouts section, you will be able to download a copy of the Research Partnership Grant information sheet as well as the Partnership Grant guidelines. We will also send this out to you after the webinar is finished.



Background – Research Grants

- VicHealth has been a research funder for 30 years
- Research grants have evolved over time
- Research Grants Investment Review 2018

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First off, some background on VicHealth's Research Grants

- * **VicHealth has been a research funder for more than 30 years**
 - 12% of our annual expenditure is on research
 - This includes research grants, commissioned research, population surveys and evaluation
- * Our research grants have evolved over time, and most recently we conducted a Research Grants Investment Review in late 2018
- * The purpose of this review was to identify strengths & areas for improvement for our Research Grants Program, and make recommendations to maximise its value and impact
- * The review included:
 - * Recommendations from our external auditors
 - * In-depth interviews with researchers and research stakeholders
 - * Review of Australian & International grants programs
 - * Feedback from VicHealth staff who manage research grant projects
 - * The insights gained from this review informed the development of our Research Strategy



It's important to note that previously, our research grants program operated at arms length. With our new strategy there has been a shift toward more active involvement and partnership.

The new focus areas include:

- * Strengthening the impact and scale of our research
- * Fostering partnerships for research
- * Facilitating flow of knowledge from research to policy & practice

So, what will success look like for our Research Strategy?

For Impact and scale

- We want more VicHealth research grants that directly inform changes to policy and practice

For Partnerships

- We want more VicHealth grants to partnership-based projects.
- And, more partnerships that accelerate the translation of research findings into action

For Flow of knowledge

Our hope is to see greater funding of research that fills the evidence gaps and better dissemination of research findings to enhance their impact.

This strategy is now being applied across the work that we do including our new Research Partnership Grants.

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Overview of our new approach

- Combine research grant application processes into one
 - Impact Research Grants &
 - ARC Linkage / NHMRC Partnership Grants
- Two stage process of EOI and then full application
- We are looking for :
 - New evidence for direct impact on health promotion policy or practice
 - New ways to improve the health and wellbeing of the Victorian community



The rest of this presentation is to highlight what we're looking for in Research Grant applications. I'll be primarily talking to the EOI Information Sheet. We know that grant writing takes a lot of time and effort – and so we are trying to streamline the requirements to reduce the load on researchers.

For our New Approach

- * It has a strong emphasis on impact, partnership and knowledge flow as outlined in our Research Strategy
- * Streamline processes by making research grants a part of the larger Partnership Grants process – greater efficiency
- * Combined the research grant application process – different to how it has been previously, these two grants are open at the same time:
 - Impact Research Grants &
 - ARC Linkage / NHMRC Partnership Grants
- * Priorities relate to our Action Agenda - a change from previous years where we've been more specific in our research priority areas – this year we want to open our options more. We want to cast a wider net for research ideas.

* This round will be a two stage process of EOI (Expression of Interest) and then full application

Ultimately we want:

- 1. New evidence for direct impact on health promotion policy or practice**
- 2. Improve health and wellbeing outcomes of the Victorian community**

Research Priorities

- Evidence gaps related to Action Agenda Imperative Strategies
- Address focus areas from two or more imperatives
- Strong contribution from policy or practice partners
- A health equity lens – enabling all Victorians to experience a good and healthy life





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As mentioned our research priorities are more open for this round.

But having said that they must relate to the focus areas of one or more imperative strategies, so in order to complete the application you will need to read the Action Agenda and review the focus areas.

For example for the imperative strategy of physical activity, the focus areas are

- * fear of judgement experienced by women,
 - * social sport, active recreation and play and
 - * Walking and active travel
-
- * So the research application needs to address at least one focus area from one of our imperative strategies. It's also important to note that we are particularly interested in projects that address focus areas from two or more imperatives for example, physical activity and mental wellbeing. In this way, one project can lead to positive outcomes in more than one area
 - * We are also looking for strong contribution from policy or practice partners as we know that their involvement from the beginning of a research project can increase the likelihood that the research findings will have immediate

impact in the real world, due to the insights provided by policy makers in the research design and implementation process.

- * When we say strong involvement from the beginning we are looking for research proposals that go beyond the Chief Investigator designing the intervention and then finding a suitable partner.
- * We are looking for looking for active involvement in 4 areas of the research across the life time of the research project. This includes active involvement in:
 - * research question design
 - * research methodology design
 - * research implementation and
 - * active participation in dissemination
- * And finally, in regard to Health Equity, we know that the experience of health in Victoria follows a social gradient, that is, the higher a person's socio economic status the better their health is.
- * We want enable **all** Victorians to have the means to a good and healthy life, regardless of cultural background, gender, sexual orientation, disability, income, educational attainment, occupation or location.
- * EOI applications that apply a health equity lens will be considered favourably.

What's on offer?

Opportunity	Total Funding available	Funding to commence	No. of grants available
Partnerships for Impact Research Grants	Up to \$200,000 over two (2) years	From July 2020	Up to three research projects will be funded
ARC Linkage <u>or</u> NHMRC Partnership	Between \$25,000 and \$50,000 cash plus up to \$12,500 in-kind support per year for three years	From July 2021 – note, applications to ARC and NHMRC must be submitted by July 2021	Up to three research partnerships will be funded



Let's now look at what's on offer, and this depends on the grant type.

I just want to be clear about key differences between our Impact Research Grants and our partner funding for ARC and NHMRC grants.

For Impact, VicHealth is the sole funder, projects will be funded for 2 years from July 2020 and the total amount is up to \$200,000,

Whereas for ARC/NHMRC the application is for VicHealth to be a funding partner on this larger grant which would then need to be submitted to ARC or NHMRC for funding. Applications to ARC or NHMRC must be submitted by July 2021. Our cash contribution for these grants \$25-50k per year for 3 years. Please note we only release the funds if the application to the NHMRC or ARC is successful. Also it is up to the research proposal chief investigator to ensure their proposed research fits within NHMRC/ARC guidelines.

For stage 1 no budget is required – we will review research proposals relative to the grant funding available. I will explain this further toward the end of this webinar. Applicants progressing to Stage 2 however, will be asked for a detailed budget.

One final note, it's important to note that proposals cannot be submitted for both grants.

Therefore, I'd like to encourage you to think about why your application is best suited to the particular grant you've chosen – in terms of budget required, partnerships required and timelines of project completion and delivery of project outcomes.



Eligibility criteria

- The Chief Investigator must be from an eligible institution
- Impact grants– Aboriginal led organisations with an academic partner



The eligibility criteria are outlined at the top of page 2 of your Research Grant EOI information sheet.

The criteria are fairly self-explanatory but I will highlight a few that we tend to get questions about.

The Chief Investigator must be from an eligible institution

An eligible institution is defined as: a university or a research institution linked to a university - to check we use the same list of institutions as the NHMRC - see [here](#).

However for Impact Grants , we will accept projects where the Chief Investigator is from an Aboriginal led organisation as long as there is an academic partner from an Australian university. We do this because VicHealth is committed to working with Aboriginal people and Aboriginal led research is viewed as being key to self-determination and improving the health and wellbeing of our first nations people.

Other criteria to highlight are that

- * The research must be conducted solely in Victoria to achieve positive outcomes for the Victorian community

- * If you've received funding from VicHealth previously you need to have satisfactorily fulfilled the requirements of that grant whether it be in progress or completed
- * Researchers can't be any way affiliated with the tobacco industry in terms of support, funding, sponsorship or endorsement
- * Of course if you don't meet the relevant ARC or NHMRC funding criteria, you won't be eligible for VicHealth's partnership funding for these grants either

Whilst it is not mandatory we prefer projects that demonstrate active involvement by policy makers and/or practitioners in developing the research design, delivery of the research and disseminating the findings, and as I mentioned earlier this is important for real world impact of the research.

What can VicHealth Research Partnership Grant funding be used for ?

We will consider EOI proposals that :

- Address one or more imperative strategy focus areas
- Actively involve policy makers or practitioners
- Direct influence on policy or practice related to health promotion or primary prevention
- Include PhD students or early career researchers



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We will consider EOI proposals that :

- * Address one or more imperative strategy focus areas
- * Actively involve policy makers or practitioners
- * Can demonstrate that there will be a direct influence on policy or practice related to health promotion or primary prevention
- * Include PhD students or early career researchers, as this will support the development of researchers with applied industry experience, who will work alongside policy makers or practitioners as part of the research project.



What we won't fund

- Research that does not have a clear link to health promotion
- Projects that are the funding responsibility of local, state or federal government
- Capital works
- Projects that have already commenced
- Projects submitted for more than one scheme



As you'll see in the EOI information sheet, there's a clear list of factors that would mean that a project is not suitable for VicHealth Partnership Research Grant funding. I'd like to mention some of these specifically as they have come up for funding previously but we've had to exclude them from consideration:

As a government funded health promotion foundation, VicHealth's remit is health promotion and illness prevention.

Therefore **biomedical research, clinical research, laboratory-based science research and health services research** that does not have a clear link to health promotion will not be funded.

We also cannot fund Projects that are the funding responsibility of local, state or federal government or capital works such as purchase of major equipment.

Projects that have commenced or have already been funded to commence will not be funded– we want to fund new research only, not top-up something that is existing.

And as previously mentioned, we won't consider proposals that are submitted for more than one VicHealth Research Partnership Grant.

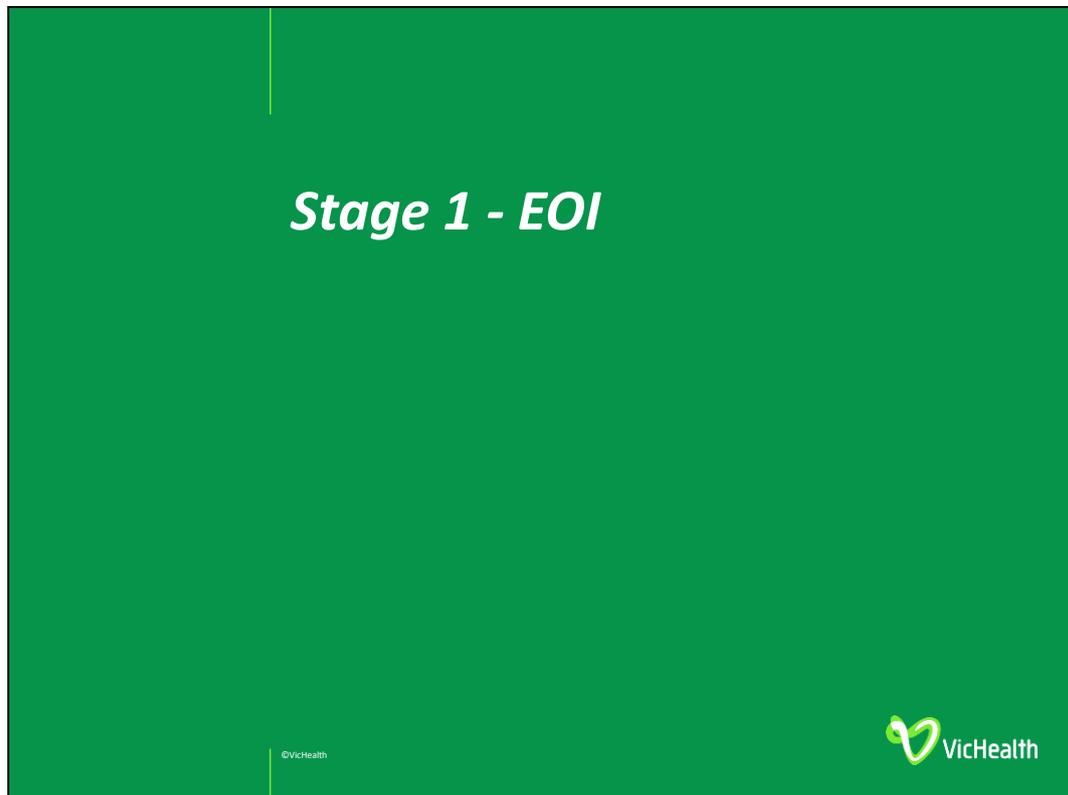


Application process

- EOI applications open
Tuesday 19 November 2019
- Close at 12:00 midday on Monday 10
February 2020.
- Applicants selected to provide a full
proposal for Stage 2 will be notified by
10 March 2020.



Timelines are presented here. Applications opened on 19 November, and will close on 10 February. Applicants selected to go through to the next stage will be notified by 10 March. Following this, full applications for stage 2, must be submitted by 28 April 2020 using an application template to be supplied by VicHealth.



Now I'll go over what's required in stage 1, the EOI Stage. I'll cover the application questions and explain what we are looking for.



Stage 1 - Application Questions

1. Project title
2. What is your research question?
3. What evidence gap does it address?
4. Which VicHealth Imperative Strategy focus area(s) does this proposal address?
5. How will you answer your research question? – attach a diagram or flowchart to help explain this
6. Who will you partner with to deliver the research?
7. What is your preferred research partnership grant opportunity?

Attach

- Bio's of team members
- Endorsement from your research office



Keep in mind who you are writing for, the audience, think about who will be assessing applications. At this stage, it will be content specialists who are not researchers – therefore plain language is key to getting your idea across.

It helps if your research question can demonstrate a link to the action agenda from the outset, so try to make that apparent, as it is critical to the assessment criteria.

In regard to the evidence gap, we want to know what the evidence gap and how you know it to be so, what is the evidence gap in relation to the focus area you've selected that you will address – if possible please include a reference to a research review related to the area. Remember we're particularly interested in evidence gaps related to how we can improve health equity in our focus areas.

Ensure that you clearly articulate the focus area or areas you are addressing in your proposal, this should be fairly straight forward.

'How you will answer the research question' is the bulk of the application – here we want to know how you'll address the evidence gap you've identified

and what you expect the outcomes will be for policy, practice and improvement in the health and wellbeing of Victorians.

If its an ARC or NHMRC application, please mention if there's a particular aspect of the research that you'd like VicHealth to fund. We've also asked for the inclusion of a diagram or flow chart here as we've found that it is a useful device for clearly articulating the research design, methods and outcomes – we trialled this approach in our last research grant round and found that it was really effective.

In regard to partners, please tell us about your research partners, who is confirmed or unconfirmed, how involved they've been in the development of the proposal. For example, did the research question originate with them, were they actively involved in planning the project or writing the proposal, is there support from leadership within the organisation for the research.

Finally, we ask you to select one preferred research opportunity from a drop down menu. That is, Impact Grants, ARC Grants or NHMRC Grants.

You will also need to attach a completed template of research team biographies and certification from the CIs Research Institution Research Office confirming endorsement of the project.

It's important to note here that for the EOI stage, we will not require the submission of a budget spreadsheet. Instead, when we assess EOI grant applications we will be cognisant of whether the proposed research can be delivered within the budget available, particularly for Impact grants. If the research partners will be making contributions to the research, it will be worth noting this so this can be considered when the impact grant EOIs are assessed.



Stage 1 - EOI assessment

- Alignment with the chosen VicHealth strategy focus area(s) (30%)
- Potential of the research to directly influence health promotion policy and practice in Victoria (30%)
- Potential impact of the research to improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians (40%).
- Notification of outcomes 10 March 2020



As mentioned, the assessment will be undertaken by VicHealth research and content specialists.

The criteria reflect the research priorities mentioned earlier, that is

- Alignment of the proposal with the selected Imperative Strategy Focus Area
- Potential to directly influence policy and practice
- And, potential to improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians

Applicants will be notified of the outcomes on March 10th next year.



Now to Stage 2, and the full application.



Stage 2 – Full application

- Successful EOI applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal
- Submission date: 28th April 2020
- Assessment undertaken by VicHealth and external content experts using a peer review process
- Assessment criteria



Applications shortlisted from Stage 1 will be invited to submit a full proposal for stage 2 – we'll provide guidelines and a template for this at the time of notification.

For this stage the proposal will be assessed by external content experts using a peer review process, and then VicHealth. The assessment criteria are as follows:

*** Assessment Criteria**

Scientific quality of the proposal and methodology (35%)

Benefit and potential scalable impact for direct application to health promotion policy and/or practice (35%)

Viability of the project considering team expertise and resourcing, e.g. budget; timeline; organisational capacity to deliver (20%)

Demonstrated partnerships with practitioners and/or policy makers to address a real-world health promotion problem (10%)

A brief note about Conflict of Interest- COI, as we will ask about this during the application process.

- * Researchers cannot be affiliated in any way with the tobacco industry
- * Applicants will be asked to declare funding from alcohol, junk food and sugar sweetened beverage industries.
- * A declared conflict of interest generally DOES NOT automatically preclude the applicant from being eligible for funding.
- * VicHealth will assess all declared conflicts of interest on a case-by-case basis.



Looking ahead now in terms of what to expect if your project is funded.

In regards to Project establishment:

- Successful applicants will be allocated a VicHealth project manager who will formalise the contract, and they will be expected to develop a knowledge translation plan with the researcher– in developing this joint knowledge translation plan with VicHealth we expect that the researcher and VicHealth will be active in KT activities throughout the life of the research
- In the establishment stage, we want to ensure the inclusion of differential impact measures so that we can identify health equity impacts.

For Project implementation:

- VicHealth expects to be an active partner in the research project
- Our focus is to provide support to optimising the research wherever possible. This includes:
 - Active involvement with VicHealth in knowledge translation throughout the life of the project
 - Regular meetings

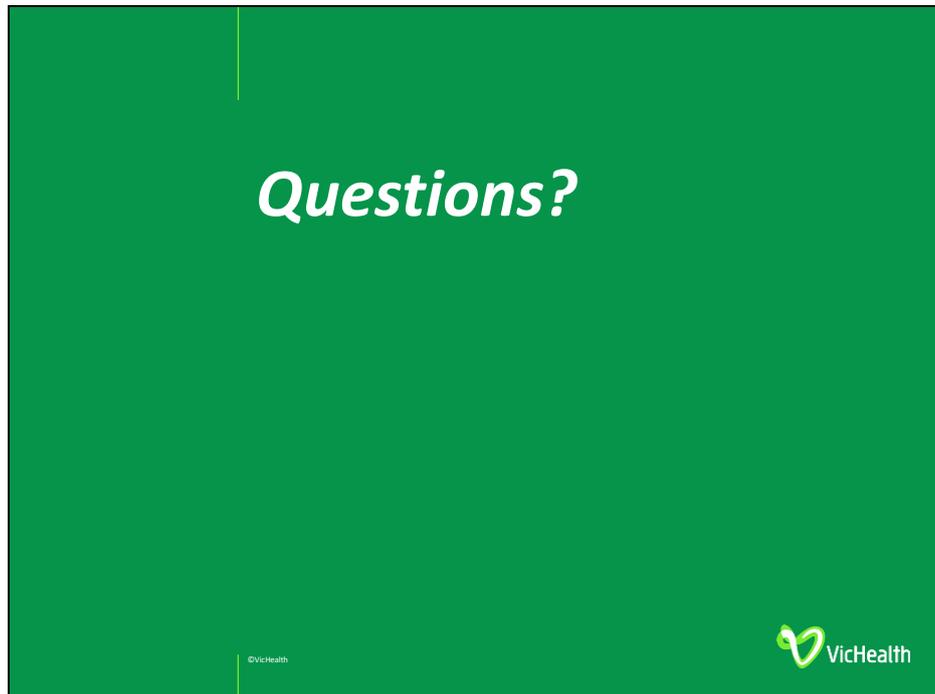
- Progress report(s) and final report.

- **A note here about the final report.**

We have adapted the approach used by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation. In this report we are placing a greater onus on researchers to identify the practice and policy recommendations.

We are asking that researchers use succinct and plain language, and use visuals to describe the outcomes/recommendations.

In placing these requirements within the report we hope to maximise the uptake of research findings. Applicants successful in stage 2 will be provided with a VicHealth report template.



Now onto final questions that I can talk through, you can type these in now and Emma has also been compiling some of your great questions for me to talk through now.

Just be aware that we can't provide advice or comment on specific research ideas, but we can talk to the Action Agenda and focus areas within the strategies which might help you consolidate your research idea

Thank you again for tuning in to today's webinar. Please reach out to us with any questions, this is not your last opportunity as questions are open throughout the grant open period. Our contact details are available on the final slide.

That's all for now. We will be in touch in the coming days with a follow up email, including a link to a recording of this webinar in case you want to share it with your colleagues. Thank you and bye for now!



Opening: Tuesday 19 November

Closing: 10 February 2020 (research)
24 February 2020 (the rest)

Announced: By 30 April 2020

Visit:
www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/funding/partnership-grants

Contact:
partnershipgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au

