

# Research Partnership Grants

## EOI information sheet

### About the grants:

---

VicHealth is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for research grant funding for our two research partnership grant funding opportunities:

1. Partnerships for Impact Research Grants
2. Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage or National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Project applications.

The purpose of these Research Partnerships Grants is to generate new and relevant evidence that will have a direct influence on health promotion policy and/or practice to ultimately improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of the Victorian community.

This is the first stage of a two-staged application process. Stage 1 is an EOI process. Shortlisted applicants from this stage are then invited to complete a full application as part of a Stage 2.

### Research priorities for VicHealth

VicHealth is interested in partnering on research projects that address evidence gaps related to the imperative strategy focus areas outlined in the [VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion 2019-2023](#) (see page 10), and outlined in more detail in VicHealth's [imperative strategies](#).

Please note: childhood obesity prevention is also one of VicHealth's healthy eating focus areas. More information about VicHealth's position on childhood obesity prevention can be found [here](#).

**Applications must align with at least one focus area within the imperative strategies. Applications that address a combination of focus areas across two or more imperative strategies will be viewed favourably.**

VicHealth knows that forming strategic funding partnerships with researchers and health promotion organisations will result in research outcomes that have the greatest potential for real world impact, therefore, applications with strong contributions from policy or practice partners will be viewed favourably.

### Focus on health equity

VicHealth is committed to health equity, that is, enabling **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. All successful research grants will be expected to measure differential impact across advantaged and disadvantaged population groups.

### What's on offer:

---

Researchers can submit an EOI for one of two opportunities:

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 or 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

Please note that proposals may not be submitted for both grants.

## Eligibility criteria

---

### **Mandatory eligibility criteria requirements for ALL research partnership grants:**

The following are mandatory eligibility criteria for both partnership research funding opportunities:

- have an Australian Business Number and a bank account for Electronic Funds Transfer of grant funds
- deliver activities or products solely in Victoria, with a primary focus on undertaking health and wellbeing activities that achieve positive outcomes for the Victorian community
- be able to work in partnership with VicHealth and others
- if applicable, have satisfactorily fulfilled the requirements of any previous and/or current grants from VicHealth
- have insurance cover, including professional indemnity or public liability insurance, for the purpose of this project and agree to provide insurance certificates if requested by VicHealth
- not be subject to any current or impending legal action which could impact its financial viability
- not be a recipient of support, funding, sponsorship or endorsement from the tobacco industry or organisation that may pose a reputational risk to VicHealth.

### **Additional Partnerships for Impact Research Grants funding eligibility criteria:**

Applications must be submitted from:

- researchers at an administering institution listed on the [NHMRC Approved Administering Institutions list](#); or
- Aboriginal led organisations with an academic partner with an affiliation to an Australian University\*.

\* 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. VicHealth will accept applications for the Partnerships for Impact Research Grant from Aboriginal led organisations that do not meet the definition of administering institution. Applications from Aboriginal led organisations must include an academic partner with an affiliation to an Australian University.

### **Additional ARC and NHMRC funding eligibility criteria:**

Applicants are advised to review the [NHMRC Partnership Projects](#) and the [ARC Linkage Projects](#) funding rules, requirements and instructions to applicants to ensure that:

- they are an eligible organisation as per ARC or NHMRC funding criteria;
- they meet ARC or NHMRC funding criteria;
- VicHealth is an eligible partner for the ARC or NHMRC grant; and
- the requested VicHealth involvement is in accordance with the rules of the ARC Linkage and NHMRC Partnership Projects schemes.

### **Non-mandatory eligibility criteria - research partnerships with policy/practitioners:**

Applications that can demonstrate active involvement of policy makers and/or health promotion practitioners will be considered favourably. Active involvement includes policy makers and/or practitioners being involved in developing the research design, delivery of the research and disseminating the findings.

## What can VicHealth Research Partnership Grant funding be used for?

---

### **We will consider EOIs for research partnership proposals that:**

- address one or more imperative strategy focus areas outlined on page 10 in [VicHealth's Action Agenda for Health Promotion 2019-2023](#).
- demonstrate active involvement of policy makers and/or practitioners
- have a direct influence on health promotion or primary prevention policy and/or practice to ultimately improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of the Victorian community.
- include PhD students or early career researchers as this will support the development of a workforce of researchers with applied 'industry' experience.

## **VicHealth will not fund:**

- biomedical and clinical research that does not have a clear link to health promotion
- laboratory-based science or health services research unless there is a strong rationale for its relevance to health promotion
- research which is unrelated to VicHealth's Action Agenda 2019-2023 and imperative strategies
- capital works (e.g. buildings or maintenance or purchase of major equipment, purchase and lease of land/vehicles)
- commercial activities or individual persons
- core organisational operating costs
- projects that are considered by VicHealth to be the funding responsibility of local, state or federal government (e.g. population-based surveillance)
- researchers that accept any form of sponsorship, support or research funding from sources connected to the tobacco industry, or which may pose a reputational risk to VicHealth
- projects that have commenced or have already been funded to commence
- videos, films, publications, conferences or travel in isolation of the specific project
- research proposals submitted for more than one VicHealth Research Partnership Grant will not be considered.

## **Stage 1: EOI applications**

---

EOI applications open Tuesday 19 November 2019 and 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.

Full applications must be submitted by 28 April 2020 using an application template to be supplied by VicHealth.

### **EOI Application questions**

#### **1. Project title**

#### **2. What is your research question?**

*Provide a plain-language statement of your research question. 50 words max*

#### **3. What evidence gap does it address?**

*Provide a plain-language summary of the policy or practice evidence gap the research will address to ensure real world impact in Victoria (note - research with a focus on health equity will be viewed favourably). If available, include an in-text reference to a literature review confirming the evidence gap. Up to 100 words.*

#### **4. Which VicHealth Imperative Strategy focus area(s) does this proposal address?**

*Note: Only research projects directly related to one or more of the imperative strategy focus areas outlined on page 10 of the VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion 2019-2023 will be considered. Up to 50 words.*

#### **5. How will you answer your research question?**

*Provide a plain language overview of the research design, methods and expected outcomes, and attach a diagram or flowchart that visually communicates your research design and timeline. Up to 300 words (supplemented with upload of research design diagram or flow chart)*

#### **6. Who will you partner with to deliver the research?**

*Provide a summary list of your partners, that is, research institutions and policy or practice partners, their partnership status (confirmed, unconfirmed) and their main roles and responsibilities. Up to 100 words.*

#### **7. What is your preferred research partnership grant opportunity?**

*Please indicate which research grant you would like to apply for.*

## EOI application- attachments and supporting documentation

The following supporting documentation must be submitted with the EOI application:

- (a) [Research team biography template](#) (provided) detailing the name, position and role in research for all members of the research team.
- (b) Certification by Research Office of University. VicHealth requires the endorsement of the Head of Department and Research Administration Officer for your EOI application to be considered.

## EOI assessment

EOI applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- 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%).

Applicants will be notified of assessment outcomes by 10 March 2020.

## Stage 2 – Full application

---

Successful EOI applications will be invited to submit a full proposal. A template for the full proposal will be provided by VicHealth.

The full proposal will be assessed by VicHealth and external content experts against the following 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%)

The full application will be required to be submitted by 28 April 2020.

Applicants will be notified of assessment outcomes of full applications in early June 2020.

### Conflict of Interest declarations for full applications

VicHealth will NOT provide funding for research where any of the researchers or research partners are in receipt of any support from the Australian Tobacco Research Foundation, or other like bodies which may pose a reputational risk to VicHealth.

Full applications must declare all conflicts of interest researchers and research partners have with the 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.

## If you are successful for a VicHealth Research Partnership Grant

---

Successful applicants are required to:

- Enter into a Funding Agreement with VicHealth and comply with its [Terms and Conditions](#)
- Comply with data collection requirements as requested by VicHealth
- Measure differential impact
- Submit progress and final reports in the format prescribed by VicHealth
- Submit financial acquittals
- Participate in face-to-face progress meetings
- Develop a knowledge translation plan and deliver activities as detailed in the plan

- Acknowledge VicHealth in all communications
- Not be a recipient of financial support from tobacco companies or other organisations that pose a reputational risk for VicHealth
- Maintain appropriate insurances throughout the partnership period.

## Recommended reading

---

Before applying, we recommend you read and understand the following documents:

Name	Why is it recommended?
<a href="#">VicHealth Action Agenda 2019-23 and Strategies for imperatives</a> relevant to application	<p>VicHealth’s Action Agenda for Health Promotion includes five strategic imperatives and three cross imperatives that have the greatest potential to improve the health of the Victorian population. It is recommended that applicants read the Strategy 2019-23 related to the imperative area/s they wish to address.</p> <p>Research applicants should also ensure they have read the <a href="#">Research</a> cross-imperative strategy in addition to the relevant imperative strategy.</p>
<a href="#">NHMRC Partnership Projects</a> and <a href="#">ARC Linkage Projects</a> funding rules	<p>These criteria are essential for applicants of this Grant.</p>
<a href="#">Fair Foundations Framework</a>	<p>A conceptual and planning tool to guide action on the social determinants of health inequities.</p>
<a href="#">Partnership Analysis Tool</a>	<p>VicHealth’s most-downloaded resource. This tool helps organisations understand different purposes for collaboration, reflect on established partnerships and focus on ways to strengthen new and existing partnerships.</p>

## Still have questions?

---

- If you’ve read the VicHealth Partnership Grant Funding Guidelines, including relevant documents under the ‘Getting started’ section, and still have questions, please submit an enquiry via the funding page [www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/funding/](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/funding/) or leave us a message on 9667 9050
- Please note: We are unable to provide advice or feedback on specific research proposals, however, we can clarify the intention of the Research Partnership Grants and the focus areas within VicHealth’s imperative strategies.