

Innovation at VicHealth goes national through the Australian Competitive Grants Register

Producing, synthesising and translating practical health promotion knowledge to ensure better health for all.



VicHealth's Innovation Grants Scheme is now listed on the Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR). The ACGR lists schemes that provide competitive research grants to higher education providers.

This is an opportunity for researchers from around Australia to submit an application for 2 years of funding to trial an innovative idea, research a new concept or methodology, or develop better supporting evidence relevant to the theory, policy and practice of health promotion.

Until now, the Innovation Grants Scheme has been open only to researchers based at Victorian not-for-profit organisations. The grant round is now available nationally, with the requirement that the research is conducted in Victoria. Expanding and enhancing our research networks and collaboration offers significant potential for improving population health in Victoria as we draw on the expertise of Australia's most promising researchers.

Organisations receiving an Innovation Grant will be eligible for support from the Australian Government that will cover research infrastructure expenses. This will mean that all of the funding provided by VicHealth can be used exclusively for the research project.

About VicHealth

VicHealth is the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, and is the peak body for health promotion in Victoria. With a focus on promoting good health and wellbeing and preventing ill health, VicHealth leads and advocates for excellence in health promoting policies and programs. Our activities reflect national and public health and state health promotion priorities and strategies.

Research at VicHealth

VicHealth has a tradition of investment in public health research and the promotion of evidence-based interventions to promote the health and wellbeing of the Victorian community. VicHealth has historically used a combination of investigator-initiated research and priority-driven research to foster innovation while also shepherding the research agenda towards policy outcomes.

About the Innovation Grants

The next VicHealth Innovation Grants Scheme opens in September 2011. The maximum funding available for each grant is \$200,000.

Proposals should be related to one of our priority areas for focus, which are shaped by the major health challenges that confront Victorians and represent the greatest preventable risk factors for ill health: smoking; alcohol misuse; lack of physical activity; poor nutrition; discrimination, violence and social and economic exclusion; and UV exposure.

Research must be conducted in Victoria, about Victorians (however the administering organisation can come from anywhere in Australia). We prefer to support cross-disciplinary teams working on practical problems that have the potential to generate large health gains for Victorian population groups.

Applicants will need to demonstrate an understanding of the risk factors and social determinants of health, and the capacity to generate research findings that are immediately useful for health promotion practice.

The project could also inform the development of a larger scale project for consideration by research funding bodies in the future.

For more information about our priority areas for focus, see VicHealth's Strategy and Business Plan 2009–2013: www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/strategic

Innovation Grants will be advertised to universities throughout Australia. VicHealth applies a rigorous selection and review process to applications, including an internal review to assess their alignment with VicHealth's key result areas and health promotion approach. To assess the quality of the application, shortlisted applications are externally reviewed by academic experts in an area aligned with the application. Funding is expected to commence in July 2012.

Who can apply?

This funding is for researchers based at any Australian not-for-profit organisation, including universities and research centres. The researcher may work in partnership with community organisations.

These grants are for both established and early career researchers who hold a PhD or equivalent postgraduate qualification and/or have a research track record.

More information

- **Research we support**
www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/research
- **VicHealth Strategy & Business Plan 2009–2013**
www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/strategic
- **The VicHealth Knowledge Policy**
www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/knowledge-policy
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