

## **VicHealth National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC) Partnership Projects Scheme**

Please ensure you read the VicHealth NHMRC - Partnership Project Grants 2013/14 Funding Guidelines before you apply, the guidelines and information on how to apply can found on the VicHealth website under [Funding Opportunities](#).

Please also read the NHMRC Partnerships for Better Health - Partnership Projects Funding Rules before applying, the funding rules and information on the scheme can be found on the NHMRC [website](#).

### **Frequently Asked Questions for 2013/14**

#### **The NHMRC cancelled the final Partnership Projects round for 2013 to review the scheme, what if there are significant changes to the scheme in 2014, including changes to their key dates?**

It is envisioned that the review that the NHMRC is currently undertaking is largely focused on the NHMRC's application and review process, it is not expected that there will be any significant changes to the funding model of the Partnership Projects scheme. If there are any changes to the partner organisation's responsibilities, VicHealth will endeavour to address these requirements.

As of November 2013, the NHMRC have not announced their key dates for the Partnership Projects scheme in 2014. VicHealth is therefore assuming that the 2014 NHMRC Partnership Projects first call will be open from January 2014 – April 2014, it is expected that the second call will be open from May 2014 – July 2014. VicHealth applicants must apply in the NHMRC first or second call for 2014. VicHealth will accommodate any variances to the anticipated NHMRC dates upon announcement.

If VicHealth supported projects do not submit an application in the 2014 NHMRC first or second call, or if a VicHealth supported project is unsuccessful with their application in either of these rounds, the applicants will need to re-apply to VicHealth in 2015.

#### **I am having issues with the online application form, uploading attachments or I have forgotten my login or password.**

For all issues with accessing and completing the online application form, email [helpdesk@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:helpdesk@vichealth.vic.gov.au). If you are unable to insert your reference list, please email it to [cmckeone@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:cmckeone@vichealth.vic.gov.au).

#### **Can I have an extension?**

No, under no circumstance will late applications be accepted.

#### **Who can apply?**

Please refer to the [NHMRC Partnership Funding Rules](#) for details of eligible organisations.

#### **Can a Phd student apply as a Chief Investigator?**

Because these are highly competitive grants and rigorously assessed by the NHMRC, VicHealth are unlikely to support a proposal where the chief investigator is a current Phd student.

#### **I am not an incorporated organisation, can I still apply?**

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

#### **What cash and in kind support will be provided by VicHealth?**

VicHealth will provide \$25,000 in cash and \$10,000 per year in in-kind support. This amount is non-negotiable and the total annual payment cannot be increased for a shorter project.

The in kind support items will be negotiated with VicHealth when the full application is being developed for the NHMRC, however it usually includes:

- a VicHealth staff member's participation on a steering committee and/or a project development team,
- support to develop research materials, including surveys and reports,
- support with the development and dissemination of the research outputs,
- media Support for profiling research locally and nationally,
- use of VicHealth conference rooms and facilities, and
- provision of internal data sets, including the VicHealth indicators survey data.

### **How will my application be assessed?**

All applications are reviewed internally to ascertain if they align with VicHealth's Action Agenda, in particular project must address a three year priority and ten year goal listed against one of the VicHealth strategic imperatives.

Shortlisted applications will be externally reviewed by two experts whom hold a PhD in a similar field to the application. An intern panel will then convene to review the shortlisted applications, the internal and external assessments to select which applications VicHealth will support. The panel includes Senior and Executive members of VicHealth with content and research expertise as well as an external expert with research and evaluation expertise.

Successful VicHealth applicants will then submit a full application to the NHMRC in partnership with VicHealth.

### **How much detail do I need to include in the Expression of Interest (Eoi), some of the details of our project have not been finalised yet?**

This is an Eoi only. The main purpose is to demonstrate how closely aligned to VicHealth's Action Agenda your proposal is and to provide an outline of what you actually plan to do. We are also interested in the expected outcomes of the research and how they will be applied. Please refer to the assessment criteria in the guidelines for more information on how to pitch your proposal. We understand it is only an Eoi; therefore it is likely that specific details may not yet be finalised. We also understand that the budget is only indicative and that it will be finalised in the full NHMRC application.

### **I already receive VicHealth funding, can I still apply?**

All applications will be assessed on merit; we may consider how much other VicHealth funding applicants are receiving however if it has been significant over the years.

### **How do I ensure that my project addresses the VicHealth Action Agenda?**

Read [VicHealth's Action Agenda for Health Promotion](#). The most important section to read is the section on the strategic imperatives. Applications must address at least one of the three year priorities and one of the ten year goals listed against a strategic imperative, an application can address more than one priority and more than one goal under different imperatives.

Projects must also have a population wide, primary prevention focus. Projects with an individual focus or those addressing disease treatment or management will not be considered.

### **How many expressions of interest does VicHealth expect to receive and how many will receive VicHealth support?**

There is no specific threshold or target of applications that VicHealth aims supports annually; VicHealth support is dependent upon the quality of the individual application and funding awarded on merit, not ranking.

VicHealth usually receives around ten Eoi's and supports three to five. It is expected however that in 2014 VicHealth will receive a lot more applications than in previous years because of greater awareness of the scheme and limited national funding opportunities for public health researchers.

In the past three years, approximately 50 per cent of VicHealth supported NHMRC Partnership applications have been successful.

**What are the funding conditions of the VicHealth partnership support?**

VicHealth funding is conditional on all other partners and the administering institution signing the VicHealth standard collaborative research agreement. This agreement will be amended to reflect any NHMRC specific requirements, for a copy of the agreement please email [cmckeone@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:cmckeone@vichealth.vic.gov.au) or [awright@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:awright@vichealth.vic.gov.au) .

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

**Any further queries**

Please contact Candice McKeone on 9667 1368, or [cmckeone@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:cmckeone@vichealth.vic.gov.au). Candice will be out of the office from the 21<sup>st</sup> November to the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014, in the interim please contact Annemarie Wright, Principal Policy Officer at [awright@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:awright@vichealth.vic.gov.au).

