



Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Projects Grant for VicHealth Partnership

Guidelines for applicants

These grants are for Victorian organisations deemed eligible by the ARC, who intend to apply to the ARC for a [Linkage Projects Grant](#) in 2015 – **opening September (TBC)**.

VicHealth is calling for applications that relate to the strategic imperatives outlined in the VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion, and VicHealth’s research priorities outlined on page 2.

The 2015 VicHealth ARC Linkage Projects will be advertised [concurrently](#) with the 2015 VicHealth NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant. Applicants are advised that they can only apply for VicHealth to be an industry partner on [either](#) an ARC Linkage Grant [or](#) an NHMRC Partnership Grant. Applicants are advised to review the ARC Linkage Grants and the NHMRC Partnerships Grants funding rules, requirements and instructions to applicants to decide which grant better suits their research project.

There will be a two-stage application process to VicHealth. Applications will be rigorously assessed before funding in principle is offered. If successful with the ARC, VicHealth funding will commence in the 2017/2018 financial year.

VicHealth will provide between \$25,000 and \$50,000 cash plus \$12,500 in-kind support per annum for up to three years.

Key dates

Stage 1: Expression of interest (EOI)

Opening date	Monday 23 February 2015 – 9am
Closing date	Tuesday 10 March 2015 – 3pm
Announcement of shortlisted applications	Tuesday 31 March 2015

Stage 2: Full application

Opening date	Wednesday 1 April 2015 – 9am
Closing date	Thursday 30 April 2015 – 3pm
Peer review process	May–June 2015
Announcements	Late June 2015
Commencement of VicHealth funding	2017/2018 financial year

Submission of applications

- Applications must be submitted from researchers at an eligible administering institution preferably in Victoria.
- 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.
- Late applications will not be accepted.

Further Information

If you have queries after reading this guideline, or wish to speak with VicHealth staff regarding the ARC Linkage Projects Grant, please email Emma Cook on ecook@vichealth.vic.gov.au

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



Grant information, criteria and process

About VicHealth

VicHealth is a pioneer in health promotion – the process of enabling people to increase control over and improve their health. Our primary focus is promoting good health and preventing chronic disease.

About the ARC Linkage Projects Grant

This grant is for organisations planning to apply to the Commonwealth for an ARC Linkage Projects Grant, who wish to have VicHealth represented as an industry partner in their application to the ARC.

VicHealth is interested in being an industry partner with projects that focus on health promotion, and public health research and development, and that support the implementation of the VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion.

Health promotion is a powerful, cost-effective and efficient way to maintain a healthier community. It enables people to increase control over and improve their health. Rather than focusing on people at risk for specific diseases, health promotion involves the population as a whole in the context of their everyday lives. Activities are geared toward promoting health and preventing ill-health.

For further information about VicHealth, check our website: www.vichealth.vic.gov.au

As an industry partner, VicHealth aims to:

- encourage and develop strategic research partnerships between higher education institutions and practitioners and policy-makers to advance knowledge in health promotion and public health
- support 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
- increase the communication and translation of research in innovative ways
- develop partnerships between policy makers, influencers, and practitioners.

Applicants are strongly advised to review the ARC Linkage Projects Funding Rules, the Changes to the Funding Rules, and the ARC Medical Research Policy document for further information on the grant, to see what research is eligible for funding by the ARC, and to help inform which Commonwealth grant to apply to VicHealth to partner on.

Criteria for applying to VicHealth for partnership

VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion

Applicants are advised to read the [VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion](#) to ensure their application is aligned with our approach, goals and priorities before applying.

To be considered for funding:

- Projects **must** contribute to providing an evidence base to support VicHealth in addressing one of the five VicHealth strategic imperatives. In particular, the research must address a strategic imperative's three-year priority and ten-year goal. Please refer to the VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion on pages 24 to 35 for more information.
- Projects **must** also be aligned with VicHealth's primary 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).

VicHealth's research priorities

To be considered for funding, projects **must** address at least one of the priorities outlined below:

Healthy eating

VicHealth will prioritise funding of research that can contribute to the reduction of overweight and obesity, poor diet and nutrition-related health inequities in Victoria. VicHealth particularly welcomes submissions that will develop the evidence base for interventions enabling healthier food choices, specifically: limiting consumption of discretionary foods; reducing sodium intake; and increasing fruit and vegetable consumption.

Physical activity

VicHealth will prioritise funding of research that can help increase Victorians' participation in sport, walking and physical activity, and reduce their sedentary behaviour. VicHealth recognises the social determinants of these behaviours and prioritises action for those who are inactive or somewhat active. VicHealth welcomes submissions addressing social, environmental, technological and demographic trends relevant to these issues.

Tobacco

VicHealth will prioritise funding of research that can help reduce smoking in Victoria, particularly by developing approaches for smokers who are unable or unwilling to quit and/or population groups where smoking rates are disproportionately high. VicHealth welcomes submissions exploring the characteristics and context of such smokers and population groups, and developing the evidence base for associated harm reduction and cessation strategies.

Alcohol

VicHealth will prioritise funding of research that can help advance action to prevent risky drinking behaviours, associated harms and inequities in Victoria. VicHealth particularly welcomes submissions that can advance our understanding of alcohol cultural change through whole of population or community-level interventions that could help improve alcohol-related social norms and behaviours.

Mental wellbeing

VicHealth will prioritise funding of research that can help strengthen resilience among children and young people in Victoria. We are interested both in building evidence for more effective implementation of existing policies and programs, and in developing new approaches that respond to the contemporary context of children and young people in Victoria. VicHealth welcomes submissions focusing on the building of resilience in specific settings such as families, schools, workplaces and the digital world, and that address associated issues of health equity.

Health promotion

VicHealth will prioritise the funding of research that will help strengthen health promotion activity across Victoria and/or across multiple strategic imperatives. VicHealth welcomes submissions that can enable practical responses to contemporary or emerging challenges of direct relevance to the VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion.

Eligibility criteria

Criteria for researchers

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.

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.

In the interests of equity, funding may be prioritised towards applicants who are not currently in receipt of VicHealth funding for any other project.

Please note, Research Officers, Research Assistants, and current PhD students cannot usually apply as Chief Investigator for these grants.

Criteria for industry partner(s) other than VicHealth

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.

In the case of funds awarded from another source for the same research or a part of the research, it is incumbent upon the Chief Investigator to advise VicHealth as soon as possible.

It is preferable that the research be conducted in Victoria, and be about Victorians. A minimum of 50% of the research project must be conducted in Victoria. The administering organisation may be based interstate.

Application criteria

Research applications **must**:

- align with at least one of the strategic imperatives outlined in the [VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion](#)
- address one of the research priorities identified by VicHealth
- complete an Expression of Interest (Stage 1) and if successfully shortlisted, complete a VicHealth Full Application (Stage 2)
- apply to the ARC in the 2015 round – opening September (TBC).

In addition, VicHealth will view favourably research that considers the social determinant of health inequities.

See '[Fair Foundations: the VicHealth framework for health equity](#)' for more information.

VicHealth prefers to support cross disciplinary teams working on practical problems that have the potential to generate large health gains for Victorian population groups.

VicHealth has committed itself to collaborative knowledge processes at the level of production, synthesis, translation and transfer. There is an expectation that successful applicants will engage with knowledge translation activities with VicHealth.

What will not be funded

VicHealth will not fund:

- biomedical and clinical research that does not have a clear link to health promotion. In particular, we will not fund laboratory-based science or health services research unless there is a strong rationale for its relevance to health promotion
- research which is unrelated to the research priorities listed in these guidelines
- 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)
- organisations that accept any form of sponsorship or support from tobacco companies, or research income from the alcohol industry
- projects that have commenced or have already been funded to commence
- videos, films, publications, conferences or travel in isolation of the specific project.

Process

The 2015 VicHealth ARC Linkage Projects Grant will be advertised concurrently with the 2015 VicHealth NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant. Applicants must note that they can only apply for VicHealth to be an industry partner on either an ARC Linkage Grant or an NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant. Applicants are advised to review the ARC Linkage Grant and the NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant funding rules, requirements and instructions to applicants to decide which grant better suits their research project.

Applicants who successfully gain the support of VicHealth will apply to the Commonwealth in the following rounds:

- NHMRC Partnerships Project Grants – Cycle 3, closing 9 December 2015
- ARC Linkage Partnerships Project Grants – Annual Round, opening September 2015 (TBC by ARC).

For more information on the 2015 VicHealth NHMRC Partnership Projects grant, please review the [Guidelines](#) and [VicHealth website](#).

The 2015 VicHealth ARC Linkage Projects Grant will be conducted via a two stage application process. We are not seeking fully developed research proposals in the first instance.

Stage 1: Expression of interest (EOI)

Applicants can apply online by completing a short EOI which will cover:

- administering organisation details
- project contact/Chief Investigator
- project title and timelines
- research team
- VicHealth strategic imperative and research priority addressed
- project summary
- potential or confirmed partner organisations.

Stage 2: Full application

Shortlisted applicants will be required to complete a VicHealth Full Application which will be rigorously assessed before funding in principle is offered.

Applications for Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be via an online application form on our [website](#).

Selection criteria and assessment

Stage 1: EOI applications will be assessed for eligibility and shortlisted by senior VicHealth staff against the following criteria.

Criteria	Weighting
Alignment with the VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion and at least one research priority	60%
Potential significance of the research proposed	40%

Successful applicants will be asked to complete a full application to VicHealth via our online application form (Stage 2).

Stage 2: Full applications will be assessed by two external experts whom hold a PhD in the specific or broader field of the proposed research project, on the basis of established selection criteria. Conflict of interest processes are managed and transparent. Stage 2 applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Alignment with VicHealth's primary prevention approach, a strategic imperative and the associated three-year priority and ten-year goal	30%
Demonstration of cross-sectoral and/or multi-disciplinary collaborations and partnerships	10%
Potential to deliver significant new knowledge or fill a gap in knowledge, in alignment with VicHealth's research priorities	10%
Potential practical application and/or policy relevance of the research outcomes	10%
The applicant's track record in research and expertise in the area of enquiry	10%
The degree to which staffing, budget and timelines are realistic	10%
The degree to which the project addresses health inequities	10%
Evidence of a creative and innovative approach	10%

A panel will make the final decision on successful applications based on the alignment with the ARC Linkage Projects Grant criteria and external assessments.

Funding available

VicHealth will provide between \$25,000 and \$50,000 cash plus \$12,500 in-kind support per annum, for up to three years. The applicant must nominate an amount within this range and justify expenditure in the budget section of the full application. VicHealth reserves the right to negotiate with successful applicants in relation to their requested funds.

Grant conditions

Final offers will be made subject to a successful outcome with the ARC. Applicants who are made an offer by the ARC must notify VicHealth in order to proceed with the contracting process.

Announcements by the ARC for the 2015 round are expected in mid-2016. VicHealth funding will commence in the 2017/2018 financial year.

All applicants are required to accept the Terms and Conditions relating to the grant.

In addition, the successful applicants will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with VicHealth and are required to:

- produce an annual progress report after the first full year of funding
- complete a final report
- complete a 3000–5000 word research summary
- comply with VicHealth branding guidelines
- comply with VicHealth evaluation and reporting processes.

Research summary reports must be suitable for publication on the VicHealth website within three months of the end of the funding period. Funding recipients may also be requested to participate in VicHealth research forums or further evaluation activities.

Funding agreements

By submitting an application, you agree to be bound by the Terms and Conditions in the VicHealth Standard Collaborative Funding Agreement if successful in receiving funding from the ARC. For a copy of the agreement, please email ecook@vichealth.vic.gov.au

The conditions of funding within these documents relates to:

- timely completion of the project
- appropriate financial management
- compliance with VicHealth evaluation and reporting processes.

Contacts for more information

For more information, please contact Emma Cook on ecook@vichealth.vic.gov.au or (03) 9667 9014.

Applicants are also advised to consult the 2015 VicHealth ARC Linkage Projects Grant FAQs on the [VicHealth website](#).



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