

# VicHealth Impact Research Grants 2019

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## Guidelines for Applicants

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### For funding commencing in 2019

To be considered for funding, research proposals must address one of the research priorities outlined in these Guidelines.

VicHealth will provide up to \$200,000 over two (2) years for each project. Up to five (5) projects may be funded in this round. If successful, funding will commence in May/June 2019.

### Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted from researchers at an eligible administering institution (a university or a research institution linked to a university). Applications that can demonstrate established partnerships with policy makers and/or practitioners will be considered favourably. We encourage other organisations including local councils, policy makers and practitioners to partner with a researcher from an eligible research institution. Please see the frequently asked questions for further information.

Applications must be submitted using the online application form available on the VicHealth [website](#).

Acknowledgement will be by return email. Please email [researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au) if you do not receive a confirmation email.

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](mailto:helpdesk@vichealth.vic.gov.au).

**Late applications will not be accepted.**

**Before applying, please ensure you have thoroughly read and understood both the [Funding Information For All Applicants](#) and these Guidelines.**

### Important information

Key dates	
Opening date for Full Applications	9am, Friday 1 February 2019
Closing date for Full Applications	12pm, Wednesday 13 March 2019
Internal review process	March 2019
Peer review process	April 2019
Panel	May 2019
Announcement of successful projects	May 2019
Commencement of VicHealth funding	May/June 2019

## Getting started

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### Are you eligible for this grant?

Before applying, please ensure you have thoroughly read and understood the following documents:

- [VicHealth Impact Research Grants Guidelines](#)
- [Funding Information for all Applicants](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [VicHealth's Website Terms of Use](#)

## About VicHealth

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VicHealth is a pioneer in health promotion – the process of enabling people to increase control over and improve their health. The primary focus of VicHealth is promoting good health and preventing chronic disease. VicHealth's current research aligns with the VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion, which prioritises five areas for our work.

The Action Agenda is our strategic plan to 2023, with 10-year goals and 3-year priorities for the following strategic imperatives:

- Promote healthy eating
- Encourage regular physical activity
- Prevent or reduce tobacco use
- Prevent harm from alcohol
- Improve mental wellbeing.

**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](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au)**

## About the VicHealth Impact Research Grants

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This new grant round titled 'Impact Research Grants' will replace VicHealth's Innovation Research Grants.

The change from Innovation Research Grants to Impact Research Grants is in response to a 2018 review of VicHealth's investment in research. As a result of the review, VicHealth's future investment in research will have a greater focus on translational efficacy, and partnerships to improve the potential for impact and translation.

The Impact Research Grants will prioritise research projects that generate new and relevant evidence for direct application and impact on health promotion policy and practice in Victoria for optimal public benefit. Along with sound research design, grant applications will be required to demonstrate anticipated measurable impact and potential scalability of results to ensure meaningful impact.

Researchers will undertake a two-year research project addressing specific research priorities related to the [VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion strategic imperatives](#) - promoting healthy eating, encouraging regular physical activity, preventing (or reducing) tobacco use, preventing harm from alcohol and improving mental wellbeing.

VicHealth is an active partner in collaborative, action-orientated research for health promotion in Victoria. Successful applications must engage in knowledge translation activities with VicHealth and other project partners.

The funding available for this round will allow up to five (5) projects to be funded for up to \$200,000 per project over two years. Funding and projects are expected to commence by June 2019.

## Health Equity Focus

VicHealth will prioritise the funding of research that will help strengthen approaches to improving health equity and result in more equitable outcomes for Victorians. By world standards, most Victorians enjoy good health and our life expectancy is one of the highest in the world.

However, good health is not distributed evenly in the community. People with low incomes, limited education or unskilled occupations, those from culturally diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal people, women, people with a disability and LGBTI communities often experience poorer health than the rest of the population.

To achieve health equity, we need to address the underlying drivers of health and wellbeing and the social processes that distribute them unequally across society.

Fair Foundations: the VicHealth framework for health equity is a tool which describes how the differences in health and wellbeing outcomes between sub-population groups in the Victorian community are the result of the complex interplay of deep structural drivers of health and the social position occupied by these sub-population groups. People in lower social positions generally have reduced access to the resources required for good health when compared to the general population.

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

## Grant eligibility criteria and conditions

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Applications must meet the following criteria:

- The proposed project must address at least one of the research priorities identified by VicHealth (on page 5-6 of this document)
- The project must be aligned with VicHealth’s health promotion focus of preventing chronic disease at a community or population level. Projects addressing disease treatment or management will not be considered.
- We will look favourably on research proposals from teams that include PhD students or early career researchers as this will support the development of a workforce of researchers with applied ‘industry’ experience.
- Applications that can demonstrate established partnerships with policy makers and/or practitioners will be considered favourably, but this is not mandatory. This will become mandatory in 2020 to be considered for funding.

Other criteria:

- To ensure VicHealth funds impartial and high quality research free from real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest, all applicants are required to declare conflicts of interests when applying for research funding.
- If a conflict of interest is declared, applicants are required to propose how the conflict will be managed so as to maintain confidence in the research.
- 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. However, VicHealth will not grant funding if any of the researchers are in or have been in receipt of:
  - any support from a tobacco company, the Australian Tobacco Research Foundation, or other like bodies. Note: e-cigarette companies, fully or partially owned by the tobacco industry, are also considered tobacco companies.
- 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 apply as a Chief Investigator for these grants.
- Projects funded under this grant must be conducted in Victoria, and be about Victorians. The administering organisation may be based interstate.

## Research Priorities

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To be considered for funding, research proposals must address one of the research priorities detailed below. Consideration of health equity in addressing these priorities will be viewed favourably.

### Mental Wellbeing

- Develop, trial and validate an evidence informed, co-designed digital approach that builds young people's (aged 12-25 years) face-to-face social connections and enhances their mental wellbeing.
- Undertake a robust independent evaluation of existing program(s) aimed at engaging men and boys in gender equality, particularly focusing on efforts to transform harmful gender stereotypes, masculinities and negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours.
- Investigate or monitor policy change in relation to gender equality, to improve our understanding of the policy and other levers for creating social change towards gender equality or to track and demonstrate the impact of policy and legislation change in Victoria.

NOTE: Applications addressing the above research priorities that incorporate a focus on health equity will be viewed favourably.

### Healthy Eating

- Develop, trial and validate an approach to engage with families to increase vegetable consumption among children aged 3-12 years.
- Develop, trial and validate an approach to build capacity of the community to reduce junk food consumption in a local community.
- Improve the understanding of the digital food environment (e.g. the rise of digital food delivery services, social media, reliance on convenience and fast food options) and how this is impacting dietary behaviours; and develop, trial and validate an approach which leads to healthier food choices in this environment.

NOTE: Applications addressing the above research priorities that incorporate a focus on health equity will be viewed favourably.

### Physical Activity

- Improve the understanding of parental attitudes towards children's physical activity and how this impacts children's physical activity outcomes. With this knowledge, develop, trial and validate an approach to increase children's physical activity outcomes by addressing parental attitudes.
- Improve the understanding of people's patterns of travel throughout the day and attitudes towards regular short active travel trips within a neighbourhood; and develop, trial and validate an approach to increase the number of regular short trips adopted within the neighbourhood.
- Develop, trial and validate a local level approach to shift and change children's leisure time to include more physical activity.

NOTE: Applications addressing the above research priorities that incorporate a focus on health equity will be viewed favourably.

### **Alcohol**

- Develop, trial and validate an approach to reduce harm in localities and communities with high rates of alcohol-related harm. Applications with an academic and community/local partnership will be viewed favourably.
- Improve the understanding of the demographic factors, normative beliefs and social and cultural markers of those groups who engage in risky drinking; and then test a tailored alcohol culture change intervention to reduce risky drinking.
- Develop, trial and validate an approach to embed existing evidence-based alcohol brief interventions in primary or community care settings (e.g. primary care, community health, allied health), with a focus on the successful factors that contribute to practitioner uptake.

NOTE: Applications addressing the above research priorities that incorporate a focus on health equity will be viewed favourably.

### **Tobacco**

- Develop, trial and validate an approach to support successful cessation attempts and prevent relapse among those with complex needs in healthcare settings.
- Trial an enhancement to an existing smoking cessation support approach for the purpose of strengthening the effectiveness and/or the sustainability of the approach.
- Develop, trial and validate an approach to prevent uptake and increase smoking cessation among Aboriginal Victorians.

NOTE: Applications addressing the above research priorities that incorporate a focus on health equity will be viewed favourably.

### **Health Equity**

- Trial a knowledge exchange tool for the purpose of increasing the understanding of the social determinants of health and health equity for practical application in research and policy development.
- Trial an approach that increases public awareness and knowledge of social determinants of health and health equity.

## **Application process**

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Applications must be completed online via an application form on our website, under '[Funding - Impact Research Grants](#)'. Applicants are required to submit a full application to be considered for funding.

For more detail regarding the information you will need to provide and fill out via the online application form, please see Appendix 1.

## Application assessment

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VicHealth will review applications for adherence to the funding criteria and completeness. Applications that are incomplete or do not meet the funding rules will be deemed ineligible and not considered further. Correctly completed applications will be assessed as per below.

**Stage 1:** Full applications will be assessed for eligibility and shortlisted by VicHealth against the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Alignment with VicHealth's stated research priorities and consideration of health equity	50%
Potential of the research project to directly impact on evidence informed health promotion policy and practice in Victoria for optimal public benefit	50%

**Stage 2:** Shortlisted applications will be assessed by two external experts who 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. Shortlisted applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Scientific quality of the proposal and methodology	35%
Benefit and potential scalable impact for direct application to health promotion policy and/or practice	35%
Feasibility of the project considering team expertise and resourcing (e.g. budget, research team, timelines)	20%
Demonstrated partnerships with practitioners and/or policy makers to address a real world health promotion problem	10%

A panel consisting of VicHealth staff and relevant academic experts will make recommendations to VicHealth based on the alignment with the above criteria and external reviews. Recommendations will be considered by VicHealth in accordance with delegation of authority.

## Funding available

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VicHealth will provide up to \$200,000 per project over two years. In this round, up to five (5) projects may be funded. Expenditure must be justified in the application and VicHealth reserves the right to negotiate with successful applicants in relation to their requested funds. Funding and projects are expected to commence in June 2019.

VicHealth will not support funding for any of the below:

- x biomedical and clinical research that does not have a clear link to health promotion. We will not fund laboratory-based science or health services research unless there is a strong rationale for its relevance to health promotion.
- x research which is unrelated to the research priorities listed in these guidelines

- x capital works (e.g. buildings or maintenance or purchase of major equipment, purchase and lease of land/vehicles)
- x commercial activities or individual persons
- x core organisational operating costs
- x projects that are considered by VicHealth to be the funding responsibility of local, state or federal government (e.g. population-based surveillance)
- x researchers that accept any form of sponsorship, support or research funding from sources connected to the tobacco industry which may pose a reputational risk to VicHealth
- x projects that have commenced or have already been funded to commence
- x videos, films, publications, conferences or travel in isolation of the specific project.

## **Funding from the tobacco industry, alcohol industry and/or other like bodies**

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Funding will NOT be granted if any of the researchers are in receipt of any support from the Australian Tobacco Research Foundation, or other like bodies which may pose a reputational risk to VicHealth.

Applications must declare all conflicts of interest researchers 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.

Other research partner(s) for the VicHealth Impact Research grant must not be in receipt of any support from the Australian Tobacco Research Foundation or other like bodies which may pose a reputational risk to VicHealth.

## **Funding agreements**

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By submitting an application, you agree to be bound by the Terms and Conditions and the VicHealth Standard Funding Agreement if successful in receiving VicHealth funding.

The conditions of funding within these documents relates to:

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

In addition to these conditions, it is expected that successful applicants will work closely with VicHealth staff to set additional project-specific deliverables and requirements, such as a project plan and meeting schedule.

## **Obligations of successful applicants**

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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 Standard Funding Agreement with VicHealth and must:

- Agree on a partnership project plan
- Provide a profile photo (jpeg) that you allow VicHealth to use in association with this research proposal
- Produce an annual progress report after the first full year of funding



- Produce financial acquittals for each year of funding
- Meet periodically with VicHealth
- Develop a knowledge translation plan in partnership with VicHealth
- Undertake knowledge translation activities according to the knowledge translation plan
- Reporting:
  - Complete a full research final report including:
    - hi-res files of graphs and their source excel files
    - referencing and with a reference list in UQ Harvard Gatton
  - Complete a 3,000 -5,000 word research summary including:
    - Executive summary (no more than 2 pages)
    - visual representation of findings and implications for policy and practice in Victoria
    - List of plain language talking points and recommendations for researchers and policy makers
    - Actionable plain language quick tips for general or consumer audience i.e. what do findings mean for the person on the street.
- If relevant:
  - written permission to use graphics from other publications – to cover VicHealth as the funder
  - written permissions to use case studies including interviewing person/s involved
  - images or footage with written consent – to cover VicHealth as the funder
- Endnote file
- Comply with VicHealth branding, acknowledgment and publication guidelines
- Funding recipients may also be requested to participate in VicHealth research forums or further evaluation activities.

## Media coverage of the research

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Funding recipients are expected to make the results of their research available through the usual scientific channels. The support of VicHealth must be acknowledged in any publications or media publicity arising from the research supported by VicHealth. One copy of any reprints or published paper shall be sent to VicHealth via [researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au)

VicHealth recognises that publications and presentations associated with the research project have a strong public good element and that public dissemination of successful project outcomes can be of key interest to the media. We ask that you contact VicHealth in advance of publications going to press or conference presentations occurring. It is the responsibility of the funding recipient and the institution to give VicHealth notice in advance and to accommodate any reasonable requests from VicHealth to participate in any publicity. In addition, funding recipients may be called upon by VicHealth to participate in promotional initiatives relating to the research project.

## Knowledge translation

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A central priority of VicHealth is knowledge translation – addressing the gap between what is known from research and the implementation of this knowledge, by stakeholders, with the intent of influencing and improving policy and practice. During the contractual process researchers will be expected to work with VicHealth to create a translation plan which describes how the research will be translated to inform policy or practice and undertake translation activities in accordance with the plan.

## Conduct of research and ethics requirements

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Research funded by VicHealth shall be conducted in accordance with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018)*. Ethics approvals required for the project must be obtained and maintained for the duration of the project and copies of these approvals shall be provided to VicHealth within 30 days of approval or as requested.

## Further information

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If you have queries after reading these documents, or wish to speak with VicHealth staff regarding the VicHealth Impact Research Grants, please email [researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:researchgrants@vichealth.vic.gov.au)

## Online Application Form Preview

PLEASE USE ONLY CALIBRI 11 point font

Application Summary Template*	
<b>Administering Institution</b>	
<b>Chief Investigator</b>	
<b>Project Title</b>	
<b>Abstract</b>	Please provide a plain language summary of the research proposal (300 words)
<b>Research Priority</b>	What research priority outlined in the <b>Guidelines</b> does this research address? (state one)
<b>Relevance to Research Priority</b>	How will the proposed research address your chosen research priority? Only research projects with the potential for real world health promotion impact will be considered (200 words)
<b>Impact Statement</b> The purpose of this statement is for those assessing the application to gain an understanding of the intended short and long-term impacts of the research	Detail the measurable change in policy and/or practice that you are hoping to see as a result of your project in the short and long-term including the magnitude of change. Provide the rationale, including relevant evidence, as to why the stated level of change is estimated. Note: please only refer to the anticipated change of the research being delivered. The potential impact if scaled should be detailed in the Scale Statement. (800 words)
<b>Scale Statement</b> The purpose of this statement is for those assessing the application to gain an understanding of the potential for the research to be scaled.	Explain in detail how this research can be scaled in Victoria, either vertically (replicated by other organisations or services, or inform policy change at a local level) and/or horizontally (embedded as standard practice across a sector/industry, or inform policy change at a State or National level). Consider what would be needed to achieve the scale in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the micro and macro policy context</li> <li>• organizational capability and capacity (technical and human resources)</li> <li>• partnerships</li> <li>• adaptability of the intervention to be delivered in different settings and /or locations</li> <li>• differential effectiveness across population groups.</li> </ul> If scaled as proposed, what is the potential impact on the health and wellbeing in Victoria. (800 words)
<b>Partnerships</b>	Provide the name of any partner organisation/s supporting this project and how they are engaging/may engage with the project. Factors to consider may include level of partner involvement and partner contribution to the project. Also indicate the status of the partnership (i.e. Confirmed, Unconfirmed) (200 words)
<b>Health Equity</b>	VicHealth acknowledges the importance of health equity to improve the health of all Victorians. How does your research proposal consider health equity? How will you measure differential impact across advantaged and disadvantaged population groups? (500 words)

Research Plan	
<b>Background and rationale</b>	Provide a description of the research question and justification for undertaking the research, including the research and/or policy gap the research is aiming to address. (500 words)
<b>Aims and hypothesis</b>	Describe the specific aims of the research, with an emphasis on what is to be accomplished (not how it is to be accomplished) and address the long-term project outcomes (200 words)
<b>Design and Methods</b>	Clearly articulate the research design and methods, including a flowchart that demonstrates the research design (1500 words)
<b>Reference list</b>	No more than 15

Additional Project Details	
<b>Research Team Summary</b>	Please download the Research Team Template* and provide a 200 word biography for each team member that summarises their experience and expertise relevant to this research application (200 words for each team member)
<b>Budget</b>	Please download the Budget Template* and provide detail of indicative budget expenditure for VicHealth funding for the project by filling out the budget template (template provided)
<b>Timeline</b>	Attach an outline of the proposed timeline for the project and identify key milestones to be achieved in a visual format- either a table, graph or flowchart.
<b>Certification by Research Office of University</b>	VicHealth requires the endorsement of the Head of Department and Research Administration Officer for your application to be considered. Please attach a document which certifies that your application has been assessed and endorsed by your Institution's Research Office

*\*Templates can be downloaded from the Online Application Form once the Funding Round opens on Friday 1 February 2019.*