



HEALTH PROMOTION EXPLORATORY RESEARCH GRANTS

STAGE 1 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) GUIDELINES

Healthway's research application process changed in 2017.

Applicants should follow these instructions carefully in preparing their Expression of Interest.

1. HEALTHWAY

Healthway (Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation) is governed by the WA Health Promotion Foundation Act 2016 to fund activities related to the promotion of good health. One of the functions of the foundation is to fund research relevant to health promotion. Healthway provides funding for innovative research projects that can clearly demonstrate the ability to prevent illness and promote healthy lifestyles in WA. Healthway's Strategic Plan can be viewed at www.healthway.wa.gov.au

2. HEALTHWAY HEALTH PROMOTION EXPLORATORY RESEARCH GRANTS

Healthway Exploratory Research Grants are designed to support exploratory or formative studies to address gaps in research relevant to Healthway's high priority areas and with demonstrated potential to influence health promotion in the WA community. A key feature of these grants is a focus on translation, and researchers are required to demonstrate how they will engage with other sectors and describe policy and practice outputs that are likely to lead to improvements in health.

Healthway is seeking projects that can demonstrate the potential and intent to impact policy, programs and practice in WA, and to directly improve health outcomes for the community.

Applicants may apply for up to \$75,000 (excl GST) over no more than 2 years. These grants are primarily intended for salary support, project and support costs.

Applicants must demonstrate that the research is achievable and realistic within the timeframe and budget. These grants may lead to the development of larger studies to trial interventions. Depending on the results, applicants may apply to Healthway in the future for further funding for a larger study, although each application will be assessed on its merits and demonstrated potential for translation.

Applicants are required to focus on at least one of Healthway's priority health areas of **reducing smoking and working towards a smoke-free WA, reducing harm from alcohol, good nutrition promotion, physical activity promotion (including reducing sedentary behaviour), promoting good community and individual mental health, skin cancer prevention, reducing harm from illicit drugs and Aboriginal health**. Applications in other areas of health promotion will not be considered.

All applicants for Exploratory Research grants must complete an EoI. EoIs must be submitted via email on the Exploratory Research Grants EoI Form to research@healthway.wa.gov.au

EoIs can be accepted at any time.

Eols will be assessed within four weeks of receipt. Those that adequately meet the criteria identified in Section 4 below will be invited to progress to Stage 2, involving submission of a full application.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- The research must centrally focus on WA, and the majority of the grant monies should be spent in WA.
- The first named Chief Investigator and the administering organisation must be based in WA for the duration of the grant.
- Research groups/organisations or individuals who are receiving support from funding bodies associated with the tobacco industry are not eligible for funding.

All Chief Investigators are responsible for ensuring they adhere to these rules prior to submission. Changes to the list of nominated Chief Investigators in order to adhere to the rules are not permitted after the Eol has been submitted.

4. REQUIREMENTS

What will NOT be considered for funding:

- An Eol for the same or a similar study that has already been submitted for an Intervention Research Grant in the same calendar year.
- Clinical or laboratory studies, or trials of treatments and therapies for existing conditions or diseases.
- Studies that primarily focus on evaluating existing government services or policies will generally only be funded where partnerships are clearly identified with the relevant agencies, there are strong links to health promotion and the proposed translation pathway for the results is described.

To be considered for funding, an Eol MUST:

- Demonstrate direct relevance of the project to health promotion, and ability for the research to contribute new evidence that will inform health promotion practice and/or policy.
- Demonstrate that the research is achievable and realistic within the timeframe and budget.
- Focus on at least one of Healthway's high priority areas of reducing smoking and working towards a smoke-free WA, reducing harm from alcohol, good nutrition promotion, physical activity promotion (including reducing sedentary behaviour), promoting good community and individual mental health, skin cancer prevention, reducing harm from illicit drugs and Aboriginal health.
- Clearly describe the intention and capacity of the proposed research to improve community health outcomes in WA.
- Provide a translation plan which describes how the research will be translated to inform policy or practice.
- Demonstrate or be in the process of establishing partnerships with relevant end-users.
- Demonstrate that the research team has the relevant expertise and is multidisciplinary.

In addition, projects are encouraged that are aligned with Healthway's Research Priorities. These are described in Section 7.

5. SUBMISSION

Eols should be emailed to Healthway through the responsible officer of the administering institution, generally the Research Grants Office.

An electronic Eol in PDF format should be emailed to research@healthway.wa.gov.au.

The stated space, font and word limitations on the Eol MUST be observed; exceeding the word limits may render an Eol ineligible for consideration by Healthway.

All applicants will be notified within 4 weeks of submission on the outcome of their Eol.

6. APPLICATION PROCESS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Stage I: EoI Assessment

EoIs will be assessed in consultation with relevant research experts and external agencies at the discretion of Healthway.

EoIs that adequately address the criteria outlined in section 4 will be invited to submit a (Stage 2) full application. Formal correspondence will be sent through the responsible officer of the administering institution and a Stage 2 application form will be provided. Healthway will provide feedback and guidance on any areas that may need to be addressed in the full application.

Stage II: Full Application Assessment

All full (stage 2) applications will be assessed in consultation with relevant research experts, which may include Healthway committee members. External agencies may also be consulted at the discretion of Healthway.

Full (stage 2) applications will be scored against the below criteria:

1. Ability to directly improve community outcomes in one of Healthway's Priority Health Areas.
2. Ability to directly improve health outcomes for at least one of Healthway's priority population groups.
3. Development and/or contribution of the research to best practice strategies in health promotion.
4. The quality of the translation plan to demonstrate how the findings have the potential to be integrated to achieve sustainable, community health outcomes.
5. The relevance of end-user partnerships, and appropriateness of the collaboration and engagement strategies.
6. Soundness of rationale and methodology (including literature review, research design, sample selection and methodology).
7. Track record, multi-disciplinary composition and capability of research team. Performance and outputs from previously held Healthway research grants will be taken into consideration, where appropriate. This will include the quality of reports provided to Healthway from previously held research grants.
8. Appropriateness of the budget, and overall value for money in regard to the contribution of this research to health promotion in WA.

Board and Ministerial approval

All funding decisions will be made by the Board of Healthway. The Board reserves the right to contact any person or organisation when seeking information on which to base its decisions. The Minister's approval is also required for the disbursement of funds.

7. HEALTHWAY'S RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The following information is intended to guide potential applicants on research priorities of particular interest to Healthway for each of the identified high priority health issues. This information is for guidance only and addressing one of these areas does not guarantee funding.

Applicants are also reminded that priority target groups for Healthway include children and young people, Aboriginal people, people living in rural and remote communities and people disadvantaged through economic, cultural, social or educational factors.

Healthway encourages:

Healthy eating – Research that can demonstrate a clear pathway to contributing to the prevention of overweight and obesity, or to the prevention of poor dietary behaviours and nutrition-related health inequalities; research that will build on and extend existing effective nutrition initiatives in WA; applications that will develop the evidence base and lead to interventions that address behavioural choices related to nutrition or the determinants of nutritional choices, e.g. advertising of unhealthy products to children; and research that seeks to improve the uptake of nutritional choices in recreational and other community settings.

Exploratory Research Grants

Guidelines for completion of EoI

Physical activity - Research leading to policies or programs that will increase participation in physical activity and sport, and reduce sedentary behaviour, particularly among priority population groups; applications that will explore new ways of encouraging people to be more active and will contribute to changes in policy and/or practice; research addressing social, environmental, technological and demographic trends that result in sedentary behaviour and low activity levels.

Tobacco control - Research that leads to innovative and effective approaches to prevent and reduce harm from tobacco in groups with high rates of smoking; applications that demonstrate potential to lead to programs and strategies that will build on and complement existing tobacco control activities and programs in WA.

Alcohol harm reduction – Action research to test and implement interventions to prevent and reduce alcohol related harms, particularly among population groups experiencing the most harm, and in settings amendable to change. The interventions may take a systems-based approach, utilising education, persuasion, design or control interventions or any combination thereof.

Promoting good individual and community mental health – Research that aims to strengthen and nurture resilience and social connection at the individual, family, peer group and broader community level, better preparing children and young people for the future. Submissions are welcomed that address risk and protective factors throughout life stages and in specific settings such as families, neighbourhoods, schools, arts, sports, workplaces and the digital online world.

Reducing harm from illicit drugs - Research to test and implement interventions to prevent use and reduce harm from illicit drugs, particularly among population groups experiencing the most harm, and in community settings that are amendable to change; research focusing on developing and implementing culturally appropriate approaches to prevent drug-related harm; research that informs action including education, persuasion, design and/or control activity is encouraged; applications that can potentially lead to programs and strategies that extend and complement existing activities and programs in WA.

Skin cancer prevention - Research leading to programs and policies that reduce the risk of skin cancer, particularly among groups most at risk; trialling and implementing novel approaches to public education and new ways to engage young people in effective sun protective behaviours; research that can potentially lead to improved sun protection in community settings.

8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

It is a contractual requirement that all multi-year grants are required to submit annual progress reports and financial statements to Healthway.

One year after the final report is received Healthway will require information from the Chief Investigator on the outputs and application of results from the research. Funded researchers are required to provide this information annually until no further publications, presentations or impacts emerge from the study.

COMPLETING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

1 - 5 ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

(1) ADMINISTERING INSTITUTION'S DETAILS

The full name and address of the institution responsible for administering the grant must be provided (eg Curtin University, Kent Street, Bentley, WA 6102). While there are instances where a research project is carried out in more than one location, there can only be one administering institution for each grant.

(2) CONTACT PERSON - CHIEF INVESTIGATOR A

This address will be used to send all correspondence to Chief Investigator A.

(3) ELIGIBILITY

Chief Investigator 'A' and the administering organisation must be based in WA for the duration of the grant

The research must centrally focus on WA and majority of the grant monies must be spent in WA.

(4) PROJECT TITLE

The title will be used to identify the project at all times. It should accurately describe the nature of the project and be **understandable to the general community**. Use no more than 75 characters including spaces.

(5) ALIGNMENT WITH HEALTHWAYS RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Please tick all that apply.

6. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

6.1 Rationale/justification for the research (100 words)

Briefly outline why this research is important, what new evidence it will provide in the context of improving health outcomes.

6.2 Describe the proposed research project (200 words)

Clearly describe the research project, the main activities, and the context and background where appropriate.

6.3 List the proposed research objectives (150 words)

State the specific and quantifiable objectives. These can still be in draft form and can be refined in the full application if the EOI is successful.

6.4 Research methods (150 words)

Summarise the proposed research strategy and study design, including the instruments and methods of data collection. Ensure the proposed methodology is congruent with the goals and objectives. Scientific rigour will not be assessed in the EOI, so technical and specific detail on sample size, validity, recruitment methods and statistical power calculations are not required here.

6.5 Research outcomes, and benefits to the WA community (200 words)

Explain how this research will be used. Outline how it will contribute to best practice in health promotion and improving health outcomes in WA, particularly in relation to Healthway's priority areas and target groups.

7. PROPOSED TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

Describe the research translation strategy (300 words)

In line with Healthway's strategic intent to ensure that funded research is strongly linked to practice and policy, please describe the plans to translate the results of the study to ensure the research outcomes will influence programs or activities in the WA community.

Describe the programs or policies currently operating and by whom, to demonstrate how the research will add value to existing work or inform policy or funding priorities in WA.

8. COLLABORATION AND PARTNER AGENCIES

All applications are required to include partnerships with relevant agencies or organisations that can translate the findings into policy or practice. Please provide the name/s of the health agency/organisation, name/s of personnel who will provide support to the project within the partnering agency/organisation, and detail the nature and level of support that will be provided by the agency/organisation to the proposed research. Partnerships can be under negotiation and unconfirmed in the EoI, but must be confirmed upon submission of the full application.

Applicants proposing to work with Aboriginal communities must detail the contacts made and the approaches used to gain and maintain the support of the Aboriginal community and to ensure that the research is undertaken in a culturally appropriate way, in line with the NHMRC Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research (<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/e52.pdf>).

It is a requirement that partners will be appointed to the research team, advisory committee or steering group.

9. CHIEF INVESTIGATORS AND THE RESEARCH TEAM

Please include all the Chief Investigators and other members of the research team in this list. Space is provided for four Chief Investigators and six Associate Investigators however additional members of the research team can be included if their roles are justified. It is generally expected that Chief Investigators will have a significant role in implementing and guiding the research project. Chief Investigator 'A' must be based and reside in WA for the duration of the grant.

An Associate Investigator (AI) is defined as an investigator who provides some intellectual and/or practical input into the research and whose participation warrants inclusion of their name on publications.

All applications are required to have a multi-disciplinary team. This may include for example: an epidemiologist, statistician, health promotion researcher and a health promotion practitioner. Please identify the skills on the research team.

Healthway requires all applications to have a health promotion practitioner on the research team. A health promotion practitioner is considered to be a professional whose current role includes applying their health promotion skills in the community and will be in a position to implement the research findings.

Please provide the name of the practitioner and their role in the proposed research.

10. INDICATIVE BUDGET

Provide an indicative cost of the research project including the total amount requested from Healthway and the total in-kind and cash committed by other partners indicating whether partner contributions are confirmed or still being negotiated. Please note that Healthway will not generally support salary costs in the grant at a Professor or Associate Professor level.

Jointly funded applications will be considered and are encouraged; however Healthway funding cannot be sought as a top-up to meet a shortfall in funding from other sources.

Do not include GST in the budget. If the Eol is successful, a more detailed budget and justification for expenditure will be required. Please note the **funding limit** of \$75,000 over two years.

11. DATES

Please outline the proposed start date and finish date of the study. The start date must be at least **five months from the date of the Eol submission** due to the assessment and approval processes.

Note that Healthway also requires funded researchers to demonstrate that the study has received clearance through an appropriate Ethics Committee prior to payment of all research grants.

12. OTHER FUNDING

(a) Submission of Application to Other Funders - Only complete this section if the same application is being submitted for **total** funding to another funding body.

(b) Other Funding Partners - Healthway encourages joint funding of health promotion research. Jointly funded applications will be considered where the major emphasis of the research is health promotion and such applications should **clearly identify** which of the project objectives can be achieved should the application for funding from other partners be unsuccessful.

Please identify in-kind and/or financial support in this section.

13. CERTIFICATION BY CHIEF INVESTIGATORS AND ADMINISTERING INSTITUTION

The Eol is invalid without the signature(s) of those listed as Chief Investigator(s), and the Administering Organisations Research Office.

Electronic signatures will be accepted.

A Manager, Director or equivalent staff member in the Administering Organisation's Research Office must sign to certify that the facilities are available are appropriate to meet the needs of the project, e.g. adequately staffed and equipped laboratories/workshops, secretarial assistance, library resources, research/maintenance support etc.

Stage 2 applications require sign off by the Head of Department/Head of Research Committee.

Healthway grants are intended to supplement the basic support provided by the institution.

Where applicants are not formally attached to institutions, they should indicate whether they have access to appropriate facilities to undertake the research proposal.

**FAILURE TO COMPLETE EACH QUESTION WILL PREVENT PROCESSING OF THE
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**