



2026 Aboriginal Health Research Scholarship

Guidelines

What are the Aboriginal Health Research Scholarships?

Our Aboriginal Health Research Scholarships support the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners and researchers in Western Australia. The goal is simple: grow a strong, skilled and supported Indigenous workforce leading health improvements in Aboriginal communities.

We provide funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduates to undertake formal academic training through an approved tertiary institution. Support is available across three study levels:

- 1. Graduate Certificates, Postgraduate Diplomas and Honours:** One year of funding is available for courses relevant to Aboriginal health.
- 2. Master's Degrees:** Two years of funding is available for a master's student completing a research project related to Aboriginal health.
- 3. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):** Three years of funding is available for a PhD student completing a research project related to Aboriginal health.

Before applying

Please take the following steps to ensure your request is prepared correctly:



- 1.** Please contact us before developing your request on 133 777 or email research@healthway.wa.gov.au.



- 2.** Review the Terms and Conditions on page 5 of these guidelines.



- 3.** Read our [Health Promotion Research Scholarships FAQs](#) to understand the assessment process, criteria, funding conditions and employment details.



- 4.** Master's and PhD students: Review our [Knowledge Translation Guide](#) to help you develop a clear knowledge translation plan.

Request process

- ✓ Candidates must complete an Aboriginal Health Scholarships Funding Request Form (Word template) available on our website.
- ✓ The research or scholarships grants office at your administering institution must submit your request via the [Lotterywest Healthway Grants Portal](#) by the closing date.
- ✓ Requests submitted by the candidate or emailed to us will not be accepted.

Timeline

Key steps	Key dates
Funding request form submitted by the research/scholarships grants office	5pm (AWST), Tuesday 2 June 2026
Candidate interviews (if required)	July/August 2026
Announcement of successful candidates	October 2026

** Please note that these dates are an estimate and subject to change*

What are the salary and funding allocations?

Candidates can apply for either a student or professional stipend, plus annual allowances.

Category	Salary
Student Stipend*	\$45,000 per annum
Professional Stipend*	\$65,000 per annum (maximum)
Allowances	\$15,000 per annum

**These figures are non-taxable for full-time scholarships.*

Professional Stipend

Candidates who have been in full-time paid employment for a minimum of 12 months immediately before submitting their request may be eligible for a professional stipend of up to \$65,000 per year for up to three years.

Please note that \$65,000 is the maximum annual amount. The exact level of professional stipend offered by Healthway will be based on the candidate's most recent salary level, after accounting for tax deductions.

Goods and Services Tax

The stipend levels and allowances are exclusive of Goods and Services Tax (GST). We will pay the GST component to the relevant organisation, provided it is registered for GST and holds an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Allowances

Up to \$15,000 per annum will be allocated to the institution for the scholarship. See what's covered below:

What's covered	Maximum request amount
Project costs (Graduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, or Honours candidates may not be eligible if their course does not include a research project)	You can request up to \$8,500 per year for equipment and consumable materials needed to complete your research. Your request must include a detailed budget breakdown of these costs for each year of the scholarship. Computer and large equipment purchases will generally will not be funded.
Travel for conferences/ courses (Graduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, or Honours candidates may not be eligible if their course does not include a research project)	You can use up to \$3,000 per year to attend a conference, course or meeting that is relevant to your area of research, provided it has been approved in writing by your supervisor. This allowance covers attendance in Australia and overseas. International conferences are limited to one overseas trip throughout the duration of your scholarship. The funding can be used to contribute to one economy return airfare per year, accommodation and/or conference registration fees. The funding cannot be used to purchase food. You cannot request more than \$3,000 in any one year for travel related to conferences or courses.
University fees	Full-time students can request up to \$1,500 per year for annual university and guild fees.
Textbooks	Up to \$500 per year can be allocated to the cost of textbooks.
Thesis (Only applicable for master's and PhD students)	A funding contribution of up to \$800 for master's degrees and up to \$1,500 for PhD degrees is available to support thesis preparation (including printing) for examination.
TOTAL:	The annual overall total must not exceed \$15,000

Terms and conditions

To be considered eligible for an Aboriginal Health Scholarship:

- Candidates must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and reside in WA for the duration of the scholarship.
- Candidates must be planning to enrol in a postgraduate degree at a WA tertiary institution, with studies focused on an area relevant to Aboriginal health.
- The research component must align with at least one of our priority health areas outlined on pages 10 and 11 of our [strategic plan](#).
- Candidates are encouraged to enrol full time. Requests for a part-time scholarship may be considered. Please notify us at the time of application. Requests to convert from full-time to part-time after an award is made will only be permitted in cases of significant and unforeseen changes in circumstances.
- Scholarship holders may undertake up to eight (8) hours of paid employment per week, unless otherwise agreed. Any work undertaken must not interfere with study commitments.

Master's and PhD candidates must also ensure that the research component of their training meets the following requirements:

- The proposed institution must provide a supervisor with qualifications and experience in Aboriginal health.
- The research must be relevant to Aboriginal health and have a prevention and health promotion focus.
- Proposals must demonstrate that the local Aboriginal community has been consulted to confirm community need. Where relevant, the local Aboriginal community must be engaged in the development, implementation and translation of the research project.
- A knowledge translation plan must be provided, outlining how the research will inform policy or practice. This must extend beyond dissemination of results.
- A culturally secure research design and methodology must be demonstrated.
- Where relevant, the proposed research must align with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Ethical Conduct in Research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities: Guidelines for Researchers and Stakeholders 2018.

To facilitate the collaborative research process candidates are also required to:

- Involve agencies that will benefit from the research when planning and carrying out the project. Candidates are encouraged to work with partner agencies to identify knowledge gaps and shape the research questions and study design, where appropriate.
- Spend an agreed period within a partner agency during the scholarship to support consultation and collaboration. This residency must be confirmed and agreed to by both parties at the time of submitting the request.

What we won't fund:

- Candidates receiving another scholarship or salary to support a research project.
- Candidates, research groups, institutions receiving any support either directly or indirectly from the following organisations associated with the following harmful industries:
 - tobacco, e-cigarette or other novel tobacco product companies or their related foundations
 - commercial gambling
 - unhealthy food and drink
 - alcohol.
- Research proposals that solely adapt or extend existing programs will not be prioritised.
- Scholarships to undertake study or research focused on treatment of existing diseases, or for clinical or laboratory studies.
- We will not prioritise research projects that build on existing Healthway-funded initiatives and do not show a clear need based on preliminary findings.



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