2017 HEALTHWAY RESEARCH FUNDING ROUND

The 2017 Healthway Research Funding Round is now open.

Healthway has made some changes to the Research Program in 2017. All applicants are encouraged to read the guidelines and application forms carefully when completing their applications.

In 2017, a two-stage application process is in place for Healthway research grants:

Stage 1 is submission of an Expression of Interest (EoI).
Stage 2 is an invited full application.

There are no closing dates for EoIs.

As in 2016, applicants are required to describe the policy and practice outputs and demonstrate how the research outcomes will be used to improve the health of the community in Western Australian (WA). This will be a key criterion for assessing applications. Applicants must include a clearly described translation plan and are required to engage and collaborate with end-users of the research in developing proposals and throughout the project.

There are currently two categories of funding available, Exploratory Research Grants and Intervention Research Grants. The guidelines and application forms are now available on Healthway’s website.
Frequently Asked Questions

What are the changes for 2017?

In summary, the key changes to the 2017 Research Program are:

1. Elimination of closing dates. Applications will be accepted all year.
2. Two-stage application process (EoI and invited full application).
3. All applications MUST address one of Heathway’s current priority health areas, which are: 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.
   - In additional Research Priorities of particular interest to Heathway are described in section 7 of the funding guidelines. These provide examples of research that Heathway is seeking. The Research Priorities are for guidance only and applications do not need to be specifically aligned to these to be considered for funding.
4. Relevant end-user partnerships must be established by submission of the full application, and partners must be appointed to the research team, advisory committee or a steering group.

Why have these changes been introduced?

These changes have been introduced to better align the research program to Heathway’s key strategic priorities and legislative mandate to fund activities related to the promotion of good health in WA.

Healthway intends that the two stage application process will create efficiencies for applicants, assessors and Healthway staff. Removing closing dates is designed to reduce bottlenecks that occur during the year when applications to other research funding bodies are due.

The two stage application process will also create the opportunity for applicants to receive feedback from Healthway on potential areas that need to be strengthened and/or developed before submission of the full application. It is anticipated that this will improve the chances of funding for applicants and reduce the burden of completing lengthy grant application forms for those projects considered to fall outside of Healthway’s main priorities.

The research priorities have been described in more detail in response to applicants requesting further guidance within the Health Priority Areas outlined in the strategic plan.

What are the categories for research funding in 2017?

1. Multi-year Intervention Research Grants (up to $120,000 per year for up to three years, and up to $150,000 in the year(s) the intervention is developed), and
2. Exploratory Research Grants for formative or exploratory studies (up to $75,000 over two years).

What is the assessment process?

1. EoIs will be assessed in consultation with relevant research experts and external agencies at the discretion of Healthway.
2. All invited (stage 2) full 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.
3. All funding decisions will be made by the Board of Healthway. The Board may contact any person or organisation when seeking information on which to base its decisions. Projects approved for funding by the Board also require the Minister’s approval for disbursement of funds.
What are the assessment criteria?

Please see the guidelines for the assessment criteria for each scheme.

What are the expected timelines?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submission of EoI to Healthway</td>
<td>Anytime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthway email acknowledgment of receipt of EoI</td>
<td>2 working days from submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthway assessment of EoI and notification of outcome</td>
<td>4 weeks from submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortlisted applicants to prepare a full application for submission to Healthway</td>
<td>6 weeks from notification / No extensions will be given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthway assessment of full application</td>
<td>4 weeks from submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board decision on projects to be funded, and Ministerial approval of the disbursement of funds.</td>
<td>Up to 2 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do the changes affect the Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR) category one status?

It is not anticipated that these changes will effect Healthway category one classification for the Intervention Grants on the ACGR. The ACGR will be informed of the changes and any changes to this classification in 2017 will be communicated to the Research Offices.

What are the changes to the criteria for eligibility in 2017?

The four grant rule remains in 2017 and includes EoIs that are being assessed by Healthway. Therefore an EoI cannot be submitted for an Intervention Research Grant if four grants are currently active, only one EoI can be submitted if three grants are currently active and so on. Please note that a grant remains currently active until Healthway has received and acknowledged all reports specified in the funding agreement and all funds have been fully acquitted.

Exploratory Research Grants and currently held Scholarships, Fellowships, and Special Initiative Grants are excluded from the four grant rule. There are therefore no restrictions on the number of EoIs that can be submitted for Exploratory Grants.

Please read the guidelines for each scheme for more information on the eligibility.

What feedback will I receive on my EoI and full application?

The level of feedback provided by Healthway will be dependent on the number of EoIs and full applications being processed and the capacity of Healthway staff.
It is likely that only brief feedback will be provided to applicants who are unsuccessful with their EoI or full application.

Applicants who are successful with their EoI will receive more in depth feedback, including guidance on the aspects of the proposal that need to be strengthened and/or addressed in the full application.

**What are the funding conditions if successful?**

Projects deemed successful and approved by the Healthway Board and Minister will receive a letter of offer. If the offer of funding is accepted, applicants will be required to sign a Healthway research agreement. For a copy of the terms and conditions of this agreement please email research@healthway.wa.gov.au

Please note 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.

**How many projects will Healthway support in 2017?**

Healthway does not have a minimum or maximum number of projects that can be supported in 2017. Funding will be based on the merit of each application in line with the assessment criteria and not assessed against one another. It is not anticipated there will be any advantage or disadvantage in submitting an application earlier and later in the year.

**Is this approach to the research program permanent?**

This is a trial process which will be reassessed at the end of 2018. There may also be minor changes to the administration processes throughout the year as we adopt the new model. These will be communicated via the Research Offices and on the Healthway website.

**Do I need to use references in my application?**

You do not need to reference in the EoI, referencing is required in the full application.

**How do I demonstrate ability of the research to inform policy and practice, and what is expected in the knowledge translation plan?**

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they have developed their proposals in collaboration with practitioners and/or policy-makers and clearly describe how the research will be translated to improve community health outcomes. Applications that are not able to demonstrate how the end-users of the research will be involved in the implementation of the study and the translation of the findings are unlikely to be supported.

Where appropriate, knowledge translation plans should identify the specific organisational or government policies or programs that will be informed by the research, and outline how the project or policy will be informed. For example, identify the partnerships you have established and describe how these partners will be consulted, how they will contribute to the design and testing of the intervention or design of the project and how they will utilise the findings. Also describe how the findings will be communicated in a format and language that is appropriate more widely for policy makers or practitioners.

**Further questions**

We are happy to discuss potential EoIs with applicants. For further information or to discuss a potential EoI please contact Candice McKeone, Research and Policy Officer on 9476 7022 or via email at Candice.McKeone@healthway.wa.gov.au.