



# 2026 Health Promotion Research Fellowship

## Guidelines

March 2026

Creating a healthier WA together

# What are the Health Promotion Research Fellowships?

Our Research Fellowship grants are designed to increase the number of highly skilled researchers working in health promotion across Western Australia. Candidates can apply for an **Early Career** or **Senior Research Fellowship** for up to three years to undertake an innovative research project that aims to influence health promotion policy and practice in WA.

We aim to improve health equity and support all Western Australians to live healthy, fulfilling lives. While we value projects that benefit the whole community, we will prioritise work that improves the health and wellbeing of groups experiencing greater health inequities.

These fellowships focus on strong partnerships with end users and partner agencies to:

- support fellows to contribute to the work of partner agencies and Healthway
- build skills, networks and relationships that strengthen research careers
- provide meaningful professional development opportunities.

Working closely with partner agencies also helps ensure research findings are translated into real world health promotion policy and practice.

## 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](mailto:research@healthway.wa.gov.au).



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



**3.** Read our **Strategic Plan 2024-2029: Creating a healthier Western Australia together**. Your request must address one of our priority health areas.



**4.** Review our **Health Promotion Research Fellowship FAQs** to familiarise yourself with the assessment process, criteria, funding conditions and our approach to health equity.



**5.** Review our **Knowledge Translation Guide** to help you prepare a clear knowledge translation plan.

# Request and assessment process

## Request process

- Candidates must complete a Health Promotion Research Fellowship Request Form (Word template), available on our website.
- The research or fellowship 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.

## Assessment process

There is a two-stage assessment process for fellowship requests:

Stage 1: Assessing requests

Stage 2: Panel interviews

### Stage 1: Assessing requests

We will assess all requests in consultation with relevant experts and external agencies (as required). All requests will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevance and significance of the proposed research to health promotion, our priorities and our goal of achieving health equity.
- Research methodology and scientific validity.
- Strength of the partnerships and quality of the knowledge translation plan.
- Candidate capability and readiness to conduct the proposed research.
- Contribution of the fellowship to the candidate's career in health promotion.

### Stage 2: Panel interviews

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview to discuss their proposal. The interview panel will include Healthway staff and a representative from our Research Assessment Committee.

# Timeline

Key steps	Key dates
Funding request form submitted by the research grants office	5pm (AWST), Tuesday 2 June 2026
Shortlisted candidates notified of interview	June 2026
Interviews conducted	July 2026
Announcement of successful candidates	October 2026

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

## Eligibility

**To be eligible for Research Fellowship funding, the following criteria apply:**

- **Senior Research Fellows** must have held a PhD for at least three years and be able to demonstrate significant professional experience.
- **Early Career Fellowships** are for candidates who have held a PhD for less than three years (full-time equivalent) and have limited professional experience in their field.
- Candidates, their supervisors and department or institution are not eligible if they receive any direct or indirect support from organisations linked to harmful industries such as tobacco, vaping, gambling, unhealthy food and drink or alcohol.
- Candidates must be Australian citizens or permanent residents. Successful candidates must reside in WA for the duration of the fellowship and conduct most of their research within WA.
- Successful candidates must hold a PhD from a recognised university. Candidates who are enrolled for a doctorate at the time of requesting a fellowship must have submitted their thesis for examination and must complete their degree before commencing the fellowship.
- Fellowships are designed to be undertaken full-time. Part-time arrangements may be considered where circumstances such as medical conditions, family commitments or other personal factors make part-time study appropriate. Part-time arrangements cannot be used to support additional paid work. Candidates wishing to be considered for a part-time fellowship must advise us at the time of submitting their request, and the project must still be completed within the three-year timeframe.

# Terms and Conditions

## To be considered for funding, a request **MUST**:

- Be aligned to at least one of our priority health areas outlined on pages 10 and 11 of our **strategic plan** and be relevant to contemporary health promotion.
- Demonstrate how equity has been considered throughout the entire research process. For more information on our approach to preventing health inequities, please refer to page 8 of our strategic plan.
- Clearly describe the intention and capacity of the proposed research to improve community health outcomes in WA.
- Include a knowledge translation plan that outlines how the research will be translated to inform policy and/or practice. This must extend beyond simply disseminating results.

## Projects that centrally focus on Aboriginal health **MUST** demonstrate that:

- The research design and methods are culturally secure and consistent with the National Health and Medical Research Council's *Ethical Conduct in Research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities: Guidelines for Researchers and Stakeholders*.
- The collection, use and storage of data is compliant with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Data Principles.
- Consultation will occur with Aboriginal community groups and leaders during the development of the proposal, and a genuine co-design community-led approach undertaken.
- At least one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander supervisor is included (if possible).

## To facilitate the collaborative working process and provide two-way learning opportunities for the partner agency and the fellow, candidates are 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 fellowship to support consultation and collaboration. This residency must be confirmed and agreed to by both parties at the time of submitting the request.

- Provide expert advice to the partner agency on areas directly related to their research. Fellows may also be asked to provide expert advice and support to Healthway on matters specifically related to the fellowship, where appropriate.

Examples of this may include:

- Contribute to project or policy development, for example by joining an advisory group or presenting research results to staff.
- Support key stakeholders' decision-making with the partner agency or Healthway.
- Meet with Healthway and the partner agency to explore opportunities to translate and disseminate the findings. This may include presenting on the overall results at a Healthway-hosted or partner agency-hosted seminar.

**Research that will NOT be considered for funding includes:**

- Clinical or laboratory studies, or trials of treatments or therapies for existing conditions or diseases.
- Studies that primarily focus on evaluating existing government services or policies. These projects may be considered only where:
  - partnerships with the relevant agencies are clearly identified
  - there are strong links to health promotion
  - the proposed pathway for translating results into practice is clearly described.

We recommend speaking with us before submitting your request.

## Financial details

Funding will be available for a maximum of three (3) years. Funding is renewable at the end of each year, subject to a satisfactory progress report.

Stipend – Early Career Researcher	Stipend – Senior Research Fellow
\$100,000 annually, plus on costs	\$120,000 annually, plus on costs

These amounts are taxable. The stipend will be paid directly to the institution administering the fellowship and then paid to the fellow through the institution's payroll.

By agreeing to administer the fellowship, the institution will provide the facilities, services and standard overhead expenses required for the fellow to undertake their research project. The institution is also responsible for allocating the additional allowances.

### Goods and Services Tax

The salary levels and allowances listed in these guidelines 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

A total of \$10,000 will be provided to the institution to cover the following items at any point over the three-year fellowship period (as agreed between the fellow and supervisor).

- **Travel for conferences/courses:** Up to \$5,000 may be used to attend (in person or virtually) a conference, course or meeting relevant to the fellow's area of research. All travel must be approved in writing by the project supervisor.
- **Maintenance, technical assistance or equipment costs:** Up to \$5,000 may be used for equipment and consumable materials where necessary. Allowable maintenance costs may include:
  - travel associated with surveys or fieldwork
  - consumables
  - computer programming
  - data preparation or storage.

The fellow must justify the need for these funds to their supervisor. No additional funding will be provided for these items. We do not fund the purchase of computer equipment.

## Project costs

An additional allowance of \$40,000 over three years is available for project costs directly associated with the fellowship. These project costs must be itemised and summarised in the budget section of the request. Project costs may include expenses related to data collection and knowledge translation activities.

Allowances will be paid to the institution in the first year of the fellowship and must be allocated in line with the original research proposal and budget. Any proposed changes to the project costs must be approved by Healthway in advance by submitting an amendment in the Lotterywest Healthway portal. Any unspent funds at the completion of the fellowship must be returned to Healthway.

## Employment details

### Employment outside the research project

With permission from the project supervisor, fellows may undertake teaching or other duties for an average of up to four hours per week.

### Superannuation and on-costs

We will cover a superannuation allowance of up to 17% or match the scheme provided by the fellow's institution. Additionally, we will pay for on-costs, including up to 7% for payroll tax and 0.5% for workers' compensation, or match the applicable scheme at the institution.

### Leave entitlements

Fellows are entitled to 20 days of paid leave per annum, which must be taken during the tenure of fellowship. This leave is not cumulative. Fellows are also entitled to personal leave in accordance with the conditions set out by their institution.

Fellows may take up to 12 months of unpaid parental leave, during which time the fellowship will be temporarily suspended.

No other forms of leave, loadings or payments will be provided.



**Street Address:**

Level 2, 38 Station Street  
Subiaco WA 6008

**Postal Address:**

Locked Bag 66  
Subiaco, WA 6904

Telephone: 133 777

Email: [healthway@healthway.wa.gov.au](mailto:healthway@healthway.wa.gov.au)

Media enquiries: [media@healthway.wa.gov.au](mailto:media@healthway.wa.gov.au)