

AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Building research capacity in Primary Health Care - support to develop Primary Health Care research plans

Call for Expressions of Interest

As part of its role of increasing participation and capacity building in areas of research that are within its mandate, APHCRI is inviting Expressions of Interest from relevant institutions to develop additional research capacity in primary health care research. The intention of this program is to provide research capacity development opportunities for institutions that have a Medical School that did not receive more than two years of Research Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) funding. Through collaboration, the school should have recently developed a critical mass in cross disciplinary fields relevant to the primary health sector.

The program will provide funding to subsidise six post-doctoral positions (one per Medical School) up to the value of \$83,000 each for the duration of the funding scheme (2014-2016). The positions are expected to develop and submit programs of primary health care research involving relevant disciplines across the institutions in partnership with relevant stakeholders (such as Medicare Locals, community support groups and state/territory community services). The disciplines must be registered professions under the National Health Profession Registration Authority. **It is expected that the positions would enable the development of primary health care research programs including full project proposals that would attract research funding from other sources.**

Eligibility

The scheme is open to institutions that meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Australian universities that provide training for at least two Australian Health Practitioners Regulatory Authority (AHPRA) regulated professions, one of which must be medicine.
2. Universities that will co-fund the positions and match APHCRI funding for the duration of the scheme.
3. Collaborative bids of more than one university:
 - Proposals must comprise collaboration between two or more separate institutions. Institutions are defined as separate organisations with a single ABN, not as separate Departments/Faculties/Schools/Institute within a single organisation.

- The members of the team from one of the collaborative institutions must not have received or be receiving APHCRI funding.
 - The Medical School should not have received more than two years of Research Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) funding.
4. The post-doctoral research leader must be an Australian resident with an employment contract with the lead university for the duration of the APHCRI funding. The lead university must provide the usual overhead support for the project.

What APHCRI will fund

The funding is being made available to assist institutions to develop and submit primary health care research programs. Applicants are expected to provide indicative outlines of their research program priorities. The outlines must address the following criteria:

1. How the proposed research programs will add to the evidence base and fill gaps in existing knowledge, and inform the Australian health reform agenda
2. Demonstrate that the programs are evidence-based and address health system improvement
3. Demonstrate identified strategies for engagement with consumers and key groups
4. Demonstrate evidence of the strength of institutional partnerships
5. Demonstrate commitment by the Administering Institutions to co-fund the positions for the duration of APHCRI funding.

These criteria will be equally weighted. The Research Advisory Board will establish an Expert Review Committee (ERC) which will review the EOIs and rank them based on extent to which they satisfy selection criteria.

What APHCRI will not fund

APHCRI will not fund any administrative overhead for supervision, university services or office, IT and related support.

Programs seeking to evaluate services will not be supported, other than in circumstances where they are part of a new, innovative research-based, service level intervention.

APHCRI will also not support programs seeking funding for continuation or expansion of services currently planned or provided.

Funding agreement

Terms and conditions will be in accordance with the standard APHCRI funding agreement (**available at <http://aphcri.anu.edu.au/resources/applicants>**). These conditions will not be negotiated and institutions are required to include as part of their EOI that they are aware of

the standard provisions and they accept them. EOIs that do not provide this certification will not be considered for funding.

Application Process

Eligible institutions are invited to submit Expressions of Interest by 5.00pm (Australian Eastern Time) **Friday 13th December 2013**. Proposals should be submitted using the Expressions of Interest *Proforma* attached.

An electronic version (in PDF format) and a signed hard copy version must also be submitted.

Email:

The electronic copy can be emailed to: submissions.aphcri@anu.edu.au

The electronic version should contain the completed application as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file with the filename format:

Surname lead investigator, initial(s) lead investigator, file extension (e.g. brown.mf.pdf).

Mailing Address:

Head of Programs
APHCRI
Building 63
Cnr. Mills & Eggleston Rd
The Australian National University
CANBERRA CITY ACT 0200

Courier Address:

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APHCRI
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Certification

By signing the Application, the researcher and administering institution agree, if successful, to accept the conditions of the award as set out in this document.

Summary of the process for the scheme

Activity	Date
Announcement of Scheme	11 th October 2013
Closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest	13 th December 2013
ERC assessment process against selection criteria	End of January 2014
Research Advisory Board decision	February 2014
Successful applicants announced	End of February 2014
Scheme project period	March 2014-February 2016

Questions on the scheme should be addressed in writing to:

submissions.aphcri@anu.edu.au

Funding agreement

All successful applicants must enter into a signed funding agreement between the administering institution and the Australian National University (ANU) within 30 days of a formal offer being made by the ANU or the offer may be withdrawn. A generic draft is available at <http://aphcri.anu.edu.au/resources/applicants>. This generic agreement enables the ANU to comply with its contractual obligations to the Department of Health and Ageing with respect to the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) Strategy funding agreement. Applicants are strongly advised to ensure that their administering institution is prepared to accept the generic agreement as this component of the funding agreement cannot be varied.