

Support for developing research capacity in primary health care

Expansion of capacity development opportunities for innovative systems related primary health care research:

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 provide additional research capacity development 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 received more than two years of Research Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) funding**. The school should have recently developed through collaboration, a critical mass in cross disciplinary fields relevant to the primary health sector.

The program will provide funding for a post-doctoral position within the institution until 2015 to develop a primary health care research program involving relevant disciplines across the institution 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 program would result both in service-related outcomes and in a capacity for the lead institution to be competitive in attracting additional research funding from other sources into the future.

Eligibility

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

1. Australian universities that, through collaborations, provide training for at least two Australian Health Practitioners Regulatory Authority (AHPRA) regulated professions, one of which must be medicine.
2. 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 lead university must have a medical school accredited by the Australian Medical Council as providing a basic medical degree for Australia
 - The members of the team from at least 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.
3. Projects must be evidence-based interventions around system improvement and should not be sought as funding for continuation or expansion of services currently planned or provided.
 4. Evaluations of services will not be funded, other than in circumstances where they are part of a new, innovative research-based, service level intervention.
 5. 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.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Scientific quality – approach and methodology
2. How the proposal builds on and provides supporting evidence to inform the health reform agenda, identifying ways in which the proposal seeks to innovate in primary health care in Australia through the identification of issues/topics of national policy relevance and how these identified issues link in with the strategic goals of APHCRI
3. Identified outcomes of the proposal
4. Identified engagement with consumers and key groups
5. How funding support of the proposed work will contribute to improving care
6. How any findings could be implemented and generalised to other services
7. Evidence of the strength of institutional collaboration

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 link with APHCRI mandate. Shortlisted EOIs will be invited to submit full proposals.

What APHCRI will fund

APHCRI will fund half a post-doctoral level salary at a rate equivalent to the NHMRC salary scale for the Early Career Fellowship. In addition APHCRI will provide \$20,000 until 2015 for associated project expenses in terms of establishing and sustaining the research network. Total funding to match the APHCRI support over the period must be guaranteed by the lead university.

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

Funding agreement

Terms and conditions will be in accordance with the standard APHCRI funding agreement (**available at <http://aphcri.anu.edu.au/resources>**). 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 an Expression of Interest by 5.00pm (Australian Eastern Time) **Friday 5th July 2013**. EOIs should be submitted using the *Expression of Interest Proforma* attached **no longer than two A4 pages and in Arial font no smaller than 11 point**.

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:

The Director, APHCRI
Level 1, Ian Potter House
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Australia

Courier Address:

The Director, APHCRI
Level 1, Ian Potter House
Corner of Gordon & Marcus Clarke Streets
The Australian National University
Acton ACT 0200 (Enter through Marcus
Clarke Street boom gate)

Certification

By signing the Expression of Interest, 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	7 th June 2013
Closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest	5 th July 2013
ERC assessment process against selection criteria	July 2013
Research Advisory Board decision	August 2013
Successful applicants announced	End of August 2013
Scheme project period	September 2013- September 2015

Questions on the scheme should be addressed in writing to: director.aphcri@anu.edu.au.

Written responses to the questions will be posted on a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section at: <http://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>. 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.