

Checklist for applicants

The following checklist will assist applicants in assessing the strength of their TRGS application.

Right question for NSW Health?

Are you answering an important policy or practice question that addresses an evidence gap?

What to check for:

- Is your question focused on a local priority/need?
- Will the answer to this question support the NSW public health system in disease prevention, patient care or health service delivery?
- Does your proposal include a review of the available research in the field, to demonstrate you are building on cumulative science?
- Does the proposal address an evidence gap?
- Is your question focused on testing a clearly defined intervention that has the potential to improve current practice in NSW?
- Is there an evidence-based rationale for why your intervention is better than other available interventions?
- Can this question be answered within two years?
- How will your research impact on the health outcomes of Aboriginal people and other priority population groups?
- Does your research consider equity of access for Aboriginal people and other priority population groups?
- Does the proposal consider any potential patient harms?

Right stakeholders and partners?

Are you collaborating with stakeholders and partners who will support the research project across all stages, from development of the proposal to its implementation (if supported by the findings)?

What to check for:

- Have you engaged with relevant NSW Ministry of Health branches, statewide health services and pillars to ensure your proposal aligns with statewide strategy and processes?
- Have you engaged partners that have the ability to implement or influence change in the system?
- Have you considered including other sites, local health districts, specialty health networks, statewide health services, pillars, and NSW Ministry of Health branches involved as partners?
- How will you engage and consult with partners who have experience working with priority population groups (e.g. Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services)?
- What potential barriers might impact how engaged your partners will be in the research process and how will you address this?
- Are there cultural protocols that need to be considered when disseminating research findings at a community level?

Does your intervention have the potential to be scaled up across the system?

Will the results of the research be applicable to other LHDs/ SHNs or across the Ambulance service/NSW Health Pathology?

What to check for:

- Is the intervention you are testing feasible for larger scale up across the NSW health system (i.e. is it cost effective and relevant to the whole system)?
- Does your proposal consider existing statewide initiatives that your intervention could be scaled up through?

Right design and method?

Can the study design answer the question with methodological rigour?

What to check for:

- Is the study design matched to the research question?
- Are the methods rigorous in terms of sampling, statistical analysis and the selection and measurement of outcomes?
- Have you included costings or a health economic analysis that is matched to your question?
- Is the study design and methodology culturally safe, appropriate, and acceptable for Aboriginal people and other priority populations, and have cultural respect protocols been considered in the conduct of research?

Right research team?

Do you have the right research skills across your team to answer the question?

What to check for:

- Are there senior academics on the team who will steer the technical research aspects of this project?
- Do you have a multi-disciplinary team with the right research, clinical, management and policy skills to undertake the study?
- Have your research partners worked with you to draft the methods so they are scientifically rigorous?
- Does your research team promote Aboriginal leadership and ownership of the research process, and in turn strengthen Aboriginal research capacity?
- If your question has a targeted focus on Aboriginal people, does your research team prioritise the voices and expertise of Aboriginal researchers and organisations?
- Have you considered including a PhD student in the research team, who could be supervised by an Academic Supervisor at a partnering university?

The TRGS Guidelines provide a detailed overview of the selection criteria.