NSW Cardiovascular Disease Clinician Scientist Grants (2018/19 to 2020/21)

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

NSW GOVERNMENT

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Further copies of this document can be downloaded from the NSW Health and Medical Research website
www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au/clinician-scientist

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Contents

Call for Applications

NSW Health invites eligible individuals to apply for the NSW Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Clinician Scientist Grants, offered as part of the 2018 funding boost to fight heart disease in NSW. Funding for this grant will be distributed from 2018/19-2020/21. Researchers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin and primary carers who have experienced career disruptions are encouraged to apply.

Purpose

The Clinician Scientist Grants aim to build capacity by increasing the number of outstanding CVD researchers in NSW and by increasing the national and international competitiveness of CVD researchers already working in NSW.

By supporting innovative research programs and outstanding CVD researchers, the grants will support a strategic and competitive position for federally-funded research grants and fellowships from bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australian Research Council (ARC) and Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). Ultimately, the grants aim to support the development of research programs of sufficient scale to compete successfully at the highest level. Therefore, research that leads to high quality applications and results in additional funding will be an expected outcome for successful Clinician Scientist Grant recipients.

Application Process

The process includes two stages:

1. Expressions of Interest (EOI)
2. Full applications

Submission of Applications

Applicants must use the NSW Cardiovascular Disease Clinician Scientist Grants Expression of Interest Form and include any supporting evidence. The form is available at:
www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au/clinician-scientist

Full Applications are by invitation only, which will be offered to applicants on successful review of their EOI. All applications should be submitted by email to MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au
See below for submission dates.

For queries regarding NSW Cardiovascular Disease Grants, please email MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au. Answers to frequently asked questions are available on the Cardiovascular Disease Grants webpage. Please check the website regularly.

Indicative Program Timeline (use as a guide, subject to change without notice)

CVD Clinician Scientist 2018/19-2020/21	Date
STAGE 1	
Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)	20th September 2018
EOIs close	14th November 2018
Invitations to progress to Full Application	16th January 2019
STAGE 2	
Full Applications close	27th March 2019
Announcement of successful applicants and commencement of funding	May 2019

CVD Clinician Scientist Grants

Objectives

The purpose of the NSW Health Cardiovascular Disease Clinician Scientist Grants is to fund and incentivise clinician researchers to work in CVD research to:

- drive discoveries with the long term aim of improving wellbeing and health outcomes across NSW
- build a strong, vibrant and highly skilled research workforce
- attract and retain high quality clinician scientists in NSW
- realise long term sustained economic impact for NSW though the development of new therapies
- assist clinician scientists to become competitive for NHMRC, ARC, MRFF, Heart Foundation and other Federal/National granting schemes

The objectives of the NSW Health Cardiovascular Disease Clinician Scientist Grants are to:

- enable clinician scientists to collaborate as teams in a 'bench to bedside and back again' manner
- encourage the development of research skills among clinician scientists in a supportive environment
- embed quality research in the health system by supporting the participation of early, mid and senior Clinician Scientists in high quality research projects – across the spectrum from biomedical discovery research, through to clinical research, health services and population health research
- leverage Australian Government funding opportunities to further research and its translation in NSW
- bridge the gap between research, policy and practice to increase research impact

Cardiovascular Research

The current round of funding will support Clinician Scientists working in cardiovascular health. The term cardiovascular disease (CVD) is used to encompass all diseases and conditions of the heart and blood vessels, including but not limited to:

- coronary heart disease
- stroke
- heart failure
- peripheral vascular disease
- renal vascular disease
- cardiovascular complications of diabetes and obesity
- rheumatic heart disease
- congenital heart disease

Types of Grants

A total funding pool of up to $6 million is available for CVD Clinician Scientist Grants in the inaugural year of funding – approximately 60% will be allocated to biomedical discovery research and 40% to clinical, health services and population health research. Funds up to $250,000 per year for the 3-year duration of the grant will be offered.

Grants are for research projects or programs and can cover a combination of salaries of the research team (clinical and/or non-clinical), backfill for clinicians to quarantine research time, consumables, and research equipment (including IT).

Clinician – Medical: Salary limit – up to 0.6 FTE staff specialist. A similar arrangement is also available for Visiting Medical Officers

Clinician – Non Medical: Salary limit – up to 0.6 FTE as per Allied Health (including Pharmacist and radiographers) and Nursing awards

Funding Conditions and Exclusions

1. Research funded through the CVD Clinician Scientist grant must be conducted in New South Wales. Research has to be conducted in the New South Wales health system or affiliated organisation (university, medical research institute, industry partners).
2. CVD Clinician Scientist grants must not be spent on capital works, general maintenance costs, organisational infrastructure or overheads, telephone/communication systems, basic office equipment, such as desks and chairs, rent and the cost of utilities.
3. Applicants are required to declare the source, duration and level of funding already held for research in the subject area of the application.
4. Funding is conditional on the Clinician Scientist and the Chief Executive of the Host Organisation signing the declaration on the application form, which outlines the Host Organisation's obligations to the Clinician Scientist.
5. One expression of interest will be accepted per applicant.

Supporting Resources

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Clinician Scientist Grant Website

The CVD website contains further information about:

- the grant in Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Completing an Aboriginal Impact Statement

Knowledge Impact and Knowledge Translation

Knowledge Impact for Biomedical discovery research

At the completion of the project, the outcome of research is the production of knowledge that leads to further discovery, and usually will be published in journals of high impact, and become highly cited. The research must be of relevance to CVD. Biomedical discovery research should have the potential to lead to new understanding about CVD processes. Such discoveries may therefore have the potential to lead to new diagnostics or novel therapeutic drugs or devices that could impact management of CVD. The short-term major outputs of biomedical discovery research to demonstrate impact could include the following:

- peer-reviewed publications particularly in high impact journals, (and may include open-access journal/archive where possible)
- presentations, including invited presentations, at major national and international conferences
- award of national or international peer reviewed grants and fellowships, particularly NHMRC, Heart Foundation, ARC, MRFF
- influence on other science
- new diagnostics
- new drug targets
- new clinical or medical prototypes
- media coverage of research outcomes and non-peer-reviewed publications
- web-based activities (e.g. postings, wikis, blogs, podcasts, etc.)

Most of these outputs are also the major outputs of relevance for clinical, health services, and population health research.

Knowledge Translation for clinical, health services and population health research

Early engagement of research and translation partners is advised for meaningful co-production of research. This will most likely generate higher impact research that is directly relevant to clinical, health service and population health in NSW.

Knowledge translation is a dynamic and iterative process that includes the synthesis, dissemination, exchange and application of knowledge. OHMR funding programs aim to support meaningful co-production of research and early engagement with the audience who will likely use the research findings – the knowledge user.

A good knowledge translation plan should specify when, how and for what purpose the researchers and knowledge users will meet. This approach should produce research findings that are more likely to be directly relevant to and used by knowledge users. This is intended to inform activities that will raise awareness of the findings or promote implementation at the end of the grant.

It is recommended that partner engagement occur throughout the research project and follow through to knowledge translation, for example:

1. It is advised that prior to and during research key scientific, clinical, policy and practice partners be included in the development of the research question. Partners should participate in relevant stages of the process including translation activities such as:
   a. Co-production of research
   b. Presentations of findings
   c. Publication of findings in policy- or practice-relevant formats
   d. Steps required to change practice and pass knowledge on to the 'next user'
   e. Implementation plan (including potential impact on existing models of care, health-economics and funding model)

2. At the completion of the research project, researchers and key partners should continue to follow through with planned translation activities. Applicants will need to consider how the success of knowledge translation activities and the uptake of research findings into practice or at the next stage of the translation continuum will be measured.

Research should consider outcomes for, and its impact on, priority population groups

Research projects need to consider the differential health needs of, and its potential impact on, priority populations, such as Aboriginal people and communities, individuals from a non-English speaking background, and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. Engage the right partners early on to ensure that the research methodology and design will be equally effective and impactful for Aboriginal people and other priority population groups, and leverage and incorporate the experience and expertise of relevant partners during the design and implementation stages of the project.

For instance, for projects with a targeted focus on Aboriginal people, involving Aboriginal settings consideration of the following is strongly encouraged:

- Identify at an early stage any potential issues for Aboriginal communities and how these issues might be addressed, using the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement
- Establish collaborative and transparent partnerships with local Aboriginal community controlled health services, and other community organisations
- Recognise the value of Aboriginal peoples' expertise and experience, ensuring that Aboriginal researchers and organisations have an equal role in the design, planning, and priority setting stages of the research project
- Invite Aboriginal researchers and organisations to be a part of the research team
- Consider and promote opportunities to build research capacity of Aboriginal researchers and organisations throughout the course of the project
- Consider whether different or additional communication or data collection methods are required

Eligibility Criteria

Applications must meet **ALL** eligibility criteria.

Clinician Scientist

1. Based in NSW

The Clinician Scientist must;

- reside in or plan to move to NSW
- either be an employee of a NSW Medical Research Institute, University or Non-Government Organisation and undertake clinical practice in a NSW Public Health Organisation, or
- be an employee of a NSW Public Health Organisation, including but not limited to:
  - Staff Specialists, including clinical academics
  - Visiting Medical Officers
  - Nurses
  - Allied Health (including pharmacists and radiographers).

For the purpose of this document, a NSW Public Health Organisation is defined as Local Health District's (LHD), Specialty Health Network's (SHN), Pillars, State-wide Health Services or Shared Services.

If a researcher is seeking a time limited appointment within a Public Health Organisation whilst undertaking research, there must be a letter of acknowledgement from the researcher's Local Health District Director of Administration/Services that the time limited appointment will be considered by the relevant Medical and Dental Appointment Advisory Committee.

2. Cardiovascular research

The Clinician Scientist must conduct research in Cardiovascular Health.

3. Complete application

The Clinician Scientist must complete the Expression of Interest, attach all relevant and required documentation; sign the declaration on the EOI; and include certification from the Host Organisation.

4. Resource Requirements

The Clinician Scientist must identify the core team members and other personnel financially supported throughout the duration of the grant.

5. Australian citizen, permanent residency status or appropriate visa

The Clinician Scientist must be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident of Australia or have an appropriate working visa for the full term of the grant. Clinical Scientists who are neither Australian citizens nor permanent residents must provide evidence of residency status and the right to remain in Australia for the duration of the funding period, which is certified by a Justice of the Peace or equivalent. Note that for electronic documents, an official VEVO statement is sufficient, JP certification is not required. Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents are not required to provide evidence.

Host / Research Organisation

The Host Organisation is the NSW Public Health Organisation which employs the Clinician Scientist, or provides an appointment to the clinician scientist and, for those undertaking clinical research, the organisation where the Clinician Scientist undertakes clinical duties.

The Research Organisation is the place where the Clinician Scientist will undertake their research activities. It could be a NSW Public Health Organisation, an independent Medical Research Institute, University, or non-government organisation.

6. Located in NSW

The Clinician Scientist's Host Organisation must be a Public Health Organisation located in NSW.

The Clinician Scientist's Research Organisation must be located in NSW.

Clinical Scientists may undertake clinical work separately from where research is undertaken. If the Host Organisation / NSW Public Health Organisation is different from the place where the Clinician Scientist will undertake research then both organisations need to sign off on the application.

7. Organisation conducts health and medical research

The Clinician Scientist's Host and / or Research Organisation must conduct health and medical research in one of the following places: a department or research centre within a University; a NSW Public Health Organisation; an independent Medical Research Institute; or a not-for-profit organisation.

8. Infrastructure support

The Clinician Scientist's research organisation will provide the appropriate infrastructure support for the research project, including wet / dry lab space, computer equipment, desk space etc.

Selection Criteria

All applications for funding that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed against the following selection criteria. In addressing the selection criteria, applicants need to specifically highlight the relevance to cardiovascular disease (research/clinical).

1. Academic and relevant clinical qualifications
Clinician Scientists will be required to list any clinical and academic qualifications held and any relevant professional qualifications with the year awarded, the awarding body and country.

2. Research, clinical and industry experience, including demonstrated capacity to work in multidisciplinary teams
Clinician Scientists will be required to list any research, clinical and industry appointments and positions held for the previous ten years and highlight the different disciplines engaged with through each role.

3. Skills and experience directly related to the topic area(s) and methodology of the research project
Clinician Scientists will be asked to describe the project team members existing skills and experience that:

- directly relates to the topic area(s) and/or methodology of the research project,
- relates to the nominated area(s) for development (and how participation in the project will help to address these skills), and /or
- relates to building Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher capacity (where relevant).

4. Track record in research, relative to opportunity
Has evidence of track record in research. Clinician Scientists will be asked to provide the details of top career journal articles; books, reports or patents; and conference presentations. In particular, highlight the relevance to this application. In addition, details of any funding awarded to previous projects will also be requested. To assess track record relative to opportunity, Clinician Scientists will be asked about any significant career disruptions or clinical responsibilities that could reasonably be considered to have had an impact on research track record over the previous ten years.

5. Multidisciplinary research
Ability to develop research projects that involve collaborations to bridge different disciplines and enhance competitiveness and innovation, is desirable. Clinician Scientist's role in developing these collaborations will be important to demonstrate.

6. Research Organisation's track record in health and medical research
As evidence of the Host and/or Research Organisation's track record in health and medical research, the application form asks for the relevant section in a current annual report or equivalent document that includes a description of the Host Organisation's recent research achievements. This is not required if the organisation is a LHD/SHN, independent MRI, that is currently receiving OHMR Medical Research Support Program grants or a NSW University.

7. Ability to deliver nominated research outcomes and/or objectives within the grant period
It must be feasible to deliver the specified research within the grant period. A list of key project milestones and related deliverables (activities, expected outputs and outcomes) with an indication of when each will be completed is required. There is an expectation that at the completion of the grant it will be possible to report on meaningful activities, outputs and outcomes for the Clinician Scientist to demonstrate how the findings from the research project are being disseminated and/or translated into policy and practice.

The application form asks for a list of project team members and roles, and FTE allocated to the project. This information will be used as context for interpreting the information provided in relation to selection criterion #3.

8. Future vision
Clinician Scientists are asked to provide a vision for career development in research and proposed research achievements. This would include a reflection on reasons for conducting research, how skill development will be approached and how the envisaged end goal will be achieved or contribution to CVD research will be made. The applicant will also need to detail how this grant will build capacity in cardiovascular research in NSW.

9. Quality and feasibility of the project
Will the project lead to high impact publications because of an innovative and visionary research plan; is the project feasible within the budget, and if not have other sources of funding been defined

10. Quality and feasibility of the knowledge translation plan and demonstrated appropriate partnerships
List planned activities to support the dissemination of findings and for the translation of knowledge from the research project into policy and/or practice is required where relevant. Each activity should include information on who will be engaged, when, and how, as well as the intended impact of each engagement and how it will support successful implementation or uptake of the research findings.

For clinical, health services and population health research, an overview of potential translation should be provided. For Basic Science it is important to note how any publications and/or citations will be shared with colleagues within the field, i.e. open access publications; sharing information through workshops or seminars.

11. Project considers current priority issues, and gaps in equity of health access and outcomes for priority population groups
Demonstrate how the project will consider the differential health needs, and gaps in equity of access and health outcomes between priority population groups (Aboriginal communities, individuals from a non-English speaking background, socioeconomically disadvantaged groups) and others. Outline what actions will be taken to ensure that the project scope contributes to bridging identified gaps in health outcomes, and what considerations will be made to ensure the project's research design and method will be equally effective and impactful for Aboriginal people and other priority population groups.

This might include embedding specific design elements that enable consent and active research participation from priority population groups, like a translation service, or culturally appropriate resources and methods. For projects with a targeted focus on Aboriginal people, strongly encouraged actions include identifying potential issues for Aboriginal communities and resolutions using the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement, considering priority issues for Aboriginal health (e.g. integrated care across the health system, innovative culturally safe models of care), and ensuring Aboriginal researchers and organisations have an equal role in the design, planning, and priority setting stages of the project.

Explain how the findings of the research project will be equally relevant for Aboriginal people and priority populations, and how these findings will be effectively disseminated at a community level.

12. Proposed budget is appropriate given the purpose and objectives of the research project
The proposed research project budget should include details on salaries and consumables, such as laboratory supplies, computer sundries and small equipment, test costs, licences, fees, project specific stationary, project specific specialist journals. The Clinician Scientist is to provide funding contributions from the Host/Research Organisation and other sources.

Commitments of the Host Organisation

An objective of the grant is to develop research skills. The success of the scheme in part depends on support from the Host Organisations. It is important for the Host Organisation to acknowledge and support the following principles of the scheme. In the EOI form, Host Organisations will be asked to sign off on these commitments.

1. Support from the Research Director and Chief Executive
The Clinician Scientist must have the support of the Research Director and Chief Executive in submitting an application. These decision makers are essential to facilitating the opportunity provided through this grant. Funding is conditional on a full assessment at the full application stage.

2. Legally compliant and committed to providing appropriate support
The Clinician Scientist's Host Organisation must meet all standard employer responsibilities required by law, accommodate and support the grantee for the term of their grant.

3. Gender equity in practice
The Clinician Scientist's Host Organisation must value gender equity in practice.

4. In-kind contributions
The Clinician Scientist's Host Organisation should provide in-kind contributions.

5. Management of grant funds
The Clinician Scientist's Host Organisation is responsible for managing grant funds. For the purpose of grant payments, it is encouraged that the Clinician Scientist collaborates with an independent medical research institute, university or funding body to administer funds.

7. Back fill substantive position
Where relevant, the Clinician Scientist's Host Organisation will ensure protected research time to combine the research project effectively with clinical responsibilities. This may involve back-fill arrangements to free up successful candidates from usual duties. A letter from the Host Organisation must be submitted when completing the full application outlining any such arrangements to ensure the security of the Clinician Scientist's substantive position.

Commitments of the Research Organisation

If the research is undertaken in an organisation separate from the Host Organisation, it is important for the Research Organisation to acknowledge and support the following principles of the scheme. In the EOI form, where applicable, the Research Organisations will be asked to sign off on these commitments.

1. Support from the Chief Executive / Executive Director
The Clinician Scientist must have the support of the Chief Executive / Executive Director in submitting their application.

2. Legally compliant and committed to providing appropriate support
The Clinician Scientist's Research Organisation must meet all standard employer responsibilities required by law, accommodate and support the grantee for the term of their grant.

3. Gender equity in practice
The Clinician Scientist's Research Organisation must value gender equity in practice.

4. In-kind contributions
The Clinician Scientist's Research Organisation should provide in-kind contributions to support the research project including, but not limited to wet / dry lab space, computer equipment, desk space etc.

Selection Process

Expression of Interest Review

STEP 1: Initial eligibility appraisal
Following the closing date for applications, the NSW Ministry of Health will make an appraisal as to whether or not each Expression of Interest has satisfied ALL of the eligibility criteria.

STEP 2: EOI review against the selection criteria
Expressions of Interest will be assessed by the EOI Review Panel.

STEP 3: Recommendation of applicants progressing to Full Application
All applicants will be informed as to whether they have been selected to progress to Full Application stage. The EOI Review Panel's decision is final.

Full Application Review

STEP 1: Scoring against the selection criteria
An Independent Selection Panel of expert reviewers, chaired by the Executive Director of the Office for Health and Medical Research, will assess each application against the selection criteria.

STEP 2: Recommendation for funding
The Independent Selection Panel will agree on the final ranking of all eligible applications, and will make a recommendation for funding to the NSW Ministry of Health.

STEP 3: Interviews
The Host Organisation and the clinician will be interviewed prior to final funding decisions being made.

STEP 4: Decision and notification
The NSW Ministry of Health will make a determination on grant recipients and amounts. Applicants will be notified in a letter.

STEP 5: Grant Agreements initiated
The NSW Ministry of Health will make contact with successful Clinician Scientists to develop and enter into Funding Agreements with the Host Organisation.

Reporting Requirements

The Host Organisation will enter into a Funding Agreement with NSW Health that sets out obligations.

A schedule for reporting will be outlined in the Funding Agreement and will include a requirement to provide:

- Annual progress reports
- Annual financial reports
- A final report following the conclusion of the term of the Grant

Implementation assessment and evaluation

The scheme will periodically be assessed to ensure it is meeting its objectives. This will be done in collaboration with the Host Organisations and grant recipients.

Grant recipients may be asked to meet with staff from the Ministry of Health from time to time during the funding period. Meetings with recipients will facilitate feedback and inform the future direction of the scheme.