**Emerging Researcher Grants: Guidelines and Application Form**

**Background**

Western Alliance Academic Health Science Centre (Western Alliance) is offering a number of Emerging Researcher Grants, each up to $5,000, to support emerging researchers based in health settings across western Victoria.

Twelve grants will be available across the region as follows:

* **Ballarat/Grampians**: Four grants of up to $5,000 each (available to employees of Ballarat Health Services, East Grampians Health Service, St John of God Ballarat and Western Victoria PHN)
* **Geelong/Colac:** Four grants of up to $5,000 each (available to employees of Barwon Health, Colac Area Health, St John of God Geelong and Western Victoria PHN)
* **Hamilton/Warrnambool:** Four grants of up to $5,000 each (available to employees of South West Healthcare, St John of God Warrnambool, Western District Health Service and Western Victoria PHN)

***About Western Alliance:***

Western Alliance (<https://www.westernalliance.org.au/>) was established in 2014 as the first regional and rural focussed academic health science centre in Australia. Western Alliance operates across western Victoria as a not-for-profit consortium, supporting its members to improve the health of their communities through research-based and evidence-informed health care.

What we do:

* We foster relationships between organisations and individuals who can influence regional and rural health outcomes and research
* We build capability of regional and rural health practitioners, researchers and consumers, enabling them to contribute to and benefit from health research
* We prioritise health care problems and fund regional and rural health research teams to investigate, generate evidence and implement solutions
* We support development of nationally relevant models of regional and rural health research
* We work to achieve equitable funding for regional and rural health research

**Objectives of the Emerging Researcher Grants**

* Enable emerging researchers to gain experience in designing and implementing a research project in their local context
* Support pilot projects or projects where traditional funding sources are difficult to attract and/or where staffing resources limit the ability of clinical staff to be involved in research activities;
* Develop and strengthen the research culture within Western Alliance health sector member organisations;
* Support work that benefits the western Victorian community and addresses the strategic objectives of Western Alliance and its member organisations;
* Support projects that will lead to applications for larger grants or funding; and
* Support capability building and staff development in translation focussed research.

**Eligibility:**

Employees of Western Alliance health sector member organisations (as below) are encouraged to apply. Collaboration with academic partners is welcomed, however the Principal Investigator must be an employee at one of the organisations below.

* Ballarat Health Services
* Barwon Health
* Colac Area Health
* East Grampians Health Services
* South West Health Care
* St John of God (Ballarat, Geelong and Warrnambool)
* Western District Health Service
* Western Victoria Primary Health Network

**Grant Conditions:**

1. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
2. Only applications submitted using the application form provided will be considered.
3. An individual can only be awarded one emerging researcher grant as principal investigator. If successful in a round, the individual will not be permitted to submit an application as principal investigator in subsequent rounds of emerging researcher grants.
4. All applications must be signed by the Principal Investigator (PI) and the relevant Head of Department within the PIs organisation. If the Principal Investigator is also the Head of Department, the applicant must seek approval from their manager (i.e. Investigators cannot approve their own application).
5. All grants are awarded subject to ethical and governance approval.
6. Applicants must disclose whether funding has been sought for the project elsewhere.

1. A progress report must be provided to Western Alliance every 6 months until project completion, and a final report provided at the completion of the project
2. New researchers (i.e. those who have not undertaken their own research before) are encouraged to apply, and must identify an experienced research mentor in their proposal. Western Alliance can assist with the identification of a research mentor as required.
3. An abstract is to be submitted to the Western Alliance annual Symposium, either during the project or within the 12 months following project completion.
4. All publications and presentations arising from the project that the grant is funding in any way, partially or in full, must acknowledge Western Alliance as a contributor.

**Funding arrangements:**

1. All awarded money must be expended on the grant project within 12 months, unless other arrangements are approved by Western Alliance
2. Applications for funds of up to $5000 will be considered. The judging panel reserves the right to provide less funding than is requested to ensure a balance of projects is funded in any one year.
3. The grants must be used to support research activity, and not to fund service delivery. Funding may be used to cover:

* Salary support (e.g. cover salary costs for a practitioner to conduct the project)
* Direct research costs (e.g. costs associated with ethics review and approval, time with a statistician, equipment purchase). If research equipment is required, a quote for the equipment must be attached to the application along with justification for the purchase.

**Selection criteria:**

All applications will be assessed against the following selection criteria and weightings:

**Pre-requisites:** Capability building - potential to provide new and emerging researchers with opportunities for involvement and experience in research activities (preference for funding will therefore be given to new and emerging researchers)

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| **Problem identification (20%)** | * Addresses an important knowledge or evidence-based practice gap (e.g. service delivery, workforce, etc.) * Demonstrated review and understanding of the literature |
| **Scientific merit (40%)** | * Clearly articulated aim * Appropriate study design that addresses aim * Clearly defined data collection * Clearly defined outcome measures |
| **Feasibility (20%)** | * The proposed timeline appears realistic and achievable * The budget is justified and appropriate to the project |
| **Impact (20%)** | * Translational impact (potential to influence policy or practice) * Collaboration between disciplines/professions (as appropriate) Consumer engagement or consumer collaboration (as appropriate) |

**Note: The judging panel reserves the right to consider a balance of representation (including geographical location, professional background and research experience of applicants) when awarding funding.**

**Application Support:**

If you are interested in applying for an emerging researcher grant or want to learn more, we strongly encourage you to contact your local Western Alliance Research Translation Coordinator (below) to discuss your idea prior to commencing your application. They will be able to support you to develop your idea and proposal, and to match you with an appropriate supervisor as required.

* Ballarat/East Grampians: Jaclyn Bishop [Jaclyn.Bishop@eghs.net.au](mailto:Jaclyn.Bishop@eghs.net.au)
* Geelong/Colac: Michael Field - [MField@cah.vic.gov.au](mailto:MField@cah.vic.gov.au)
* Hamilton/Warrnambool: Louise Greenstock - [Louise.Greenstock@wdhs.net](mailto:Louise.Greenstock@wdhs.net)

For **further information** about the Emerging Researcher Grants, you can also contact Western Alliance Executive Officer, Drew Aras: [drewaras@westernalliance.org.au](mailto:drewaras@westernalliance.org.au) or 0402777385.

**Key Dates:**

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| Applications open | Thursday 17th September 2020 |
| Closing date | Thursday 12th November 2020 COB (5pm) |
| Notification of outcomes | December 2020 |

**Please complete all fields in the following section and submit your application electronically to:** [**info@westernalliance.org.au**](mailto:info@westernalliance.org.au) **by 5pm on Thursday 12th November 2020**

**Western Alliance Emerging Researcher Grants Application Form**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title** | Enter text |

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| **Expected Start date of project** | Select date |

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| **Expected completion date of project** | Select date |

**Principal Investigator (must be from a Western Alliance member Health Service or PHN)**

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| **Title and Name** | Enter text |

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| **Appointment / s** | Enter text |

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| **Department** | Enter text |

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| **Phone** | Enter text | **Fax** | Enter text |

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| **Mobile / Pager** | Enter text | **Email** | Enter text |

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| **Qualifications** | Enter text |

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| **Include a brief summary of relevant experience and expertise (could include research, quality improvement clinical, managerial etc.) –**  *Maximum 100 words* | Enter text |

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| **Please describe how**  **this grant would**  **assist you in building**  **your own Research**  **capability**  *Maximum 100 words* | Enter text |

**Associate Investigators**

| **Name of Associate investigators** | **Organisation, position, qualifications, experience (including research)** |
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| Enter text | Enter text |
| Enter text | Enter text |
| Enter text | Enter text |

**Mentor**New researchers must complete (see definition page 2, rule 12)

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| **Name of Mentor** | **Organisation, position, qualifications, experience (including research)** |
| Enter text | Enter text |

**Please provide a brief lay summary of the proposed project. Please ensure that it is easily read and understood by the general public.** *Maximum 250 words*

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| Enter text |

**Project Proposal**

*Maximum 2 pages (covering aim and research question, background/rationale and methodology)*

**Aim and research question**

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| Enter text |

**Background and rationale (including literature review & bibliography)**

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| Enter text |

**Methodology**

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| Enter text |

**What is the intended impact of this project? Please include expected outcomes, benefits and/or translational impact** *Maximum 250 words*

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| Enter text |

| **Milestones / Project Plan**  (Example only, change as required) | **Expected date** |
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| **Ethics approval date** | Enter a date |
| **Governance approval date** | Enter a date |
| **HREC reference number / Local reference number (if you already have ethical and / or governance approval)** | Enter text |
| **Project commencement** | Enter a date |
| **Recruitment commencement** | Enter a date |
| **Recruitment completed / target reached** | Enter a date |
| **Commence data analysis** | Enter a date |
| **Project completion** | Enter a date |
| **Presentations / Conferences / Publications** | Enter a date |

**Detailed Budget**

**Please note:** The maximum amount awarded will not exceed $5000. Please be as specific as possible. We require details of any staffing requirements, specialist research support (e.g. biostatistics or health economics), equipment (include quote where possible), consumables, travel etc. Please include ethics & governance fees in the budget if applicable. Please also provide information about in-kind support from your organisation or external sources.

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| **Item** | **Cost $** |
| Enter text | Enter text |
| Enter text | Enter text |
| Enter text | Enter text |
| Enter text | Enter text |
| Enter text | Enter text |
| **Total funds requested** | **Total $** Enter text |

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| **IN-KIND SUPPORT**  (Include estimation of staff time, administration costs etc.) | **Cost $** |
| Enter text | Enter text |
| Enter text | Enter text |
| Enter text | Enter text |
| Enter text | Enter text |
| **Total in-kind support** | **Total $** Enter text |

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| **Has funding for this project been sought elsewhere?** | Select an option |

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| **If funding has been sought elsewhere, please provide information about source, amount and status of application** | Enter text |

**Certification by Investigators**

In submitting this application, I / we accept and agree to comply with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) - updated 2018. Ethical and local governance approval will be obtained prior to the commencement of this project.

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| **Name and Signature of Principal Investigator** |  | **Date** | Select date |

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| **Name and Signature of Associate Investigator** |  | **Date** | Select date |

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| **Name and Signature of Associate Investigator** |  | **Date** | Select date |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name and Signature of Associate Investigator** |  | **Date** | Select date |

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| **Name and Signature of Associate Investigator** |  | **Date** | Select date |

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| **Name and Signature of Mentor**  (For new researchers only) |  | **Date** | Select date |

**Certification by Head of Department**

*Note: if the department head is an investigator on this project, please seek sign off from the person above the department head*

I certify that:

* The project is appropriate to the work conducted in my department and I am prepared to have the project carried out in my department
* The investigators will seek ethics approval and will conform to the general principals set out in the NHMRC guidelines

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| **Name, organisation & position**  **(please print)** | Enter text |

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| **Signature of Department Head** |  | **Date** | Select date |