**Western Alliance Flagship Research Program – Expression of Interest (EOI) form**

Background information – please read carefully before progressing to the EOI application below

***Introduction:***

Western Alliance is pleased to open expressions of interest for its inaugural Flagship Research Program, which will see the allocation of a single grant of up to $200,000 towards solving a key problem, based on identified priorities from our health sector member organisations across rural and regional western Victoria.

Western Alliance has now funded over 30 individual research projects across the region, and using the strong foundation provided by our support for these individual projects, we are now looking to identify a key problem and support a **program** of research activity and capacity building that will assist in solving it.

**Please note: This expression of interest is only open to those employed by Western Alliance member organisations.**

 ***Identification of an appropriate problem:***

The identification of a key problem should take into account the needs of our member organisations, the existing capacity of our researchers to tackle the problem and the ability to collaborate with external agencies to leverage both expertise and access external funds to support the flagship and to contribute to its financial sustainability.

The problem should align with one of the themes and platforms included below, which were identified as being a high priority by our health service and Primary Health Network members in a recent survey of member CEOs.

Priority Themes

* Mental health
* Multi-morbidities and chronic disease
* Ageing/care of the elderly/frailty (including palliative and end of life care)
* Cancer
* Maternal and perinatal care

Priority Cross-Cutting Platforms

* Use of data to improve care
* Workforce development, support and retention
* Strengthening Telehealth/virtual and remote care
* Explore new models of care
* Primary/community care, integration, keeping people out of hospital

***Requirements and expectations for a Flagship Research Program:***

At EOI stage, to be considered for progression to full application, the Flagship Research Program must:

* Be co-designed with and embedded in Western Alliance health sector organisations (note that formal documented support from health sector partners is not required at EOI stage, however, indicative support and involvement in the development of the proposal will be expected)
* Be led by investigators with an extensive and relevant research track record and the ability to influence translational change within the target area (Principal Investigator research CV to be supplied with the EOI)
* Address a priority problem common to all Western Alliance health sector members across rural and regional western Victoria (please see priority themes and platforms listed above)
* Include elements across the care continuum,
* Include a focus on translating the research into policy and/or practice

If a proposal is selected to progress beyond the EOI stage to a formal application, the following requirements will also be expected to be demonstrated:

* Involve consumer co-design,
* Have strong potential to leverage external research grant funding (ideally Category 1 grants) such as NHMRC Partnership Grants or MRFF grants,
* Leverage involvement of Higher Degree by Research students through involvement of our University partners,
* Involve cash or in-kind support from health service partners and/or other key external stakeholders (e.g. State/Commonwealth Governments, Health insurance companies, philanthropy, health services outside of the Western Alliance membership)
* Have multiple outcome points so the results can be accessed and implemented continuously.

***Application process:***

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| **Component** | **Timeline** |
| Step 1: Call for expressions of interest  | December 8th 2020 to January 29th 2021 |
| Step 2: Preliminary review and shortlisting | January 29th 2021 to February 12th 2021 |
| Step 3: Shortlisted projects progress to formal application  | February 12th 2021 to March 16th 2021 |
| Step 4: Panel review of formal applications | March 16th 2021 to march 30th 2021 |
| Step 5: Panel interviews | March 30th 2021 to April 9th 2021 |
| Step 6: Panel decision and Western Alliance board advised as to successful flagship research program applicant | By April 12th 2021 |

***Expression of Interest Application form:***

**Please complete all sections below and return to** **drewaras@westernalliance.org.au** **along with a two page academic CV for the Principal Investigator.**

For further information, or for a confidential discussion regarding your proposal, please contact Drew Aras, Executive Officer, on 0448246415 or drewaras@westernalliance.org.au.

1. **Principal Investigator:**

Name (including title)

Organisation & Position

Email address

Phone number

1. **Proposed collaborating investigators (please include name, title and organisation for each):**
2. **Proposed Project Title:**
3. **Overview of identified problem (Max 200 words)**
4. **Lay summary of proposal and proposed methodology (Max 200 words):**
5. **Intended impacts of the research program (Max 200 words):**
6. **Proposed partnering organisations (It is not expected that you will have obtained formal documented support from individual organisations at this stage):**
7. **Capacity of the Principal Investigator and research team to undertake the proposed research program and translate the findings into policy/practice (please comment based on the track record and experience of the Principal Investigator and research team). (Max 200 words)**