**Western Alliance Mental Health Research grant round – 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 latest thematic research funding round, with Mental Health being recognised as key priority by Western Alliance member organisations. With the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated mitigation strategies (including lockdowns) on the mental health of our communities, as well as the release of the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System in early 2021, it is an opportune time to support translation focussed mental health research in our region.

This grant round will see the total allocation of $50,000 (split across up to two projects) towards solving a key problem, based on mental health priorities from our health sector member organisations and communities across rural and regional western Victoria.

**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 mental health problem should take into account both the needs of our communities and member organisations, as well as the existing capacity of our researchers to tackle the problem through research.

In addressing their identified problem, Applicants should also consider aligning their research to one or more of Western Alliance’s priority cross-cutting platforms as below:

* Use of data to improve care
* Workforce development, support and retention
* Strengthening Telehealth/virtual and remote care
* Exploring new models of care
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
* Primary/community care, integration, keeping people out of hospital

***Requirements and expectations for Western Alliance Mental Health Research grants:***

At EOI stage, to be considered for progression to full application, the proposed research 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)
* Demonstrate a meaningful approach to consumer and/or community co-design and engagement
* Be led by investigators with the ability to influence translational change within the target area (Principal Investigator research CV to be supplied with the EOI)
* Include a focus on translating the research into policy and/or practice

***Application process:***

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| **Component** | **Timeline** |
| Step 1: Call for expressions of interest  | March 17th 2022 to May 12th 2022 |
| Step 2: Preliminary review and shortlisting/notification of shortlisted projects | May 12th 2022 to May 26th 2022 |
| Step 3: Shortlisted projects progress to formal application  | May 26th 2022 to July 7th 2022 |
| Step 4: Panel review of formal applications | July 7th 2022 to July 28th 2022 |
| Step 5: Panel decision and successful applicant/s identified and notified | By July 28th 2022 |

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

**Please complete all sections below and return to** **drewaras@westernalliance.org.au** **along with a two page CV for the Principal Investigator, by COB May 12th 2022.**

For further information, or for a confidential discussion regarding your proposal, please contact Drew Aras, Executive Officer, on 0402777385 or drewaras@westernalliance.org.au.

Please note that word limits indicated within the EOI form do not include references.

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. **Lay Summary of Project (Max 200 words)**
4. **Overview of identified problem (Max 200 words)**
5. **Proposed methodology (Max 200 words):**
6. **Consumer and community Involvement – Please indicate how you intend to engage consumers/community throughout the stages of your research, including in co-design (Max 200 words):**
7. **Intended impacts of the research on policy or practice within the next 5 years (Max 300 words):**
8. **Proposed partnering organisations (It is not expected that you will have obtained formal documented support from individual organisations at this stage):**