

STaRR Emerging Researcher Grants: Guidelines

Background

Western Alliance Academic Health Science Centre (Western Alliance) is committed to building research and translation capability in Western Victoria. The Supporting Translation of Research in Rural and Regional Settings (STaRR) Program is a multifaceted training program at the centre of Western Alliance's research capability building strategy.

To support STaRR Emerging Researchers conduct a translation-focused research project, Western Alliance is offering two kinds of Emerging Researcher Grants in 2023:

- (1) **Emerging Researcher Seed Grants** of up to \$5,000 for past STaRR participants to conduct a research project to generate new evidence, and
- (2) **Emerging Researcher Translation grants** of up to \$10,000, for past STaRR participants and past Emerging Researcher grant recipients, to translate research evidence into practice.

The total funding pool is \$60,000. To be considered, applicants must work in a Western Alliance member health service or primary health network. See below for more details about eligibility.

Objectives of the STaRR Emerging Researcher Grants

- Enable STaRR Emerging Researchers to progress their projects and 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 projects that will lead to applications for larger grants or funding
- Support capability building and staff development in translation focused research
- Enable STaRR Emerging Researchers to translate evidence they have generated, or is otherwise existing, into practice and/or policy in their local health setting
- Support STaRR Emerging Researchers who have identified a practice that should be ceased or modified based on evidence, to enact appropriate changes in their local health setting

Eligibility:

For STaRR Emerging Researcher **Seed** Grants:

- The Principal Investigator (PI) must have attended at least one STaRR Emerging Researcher workshop prior to their application

For STaRR Emerging Researcher **Translation** Grants:

- The PI must have attended at least one STaRR Emerging Researcher workshop prior to their application *OR*
- The PI must have been awarded an Emerging Researcher Grant previously

Collaboration with academic and other health organisation partners is welcomed, however the PI must be a current employee at one of these organisations:

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

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.

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 Seed Grant and one Emerging Researcher Translation 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 for the same type of emerging researcher grant.
4. All applications must be signed by the PI and the relevant Head of Department within the PIs organisation. If the PI is also the Head of Department, the applicant must seek approval from their manager (i.e., PIs 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.
7. 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.¹
8. 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.
9. An abstract is to be submitted to the Western Alliance annual Symposium, either during the project or within the 12 months following project completion.
10. 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.

¹Progress and final reports may be used as part of the STaRR program evaluation (Barwon Health HREC ref. 20/183).

Funding arrangements:

1. All awarded money must be expended on the grant project within 18 months, unless other arrangements are approved by Western Alliance.
2. Applications for funds of up to \$5,000 will be considered for the STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed grants, and up to \$10,000 for the STaRR Emerging Researcher Translation Grants. 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 or translation 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 research or manage/conduct the translation process)
 - ◆ Direct research or translation costs (e.g., costs associated with ethics review and approval, time with a statistician, equipment purchase, develop educational material for stakeholders). If research equipment is required, a quote for the equipment must be attached to the application along with justification for the purchase. Please note that Western Alliance also separately provides limited funds for access to biostatistics and health economics support, please speak to your local Research Translation Coordinator if these have been identified for your proposed project.

Application Support:

If you are interested in applying for a STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed or Translation Grant or want to learn more, we strongly encourage you to contact your mentor or 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.

- ◆ Ballarat/Ararat: Ella.ottrey@eghs.net.au
- ◆ Geelong/Colac: Michael Field - MField@cah.vic.gov.au
- ◆ Hamilton/Warrnambool: Louise Greenstock - Louise.Greenstock@wdhs.net

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

Key Dates:

Applications open	Monday 8 th May
Online information session	Monday 22 nd May, 1:00 – 2:00pm
Applications close	Friday 7 th July at 5pm
Notification of outcomes	Thursday 27 th July

Which grant do I apply for?

If you are planning to conduct a research project to generate evidence to translate into practice or policy, you are encouraged to apply for a **STaRR Emerging Researcher SEED Grant**.

If you have conducted a research project and generated evidence to translate into practice or policy, *or* you have identified existing evidence to be translated into practice or policy in your setting, you are encouraged to apply for a **STaRR Emerging Researcher TRANSLATION Grant**.

If you are unsure about which grant to apply for, please discuss your project or application idea with your local Research Translation Coordinator or Drew Aras.

Remember, you can only be awarded ONE Emerging Researcher Seed Grant and ONE Emerging Researcher Translation Grant as a principal investigator.

If you have received an Emerging Researcher Seed Grant (\$5,000) in the past, **you are** eligible to apply for an Emerging Researcher Translation Grant.