

## STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant Guidelines

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 translation-focused research, Western Alliance is offering the following funding opportunities in 2026:

- (1) **STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grants** of up to \$5,000 available for past STaRR participants to conduct a research project to generate new evidence, and
- (2) **Research Translation Fellowships (STaRRships)** with funding of up to \$15,000 available for past STaRR participants and past Western Alliance 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 Western Victoria Primary Health Network. See below for more details about eligibility.

### STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant objectives

Western Alliance's STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grants are designed to:

- 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

### STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant eligibility

All STaRR Emerging Researchers from the 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 cohorts who have *not previously received* a Western Alliance Seed or Translation Grant, or STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant or STaRRship as a Principal Investigator (PI) are eligible to apply.

More specifically:

- The PI must have attended at least one STaRR emerging researcher mentored training workshop prior to their application
- Please note, emerging researchers who have attended STaRR/ite only are not eligible

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- The PI must not have received a Western Alliance Emerging Researcher Grant or a STaRR Emerging Researcher Grant previously

If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact Alison Buccheri or Olivia King via [starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au).

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 Service
- Grampians Health
- Maryborough District Health Service
- Portland District Health
- South West Health Care
- 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 (Friday 26th June at 5pm) will not be considered
2. Only applications submitted using the application form provided will be considered
3. An individual can only be awarded one Western Alliance or STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant and one STaRRship as PI
4. Applicants will not be awarded a STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant and STaRRship as PI in the same grant round
5. All applications must be signed by the PI and the relevant Head of Department within the PI's 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)
6. All grants are awarded subject to ethical and governance approval
7. Applicants must disclose whether funding has been sought for the project elsewhere

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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. 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<sup>1</sup>
10. An abstract is to be submitted to the annual Western Alliance Symposium, either during the project or within 12 months of project completion
11. All publications and presentations arising from partially or fully funded projects must acknowledge Western Alliance as a funder

## Funding arrangements

1. Funding is awarded to and administered via the PI's health organisation employer (see list of Western Alliance members in the eligibility section above). Funding is not awarded directly to individual researchers
2. All awarded money must be expended on the grant project within 18 months of payment unless other arrangements are approved by Western Alliance
3. Applications for funds of up to \$5,000 will be considered for the STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grants. The judging panel reserves the right to provide less funding than is requested
4. The STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant funds 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, equipment purchase, administer working groups, 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 Grant, or want to learn more, we encourage you to contact your STaRR mentor or your local Western Alliance Research Translation

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

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Coordinator (below) to discuss your idea prior to commencing your application. They can support you to develop your idea and proposal.

Barwon Health: TBC [starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au)

Colac Area Health: Alison Buccheri [abuccheri@cah.vic.gov.au](mailto:abuccheri@cah.vic.gov.au)

East Grampians Health Service: Ella Ottrey [ella.ottrey@eghs.net.au](mailto:ella.ottrey@eghs.net.au)

Grampians Health (all sites): Alesha Sayner [Alesha.sayner@gh.org.au](mailto:Alesha.sayner@gh.org.au)

Maryborough District Health Service: Ella Ottrey [ella.ottrey@eghs.net.au](mailto:ella.ottrey@eghs.net.au)

Portland District Health: Jessie Adams [jessie.adams@wdhs.net](mailto:jessie.adams@wdhs.net)

South West Healthcare: Jessie Adams [jessie.adams@wdhs.net](mailto:jessie.adams@wdhs.net)

Western District Health Service: [Jessie.Adams@wdhs.net](mailto:Jessie.Adams@wdhs.net)

Western Victoria Primary Health Network: contact any of the Research Translation Coordinators or [starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au)

You are strongly encouraged to view the [STaRR Grant Funding online resource](#) for guidance and tips for developing a grant funding application.

For further information about the STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grants and STaRRships, you can contact Alison Buccheri or Olivia King via [starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au).

## Key dates

Applications open	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April
Online information session	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May, 12:00 – 1:00pm via Zoom*
Applications close	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June at 5pm

\*Zoom link: <https://deakin.zoom.us/j/83711236051?pwd=RG0YgX12g8wIqRzvSjFCNV2IKUAYs5.1>

Meeting ID: 837 1123 6051

Password: 97096581

## 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 Western Alliance **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 Western Alliance **STaRRship**. You can find the STaRRship Guidelines [here](#).

### Western Alliance STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant Guidelines 2026

If you are unsure about which grant to apply for, please discuss your project or application idea with your local Research Translation Coordinator (details above), Alison Buccheri or Olivia King ([starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au)), or Drew Aras ([drewaras@westernalliance.org.au](mailto:drewaras@westernalliance.org.au)).

Remember, you can only be awarded **one** STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant as PI or **one** STaRRship as PI in this grant round.