

## STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant 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 funding opportunities in 2024:

- (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 primary health network. See below for more details about eligibility.

### Objectives of the STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed 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

### Eligibility:

The Principal Investigator (PI) must have attended at least one STaRR Emerging Researcher workshop prior to their application (not including STaRR/ite).

Collaboration with academic and other health organisation partners is welcomed, however the PI for STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grants and STaRRships must be a current employee at one of these organisations:

- Barwon Health
- Colac Area Health
- East Grampians Health Service
- Grampians Health

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- 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 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 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.
8. 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>
9. 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.
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 the partially or fully funded projects must acknowledge Western Alliance as a funder.

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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).

## Funding arrangements:

1. All awarded money must be expended on the grant project within 18 months of payment 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 \$15,000 for the STaRRships. The judging panel reserves the right to provide less funding than is requested.
3. The STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed grant and STaRRship 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 STaRRship, or want to learn more, we encourage you to contact your STaRR 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.

Barwon Health: Michael Field [MField@cah.vic.gov.au](mailto:MField@cah.vic.gov.au)

Colac Area Health: Michael Field [MField@cah.vic.gov.au](mailto:MField@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: contact [starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au) and we will connect you with the appropriate RTC

South West Healthcare: contact [starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au) and we will connect you with the appropriate RTC

Western District Health Service: contact [starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au) and we will connect you with the appropriate RTC

Western Victoria Primary Health Network: contact [starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au) and we will connect you with the appropriate RTC

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

## Key dates:

Applications open	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
Online information session	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May, 12:00 – 1:00pm via Zoom*
Applications close	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July at 5pm
Notification of outcomes	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> July

\*Zoom link: <https://deakin.zoom.us/j/89827320399?pwd=VlxJN29STlFQMUM02QU9WZlDoalVvZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 2732 0399

Password: 04925982

## 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 Translation Grant (STaRRship)**.

If you are unsure about which grant to apply for, please discuss your project or application idea with your local Research Translation Coordinator, Olivia King or Peter Kelly ([starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au)).

Remember, you can only be awarded ONE STaRR Emerging Researcher Seed Grant as PI and ONE STaRRship as PI, and these cannot be awarded in the same grant round.