

Office for Health and Medical Research

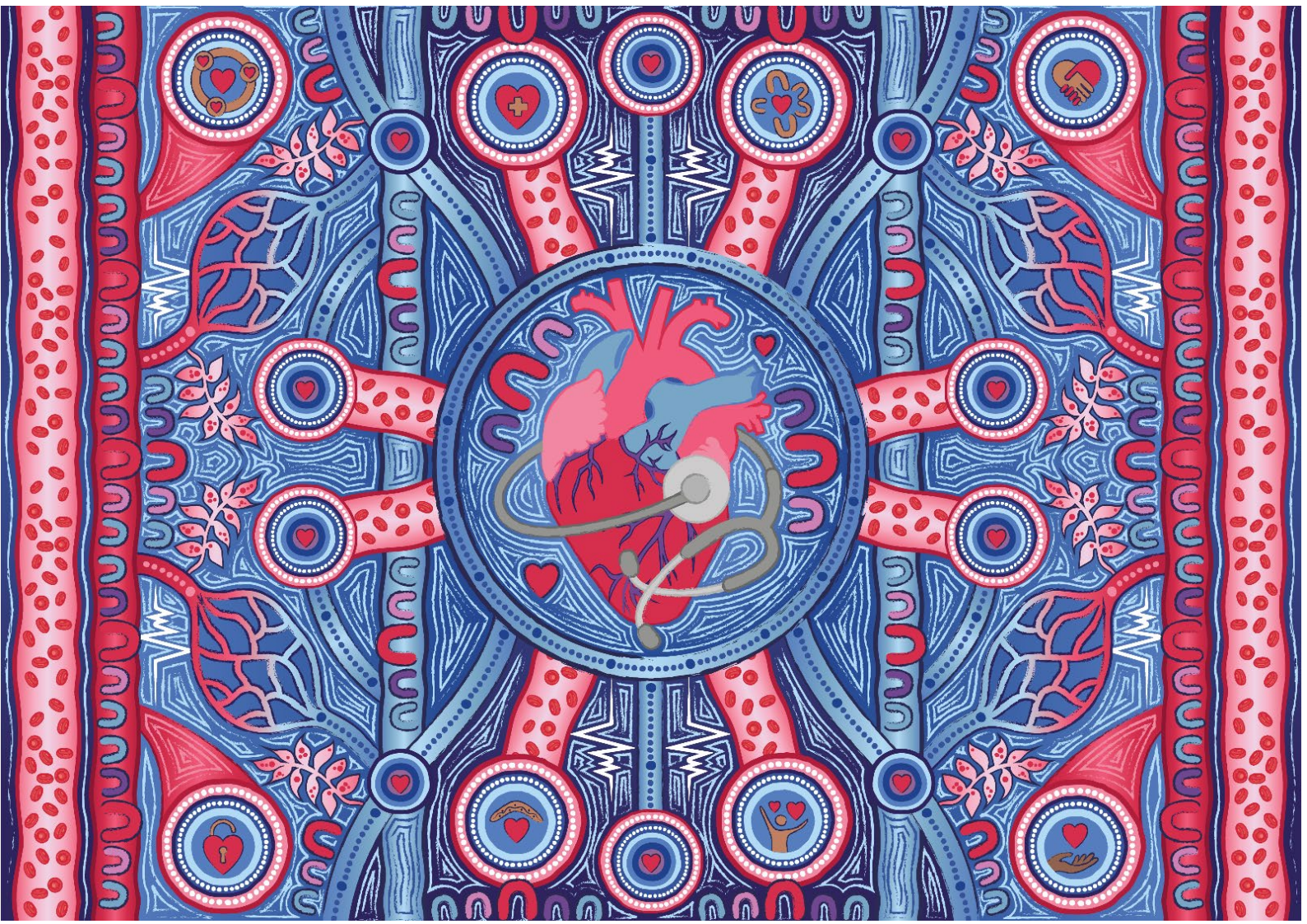


Aboriginal Heart Health Grants

Fostering Aboriginal innovation and building capacity
in cardiovascular health research

Guidelines v1.0

2024



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Artwork: A Heart for Health

The artwork featured on the cover of the Aboriginal Heart Health Grants Guidelines was created by Carissa Paglino, a proud descendant of the Wanaruah nation.

About the artwork:

The interwoven lines in the artwork show the connection between heart health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as well as cardiovascular research. Various aspects of cardiology and the heart anatomy, such as veins, arteries and blood cells are represented in the piece. The artwork calls for healthier communities, better heart health research and improved health outcomes. The colours are reflective of the circulatory system. This work is copyright. It may be reproduced in whole or in part for study or training purposes subject to the inclusion of an acknowledgement of the source. It may not be reproduced for commercial usage or sale. Reproduction for purposes other than those indicated above requires written permission from the NSW Ministry of Health.

Acknowledgement of Country

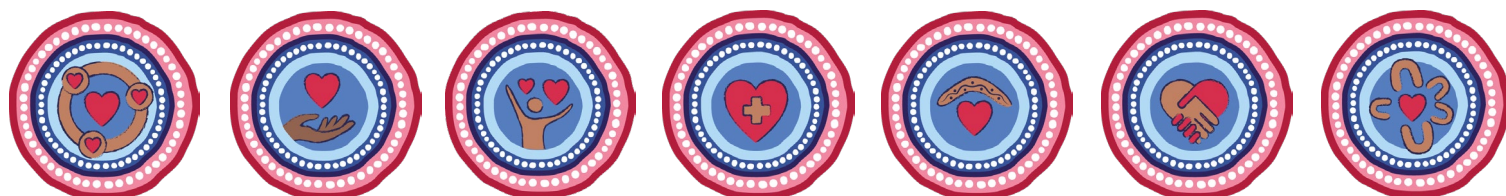
We pay respect to the traditional custodians of Country and acknowledge the wisdom of Elders who have passed, those of today and tomorrow, and pay respect to Aboriginal communities of the land on which we live and work.

We are committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal peoples, researchers and communities to improve cardiovascular health outcomes and ensure that research grants reflect their knowledge and practices.

Acknowledgements

The NSW Ministry of Health acknowledges the valuable support of:

- The NSW Health Aboriginal Cardiovascular Advisory Group comprising representatives of NSW Health, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW, Charles Sturt University, University of Technology Sydney, Menzies School of Health Research and Sax Institute, who have shaped the Aboriginal Heart Health Grants.
- Participants from the consultation interviews who provided advice and feedback that has informed the Aboriginal Heart Health Grants.





Contents

Call for Applications..... 4

Program Outline 4

Eligible areas of research 4

Funding details 5

Indicative grant timeline..... 6

Eligibility criteria..... 6

Selection Criteria 8

Important Considerations 9

Application process 14

Selection process 14

Post award requirements 14

Appendix A: Examples of Research Translation Frameworks..... 16





Call for Applications

NSW Health invites eligible individuals to apply for the Aboriginal Heart Health Grants.

Funding for these grants will be provided for three-year research projects.

Applications are encouraged from researchers in Aboriginal Medical Services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and Aboriginal Health Units in local health districts, as well as Aboriginal researchers based in universities and medical research institutes.

All research projects must be Aboriginal-led and include an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Chief Investigator as the lead.

Non-Aboriginal researchers can apply for the grant as a Co-Chief Investigator with an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Lead Chief Investigator on the project.

These guidelines provide information about eligible areas of research, details of the funding, eligibility and selection criteria, the application and selection process, and reporting requirements.

Program Outline

NSW Health is committed to improving equity of health outcomes across all populations. The 2023 report of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework found that, despite recent improvements in the death rate from cardiovascular disease for Aboriginal Australians, it remains the second leading cause of death in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the leading cause of the gap in death rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.

The Office for Health and Medical Research (OHMR) has developed a targeted call to fund high impact Aboriginal-led research that will improve the cardiovascular health of Aboriginal peoples in NSW. The funding pool for the Aboriginal Heart Health Grant round is \$5 million.

There will be a two-stage application process.

Stage 1: Expressions of Interest: a short application to pitch the project to reviewers.

Stage 2: Full application (invitation only): a detailed application for projects that were considered competitive for funding at the Expression of Interest stage.

Objectives

Aboriginal Heart Health Grants aim to:

- improve cardiovascular outcomes for Aboriginal peoples
- increase the number of targeted Aboriginal cardiovascular research projects being undertaken in NSW
- build the capacity of Aboriginal communities and researchers in cardiovascular focused research.

Eligible areas of research

Funding will support researchers working in cardiovascular research across clinical medicine and health services research, data science, population health and implementation research.

Basic science applications are out of scope for this grant round.

Cardiovascular research

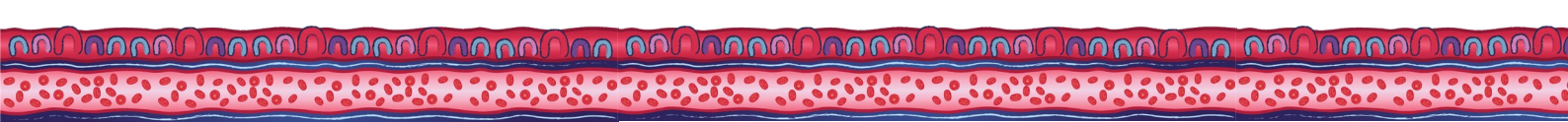
The term cardiovascular is used to encompass all diseases and conditions of the heart and blood vessels, including but not limited to:

- coronary heart disease
- stroke
- heart failure
- vascular disease and vascular health
- cardiovascular complications of diabetes and obesity
- major independent risk factors for cardiovascular disease
- rheumatic heart disease
- congenital heart disease.

Targeted Aboriginal research

Research funded under the Aboriginal Heart Health Grant round must satisfy the following criteria:

1. The project is targeted to improving cardiovascular outcomes specifically for Aboriginal peoples.
2. The targeted population needs to focus on Aboriginal peoples, which means the sample should entirely or mainly comprise Aboriginal



peoples. Where a whole of population study is required, there must be a significant focus on Aboriginal peoples as a primary subgroup in the analysis.

Projects must align with the '5 Principles' in the [Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council \(AH&MRC\) NSW Aboriginal Health Ethics Guidelines: Key Principles](#).

The 5 Principles include:

1. net benefits for Aboriginal peoples and communities
2. Aboriginal Community Control of research
3. cultural sensitivity
4. reimbursement of costs, and
5. enhancing Aboriginal skills and knowledge.

Priority research areas

This targeted call for Aboriginal cardiovascular research intends to fund research that addresses priorities identified by Aboriginal peoples and their communities in the cardiovascular space. Therefore, there are **no priority research areas** under this Aboriginal Heart Health Grant round.

Funding details

Funding amounts

Aboriginal Heart Health Grants have a three-year duration.

There are two funding streams:

Stream 1: Maximum grant of \$750,000 to conduct a multidisciplinary project, which has undertaken a consultation process with Aboriginal communities to identify a need/priority and solution/innovation/strategy to be tested in the cardiovascular space. Feasibility studies can be included in this stream. Research in this stream can use quantitative and/or qualitative methods.

Stream 2: Maximum grant of \$250,000 for early-stage developmental/exploratory research project, where a consultation process is required with Aboriginal communities to determine an identified priority/need, better understand its causes, and suggest solution(s)/innovation(s)/strategy(ies) to address the need in the cardiovascular space. This type of research should provide the groundwork for a feasibility study. Research in this stream can use quantitative and/or qualitative methods e.g. yarning

interviews or circles with community or research participants.

The grant requested should be appropriate for the type, stage and scale of research proposed.

Eligible grant activities

Aboriginal Heart Health Grants must be spent on costs that are directly related to the research project.

The budget should include justification for expenditure items across each year of the project and will be assessed for eligibility as part of the review process.

Grant funds can be directed to the following:

- salary contributions to the research team
- backfill for clinicians to quarantine research time
- engagement of consultants and contract staff working on the project
- consumables
- equipment
- consultation activities, including domestic travel costs for researchers to engage with community and key stakeholders, catering costs and other meeting facilitation costs
- reimbursement for research participants
- publication costs
- attendance fees and reasonable cost of accommodation and travel, if research findings are being presented at domestic conferences/seminars
- research translation activities
- training and development costs related to the project.

Funding conditions and exclusions

1. Research funded through Aboriginal Heart Health Grants must be conducted in New South Wales by an eligible host organisation.
2. Funding is conditional on the Lead Chief Investigator (and Co-Chief Investigator where relevant) and the Chief Executive(s) of the host/administering organisation agreeing to the **required declarations** when submitting the application form. These

declarations outline the obligations of each party.

3. Aboriginal Heart Health Grants must **not** be spent on:
 - capital works
 - general maintenance costs
 - organisational infrastructure or overheads
 - telephone/communication systems
 - basic office equipment, such as desks and chairs, rent and the cost of utilities.
 - international conference/seminar attendance fees and associated travel and accommodation expenses
 - domestic conference/seminar attendance fees and associated travel and accommodation expenses, if not presenting research findings
 - commercially-sponsored clinical trials
 - health services delivery costs and new services.
4. Grants may be applied for regardless of other funding currently held or applied for, including NHMRC grants.
5. Applicants are required to declare the source, duration and level of funding already held for research in the subject area of the application. Applications must clearly describe the purpose of the additional funding and justify that the additional research will be complementary not duplicative.
6. Researchers may submit a maximum of **one application** as Lead Chief Investigator or Co-Chief Investigator. Researchers may be named on additional applications as Associate Investigators or team members.
7. Under the Aboriginal Heart Health Grant round, applicants may apply for a grant in **either** Funding Stream 1 or Funding Stream 2, **not both**.
8. Applicants who have received a previous NSW Health grant under any program must outline the outcomes achieved from their previous funding within the application. If the grant is still active, applicants will need

to justify how they will manage multiple grants, if successful.

Indicative grant timeline

Depending on the number of expressions of interest received, this timeline may be shortened.

Stage	Date
Call for Expressions of Interest opens	2 October 2024
Information webinar for Expressions of Interest	16 October 2024
Registration for Sax Support close	18 October 2024
Expressions of Interest close	13 December 2024 (5pm AEDT)
Applicants notified of Expressions of Interest outcome Full Applications open	23 May 2025
Information webinar for Full Applications	11 June 2025
Full applications close	29 August 2025 (5pm AEST)
Applicants notified of Full Application outcome	By 19 December 2025
Funding paid and projects commence	February 2026

Information webinar

The Office for Health and Medical Research will host an information webinar for each stage of the application process to help applicants understand NSW Health requirements and gain advice on how to prepare a high-quality application. There will also be an opportunity for applicants to ask any questions about the grant round.

Please [register here](#) for the Expression of Interest information webinar, held on **16 October 2024**.

Applicants invited to full application will be invited to register for the Full Application information webinar closer to the date.

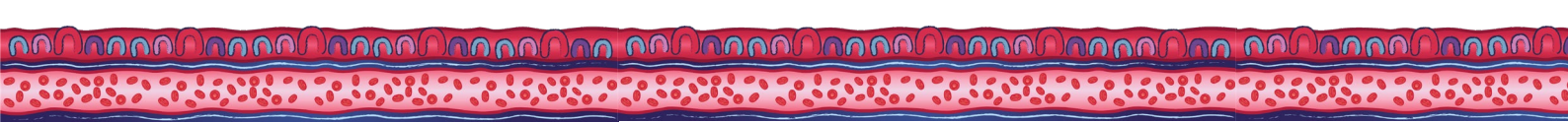
Eligibility criteria

Applications must meet all eligibility criteria.

Chief Investigator and Co-Chief Investigator requirements

The research must be Aboriginal-led

An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person must lead the project as a Lead Chief Investigator. Non-Aboriginal researchers can apply for the grant as a Co-Chief Investigator with an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Lead Chief Investigator.



A maximum of two Chief Investigators is permitted under the Aboriginal Heart Health Grant round. Any additional investigators should be listed as Associate Investigators in the research team.

Based in NSW and employed by an eligible host/administering organisation

For the duration of the grant, the Lead Chief Investigator (and Co-Chief Investigator, where relevant) must reside in NSW and be employed by an eligible host/administering organisation (see page 7).

Cardiovascular research

The Lead Chief Investigator (and Co-Chief Investigator, where relevant) must satisfy the requirement that their research is in the field of cardiovascular research (see Scope of Cardiovascular Research on page 4).

Submit a complete application

The Lead Chief Investigator (and Co-Chief Investigator, where relevant) must complete the application form fully, attach all relevant and required documentation; agree to the declaration on the form and receive certification from the host/administering organisation.

Australian citizen, permanent residency status or appropriate visa

The Lead Chief Investigator (and Co-Chief Investigator, where relevant) must be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident of Australia or have an appropriate working visa for the full term of the Grant.

Clinician researchers

Clinicians, including medical, nursing, allied health professionals, Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners are encouraged to apply.

Clinician researchers may undertake clinical work separately from where research is undertaken.

Clinicians may use up to 50% of the grant to backfill their clinical role, with appropriate justification. If the grant is to be used to quarantine research time and backfill a clinical position, the application must be endorsed by the Chief Executive/Executive Director of the organisation where clinical duties are undertaken. The salary limits are as follows:

- Clinician – medical: Salary limit – up to 0.6 FTE Staff Specialist or Visiting Medical Officers.
- Clinician – non-medical: Salary limit – up to 0.6 FTE as per Aboriginal Health Worker/Practitioner, Allied Health (including Pharmacist and radiographers) and Nursing awards.

Host organisation requirements

The host organisation is where most of the research is conducted.

The host organisation must be in NSW, conduct health and medical research, and be one of the following:

- an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)
- an Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS)
- an Aboriginal peak body
- a university
- an independent medical research institute
- a not-for-profit organisation
- a local health district, specialty health network or other public health organisation, includes Aboriginal Health Services (AHS).

The host organisation will provide the appropriate infrastructure support for the research project, including, computer equipment, and desk space.

The host organisation may also choose to provide additional in-kind and cash support to the project.

All support should be detailed in the application form and will be assessed against the selection criteria during the review process.

An authorised representative of the host organisation is required to review the application form and to certify that the organisation complies with the requirements of the grant.

If the host organisation is a NSW Health organisation that cannot manage funds across financial years, the host organisation may consider partnering with an administering organisation. Funds will be paid to this administering organisation. Please refer to administering organisation requirements.

Administering organisation requirements

An administering organisation is only required where the funds are held by a separate organisation to the host organisation.

In such cases, the administering organisation will enter into the funding agreement with NSW Health, manage the funds, submit financial reports and coordinate other reporting requirements as outlined in the funding agreement.

Grant funds must be paid to an administering organisation that can manage funds across financial years as the full funding amount will be paid upfront.

The administering organisation must be:

- an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)
- an Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS)
- an Aboriginal peak body
- a university
- a medical research institute, or
- a not-for-profit organisation that conducts health and medical research in NSW.

Note: For-profit industry organisations are not eligible to be host or administering organisations or to apply for funding but may be partners on the grant.

Selection Criteria

EOIs and Full Applications under both streams will be assessed against the selection criteria in the table below.

Selection Criteria	Weighting
Impactful Aboriginal-led research	40%
Quality of the research proposal and team	30%
Aboriginal leadership, skill development and capacity building	30%

EOIs and Full Applications must demonstrate consideration of the [‘5 Principles’ in the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council \(AH&MRC\) NSW Aboriginal Health Ethics Guidelines: Key Principles](#).

EOIs and Full Applications under **both** streams will be assessed against the detailed selection criteria

outlined below. The detailed criteria in the table under ‘Impactful Aboriginal-led research’ is the only criteria that differs between each stream.

Please write in plain English and highlight the relevance to cardiovascular health.

Impactful Aboriginal-led research (40%)

Stream 1	Stream 2
Demonstrates a meaningful co-creation and consultation process has been undertaken with Aboriginal peoples, communities and/or organisations participating or impacted by the research to: • identify a need/priority for research in the cardiovascular space • develop a solution/innovation/st strategy to address this need/priority • develop culturally appropriate research methods, outcomes and a feasible plan for translating the research	Demonstrates a plan for meaningful co-creation and ongoing consultation with Aboriginal peoples, communities and/or organisations to: • identify a need/priority/issue for research • better understand its causes, and • suggest solution(s)/innovation(s)/strategy(ies) to address the need in the cardiovascular space.

- Provides evidence showing how the need for this research was identified
- Demonstrates that the research will benefit Aboriginal peoples, communities and/or organisations, leading to improved cardiovascular outcomes for Aboriginal peoples
- Demonstrates Aboriginal leadership and governance in and over the research, including meaningful ongoing consultation and co-creation from conceptualisation through to the plan for translation
- An approach to ensuring Aboriginal data sovereignty and governance has been identified as part of the research proposal
- Demonstrates that ethical considerations have been addressed and the research is considered culturally respectful and safe for Aboriginal peoples, communities and/or organisations

- Key team members demonstrate strong relationships with Aboriginal peoples, communities and/or organisations who will be involved in the research, ensuring the research approach maintains trust, respect and reciprocity
- The researchers ensure a continuous feedback loop with Aboriginal peoples, communities and/or organisations participating in or impacted by the research, to ensure Aboriginal governance, knowledge translation over the research plan and associated outcomes.

Quality of the research proposal and team (30%)

Aim, design, methods, outcome measures and plan for translation

- Relevant, clear and succinct research aims and research questions
- Research design, intervention, methods and outcome measure(s) are clearly defined and appropriate for the research question(s)
- Credible pathway for translation of the research.

Research Team and Partners

- Skills of the proposed research team are relevant to the project and its translation
- Each member of the team contributes meaningfully to the project with roles clearly outlined
- Strong project governance structure and evidence of appropriate and sustainable relationships with key stakeholders including those who will likely use the research findings.

Timeline

- Feasibility of successfully delivering the research project within the proposed timeframe.

Budget

- Value for money
- Budget is reasonable and well justified
- Existing funding (if any) for the research is described, and how this relates to the additional funding requested
- Other contributions and support for the project.

Aboriginal leadership, skill development and capacity building (30%)

Applicants will be assessed on:

- how the project builds and maintains Aboriginal research capacity in NSW
- the extent of leadership opportunities, research skill development and capacity building initiatives provided to Aboriginal peoples during the grant period
- the impact of these opportunities on the health and medical research sector in NSW.

Important Considerations

Ethical governance of Aboriginal research

The proposed project should be underpinned by existing guidelines and principles of ethical research in its development and delivery.

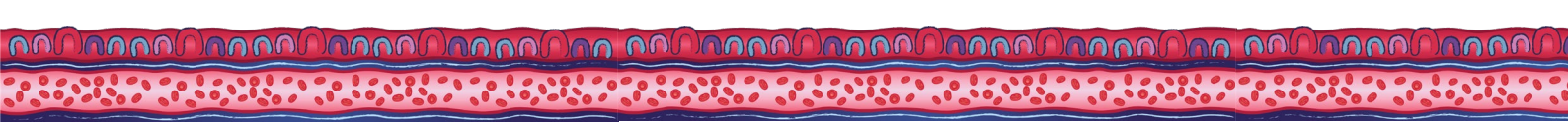
- All research with Aboriginal peoples must be subject to ethical review by a qualified Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).
- All applicants applying for an Aboriginal Heart Health Grant must follow the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC):
 - i. [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2023\)](#), and
 - ii. [Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for Researchers and Stakeholders \(2018\)](#).

Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW

In NSW the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) operates as a fully constituted HREC that considers applications relating to research that may affect the health and well-being of Aboriginal peoples and communities.

The process for submitting an ethics application and links to relevant guiding documents are located on [AH&MRC's website](#).

The [AH&MRC NSW Aboriginal Health Ethics Guidelines: Key Principles](#) provides a list of guiding documents that all ethics applications are assessed against as well as guidance around the governance structures that should be developed to ensure that appropriate Aboriginal community engagement is undertaken throughout the entire project from



design to final report, not just at the consultation stage.

Prior to submitting an application

All applications should demonstrate how ethics requirements have been considered and allow adequate time in the project timeline for the ethics submission and approval process.

Grant applications will be reviewed and assessed for consideration of the principles in AH&MRC ethical guidelines and cultural safety by members of the Expert Review Panel.

Ethics requirements of successful applicants

All successful grant recipients will be required to obtain and report on ethics approval from AH&MRC and any other ethical body applicable to the project before commencing any research activities. This process should be done in consultation with Aboriginal communities and comply with the ethical standards of key organisations involved in the research.

Grant recipients will be required to report on ethics approval in the first progress report (see page 14 for further information about post award reporting).

Grant recipients requiring further advice around which ethics applications need to be completed for their research can contact OHMR's Research Ethics and Governance Unit at moh-researchethics@health.nsw.gov.au.

Alignment with strategies

Applicants are encouraged to consider how their project aligns and furthers the objectives of the [NSW Health Aboriginal Health Plan 2024-2034](#), which aligns with the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) and puts the five Closing the Gap Priority Reform Areas for NSW into action.

Aboriginal Health Impact Statement

NSW Health is committed to Closing the Gap in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. The [Aboriginal Health Impact Statement](#) forms part of a broader set of strategies to achieve this.

The purpose of the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement is to support NSW Health Staff and organisations to systematically apply an 'Aboriginal Health lens' to all policies and programs.

Applicants are encouraged to use the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement to systematically consider the needs of Aboriginal peoples and the impact of their research on Aboriginal Health early in the development of proposals.

Three components need to be considered in an Aboriginal Health Impact Statement:

1. The health context for Aboriginal peoples
2. The potential impact of the proposed research on Aboriginal peoples including approaches to mitigate any potential undesired effects
3. Engagement with Aboriginal peoples.

Successful grant recipients from a NSW Health host organisation will be required to submit an Aboriginal Health Impact Statement to their host organisation and OHMR as part of their first progress report.

Impactful Aboriginal-led research

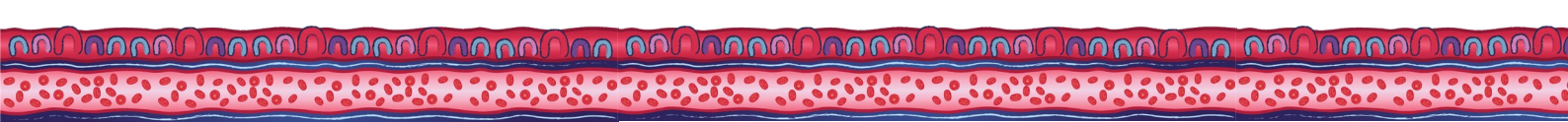
Projects should be led and designed by Aboriginal peoples and embedded in the communities that they are targeting with governance from Aboriginal elders and community groups such as AMS and ACCHSs or ACCHOs (See 'Ethical governance of Aboriginal research' on page 9). The research must be based on community need, benefit the community, and have the support of community and elders to maximise impact.

There are no limits to the size of the governance structure, however, the majority of members should be Aboriginal. A complex governance structure may be necessary and beneficial to achieve research outcomes.

Applicants must demonstrate Aboriginal leadership and governance in and over the research.

Aboriginal Project Governance in Research refers to the frameworks and structures within a specific research project that ensure Aboriginal perspectives, values, and decision-making processes are integrated. It involves Aboriginal people's participation in the management and oversight of a particular research initiative to ensure it aligns with cultural protocols and community expectations.

Aboriginal Governance Over Research refers to a broader level of control and authority that Aboriginal peoples, communities, or organisations have over research activities that concern them. It encompasses the power to set research agendas,



approve methodologies and where possible, co-analysis of data, and determine how research findings are used, ensuring all research respects Aboriginal sovereignty and priorities.

Consultation with Aboriginal communities also needs to be meaningful, not tokenistic, and continual across all stages of the research from its conception and design through to translation of the research outcomes. The Lead Chief Investigator and/or Co-Chief Investigator should have extensive and strong links with Aboriginal communities and groups participating in the research to facilitate the consultation process.

Applicants are encouraged to allow adequate time and budget for meaningful community consultation and governance of the research. Consultation activities, including domestic travel costs for researchers to engage with community and key stakeholders, reimbursement of research participants, catering and other meeting facilitation costs can be included in the budget (see Eligible Grant Activities on page 5).

Research translation

All research projects must have potential to lead to changes in Aboriginal health outcomes, clinical practice or health policy in the short and/or long term, even if not during the funded period. Applications must clearly describe:

- the long-term goal and clinical significance of the research
- the expected pathway for this to occur (note this may not be linear)
- how the researchers will engage with 'next users', i.e. research partners and other stakeholders who will take the research to the next step on the translation pathway.

Appendix A contains two examples of translation pathways. Applicants may use their preferred framework.

Research collaborations and partnerships

Applicants are encouraged to identify and engage relevant stakeholders, partners and networks who will provide a meaningful contribution to delivery of the research project and translation of outcomes.

Partners may include:

- Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC)

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)
- Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS)
- Researchers from universities and medical research institutes
- Clinicians, patients and other end users of the research
- local health districts (e.g. Aboriginal Health Units) and specialty health networks
- NSW Health Pillars ([Agency for Clinical Innovation networks](#), Clinical Excellence Commission, Health Education and Training Institute, Bureau of Health Information)
- Health organisations (NSW Ambulance, NSW Health Pathology, HealthShare NSW, eHealth NSW, Health Infrastructure, Health Protection NSW)
- [NSW Ministry of Health branches](#) (e.g. Centre for Aboriginal Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, Centre for Population Health, Mental Health Branch)
- [Research Translation Centres](#)
- [Primary Health Networks](#)
- non-government organisations
- research networks (e.g. [NSW Cardiovascular Research Network](#))
- industry.

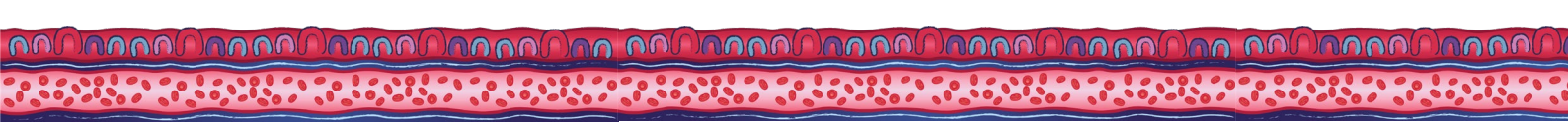
Partners may be involved to a varying extent depending on their level of interest and capacity to contribute to the research.

Partnerships may vary in type and intensity from informal arrangements such as the provision of occasional advice, to membership of the research team or project steering committee, to formal partnerships that are the subject of a written agreement between the parties.

Where the research is likely to significantly impact any of these groups or their policy, the appropriate partner should be included in the project governance structure.

Aboriginal leadership, skill development and capacity building

Building the capacity of Aboriginal peoples to conduct research is a key objective of the Aboriginal Heart Health Grants.



Applicants should demonstrate how the project builds Aboriginal research capacity in NSW.

At a minimum Aboriginal peoples should be employed to work on the project and lead or participate in the project governance structure.

Additional leadership opportunities, skill development activities and capacity building initiatives that may be offered to Aboriginal peoples leading or conducting the research during the grant period include but are not limited to:

- training and/or professional development opportunities to build research skills or promote research leadership
- formal mentoring of junior Aboriginal researchers
- enabling Aboriginal peoples to mentor non-Aboriginal researchers in the conduct of culturally safe research with Aboriginal peoples, communities and/or organisations
- inclusion of Aboriginal researchers at various career stages (e.g. PhD students, Early-Mid Career researchers, Senior researchers) on the research team to help progress their research career
- inclusion of an Aboriginal research assistant on the research team to help progress their research career
- offering authorship opportunities to Aboriginal peoples in the project team
- supporting Aboriginal peoples to disseminate research findings by presenting at key forums, conferences and meetings
- enabling Aboriginal peoples to lead or participate in communities of practice or networks relevant to the project, such as research groups, advisory committees or governance groups
- developing partnerships with clinicians, policy agencies and other key stakeholders involved in the translation of research findings
- supporting Aboriginal peoples to lead or take an active role in applications for other state or national research funding opportunities.

Building the capacity of ACCHOs in NSW is a key 'Closing the Gap' priority. Projects should embed the research, where possible, within ACCHOs/ACCHSs, AMS and Aboriginal led programs in local health

districts, to build capacity in these Aboriginal organisations for research and to support the translation of research outcomes.

Academic partnerships between researchers based in universities and medical research institutes and Aboriginal peoples working in ACCHOs/ACCHSs, AMS and local health districts are encouraged. This will help to ensure there are a range of skills and experience across the team, develop research skills and enable more research to emerge from the important work that is being undertaken in these organisations.

Sax Institute support service

The Sax Institute is funded to provide a range of services to NSW Health to support the development of research capacity and capabilities and maximise research translation.

The Sax Institute is offering two optional services for Aboriginal Heart Health Grant applicants:

1. a concierge service that links applicants to academic partners or researchers with appropriate methods expertise for the project
2. support with the development of applications.

Types of support will depend on the specific needs of the project, and may include:

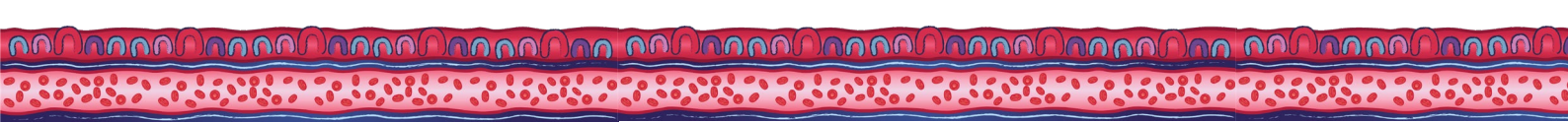
Expression of Interest (EOI) phase:

- feedback on the research idea
- identification of appropriate research partners
- advice on study design / sample size and analysis plan
- advice on Indigenous methodologies
- advice on Aboriginal research ethics
- advice on translation plan/ scalability/implementation
- advice on budget
- written feedback on completed EOI.

Full application phase:

- any of the items in the EOI phase
- written feedback on completed full application.

This grant round aims to increase the participation of Aboriginal peoples in cardiovascular research in



NSW, therefore if an overwhelming number of registrations for support are received, priority will be given to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Aboriginal investigators.

If you would like to access this support, please complete this [form](#) by **5pm, Friday 18 October 2024**. You will be notified of the support we are able to offer shortly after this date.

All the information we collect in this form will be used by the Office for Health and Medical Research and the Sax Institute for the purpose of allocating support only.

If you have any questions, please email the Office for Health and Medical Research at MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au.

Educational resources

Educational resources providing guidance on designing a research study, analysing research data, translating research findings and commercialising research ideas are available at the [Educational Resources webpage](#).

Additional resources are located on the [Aboriginal Heart Health Grants webpage](#).

Program logic and research impact

Recipients of an Aboriginal Heart Health Grant are required to submit a program logic diagram with their first progress report. The program logic diagram should include project aim(s), inputs, activities, outputs, and expected outcomes and impacts. A video explaining how to complete a program logic may be viewed [here](#).

Research impact assessment

The program logic will be used to optimise the probability of research impact. If the research is funded, the program logic will guide the measurement of impact throughout the project and at its conclusion.

Note that outcomes and impacts may not be realised during the funded period, and they may be projected to occur in the future. The 'next users' who are responsible for taking the research findings to the next step for translation should be involved from the start of the project so they understand the research and can move the findings towards translation.

Research impact will be considered across five domains:

Domain 1: Knowledge Advancement

- New interventions, treatments, diagnostics or drug targets
- New clinical or medical prototypes
- Peer-reviewed publications and presentations at conferences
- Media coverage and other non-peer-reviewed publications.

Domain 2: Capacity and Capability Building

- New partnerships leveraged
- Training and professional development
- Research students supported.

Domain 3: Policy and Practice

- Instances where research findings are considered in policy development
- Instances of change in clinical practice
- Instances of new health technology or new treatments used in clinical care.

Domain 4: Health and community

- Improved health outcomes, including:
 - change in the time to develop an outcome
 - change in the likelihood of an outcome occurring.

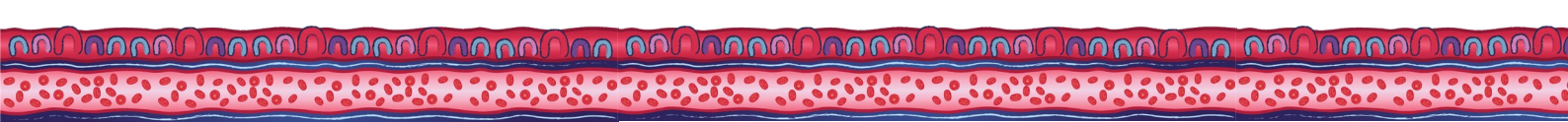
Domain 5: Economic benefit

- Research jobs created and sustained
- Patents and commercialisation
- Value of leveraged research funding (external grants awarded due to NSW Health funding)
- Reduction in cost of delivering care
- Potential for return on investment.

Intellectual property

To maximise benefits arising from the public funding of research, all recipients of an Aboriginal Heart Health Grant must comply with the [National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research](#) as a condition of funding.

In addition, intellectual property (IP) arrangements should be agreed between all research partners and organisations. IP arrangements must cover both



background IP and IP that is developed during the project. IP arrangements should consider the contributions of all parties. The arrangements should be detailed in the full application.

Please refer to NSW Health's Policy Directive *Intellectual Property arising from Health Research* which provides a clear and consistent guide for public health organisations to protect their intellectual property arising from research. NSW Health has also released a *Commercialisation Framework*. Both documents are available [here](#).

Clinical trials

The NSW Government is committed to improving equity of access to clinical trials in NSW.

As part of this commitment, OHMR run a Regional, Rural and Remote Clinical Trials Enabling Program. More information can be found on our website [here](#).

If your application involves a Clinical Trial, we encourage you to consider how Aboriginal patients in regional, rural and remote areas can access it. Our colleagues in the Program would welcome the opportunity to connect with researchers to talk about the support they can provide to make this happen. Please contact our team if you would like to discuss this further at moh-rrr-ctep@health.nsw.gov.au.

Application process

The application process includes two stages:

- Stage 1: Expression of Interest
- Stage 2: Full Application

Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI)

Application Submission Process

1. All EOIs should be submitted by email to MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au by **5pm (AEDT) on 13 December 2024**.
2. Applicants must use the Aboriginal Heart Health Grant Expression of Interest Form (available on the [Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program webpage](#)) and attach any supporting evidence. Please submit **both a word and PDF version** of the application.
3. All email applications will receive an email to acknowledge receipt within 72 business hours. It is the applicant's responsibility to

follow up if no acknowledgement email is received.

4. The **maximum email size is 20MB**. Larger emails will be rejected by the NSW Health server and you may not be notified that the email has been rejected.

Any queries regarding Aboriginal Heart Health Grants may be directed by email to: MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au.

Stage 2: Full Application

Application Submission Process

Detailed instructions will be provided to applicants who are successful at EOI stage.

Selection process

Step 1: Eligibility check

Following the closing date for applications, NSW Health will determine if each application has satisfied the eligibility criteria.

Step 2: Review by expert review panel at EOI and Full Application stages

A panel of expert reviewers will assess each eligible application against the selection criteria.

Step 3: Funding recommendation

The panel will agree on the final ranking of all eligible applications and will make a recommendation for funding to NSW Health.

Step 4: Decision and notification

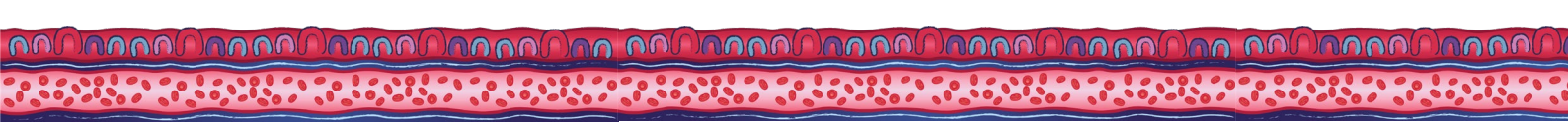
NSW Health will determine grant recipients and amounts. All applicants will be informed as to whether they have been awarded funding. The decision is final and may not be appealed.

Feedback from the expert review panel must be addressed by successful applicants at EOI and Full Application stages.

Step 5: Grant Agreements

NSW Health will contact host/administering organisations for successful projects to execute a funding agreement. A standard, non-negotiable funding agreement will be used.

Post award requirements



A schedule for reporting will be outlined in the funding agreement and will include a requirement to provide:

- annual progress reports
- annual financial reports
- a final report and financial acquittal following the conclusion of the term of the grant
- post-grant reports related to research translation and research impact.

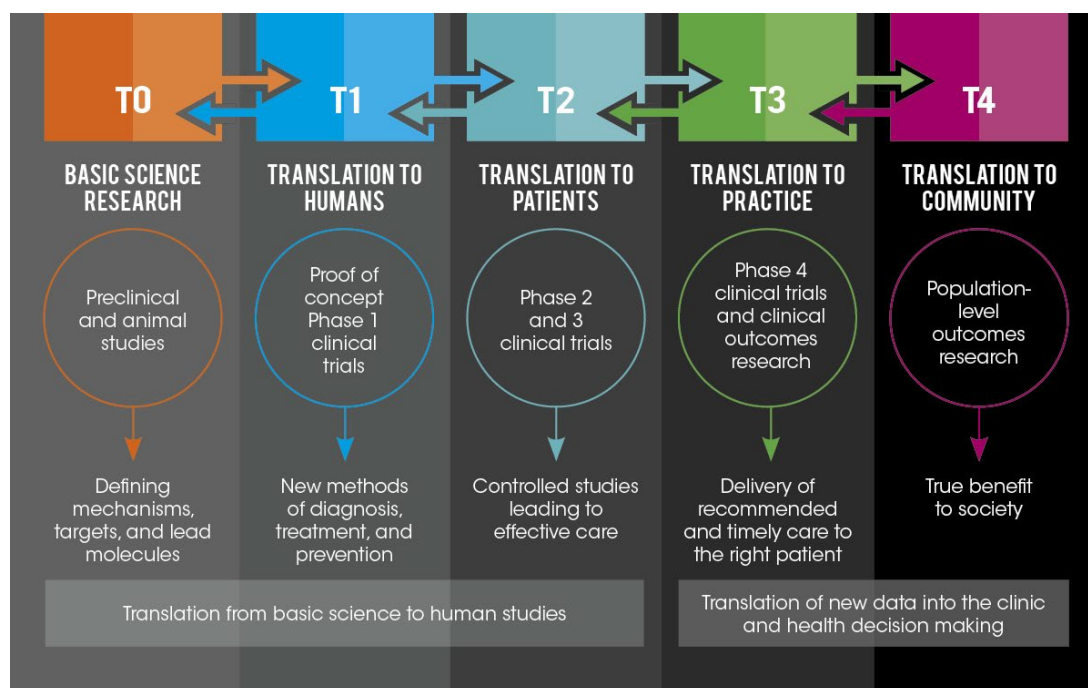
The review process for project variation requests will be culturally informed and responsive to the evolving needs of participants, researchers and communities.

Program evaluation

The Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program will periodically be assessed to ensure it is meeting its objectives. This will be done in collaboration with the host and administering organisations and funding recipients. Recipients and host/administering organisations may be required to supply information and meet with NSW Health staff to support the evaluation of the Program.

Appendix A: Examples of Research Translation Frameworks

Example 1: Biomedical Research Translation Framework



Source: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Translational Research Institute

<https://tri.uams.edu/about-tri/what-is-translational-research>

Example 2: Health Services Research Translation Framework



Source: Developed by the Sax Institute for the Translational Research Grants Scheme