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Developing a sustainable HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health workforce

Queensland Sexual Health Research Fund

Information and application form

Introduction

On behalf of Queensland's Department of Health, ASHM invites applications from suitable organisations to apply for funding to assist in improving the delivery of sexual health services and support implementation of the [Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-21 and its associated action plans](#).

Who can apply?

Organisations and researchers are invited to submit proposals that seek to address the drivers for, and barriers to, achieving optimal sexual health for all Queenslanders. Proposals must demonstrate partnership arrangements with relevant service providers in a range of sectors including health, education and social services. The nature of these partnership arrangements must be made clear in the application, and evidence of partnership arrangements may be required. Whilst research partnerships with academia are valuable, they are not mandatory.

Funding amounts

Up to \$1,065,000 will be dispersed through the Fund, over 3 financial years.

Consideration will be given to large grants of up to \$100,000 (including GST) as well as smaller-scale grants. Preference will be given to innovative proposals which add to the body of knowledge and have direct relevance to enhancing service delivery in Queensland.

It is desirable that funded projects are completed within 2 years of receiving the grant funding.

Background

The Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021

The *Queensland Sexual Health Strategy* was developed by the Queensland Department of Health, in collaboration and consultation with stakeholders, to improve the sexual and reproductive health of Queenslanders. These stakeholders included health consumers, other government departments, and community organisations.

Drawing on action plans addressing HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's relation to Sexually Transmissible Infections, the Strategy provides an overarching framework for a holistic approach to sexual health.

More information about the Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021 and its associated action plans can be found on the [Queensland Department of Health's website](#).

Formation of the Sexual Health Research Fund

The Department of Health has committed \$1,065,000 over three financial years to provide seed funding for translational research that will improve the delivery of sexual health services in Queensland.

The Research Sub-Committee of the Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee (SHMAC) has been appointed to set the research priorities each year, and then assess and recommend applications for funding.

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Strategies and Priorities

The Research Sub-Committee will assess and recommend applications for translational research which align with the priorities of the [Strategy and associated action plans](#). The Strategy and associated action plans focus on increasing prevention and reducing transmission of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and other STIs, as well as increasing voluntary testing, increasing awareness and reducing stigma, and improving treatment and monitoring methods. It is also a priority to reduce the disparity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Indigenous Australians.

The priorities for the third round of grants are:

- Research into cultural and behavioural factors in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in North Queensland which influence risk and mitigation strategies in HIV transmission.
- Research into how stigma and discrimination and/or health literacy and/or cultural considerations impact the experiences of young people from a CALD background in engaging in sex-positive conversations in their communities and with health service providers
- Research into sustainable, innovative primary care workforce retention and succession and/or service delivery models of primary care, and/or integrated models involving primary care for the prevention, treatment and management of blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections across Queensland's diverse geographic locations.
- Feasibility and/or acceptability research into periodic presumptive treatment of asymptomatic and symptomatic sexually transmissible infections as a prevention and treatment service among young sexually active people in communities where there may be poor access to healthcare or there is presumed to be high risk and with high probability of infection. Proposals should clearly identify and address any key issues with this model of care, such as potential service provider partnerships and risk mitigation strategies.

Innovative research proposals in alignment with the Sexual Health Strategy are encouraged. Topics that do not meet the priorities may be submitted. The project title and a summary of these applications will be submitted to the Research Sub-Committee who may exercise their discretion to view the application in its entirety.

Eligibility

Eligible organisations

Eligible organisations must be an organisation with established legal status (e.g. under Corporations Law, Health Services Act, Trustee Act).

Partnerships

Applicants must demonstrate partnership arrangements with relevant service providers in a range of sectors including health, education and social services, and outline the nature of these arrangements. This is to ensure that the research results are tested in, and can be translated into, services delivered in Queensland and will result in improved sexual health outcomes in Queensland.

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Whilst research partnerships with academia are valuable, they are not mandatory. Non-government organisations are encouraged to partner with experienced researchers/research institutes to encourage capacity building within their own organisations.

Interstate partnerships are allowed, provided that the primary fund holder is based in Queensland, and the research is primarily conducted in Queensland.

Note that requirements for the evidence of partnerships will be increased in this Round, with an outline of the role of individual parties to be agreed by all parties in a provided template. The Research Sub-Committee or the Fund Administrator may contact parties independently from the Principal Investigator to confirm partnerships are as described.

Applications

Applications must use the Application Form provided at the end of this document and must not exceed twenty (20) pages (10-page application form + 10-page CV + Appendices).

Applications in excess of the specified page limits will be returned to the applicant for editing.

References will not be included in the page count. **All sections of the application and provided appendices must be completed to be eligible for progression to the Research Sub-Committee.**

Funding Criteria

Commonwealth funding alignment

Funding will not be provided for proposed activities that are currently eligible for funding through other Commonwealth Government sources.

Activities that are not considered to be in scope

The following activities are ineligible for funding under this project:

- Professional service activities which are currently funded through the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) and/or the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- Activities which duplicate those funded under other government initiatives
- Leasing or purchase of vehicles
- Depreciation of expenses
- Activities already undertaken or expenses already incurred
- Items of capital equipment valued greater than \$3000
- Items of capital not directly related to research outcomes
- Payment of consultancy services
- Board fees
- The Principal Investigator's salary

The above list is indicative and is not intended to be exhaustive. Other items may be added to this list at the discretion of the Research Sub Committee.

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Intellectual Property

Ownership of Intellectual Property (IP)

All Project IP generated under a SHRF funding agreement will be legally and beneficially owned by the State of Queensland acting through Queensland Health ("the State").

The grant recipient will notify ASHM and provide details and copies of any Project IP developed in the course of the funded research project.

The grant recipient acknowledges and agrees that in the event the State elects to commercialise or otherwise exploit the Project IP:

- a) ASHM will use reasonable endeavours to provide notification to any relevant grant recipients and, where appropriate, relevant grant recipients will be invited to participate in a negotiation in good faith with the State as to the allocation of proceeds of that commercialisation;
- b) grant recipients will be invited to participate in such negotiations where commercialisation is reliant upon Existing Material contributed to the relevant Project IP by the grant recipient.

Grant Recipient's access to Project IP

ASHM grants the grant recipient a non-exclusive royalty free, non-transferable, licence to the Project IP during the term of the SHRF funding agreement for the purpose of performing the funded research project.

ASHM grants the grant recipient a revocable, royalty free, non-exclusive, non-transferrable licence to use the Project IP for non-commercial, research related purposes.

Existing Material

The grant recipient grants to the State and ASHM a worldwide, perpetual, irrevocable, royalty free, non-exclusive licence to use Existing Material contributed to the funded research project to the extent that the Project IP is reliant upon the Existing Material for the State's and ASHM's use.

The grant recipient represents and warrants that:

- a) to the best of the grant recipient's knowledge (without having to make any additional enquiries) the use of the Project IP and any Existing Material contributed to a funded research project will not infringe the Intellectual Property Rights of any third party;
- b) the grant recipient is not aware of any allegation that the use of the Project IP or any Existing Material infringes the Intellectual Property Rights of any third party; and
- c) except with the prior written approval of the ASHM, who must seek the prior written approval of the State, the grant recipient will not assign, encumber or otherwise deal with or exploit the Existing Material in a manner that would prohibit or reduce use of that Existing Material in the funded research project.

Student work on Project

In relation to any student undertaking work on the funded research project:

- a) copyright in a student's thesis will belong to the student;

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- b) any restrictions on the right of a student to publish his/her thesis will only be such as are reasonably necessary in the circumstances and at all times in accordance with the enrolling institutions policies and procedures;
- c) the right of a student to have any thesis examined must not be inhibited; and
- d) it is acceptable to require each examiner of the thesis to provide appropriate acknowledgements of confidentiality as between the enrolling institute and the examiner to protect any Confidential Information, including any Project IP.

Completing the application

Complete all sections of the [linked application form](#). All submissions will be reviewed by the Research Sub-Committee of the SHMAC.

Application submission closing time is 5:00pm (AEST) on Friday April 17 2020.

Completed application forms and CV of the Principal Investigator or Program Manager must be submitted by email to the administrator at SHRF@ashm.org.au with the subject heading: Sexual Health Research Fund Grant Proposal – (Surname of Principal Investigator/Program Manager).

Applications that do not meet the criteria will be returned to the applicant for action to meet the requirements. ASHM will work with successful applicants to develop a research contract.

Evaluation criteria

Assessment of submissions will be based on the following:

- **Alignment with the Strategy** and priorities outlined in this document
- **Study design/methodology** quality and innovation
- **Expected outcomes of the project**, benefits and translation to practice
- **Capacity to complete the project and demonstrated experience** of study team members
- **Budget/value for money**

Indicative Timeline

An indicative timeline is outlined below. ASHM reserves the right to modify these timeframes.

Activity	Date
Applications open	March 02 2020
Applications close	April 17 2020
Approval of successful submissions	May 29 2020
Funding awarded	By September 01 2020

Contacts

All enquiries related to the application can be directed to the administrator at SHRF@ashm.org.au

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Sexual Health Research Fund Grant Application Form

Research Proposal Summary

Title (maximum 20 words)

Please note that applications exceeding the specified page limits will be returned for editing.

Only applications completed electronically will be accepted.

Please follow [this link](#) to the application form in word document format. Please ensure required appendices are completed. These are linked on the final page of the application form.

Please include references as required. References will not be included in the page count.

Section 1.1: Program Manager or Principal Investigator

(10 page maximum CV required – separate to this application)

Full name and Title	
Email	
Institution/Organisation	
Other partners	
Location of research	
Any Existing Material that would contribute to this research, and names of the owners Please provide a short summary of each item	

Section 1.2: Other Significant Partners/Project Staff

[Name]	[Organisation]	[Field of research/work] - [Role in project]
		<i>Please note that summarising the CVs of the investigators is insufficient. Specific information on their individual role in the project is required.</i>

Insert/delete rows as required

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Section 1.3: Track Record (maximum 2 pages)

Provide a description of the track record of the program manager/principal investigator and the other significant project team members

Section 2: Partnership with relevant Service Providers (maximum ½ page)

Provide an overview of the relationship with any other partner organisations in the research including relevant service providers in a range of sectors including health, education and social services.

This description should outline what relationship exists, or is planned to exist, between the organisations, as well as the role each partner organisation will have, and detail the contribution the organisations are expected to make to achieve the research outcome

Include details of any formal or informal agreements executed or pending between organisations. Please note that summarising the organisations' mission/ vision/ strategic goals does not address the criteria for this question.

[See also Appendix 1: Partnership Arrangements.](#)

Section 3: Research/Program Proposal Details (maximum 6 pages)

Provide a brief description of the proposed research and its aims. Include reference to the research questions being addressed and potential outcomes of the proposed program of research.

Background

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Significance/Innovation
Aims
Specific Research Questions/Outcomes
Methods (data sources, analysis/statistics) or Implementation
Timetable (month to month)
Ethics (as appropriate)

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Evaluation Methods

This section should outline:

- *The evaluation methodology.*
- *Whether the evaluation will be internal or external. Please also account for evaluation in the proposal's budget.*
- *How this evaluation connects with the proposal's objectives and methods.*
- *How the findings from the evaluation will be used.*

This section will be assessed by the Research Sub-Committee based on:

- *Articulation of the degree of independence*
- *Timing of the evaluation of the research. Evaluation should be undertaken at a time when the outcomes of the research can be spoken to*
- *Demonstration of appropriate balance between qualitative and quantitative data*
- *The impact/translational capability of the evaluation. This may include context variables and identification of any other barriers (workforce, capacity, systems, money etc.)*

Dissemination Plan (publications/conferences)

Any additional comments you would like to make (optional)

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Section 4: Budget (maximum 1 page)

Please provide a breakdown of how the funds will be used in the table below.

In kind contributions (i.e. staff wages) should be clearly noted in the budget.

This breakdown should not be an estimate, but as accurate to the dollar value as possible.

Suggested items have been included below. Please remove or add items as necessary. Ensure all budget items include GST.

Indicative Budget (list all items individually)	Additional Detail	Units	Unit cost	\$ including GST
<i>Staff wages. Please include wages with different unit costs separately.</i>				
<i>Conference or forum attendance</i>				
<i>Promotional expenditures</i>				
<i>Transcription</i>				
<i>Publication and study dissemination</i>				
<i>Consumables</i>				
<i>Staff travel – flights</i>				
<i>Staff travel – other (please specify)</i>				
<i>Staff per diem</i>				
<i>Participant travel</i>				
<i>Participant per diem</i>				
<i>Participant incentive</i>				
<i>Student incentive</i>				
<i>Administrative overheads (up to 10% may be allowed)</i>				
TOTAL (Maximum of \$100,000 including GST)				

Completed application forms and CV of the Program Manager or Principal Investigator must be submitted by email to the administrator at SHRF@ashm.org.au with the subject heading: Sexual Health Research Fund Grant Proposal – (Surname of Program Manager/Principal Investigator) by **5:00pm (AEST) on Friday 17th April, 2020.**

If you do not receive a response within 2 business days of submission, please contact Phoebe Schroder on 0422 847 592.

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Section 5: Acknowledgement of Intellectual Property

An open data sharing policy will be implemented in relation to all funded research projects. Applicants who are successful in receiving funding will not own any intellectual property resulting from the research.

Please answer the following questions relating to Intellectual Property:

Do you understand that all Project IP generated under a SHRF funding agreement will be legally and beneficially owned by the State of Queensland acting through Queensland Health ("the State")

Yes

No

Do you understand that the grant recipient must notify ASHM and provide details and copies of any Project IP developed during the funded research project?

Yes

No

Do you understand that a grant recipient must grant to the State and ASHM license to use the Existing Material that contributes to the funded research project, to the extent that the Project IP is reliant upon this use? This Existing Material must not infringe the Intellectual Property Rights of any third party.

Yes

No

Signature of applicant _____

Date __/__/__

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Checklist before submission

Please ensure that the following are completed prior to submission.

Applications sent without all documents will be returned to the applicant for resubmission.

Documents should be sent as separate files.

☐

[Application form](#)

☐

Principal investigator's CV

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[Appendix 1: Partnership Arrangements](#)

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[Appendix 2: Disclosures of Interest](#)

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