Seeding Grants 2020
Information Pack
Closing date is 22 May 2020

About the Seeding Grants

Lowitja Institute Seeding Grants aim to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to transform their ideas and aspirations into concepts that:

- can be researched,
- meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and
- result in improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes within a generation.

The Seeding Grants are the first step to express an interest in the Lowitja Institute Grant Funding Round in July 2020. A successful seeding project does not guarantee additional Lowitja Institute funding. However, seeding projects may be used to seek funding from other research funding sources. So, if your organisation has a great idea and the passion and ability to make it happen, then it's time to apply.

Lowitja Institute Seeding Grants will open on Monday **27 April 2020**. The round will close on **Friday 22 May 2020**.

In light of the COVID-19 public health emergency, applicants need to consider a realistic timeframe for their project and address current public health guidelines and social distancing protocol in developing their project proposal. Applicants are encouraged to adopt new ways, for example, technology and on-line platforms to facilitate activities in support of their Seeding Grant application.

Grant Details	Timeline
Grant amount	Up to $40,000
Open date	27 April 2020
Closing date for Seeding Grant application	22 May 2020
Successful applicants commence transforming their ideas into a project for research	30 June 2020
End of Seeding Grant project and submission of final reporting	4 September 2020

Instructions

Step 1	Read this handbook
Step 2	Consider how your organisation meets the applicant eligibility criteria
Step 3	Consider how your idea aligns to the Lowitja Institute Research Agenda
Step 4	Consider how your proposal addresses the selection criteria
Step 5	Register for our Q&A drop-in session to discuss your proposal
Step 6	- Refer to Application template to assist in filling out the Online Application form - Download and complete: - project plan template - budget template - applicant declaration - Complete the online application form (https://www.lowitja.org.au/page/research/seeding-grants) - Upload your completed: - project plan - budget - applicant declaration - Upload support letters as indicated in the online application form - Complete and upload your video, if applicable (2min 30sec maximum) – 2GB maximum **(see instructions in Appendix 2)** - Submit by midnight Friday 22 May 2020.

Applicant eligibility criteria

Seeding grant applications will be accepted from Aboriginal and Torres Strait organisations that meet the following criteria:

- Registered ABN or ACN
- Active Australian bank account
- Current insurances:
  - Public Liability insurance to a minimum $10 million in respect of any claim or series of related claim
  - Professional Indemnity insurance to a minimum $10 million in respect of any claim or series of related claims, and
  - Worker's Compensation insurance for all employees and sub-contractors involved in delivery of the services

- Registered with:
    - the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006,
    - the Corporations Act 2001, or
    - Supply Nation
- Employs at least 5 people
- A legal entity that can enter into legally binding agreements
- Is not bankrupt or subject to insolvency proceedings and is financially solvent and has systems in place that ensure that it will remain solvent.

Lowitja Institute Research Agenda

	Empowerment	Sovereignty	Connectedness	Cultural Safety & Respectful Systems
The Lowitja Institute Research Agenda 2019 to 2023	This theme seeks to address the ways that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can take responsibility for, and control of their everyday lives to support decision making and behaviour change that contribute to self-determination and social transformation.	This theme seeks to address the ways that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can celebrate and improve sovereignty over their health and wellbeing. This can be interpreted as concepts such as agency and control, access to services, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership.	This theme seeks to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' relationship and belonging to environment and country for strong health and wellbeing and the way belonging, environment and country is reflected and strengthened through knowledge translation.	This theme seeks to address the ways that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique physical, mental, social, spiritual and cultural needs are embedded at all levels of health care from policy development and implementation to health service management and delivery, research and education and training to improve health system quality and safety.
	The following topics are prioritised for this theme: • Cultural and social determinants • Knowledge translation for positive change and environmental sustainability • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of thinking, speaking and being that underpin community-controlled approaches • Preservation and literacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages • Genealogies • Protection, repatriation and rejuvenation of cultural practices relating to health and wellbeing — including medicinal, therapeutic, and nutritional and healing-related knowledges and practices.	The following topics are prioritised for this theme: • Health technologies and health research technologies • Empowerment approaches and methods underpinning data sovereignty • Community health initiatives and programs built on place-based knowledge • Food sovereignty • Nation building • Data and genomes	The following topics are prioritised for this theme: • Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander workforce and workforce development • Protection, repatriation and rejuvenation of cultural practices relating to health and wellbeing — including medicinal; therapeutic; and nutritional and healing-related knowledges and practices • Structures and networks that will connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with disability with researchers, services and policymakers within values and cultures that promote their inclusion. • Growth across professions and disciplines for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Researchers including emergence of new roles for example navigators • Practices that promote Identity, belonging, and place (country) and fosters national pride i.e. birthing on country • Civil historical truth telling and acceptance projects	The following topics are prioritised for this theme: • Health information management systems for monitoring of cultural safety and respect • Comprehensive truth telling processes, and the acceptance of these truths, to dismantle colonial narratives and systemic racism in health research, policy and service delivery • The embedding of cultural integrity into organisations which foster the cultural determinants of health

Selection criteria

The Lowitja Institute is interested in seeding grant proposals that meet the following selection criteria:

- The applicant organisation is eligible under the criteria outlined in 'Applicant Eligibility Criteria' (outlined above) and all supporting documentation are uploaded.
- Demonstrates relevance to the selected research theme and conveys how the research project has been formulated to address a clear aspiration and/or need in policy or practice.
    - o Empowerment
    - o Sovereignty
    - o Connectedness
    - o Cultural Safety and Respectful Systems
- Demonstrates how the project outcome will generate meaningful impact and engagement for example potential to build research capacity, stakeholder engagement and partnerships. **(See Appendix 1)**
- Demonstrates a rigorous and feasible project plan and budget, and all supporting documentation are uploaded.
- Demonstrates opportunity to work with people from a wide range of backgrounds including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disabilities, mature aged and older people, young people, people who identify as LGBTIQ, and people in contact with criminal justice system.
- Your video, if applicable, does not exceed 2mins 30secs in length, and 2GB in size. It must address the selection criteria and anything else you believe will help support your application.

Eligible costs and expenses

This grant funds:

- Engagement of researchers, consultants, specialists, experts or contractors directly on the project.
- Project administration (a maximum of 20 per cent of total grant monies) for items such as project management, report-writing, book-keeping, audits and financial management.
- Facilitation of workshops and/or community meetings.
- Travel for researchers to engage with community partners and key stakeholders for the project.
- Costs of communicating the results of research.
- Project specific resources and equipment.

This grant does not fund:

- Activities of the organisation that are already funded by governments or are part of their normal responsibilities.
- Activities for which other Commonwealth or State or Territory or Local Government bodies have primary responsibility (including program delivery, language revitalisation, native title claim research).
- Capital works or capital purchases or purchase of land or buildings.
- Operational funding or ongoing administration of an organisation.
- Activities with a primarily commercial focus or intent.
- Activities with a political or lobbying focus or intent.
- Costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation.

Q&A Drop-in Sessions

The Lowitja Institute will host drop-in sessions in April and May for representatives to come and discuss their idea or ask any questions.

The sessions will allow prospective applicants to receive guidance on the seeding grant requirements, guidelines and eligibility, and seek answers to any questions specific to a project before applying. The Lowitja Institute team can also help make relevant introductions that would help the project. Due to limited places per session, bookings are essential.

The Q&A drop-in sessions will be held at 11am (AEST) on
- Wednesday 29 April
- Thursday 30 April
- Friday 1 May
- Monday 3 May
- Tuesday 4 May
- Wednesday 5 May
- Thursday 6 May, and
- Friday 8 May.

Please register at EventBrite: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lowitja-institute-seed-grant-info-session-tickets-102743025154

> ***Please Note:*** Applicants are advised to read the program guidelines online and gather information on project proposals **prior** to attending a drop-in session. If you would like to check whether your project meets the seeding grants funding criteria beforehand, please contact Alex Zurawski: alex.zurawski@lowitja.org.au

Assessment of Seeding Grant applications

Only eligible applications will move to the Assessment stage.

Eligible applications will be assessed by independent external assessors on how well it meets the selection criteria. Each application will be considered based on its merit, how well it meets the selection criteria, and how is compares to other applications.

Steps	Process	Activity
1	Eligibility	Lowitja Institute review of applications based on eligibility criteria
2	Assessment	Eligible applications assessed by independent external assessment panel based on seeding grant funding selection criteria
3	Outcome	Notification to successful and unsuccessful applicants of seeding grant funding outcome

For more information

For more information, please visit our website:
https://www.lowitja.org.au/page/research/seeding-grants
You can also contact Alex Zurawski: alex.zurawski@lowitja.org.au

Appendix 1: Types of Research Impact and Examples

Research impact

Research impact is an emerging national requirement of government-funded projects. The Australian Research Council defines research impact as the 'contribution research makes to the economy, society, public policy or health that is beyond contributions to academia'[1].

At Lowitja Institute, we have adapted this definition and drawn on a variety of sources to develop a definition specific to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health context: research impact is the positive and sustainable long-term benefit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, beyond the realms of academia.

It is important to demonstrate and measure research impact as it helps us to know if our research has been translated successfully into policy and practice for the benefit and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Types of research impact

Drawing on resources developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)[2] and other sources, Lowitja Institute has identified five types of research impact which consists of:

1. Health impact
2. Knowledge impact
3. Economic impact
4. Social impact
5. Environmental impact

Table 1 provides a description of each type of impact and examples which may be relevant to your project. The examples provided are there to provide guidance for you to think about the impacts your own project might demonstrate, keeping in mind that your research may produce more than one type of impact.

[1] Australian Research Council 2020, Research Impact Principles and Framework. Retrieved from: https://www.arc.gov.au/policies-strategies/strategy/research-impact-principles-framework
[2] National Health and Medical Research Council 2020, Research impact. Retrieved from: https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research-policy/research-translation-and-impact/research-impact#

Table 1: Lowitja Institute Research Impact Measures (Lowitja Institute, 2019).

Type of impact	Description of the impact	Examples of impact
Health impact	Improvements in health through new therapeutics, diagnostics, disease prevention or changes in behaviour; or improvements in disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment, management of health problems, health policy, health systems, and quality of life.	• Improved health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations directly involved in research projects • Development and implementation of policies, guidelines and programs, and additions to existing policies relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples • Changes in healthcare practices and healthcare service delivery

Knowledge impact	New knowledge, demonstrating the benefits emerging from adoption, adaption or use of new knowledge to inform further research, and/or understanding of what is effective.	• Generation of new research questions
		• Changes in awareness and attitudes from the:
		  o Project team
		  o Project participants
		  o Key target audiences and stakeholders
		• Increase in uptake and use of research findings/recommendations in policy and practice to bring changes in individual, community and organisational levels

Economic impact	Improvements in the nation's economic performance through creation of new industries, jobs or valuable products, or reducing health care costs, improving efficiency in resource use, or improving the welfare/well-being of the population within current health system resources. An economic impact may also contribute to social or health impacts, including human capital gains and the value of life and health	• Increase (and continued increase) in job creation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people • Increased funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research • New collaborations/ partnerships established with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
Social impact	Improvements in the health of society, including the well-being of the end user and the community. This may include improved ability to access health care services, to participate socially (including empowerment and participation in decision making) and to quantify improvements in the health of society	• Establishment of culturally safe workplaces for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples • Preservation and sharing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language and culture • Empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders to conduct community-led research
Environmental impact	Beneficial effect made to the environment (including flora and fauna). This may include the preservation of vulnerable animals and plants species.	• Preservation of threatened or near-threatened species of flora and fauna • Recognition and uptake of caring for country practices

Appendix 2: How to upload a video

To upload a video to support your application:

1. Shoot your video (No longer than 2mins 30 Seconds and no larger than 2GB)
2. Upload your video file to We Transfer at https://wetransfer.com/
3. Click on ⋯ in the bottom left and select "Get transfer link"
4. Select on "Get a Link" and wait for it to transfer
5. Select on "Copy Link" (this has now saved the unique link to your video)
6. Paste the link into the box provided on the ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

IMPORTANT NOTE: The unique link **will only last for 7 days**, so only upload their videos when they are ready to submit their applications.

For more information on how to use the service, please click here: https://wetransfer.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/202702233?_ga=2.48175911.1654735703.1587515249-487166598.1587007423