

Foundation Grants Program 2019

Mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents aged 4-17 years.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

A bit about us

The Foundation is one of Australia's leading charitable foundations committed to improving the health of the community and the sustainability of affordable healthcare. Our mission is to build enduring strategic partnerships with the research and health care communities to deliver on our purpose which is to help people live longer, healthier, happier lives.

Over the past decade the Foundation has invested over \$33million, much for health and medical research projects. We take a collaborative approach to research investment by being an active partner in the projects we fund contributing expertise, insights and extensive professional networks. We are committed to contributing to thought leadership on important issues relating to improving health through research as well as building the capability of the research community

The Foundation has identified four Guiding Principles which guide what we do, how we do it and who we do it with. These are:

- **Consumer-centric.** Designing and delivering research that is built around the needs of the consumer.
- **Innovative.** Thinking imaginatively and going beyond the status quo.
- **Translational.** Moving beyond solely evidence creation so that evidence and new knowledge is used to inform health policy, practice, and behavior.
- **Cross-disciplinary.** Bringing together diverse partners from diverse disciplines with different skills to deliver the best health and care outcomes.

For more information on the Foundations governance, strategic research themes and active projects, refer to our website: <https://www.bupa.com.au/about-us/bupa-health-foundation/about>

Background to the research objective

The Foundation believes there is a need to focus and increase investment into effective research that will improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents in Australia. We are calling upon the expertise and experience from varied research partners and organisations who are committed to this outcome.

Results from the Second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing pointed out the need for refocused effort by governments and the broader community to develop systems to both prevent mental health problems and to respond early to problems when they emerge. The rates for depression, self-harm and thoughts about suicide in teenagers and even younger children are particularly worrying.

The Draft Report of the Productivity Commission into Mental Health has also pointed out the need for increased prevention and early intervention in the schooling years to address emerging mental health

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issues to prevent lifelong effects. Schools and teachers have an important role and need to be adequately equipped.

What we are looking for

The Foundation is looking to fund an alliance of organisations that have capacity, capability and credibility to lead an outcome-driven research project that aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents in Australia. In alignment with the Foundations Guiding Principles, we are committed to supporting research that takes a holistic approach to mental health built around the broad needs of individuals and their families/carers. The research project will be built around the concepts of strengthened coordination and integration across the health, education and social care systems and be underpinned by outcome drivers such as funding levers, innovative care models and technology capabilities.

As this is a broad research objective, the foundation has identified several Research Areas of Interest to provide guidance to those interested in applying for funding through the 2019 Foundation Grants Program. However, noting all projects, independent of research area, must meet the high-level grant requirements outlined [below](#).

The following research themes relating to mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents have been identified as areas of interest for the Foundation:

- The effectiveness of current models of care and/or mental health services targeted to children, adolescents their families and carers, and how they could be viably extended and scaled up with the aim to improve mental health outcomes across health, education or social services settings.
- What are the most effective interventions for supporting children and adolescent's mental health needs in education settings. Would the screening of children and adolescents in education settings be appropriate for identifying early signs of mental health difficulties and how to best carry this out effectively?
- Are the current range of tools and programs effective in supporting the wellbeing of children and adolescents in educational settings, particularly those at greater risk?

These areas of interest are not mutually exclusive, and it is understood that one or more may be addressed in a single research proposal. There are no restrictions with respects to mental health conditions, severity or stage of care (i.e. wellness/prevention through to treatment and recovery) providing the grant requirements below are met.

Grant requirements

The following are the grant requirements.

Proposals should;

- represent an alliance that brings together diverse research partners. This should include different organisation types (i.e. private, public, academic, community or government), disciplines (i.e. within health, education, economics and social sciences) and perspectives (i.e. prevention, treatment, consumers, providers)
- be designed to translate research outputs to improvements in child/adolescent health outcomes through changes to policy, practice and/or behavior;

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- be informed by existing evidence and contribute to reducing known evidence gaps;
- incorporate the role for the child/adolescent and their lived experiences, in the design, delivery and measurement of quality health care; and
- aim to ultimately lead to population level impact (i.e. they are sustainable or scalable to other jurisdictions or contexts).

We are not looking for:

- proposals from single organisations or entities;
- proposals for research that do not meet a current gap in evidence or clinical care need (i.e. duplicate existing area of research, intervention or program);
- proposals that cannot demonstrate a research translation plan over the funding period to support ultimate impact on improvements to the mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents in the short, medium or long term; or
- proposals that focus solely on community or stakeholder engagement or research into the mechanisms of mental illness and its treatment.

Funding

\$1 million (exclusive of GST) is available for allocation.

As the Foundation is looking to fund a research alliance delivering outcome-driven research we anticipate that this grant will support 1 to 2 projects depending on scope and budget for applications received.

Funding will commence in 2020 and will be allocated over a funding period of up to two years depending on the agreed project timeline and milestones.

Process and timeline

The 2019 Foundation Grants Program has a two-stage evaluation process.

In Stage One we are seeking EOI to participate which will include information on the organisations who will make up the research alliance as well as a high-level overview of the proposed research and its expected impact.

A select number of applicants will be invited to progress to Stage Two and complete a full RFP which will include a presentation to the grant evaluation committee. More detailed information on the timing and requirements for both stages of the procurement process is provided below.

The following table sets out the proposed timeline (although the Foundation reserves the right to vary any time or dates at any time in its discretion).

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Milestone	Date
Grant launched: Application guidance and application documentation released. Submissions of EOI via the Foundation website.	Wednesday 6 th November 2019
Stage One closes: EOI to be submitted via the Foundation website before 5pm (AEST)	Friday 20 th December 2019 (5PM AEST)
Stage Two commences: Successful applicants notified and invited to compete full Request for Proposal. Dates to present their research proposal to the Foundation Evaluation Committee will be agreed. Unsuccessful applicants notified.	Week commencing 27 th January 2020
Presentations to the Foundation Evaluation Committee (with draft RFP)	Week commencing 16 th March 2020
Stage Two closes: Final RFP to be submitted to the Foundation.	Monday 6 th April 2020 9AM (AEST)
Successful applicant/s notified (if any)	Week Commencing 20 th April 2020
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	By end of April 2020
Public notification of award of contract	May 2020

How to contact us

The Foundation welcomes questions from potential applicants to ensure research proposals meet the aims and criteria for the 2019 Foundations Grant Program.

We have prepared a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that aim to address queries more immediately.

The Foundation has allocated time each week prior to the EOI submission date for more detailed enquires. To make an appointment please contact the Foundation team via the email: foundation@bupa.com.au

Our evaluation approach

This section sets out the Evaluation Approach that will be used to assess applications. The Bupa Health Foundation Grant Evaluation Committee and Board of Directors will use the following evaluation criteria to select the successful EOI applicants and final decision on which project/s will ultimately receive funding.

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
The Project	Fits within the broad research objective of improving mental health models of care
	Unique and bold approach to the research objective
	Meets each of the listed Grant Requirements
	Demonstrates scientific rigour with research plan and methodology
Its Impact	Research outcomes, and how they will be measured, are clearly described
	Research outcomes and evaluation methodologies are appropriate and achievable in specified timeline
	It is clear how the research will be translated into practice to improve mental health models of care.
	The potential of the research to improve the health of the Australian population has been demonstrated
The Team	Diversity among the Research Alliance organisations and lead investigators
	Capacity of lead investigators to contribute to project described and achievable
	Organisations and lead investigators have expertise and authority to lead research in this area
	Management and Governance structures and processes clearly defined and justified
The Budget	Requested amount fits within nominated funding amount and funding timeframe
	The amount of funding requested to achieve listed research outcomes in time frame proposed is realistic
	Value for money has been demonstrated through utilisation of existing research, partnerships and funding

Terms and conditions

This section sets out the terms and conditions relating to the application process. (Note: the application process refers to both the EOI and RFP stages.)

Contact with the Foundation

1. Any enquiries concerning this application process (**Process**) should be directed in writing to the Foundation via foundation@bupa.com.au

Process

2. After considering any applications submitted in accordance with this Process, the Foundation will decide whether to enter negotiations with one or more selected applicants (if any).
3. Issuance of this Process does not commit the Foundation to pay any costs incurred by an applicant in the preparation and submission of an application or the negotiation and entry into any agreement in relation to an application.
4. Upon receipt of any applications, the Foundation will evaluate the applicants, and subsequently advise the successful applications (if any) of its selection as successful applicant (if any).

Approval of Contract

5. No contract or any other binding legal relationship will arise from this Process unless and until the successful applicants (if any) and the Foundation duly execute an agreement in relation to the successful applications.

Intellectual property rights

6. Upon submission in accordance with the requirements of this Process, all applications become the property of the Foundation. Each applicant will retain all ownership rights in any intellectual property contained in its application. The submission of an application does not transfer to the Foundation any ownership interest in the applicant's intellectual property rights or give the Foundation any rights in relation to the application, except as expressly set out below.
7. Each applicant, by submission of its application, is deemed to have licensed to the Foundation to reproduce the whole, or any portion of, its application for the purposes of enabling the Foundation to evaluate the application.