APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Guidance on the application and selection process for lead organisations and their partners

August 2018

CONTENTS

1. The Opportunity in a Nut Shell
2. Application Guidelines
3. Process and Timeline
4. Our Evaluation Approach
5. Terms and Conditions
6. References
FOUNDATION GRANTS PROGRAM 2018
Mental Health Models of Care

THE OPPORTUNITY IN A NUT SHELL

WHAT WE ARE OFFERING
The Bupa Health Foundation (the Foundation) is seeking to invest $1 million in an alliance of organisations who collectively have the capacity and capability to deliver research that meets the objective and requirements of our 2018 Foundation Grants Program.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR
The overarching objective of the 2018 Foundation Grants Program is to support research that leads to improvements in mental health models of care in Australia, ultimately resulting in better health for the Australian community. This includes outcome-driven research that increases understanding of the limitations of the current models of care and their funding levers and/or research that builds evidence on the effectiveness of innovative models of care.

The Foundation believes there is great value in bringing together diverse teams to solve complex problems and as such are looking to fund an alliance of organisations that will call upon their breadth of understanding, experiences and skills to deliver an innovative and bold research project.

THE PROCESS
The 2018 Foundation Grants Program has a two-stage procurement process. This includes an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) followed by a full Request for Proposal (RFP). More detailed information on the timing and requirements for both stages a provided further on in this document.

STAGE ONE
EOI
• EOI Submissions via Foundation website
• Reviewed against evaluation criteria

STAGE TWO
RFP
• Invitations to complete full RFP, including presentation
• Reviewed against evaluation criteria

SUCCESSFUL PROJECT/S
• Contract development
• Formal announcement and media

WHY YOU SHOULD APPLY
The Foundation Grants Program provides a unique opportunity to access research funding outside of regular health and medical research granting structures that prioritises innovation, partnerships and translation. In addition to providing a financial investment, the Foundation will partner with the successful recipients through the contribution of expertise and insights from within the organisation and its networks.
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 $30 million in 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 the consumer.
- **Innovative** – thinking imaginatively and pushing the status quo.
- **Translational** – moving beyond solely evidence creation so that evidence informs health policies, practice, and behavior.
- **Cross-disciplinary** – Bringing together the diverse people, with diverse skills to deliver the best health and care outcomes.


BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The Foundation believes there is a need for progressive mental health models of care that are aligned with the health needs and care preferences of today’s population, as well as utilise the available data and technology of a modern health system.

There are over 4 million Australians living with mental health conditions in Australia with the cost of mental health related services close to $8.5 billion per annum. These services are delivered in a variety of settings, including residential and community, inpatient and outpatient hospital based, specialists and general practitioners, predominantly using fee for service and per diem funding models. As summarised by The Integrated Mental Health Atlas of the Central and Eastern Sydney Public Health Network Report, these features are associated with a system characterised by a fragmented, hospital-based, and inefficient provision of care. In addition, mental health care is often delivered in isolation of the broader health care and social care needs of the individual, at a time when the Australian population is experiencing high rates of chronic and complex conditions.

The mounting evidence on the benefits from achieving a mentally well Australian population coupled with evidence on the ineffectiveness of current mental health care models, has resulted in ongoing dialogue for the reform of mental health care in Australia. Despite Government initiatives...
that aim to facilitate their development such as the assignment of mental health planning and integration at a regional level to Primary Health Networks from 2016 as well as private health insurance mental health reforms, ongoing investment in the development of mental health models of care that result in the best outcomes for the patient as well as the health system is still urgently needed.

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 mental health models of care in Australia. In alignment with the Foundation’s Guiding Principles, we are committed to supporting research that takes a whole of person approach to mental health models of care, built to meet the needs of individuals and their families. The research project will be built around the concepts of strengthened care coordination and integration across the health and social care systems and be underpinned by outcome drivers such as funding levers 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 2018 Foundation Grants Program. However, we welcome proposals from the research and health care community outside of these areas of interest providing the project meets the grant requirements (refer below) and applicants demonstrate how the research outcomes will play a role in improving the mental health models of care in Australia.

RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST

The following mental health research themes have been identified as areas of interest for the Foundation:

- community delivered mental health care designed to meet that needs of the modern consumer and health system;
- models of care that integrate mental wellbeing and illness care with wider healthcare and social systems;
- evaluation and/or scalability of innovative mental health models of care (i.e. involving unique partners, funding structures or technologies) in one or more geographical sites or at-risk populations; and
- digitally-enabled models of care that promote equitable access, appropriateness and efficiency of mental health care, including use of data for informing and evaluating models of care.

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) providing the grant requirements below are met.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

The following are the grant requirements:
proposals must 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, economics, social sciences) and perspectives (i.e. prevention, treatment, the patient, the health system);

proposals must be designed to translate research outputs to improvements in patient outcomes through changes to policy and practice;

proposals must be informed by existing evidence and contribute to evidence gaps;

proposals are to incorporate the role for the patient and their lived experiences, in the design, delivery and measurement of quality health care; and

proposals should be designed to lead to population level impact (i.e. they are sustainable or scalable to other jurisdictions or contexts).

WHAT WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR
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 evidence of translation of research outputs to improvements to mental health models of care within the funding period; 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 2019 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 2018 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MILESTONE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant launched</strong>: Application guidance and application documentation released. Submissions of EOI via the Foundation website.</td>
<td>Monday 13th August 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage One closes</strong>: EOI to be submitted via the Foundation website</td>
<td>Monday 17th September 2018 9AM (AEST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification of applicants shortlisted to progress to Stage Two of the funding process; completion of full RFP. Dates to present their research proposal to the Foundation Evaluation Committee will be agreed.</td>
<td>Tuesday 2nd October 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification to unsuccessful applicants</td>
<td>Monday 15th October 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations to the Foundation Evaluation Committee (with draft RFP)</td>
<td>Week Commencing 5th November 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage Two closes</strong>: Final RFP to be submitted via the Foundation website.</td>
<td>Monday 16th November 2018 9AM (AEST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful applicant/s notified (if any)</td>
<td>Week Commencing 26th November 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification to unsuccessful applicants</td>
<td>December 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public notification of award of contract</td>
<td>December 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW TO CONTACT US

The Foundation welcomes questions from potential applicants to ensure research proposals meet the aims and criteria for the 2018 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 enquiries. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>• Fits within the broad research objective of improving mental health models of care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Unique and bold approach to the research objective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Meets each of the listed Grant Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Demonstrates scientific rigour with research plan and methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s Impact</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>• Research outcomes, and how they will be measured, are clearly described</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Research outcomes are appropriate and achievable in specified timeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• It is clear how the research will be translated to improve mental health models of care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• The potential of the research to improve the health of the Australian population has been demonstrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Team</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>• Diversity among the Research Alliance organisations and lead investigators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Capacity of lead investigators to contribute to project described and achievable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Organisations and lead investigators have expertise and authority to lead research in this area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Management and Governance structures and processes clearly defined and justified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Budget</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>• Requested amount fits within nominated funding amount and funding timeframe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• The amount of funding requested to achieve listed research outcomes in time frame proposed is realistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Value for money has been demonstrated through utilisation of existing research, partnerships and funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 or not to enter into 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.
REFERENCES


