

2024 Research Partnership Framework

1. THE AUSTRALIAN PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION (APA)

The APA is the peak body representing the interests of Australian physiotherapists and their patients. It is a national organisation with state and territory branches and specialty subgroups. The APA represents over 32,000 members who conduct more than 23 million consultations each year. The APA corporate structure is one of a company limited by guarantee. The APA is governed by a Board of Directors elected by representatives.

The APA vision is that all Australians will have access to quality physiotherapy, when and where required, to optimise health and wellbeing, and that the community recognises the benefit of choosing physiotherapy.

The success and wellbeing of our members and the physiotherapy profession drives everything we do. We strive to be their indispensable source of advocacy, leadership, connection and support.

2. RESEARCH AT THE APA

Research is the backbone of our profession and the APA has a long history of joining forces with academic institutions to strengthen the evidence base of physiotherapy.

The APA supports and promotes research through the Physiotherapy Research Foundation, the Journal of Physiotherapy, the Physiotherapy Evidence Database (Pedro), the research portal, the Pat Cosh Trust, research commissioned by the APA, the promotion of members' research projects and research translation activities.

Our research partners are conducting valuable and innovative work that will increase clinical knowledge to optimise outcomes for patients. This kind of work also underlines the vital role that physiotherapists play within the healthcare system.

At any point in time, APA partners with several research projects by providing a mix of supports tailored to each project including APA's endorsement, in-kind contributions, and cash contributions.

3. RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

APA has developed this Research Partnership Framework to streamline and assess research partnership applications from researchers and academic organisations.

APA members who are conducting research from within an academic institution are encouraged to seek our support to their research project.

HOW TO APPLY FOR APA'S SUPPORT TO YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT

1. Read the present Research Partnership Framework including the section on eligibility and selection criteria.
2. Download and complete the [application form](#).
3. Send your completed application form to research@australian.physio

It is recommended to contact the APA early – especially if the application forms part of a broader grant or funding application such as Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) or National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis against the eligibility and selection criteria, throughout the year. There is no deadline to apply, however please allow at least 20 business days for your application to be assessed.

The APA endeavours to inform applicants of the outcome of their application in a timely manner.

APA'S SUPPORT

APA's partnership can vary from endorsement through a letter of support, to collaborations involving in-kind contributions (promotion of surveys, participation in steering committees, etc.), to more sophisticated partnerships that may involve greater contributions from the APA (with a mix of cash and in-kind contributions).

TIER	CONTRIBUTIONS
1	<p>Letter of endorsement – valued at \$2,500 per annum <i>Endorsement means that further requests by the research team to communicate to APA members via ecomms (e.g. to promote a survey, call for volunteers / participants, disseminate findings) are pre-approved.</i></p>
2	<p>Letter of endorsement – valued at \$2,500 per annum + In-kind contributions up to a value of \$2,500 per annum <i>Contributions may include: attending meetings, participating in steering committees, participating in workshops, reviewing material, making introductions with stakeholders.</i></p>
3	<p>Letter of endorsement + Mix of cash and in-kind contributions – to be negotiated between the APA and the successful Applicant.</p>

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The APA will assess applications against the following criteria:

1. **Physiotherapy – the Chief Investigator (Applicant)** must be an Ahpra-registered physiotherapist, or, if not currently Ahpra registered, must hold a qualification in physiotherapy.
2. **APA membership** – the Chief investigator (Applicant) is a member of the APA. If the Chief Investigator is not a member of the APA, details of an APA member who will be a named investigator in the research team must be provided. Applications submitted by APA members will be prioritised.
3. **Strategic alignment** – the project aligns with APA’s strategic priorities in policy and advocacy, education, communications, and/or membership engagement, and aligns with APA’s strategic plan, vision and values.
4. **Scientific quality** – including clarity of the hypotheses or research objectives, appropriateness of the study design or methodology, evidence of high-quality research practices to ensure that the experimental results will be unbiased, reproducible and transparent, and translatable.
5. **Significance of expected outcomes** – including the potential of the project to increase knowledge in the field and have a significant impact on the practice of physiotherapy.
6. **Knowledge translation** – including study design features that facilitate translation, planned processes for translating findings to the physiotherapy (and broader) community, and the likelihood that these strategies will lead to influences on practice, policy and/or behaviour change.
7. **Team quality and capability** – the applicants’ research record demonstrates the appropriate research skills, experience, and concern for research rigour required to complete the proposed project.
8. **Support to the project from other organisations** – including academic institutions, peak bodies, associations, funders, etc.

In assessing applications, the APA will endeavour to reach and maintain topics variety, balance and representation of applicant demographics, states and territories, academic institutions supported, etc.

The APA will also take into consideration budget limits allocated annually to research partnerships, capacity and capability for in-kind contributions, likelihood that the supports requested will benefit the project.

Contact APA’s Research partnerships team:

research@australian.physio