



2026 PRF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RESEARCH GRANT

EOI GUIDELINES AND GENERAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The purpose of a PRF Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Grant is to assist Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander early-career physiotherapy researchers to undertake research that will contribute to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The overarching principle of this grant is that research is led *by* and *for* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The proposed project must be led by the applicant, who will be supported by a research team, which includes experienced researchers. The proposal will predominantly be the work of the applicant, albeit with input and support from the lead supervising investigator. Where the applicant's project is part of a larger study, the proposal should state how the proposed project relates to, but is discrete from, the larger study.

Applications are considered predominantly based on scientific merit, significance, their impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health and wellbeing, as well as capacity strengthening for individuals and research leadership. Inexperienced researchers are advised that collaboration with an Associate Investigator who has current experience in the relevant research area will enhance the likelihood of a project receiving PRF funding. Projects will only be funded if the budget is fully justified.

Applicants are required to submit an expression of interest (EOI) using the supplied form, followed by a full application for those who are shortlisted. For this round, there is one grant of up to \$20,000 available.

Submission of EOI Applications

The completed EOI form and any relevant documents are to be sent via email to:

prf@australian.physio

Submissions will be evaluated as they are received. Receipt of your application will be acknowledged by return e-mail.

Research Area

Choose one or two areas of research from the following list:

- Acupuncture and Dry Needling
- Advanced Practice
- Animal
- Aquatic
- Cancer, Palliative Care and Lymphoedema
- Cardiorespiratory
- Disability
- Education
- Gerontology
- Mental Health
- Musculoskeletal
- Neurology
- Occupational Health
- Orthopaedics
- Paediatrics
- Pain
- Sports and Exercise
- Women's, Men and Pelvic Health
- Other (specify)

The Applicant

The applicant must:

- be the Chief Investigator of the project
- hold current unconditional registration as a physiotherapist with AHPRA
- be an Australian Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander person
- currently reside in Australia
- be a financial member of the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) and maintain APA membership at the time of application and for the duration of the grant
- be an early career researcher

The applicant must not have received:

- a PRF Seeding, Project or Tagged Grant previously as a Chief Investigator or
- any research grant of more than \$20,000 as a named lead investigator (e.g., CIA) including at the time of awarding this grant.

Applicants will be required to justify their eligibility as an early career researcher, but typically people > 10 years post PhD (excluding career disruptions) will be ineligible. If you have queries about your eligibility, please contact us to clarify.

The applicant may have received a post-graduate scholarship/post-doctoral fellowship, however if they received more than \$20,000 in funding via a single grant in addition to salary support (over the duration of the fellowship) they are ineligible. This includes funds for items such as equipment, travel and research consumables or employment of research staff.

Applicants who are named investigators on larger grants (>\$20,000) who are not lead investigator/CIA may be eligible for funding depending on the role they played in the project. Applicants should clearly articulate their role on the previous grant and ensure they adequately articulate how the PRF Grant will assist their career progression. As noted above, if you have queries about your eligibility, please contact us to clarify.

The applicant cannot be a named Associate Investigator on another application within the same funding round (i.e. a PRF Seeding Grant, Beryl Haynes Memorial Grant or a Pat Cosh Trust Annual Grants).

Research Team

A number of Associate Investigators can be included as part of the research team.

At least one Associate Investigator should be an experienced researcher with previous and current research support and publications arising from that support. At least one of the Associate Investigators must be the Lead Supervising Investigator who agrees to support and commit time to developing the applicant as a researcher.

Where appropriate, please consider including consumers, end-users (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities) or people with lived experience of the condition as Associate Investigators.

Budget

The maximum funding available for a PRF Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grant is \$20,000.

As a grant made by the Physiotherapy Research Foundation is considered by the Australian Taxation Office as a 'gift' rather than a grant of financial assistance, no GST is payable. There is therefore no need to include GST in your project budget.

Please provide a detailed description, rationale and amount required for each applicable category outlined below.

For budget purposes, the following interpretations will apply:

Personnel – people employed to conduct the project, for example, research assistant. Please list each person separately, planned activities for each person and include salary details such as level, hourly rate, on costs and time allocation. Please note that funding to backfill the clinical workload of the Chief Investigator will be considered, however this must be fully justified.

Equipment, project materials and consumables – items used during the project, for example, imaging, data collection equipment and participant costs.

Travel – only travel related to data acquisition will be funded not conference travel.

In general, the PRF will not fund publishing costs. However, if funding is requested then this must be fully justified. Please note that administering organisation's infrastructure costs will not be funded, nor will items that would normally be covered by a person's workplace, as this would substantially impact on the amount of funds remaining for research.

Please refer to the provided budget exemplar.

Timeline

Please ensure that the timeline is feasible. Please note that there is the expectation that the project will be completed within two years of the grant being awarded, including ethics approval.

Ethics Approval

For research involving humans and animals, ethical approval from an appropriate body must be gained. Please note that approval can be obtained once you have been notified of the outcome of your application. However, confirmation of this approval must be supplied to the PRF prior to the payment of grant monies.

Certifications

The Chief Investigator (applicant) must verify the contents of the application and his or her eligibility for a PRF Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grant.

The Lead Supervising Investigator (Associate Investigator 1) must verify their commitment to supporting and developing the Chief Investigator throughout the project.

Evaluation Criteria

Grants will be awarded by the APA Board of Directors, whose decisions shall be considered final, on the recommendation of the APA Grants Review Committee in relation to:

- **Scientific quality (60%)** - This includes the clarity of the hypotheses or research objectives, the appropriateness of the study design or methodology, evidence of high-quality research practices (such as statements on protocol registration, analysis plan registration and adhering to reporting guidelines for relevant study design) to ensure that the experimental results will be unbiased, reproducible and transparent, and the feasibility of the project. Community consultation and engagement is appropriately inclusive.
- **Significance of expected outcomes and/or innovation of the concept for Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander peoples (25%)** - This includes the potential of the project to increase knowledge in the field, its impact and relevance in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health and wellbeing, as well as its impact on the practice of physiotherapy. The research responds to a need or priority determined by the community and benefits the participants and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It demonstrates capacity strengthening for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals
- **Knowledge translation (15%)** - This includes study design features that facilitate translation, planned processes for translating findings to the physiotherapy and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and the likelihood that these strategies support changes in practice, policy and/or behaviours within services and systems to better meet the needs and priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This may also include future plans, which do not necessarily need to be achieved within the project timeline.
- **Team quality and capability** - The applicants' research record demonstrates the appropriate research skills, experience, and concern for research rigour, relative to opportunity, required to complete the proposed project. The applicant clearly justifies their eligibility as an Early Career Researcher. The research record of the team demonstrates appropriate skills, experience and research rigour to support the development of the applicant as a researcher and ensure timely completion of the proposed project. The team has Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research leadership.
- **Budget** - This includes its appropriateness and level of detail provided which should be itemised under the following headings: personnel (indicate salary level, on-costs, time involved), equipment / project materials / consumables, travel and incentives.

Legal Agreement

Applicants are required to sign a formal agreement prior to receiving any grant monies.

Release of Information

All information provided on a PRF grant application form is private and confidential and will be used in accordance with the APA's Privacy Policy. In the event that your grant application is successful, information including the names of investigators, grant amount, project title and project summary will be published on the PRF webpage of the APA website.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the please contact the privacy officer at privacy@australian.physio