

# 2026 PRF Seeding Grants

## EOI guidelines and general information for applicants

The purpose of PRF Seeding Grants is to assist early career physiotherapy researchers. The applicant, who will be supported by a research team that includes experienced researchers, must lead the proposed project. 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. Generally, the project must be primarily conducted in Australia, and the sponsoring institute must be Australian based. Projects conducted outside Australia may be considered but must be clearly justified.

Applications are considered predominantly on the basis of scientific merit, significance and team track record. 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. It is anticipated that full applications will open in late May and close late June.

In 2026, there are up to seven Seeding Grants available, each with a maximum amount of \$20,000.

### **Submission of EOI Applications**

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

[Jenine.Fleming@australian.physio](mailto:Jenine.Fleming@australian.physio)

All submissions must be received by **Sunday 1 March 2026**. 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 (Jill Nosworthy Seeding Grant)
- Disability
- Education
- Gerontology (The Nancy Low Choy Memorial PRF Seeding Grant)
- Mental Health
- Musculoskeletal
- Neurology (The Nancy Low Choy Memorial PRF Seeding Grant)
- 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
- 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
- a Beryl Haynes Memorial Grant previously
- 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, we encourage you to contact us at least two weeks before the EOI closing date.

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(s). As noted above, if you have queries about your eligibility, we encourage you to contact us at least two weeks before the EOI closing date.

The applicant may submit up to two separate Seeding Grant EOIs but only one will proceed to the full application stage (if applicable).

The applicant cannot be a named Associate Investigator on another application within the same funding round, including the Beryl Haynes Memorial Grant for Early Career Researchers and Pat Cosh Trust Grant.

### **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 or people with lived experience of the condition as Associate Investigators.

### **Budget**

The maximum funding available for a PRF Seeding 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. Therefore, there is 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 (approximately November 2028). It is envisaged that the outcome of full applications will be known by late October 2026.

### **Ethics Approval**

For research involving humans and animals, ethics approval from an appropriate body must be gained, and confirmation of this must be supplied to the PRF prior to the payment of grant monies. Whilst ethics approval can be obtained after you have been notified of the outcome of your application, a 12 month time limit applies from receipt of the grant agreement to obtain ethics approval. After this period, the PRF reserves the right to request documentation to demonstrate that the project is progressing towards gaining ethics approval and /or is still feasible. If in the view of the PRF that substantial progress has not been made in obtaining ethics approval, or the project is no longer feasible, the PRF reserves the right to terminate the agreement.

### **Certifications**

The Chief Investigator (applicant) must verify the contents of the application and his or her eligibility for a PRF Seeding 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.
- Significance of expected outcomes and/or innovation of the concept (25%) - This includes the potential of the project to increase knowledge in the field and have a significant impact on the practice of physiotherapy.
- Knowledge translation (15%) - This includes 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. This can also include plans which do not necessarily need to be achieved during the project scope or 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.
- Budget - This includes its appropriateness and level of detail provided which should include personnel, equipment, project materials, consumables, travel and incentives. Projects will only be funded if the budget is fully justified.

### **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. If 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](mailto:privacy@australian.physio)

### **EOI DEADLINE: Sunday 1 March 2026**

The PRF must receive EOI submissions by the above specified deadline.

#### **Queries:**

Please contact Jenine Fleming, Research Advisor on (03) 9092 0852 or via email [Jenine.Fleming@australian.physio](mailto:Jenine.Fleming@australian.physio)