



EMHS Aboriginal Health Research Grant 2022 Guidelines for Applicants

Introduction

The East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS) comprises an extensive hospital and health service network that aims to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of more than 725,500 Western Australians in its catchment area.

Our hospital network works together to provide a combination of tertiary, secondary and specialist health care services including emergency and critical care, state trauma, elective and emergency surgery, general medical, mental health, inpatient and outpatient services, aged care, palliative care, rehabilitation and women's, children's and neonates services.

Our Vision

Healthy people, amazing care. Koorda moort, moorditj kwabadak.

About the Grant

EMHS has identified Aboriginal health as a priority and is offering a **\$60,000** grant to support research that will improve services to Aboriginal people.

EMHS expects the grant will encourage our staff and partners to develop innovative and ambitious solutions to service delivery challenges by conducting a rigorous research project that will translate into improved services and better outcomes for Aboriginal people.

The grant is for a project that will commence by January 2023 and run for a maximum of 2 years. Further information on the grant objectives, eligibility criteria and possible focus areas is provided below.

Timeline

Applications Open	8 August 2022
Applications Close	27 September 2022
Formal notification	17 October 2022
Project commencement	No later than January 2023

Eligibility Criteria

1. The project must relate to the provision of health services to Aboriginal people in a hospital or community setting, preferably within EMHS. Submissions related to Aboriginal mental health are strongly encouraged.
2. The project must have the potential to be of value to EMHS and the broader WA health system and to be translated into meaningful and enduring improvements to health for Aboriginal consumers.
3. There must be a significant contribution to the project by EMHS employees, although the lead researcher can be from a partner organisation, such as a University or Medical Research Institute.
4. The Lead Researcher must identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
5. Projects that form part of the work of a student enrolled in a Higher Degree Research (HDR) program are encouraged.
6. The work must be substantially undertaken within the East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS) (i.e. Royal Perth Hospital, Bentley Hospital, Armadale Health Service, Kalamunda Hospital, St John of God Midland Public Hospital, EMHS Population and Community Health Programs).

Objectives and Potential Topics

The EMHS Aboriginal Health Grant is intended to support a research project designed to improve the effectiveness of health services provided to Aboriginal people, with findings readily translatable into service improvements and better health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

EMHS has identified broad areas of clinical need. While the project is not required to fall within one of these areas, they may guide applicants to match their clinical or academic interests to an identified area of need within EMHS:

1. Improving service delivery models, clinical pathways and care transition
 - How can we integrate culturally informed and evidence-based diagnosis and treatment into our services for Aboriginal people?
 - How can we bridge the gap between culturally sensitive community programs and culturally non-specific clinical services?
 - How can we involve Aboriginal patients and their families in care planning to improve discharge and prevent re-admission, especially for patients with chronic illnesses?
 - How can we better understand the patient journey and opportunities to improve this?
 - How can we strengthen mental health models of service delivery to improve service provision to Aboriginal people in the community?
 - How can we better support our Aboriginal staff and ensure their wellbeing?

2. Improving our understanding of the causes, prevention and treatment of illness
 - What early intervention or health promotion programs are effective in reducing the burden of illness in Aboriginal people?
 - How can suicide risk be better assessed and mitigated, especially in younger Aboriginal people?
 - Can a better understanding of the social determinants of illness improve prevention and treatment of ill health in Aboriginal people?
 - How can we improve the physical health of Aboriginal patients experiencing mental illness?
 - How can we improve maternity services, including post-natal support and care, for Aboriginal women?
 - How can we upskill Aboriginal communities and families to help manage and prevent mental illness, such as with Mental Health First Aid training?

Obligations of the Grant Recipient

1. The grant will be awarded for a maximum of 2 years, depending on the required timeline to complete the project.
2. The funds must be used as per the approved budget in the application form, although variations can be made with prior approval by EMHS.
3. A mid-project progress report must be submitted to the EMHS Research Hub.
4. A final report must be submitted to the EMHS Research Hub within 3 months of the conclusion of the project.
5. The recipient may be required to attend and present at functions or meetings at the request of EMHS.

About EMHS Aboriginal Health Services

EMHS is committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to support access to healthcare by providing a culturally safe environment, creating employment opportunities and developing partnerships. This work aims to close the gap on health inequities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the broader community.

Our Aboriginal Community Health teams work to improve the health of Aboriginal people by improving their access to culturally appropriate health care. Teams are based across the metropolitan region, which covers all three health services in the north, south and east.

Our Aboriginal Community Health programs are planned, implemented and evaluated in consultation and collaboration with the Aboriginal community.

Further information about **EMHS Aboriginal Health Services** is available at:
<https://emhs.health.wa.gov.au/Hospitals-and-Services/Aboriginal-Health>

About EMHS Mental Health Services

EMHS is one of the largest providers of both inpatient and community mental health services in Western Australia. These include the **Wungen Kartup Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Service** that supports both Aboriginal consumers and carers in accessing mainstream mental health services, and in better meeting the needs of Aboriginal people experiencing mental ill health.

In addition, EMHS offers a range of both community and inpatient mental health services, including a dedicated youth mental health ward, called the East Metropolitan Youth Unit (EMyU). This unit is a 12-bed inpatient service that provides 24/7 mental health inpatient care for young people aged 16 to 24 presenting with complex and acute mental health issues, with a focus on early episode interventions.

Further information about **EMHS Mental Health Services** is available at: <https://emhs.health.wa.gov.au/Hospitals-and-Services/Mental-Health>

About EMHS Hospital and Community Services

Our hospital network, community teams and state-wide services work together to provide a combination of tertiary, secondary and specialist health care services including emergency and critical care, state trauma, elective and emergency surgery, general medical, mental health, inpatient and outpatient services, aged care, palliative care, rehabilitation and women's, children's and neonates services.

Further information about our extensive **hospital and community services** is available at: <https://emhs.health.wa.gov.au/Hospitals-and-Services>

How to Apply

Applications are due: **4 pm Monday 27 September 2022**

Please use the **Application Form** available at:

<https://emhs.health.wa.gov.au/Research/Aboriginal-Health-Research-Grant>

Email completed applications to: EMHS.REG@health.wa.gov.au

How applications will be assessed

Applications will be assessed by a selection panel that will determine if the proposed project has merit, is feasible and aligned with the grant objectives, particularly its potential impact on services for Aboriginal people and communities.

The selection panel may seek further information from applicants and/or request a meeting before making a final decision.

For further information please contact:

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