



The 2023 grant round opens on Wed 1 March 2023 and closes on Fri 14 April 2023

## Introduction

These guidelines are designed to support applications for a Strategic Innovation Program grant made available through the AAG Research Trust. For the purposes of these guidelines, the term 'applicant' refers to the lead investigator (researcher or practitioner) on the proposed project. The proposed project may be undertaken in a research or practitioner setting.

## About the Strategic Innovation Program

The AAG Research Trust's Strategic Innovation Program facilitates dynamic and responsive research that aims to improve the experience of ageing through innovation in policy and practice (that is, through research translation). Priorities areas under this program are:

- Proposals that develop research that improves the experience of ageing through innovation in policy and practice
- Proposals with a substantive focus on the health and wellbeing of older Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and their communities, and/or is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-led (see Attachment 1)

In 2023, two grants of up to \$30,000 each for 18 months will be awarded. An additional grant of up to \$30,000 for 18 months may be funded through a partnership with the Dementia Australia Research Foundation (DARF), for an application with a substantive dementia focus.

## Grant eligibility and conditions

Any AAG member is eligible to apply for a Strategic Innovation Program grant. However, we encourage applications from early and mid-career researchers up to eight years' post-PhD, considering career disruption<sup>1</sup>, and practitioners engaged in research.

Where the application relates to an existing program of work, the proposed project must be a unique piece of work with a new independent output for which the applicant is the lead investigator. Specific justification must be given for applications that relate to a larger project or existing program of work.

## Eligibility

To apply for a Strategic Innovation Program grant:

1. Applicants must be financial members of AAG at the time of applying for a grant and for the duration of the funded project.
2. The work must be undertaken in Australia.
3. Projects made possible through the 2023 grant round must be completed within 18 months from confirmation of the award. For projects involving Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, an extension may be granted.

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<sup>1</sup> A career disruption is a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work due to pregnancy/parenthood, major illness/injury, and/or carer responsibilities. It comprises a continuous absence from work of 90 days or more *or* continuous long term, part-time employment, where the absences total 90 or more calendar days per year.



4. Applicants are responsible for securing all necessary insurances and approvals (including by a human research ethics committee) before commencing the funded project.
5. Applicants may be the lead investigator on one grant application only per funding round, but may be a co-investigator on applications made by another lead investigator.
6. If different AAG Research Trust grant programs run at the same time, applicants can apply for a grant from more than one program, but the projects must be different. An exception occurs if you are eligible to apply for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led focus within the Strategic Innovation Program and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dedicated grant supported by the RM Gibson Program, although each application must be for a different project.
7. Applications will not be accepted from a lead investigator who currently holds an AAG Research Trust grant of any kind as lead investigator.
8. Applicants who have previously been in receipt of an AAG Research Trust grant but who have completed that project and complied fully with the terms of conditions of accepting that grant may apply during this funding round.
9. Applicants whose proposed project involves community organisations or services are required to provide a letter of support from the organisation or service to confirm their interest in participating.
10. Applications who are unsuccessful in one funding group may apply in a future funding round.

### Eligible items

The application should describe the feasibility of the project in terms of resourcing, either solely through this grant or combined with additional sources of funding or in-kind support. Where a proposed project is part of a larger program of work, applicants should describe any grants from other funding bodies and clearly demonstrate the unique contribution of the work for which this funding is sought.

All items to be funded by the grant must be justified in the application. All items will be assessed based on value for money in the context of the proposal and must be fully justified in the application.

The items that may be covered by a grant include, but are not limited to:

1. A component of the applicant's salary for the time to be spent on the project.
2. Travel costs directly related to the project.
3. Purchase of equipment, venue hire and catering costs directly related to the project.
4. Reimbursement or incentives for project participants.
5. Registration and travel to present the findings of the project at an AAG Conference, up to a combined maximum of \$1,000 of the total grant (noting that acceptance of presentation abstracts is subject to peer review and endorsement by the AAG Conference Scientific Committee).
6. Salaries for assistants required directly for the project.
7. Printing and publication costs (e.g. hard copies of surveys, resources, open access publication etc).
8. Ethics committee review costs.

## Ineligible items

The following items will not be funded:

1. Infrastructure, administrative or other indirect costs (e.g. equipment that would normally be provided by an institution, or utilities and services).
2. Travel, equipment, or other costs not directly related to the proposed project.
3. Institutional or organisational overheads or administrative fees.

## Exclusions

Applications will not be accepted:

1. Where the applicant is a current lead investigator in any AAG Research Trust grant of any kind.
2. Where the applicant is a current AAG director (as corporate trustee of the AAG Research Trust), a member of the AAG Research Trust Steering Committee or Grants Committee, or a member of a grant review panel. The exception is members of the Development Group of the Grants Committee, who may apply for Strategic Innovation Program funding, as they only review RM Gibson Program applications. However, all may be listed as a co-researcher in another person's application.

## Assessment criteria

The application must demonstrate how the proposed project fits the following criteria:

1. Alignment with the aim and priorities of the Strategic Innovation Program.
2. Significance, innovation and impact, demonstrating how the proposed project advances ageing research and research translation in Australia.
3. Methodological quality.
4. Multidisciplinary approach and/or involves cross-sector collaboration.
5. Plan for future development of the work or sustainability of the outcomes of the project, including planned dissemination of the findings.
6. Older people and other stakeholders' involvement in design and throughout different stages of the project.
7. Recognition of diversity among older people and other stakeholders.
8. Clarity and appropriateness of the budget, and justification of budget items, demonstrating value for money.

Projects involving older Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and communities must also meet the criteria in Attachment 1.

## Application process

The application form requires a detailed project plan as well as responses to the assessment criteria.

All applications must address each item in the application form. In addition, all applications must be:

- Made using the application form available on the AAG Research Trust website.
- Combined into a single pdf file containing the completed form and relevant letters of support.
- Saved as: 2023SIP\_First name\_Last name.
- Submitted through the AAG Research Trust website portal.

Applications submitted in other formats will not be considered.

## Key dates for 2023

In 2023:

- Applications open at 9 am AEDT on Wednesday 1 March 2023.
- Applications close at 11.55 pm AEDT on Friday 14 April 2023.
- Awardees are approved by the AAG Research Trust Steering Committee by Friday 30 June 2023.
- Applicants are informed of the application outcome by 14 July 2023.

## Assessment process

Applications will be assessed against standard criteria by the Grants Committee of the AAG Research Trust using a formal protocol. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander led research applications that focus on older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities will be assessed as part of the formal process of assessment by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Review Panel of the AAG Research Trust (see Attachment 1).

The Grant Committee reserves the right to request details of and contact referees with questions about this application.

The decision of the Steering Committee is final and no individual feedback is provided to successful or unsuccessful applicants.

Where possible, grants will be formally awarded at the next AAG National Conference.

## Grant agreement

Awardees will receive a formal letter of offer (constituting the grant agreement) between the AAG Research Trust (and/or DARF as appropriate) and the applicant's institution or organisation, facilitated by the applicant. Grant agreements must be executed, or an extension requested within 90 days of notification of the grant award by the AAG Research Trust.

This agreement describes the requirements of awardees, including:

- Submission of an interim report detailing progress to date and any variations from the original project proposal (and reasons).
- Submission of a detailed project report within 90 days of completing the project, or as otherwise agreed. A template is provided for this report.

- Completion of an online questionnaire, to inform the development of a case study on the awardee and their project for promotion by the AAG Research Trust.
- Submission of an abstract to the next AAG National Conference on the project (acceptance is subject to the AAG Conference Scientific Committee and cannot be guaranteed).
- Agreement to acknowledge the AAG Research Trust Strategic Innovation Program (and DARF, if applicable) in all publications, presentations, summary findings and media announcements relating to the project.

### Grant payments

Grants will only be paid to an institution with Australian deductible gift recipient (DGR) status. Applicants should seek advice on the DGR status of their institution and any tax implications relating to the grant before applying. Because the AAG Research Trust is exempt from GST, the budget for the proposed project must include GST. The AAG Research Trust cannot provide advice in this regard.

Grant payments are made to the host institution. Thus, any changes to the application's relationship with the host institution must be reported to the AAG Research Trust immediately, for review and decision regarding the impact on the grant.

Grants are paid as a single transaction and on the basis that the host institution will not take an administrative or other fee from the grant. Grants will not be paid directly to individuals.

Awarded monies may only be spent on the approved proposal, unless any variation to the agreed proposal has been approved by the Grants Committee.

If the project is terminated for any reason, or if funds are not expended on the agreed proposal, any unspent funds must be returned to the AAG Research Trust.

### Information and contact

Please visit the AAG website ([www.aag.asn.au](http://www.aag.asn.au)) for more information about us and the AAG Research Trust.

You can also contact us by email at [grants@aag.asn.au](mailto:grants@aag.asn.au), or by calling +61 3 8506 0525.



## Attachment 1

### Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led grant applications

#### Introduction

AAG Research Trust seeks to fund Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-led projects involving older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In so doing, its aim is to:

- Support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander early career researchers and practitioners working across the multidisciplinary field of ageing to build their skills and capacity.
- Develop evidence-based knowledge about ageing in Indigenous Australian communities that takes an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander perspective and standpoint to inform policy and program development.

The AAG Research Trust's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Review Panel leads the review and selection of projects with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focus. Panel members are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers or practitioners.

#### Guidelines

All applications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander projects must:

- Be led by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander early career researcher or practitioner (the applicant must be the lead investigator).
- Engage with the strengths and positive aspects of ageing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and amongst older Indigenous peoples.

The principles developed by the Lowitja Institute apply to any projects funded by the AAG Research Trust and should guide grant applications. The principles are:

- **Beneficence:** To act for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the conduct of our research
- **Leadership** by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- **Engagement** of research end users (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities, policymakers, other potential research users)
- **Development** of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research workforce, and
- **Measurement** of impact in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health.