



Western Australian
Future Health Research
& Innovation Fund

Innovation Challenge 2021: Child and Youth Mental Health

Guidelines and Conditions

**Application Period Closes:
1:00pm (AWST), Tuesday 1 February 2022**

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1. Introduction

The *Innovation Challenge 2021: Child and Youth Mental Health* (the Challenge), is a Program of the Western Australian (WA) [Future Health Research and Innovation \(FHRI\) Fund](#).

The FHRI Fund provides a secure source of funding to drive health and medical research, innovation and commercialisation and through these activities, improve the health and prosperity of all Western Australians. It also provides an opportunity to diversify the economy, create jobs, improve the sustainability of the health system and position WA as a leader in research and innovation.

The Challenge contributes to the FHRI Fund Priority 'Rapidly and sustainably build mental health research and/or innovation capacity in WA'.

This Challenge is open to local, national and international applicants.

The Challenge is administered by the Research and Innovation Office, Western Australian Department of Health (DoH).

2. Purpose

The Challenge seeks to stimulate innovation and the development and delivery of a solution to a significant unmet need identified by the Challenge 'winner' in the area of **child and youth (0 – 24 years) mental health in WA**.

Funding will be provided on a competitive basis to innovation proposals which demonstrate potential to develop and implement **novel (new)** processes, products and/or services relevant to this area. The proposed solution must result in **transformative/disruptive** change.

Innovation activities may include, but are not limited to, rebalancing mental health services between community and hospital/institutional care; improving the health and wellbeing of young people living with mental illness; and the use of digital solutions to maintain or improve mental health.

3. Challenge Format

The Challenge is based on a progressive series of assessment and selection stages, which aim to lead to the development of a single 'winning' innovative solution, and the implementation of this in WA.

Stage 1 – Innovation Feasibility

In the first stage of the Challenge, up to 10 applicants may be awarded up to \$50,000 in Australian Dollars (AUD) each to undertake feasibility studies and/or build prototypes around the problem that they have identified, and their proposed solution to this. The award amount will take into account the submitted budget costing proposal. The feasibility activity must be completed within a 6-month period, which commences once a grant agreement is executed.

Stage 2 – Innovation Development and Implementation

Stage 1 grant recipients will then have the opportunity to apply for Stage 2, with one proposed solution (the ‘winner’ of the Challenge), awarded up to AUD \$1.5 million to fully develop the solution and implement this in WA. The award amount will take into account the submitted activity cost proposal. The majority of the funding for implementation activities must be expended in WA.

The development and implementation activity must be completed within a 24-month period, which commences once a grant agreement is executed. Any request to extend this period will be considered, but not necessarily approved, by DoH.

Expert advice and mentoring will be facilitated by DoH to assist the recipient in progressing the innovation development and implementation activity in the WA environment.

4. Eligibility

An application must be made through a legally constituted entity (the Responsible Entity), that may be based in WA, Australia or internationally.

An Australian Responsible Entity must have a valid Australian Business Number (ABN). A Responsible Entity not based in Australia must provide evidence that it is a legally constituted entity in the corresponding country.

The Responsible Entity must name an Innovation Lead for the period of the proposed activity, who will be responsible for all aspects of the application process, and the subsequent conduct of activity if funding is awarded.

The Grant must not constitute the entire financial base of the Responsible Entity.

Applications must be complete, include requested certifications, and be submitted by the closing date/time as per Section 5 Application Instructions.

If a Stage 2 applicant is not an existing provider of mental health support, products or services in WA, the participation of such an entity in the development and/or implementation activities will be required, unless the applicant commits to establish such an entity in WA as part of their application. The DoH can assist entities external to WA to explore links with appropriate WA entities.

The DoH reserves the right to make final decisions on the eligibility of applicants.

5. Application Instructions

Stage 1 applicants will be required to:

- Complete the Stage 1 Innovation Feasibility Application Form
 - The Application Form can be accessed via the [FHRI Fund website](#).
 - The Application Form must be typed in Arial font 11 point or larger.
 - All requested certifications must be provided in the Application Form at the time of submission.
 - Electronic signatures are acceptable. The onus is on the Innovation Lead to ensure approval to use an electronic signature has been obtained.
 - The Application Form is to be submitted as a single Adobe Acrobat PDF or Microsoft Word file, not exceeding 2MBs including evidence that the Responsible Entity is a legally constituted entity in the corresponding country (if applicable) and CVs.
- Prepare a ‘pitch’ video which must not be longer than one minute. The video must be in AVI, MOV, MP4, MPG or WMV format and not exceeding 100MB in size.

- Name the Application Form and video as follows:
Innovation Lead SURNAME, First name – FHRIF INNOVATION CHALLENGE
e.g. SMITH, John – FHRIF INNOVATION CHALLENGE.
- Submit the Application Form and the video via the following link:
<https://FHRIFund.applications.health.wa.gov.au>.

At the end of Stage 1, Guidelines and Conditions and the Application Form for Stage 2 will be provided by the DoH to Stage 1 grant recipients. The DoH reserves the right to modify terms and conditions that apply to Stage 2.

6. Selection Process

Expert panels

Application assessment and interviews will be undertaken by expert panels designated by the DoH, and composed, as appropriate, of one or more of each of the following:

- mental health experts
- innovation/entrepreneurship experts
- consumer representatives.

Assessment process

Stage 1 – Innovation Feasibility

The Stage 1 applicant assessment steps include:

- Eligibility Assessment – To be undertaken by the DoH.
- Shortlisting – The Stage 1 Applications and ‘pitch’ videos will be assessed by one or more expert panels. The results of these assessments will be collated by the DoH and used to determine a shortlist of applications which will proceed to an interview stage.
- Interviews – An expert panel will interview the Innovation Leads/Team in person or via video link and undertake an assessment based on factors including the clinical and commercial relevance of the proposed work.

Stage 2 – Innovation Development and Implementation

The Stage 2 applicant assessment steps include:

- Eligibility Assessment – To be undertaken by the DoH.
- Shortlisting – The Stage 1 Final Reports and Stage 2 Applications will be assessed by an expert panel. The result of these assessments will be collated by the DoH and used to determine a shortlist of applications which will proceed to an interview stage.
- Interviews – An expert panel will interview the Innovation Lead/Team in person or via video link to assess the activities and outcomes from Stage 1 and the proposed development and implementation activities for Stage 2.

The DoH reserves the right to request, at its discretion, further information from applicants if an expert panel deems applications to be of potential benefit to WA but require further clarification before an assessment can be made.

Selection of recipients

Based on expert panel assessments, the DoH will determine and approve the awarding of grants in accordance with the DoH financial and procurement delegation authorities. The DoH reserves the right to offer reduced funding rates and/or to request modification to activity proposals.

7. Funding Conditions

Payment instalments

Applicants approved for Stage 1 funding will be awarded up to AUD \$50,000. The funding will be paid in one instalment.

The applicant approved for Stage 2 will be awarded up to AUD \$1.5 million. Stage 2 instalment payments will be in accordance with an agreed payment schedule and will be dependent on the receipt of satisfactory Progress Activity and Financial Reports and approval for continuation of the activity by DoH.

All relevant research ethics and governance approvals, where required, must be obtained and provided to DoH, before any funding will be released.

Funding limitations

Funding will only be made available for the scope of work described in the application, or with any modifications approved by the DoH. The DoH is not obliged to underwrite any recurrent or capital costs beyond the funding awarded through this Challenge.

Seeking alternative funding sources

Applicants are permitted, and encouraged, to seek additional sources of funding for the duration of the Challenge, providing this complements, but does not duplicate, the activity for which the Challenge funding was awarded.

Partial payment or suspension of funds

The DoH reserves the right to:

- Provide funding instalments in parts based on milestone achievement to date and risk assessment of future milestones.
- Suspend payment of funding instalments or part instalments where activity feasibility has become uncertain.

Termination of funds

Funds shall revert to, or be recoverable by, the DoH in instances where:

- the activity is terminated by the DoH as a result of insufficient progress being made at the time of progress reports or any interim progress report, a request for variation is not approved or it has been otherwise determined by either the recipient or the DoH that the project is no longer viable
- the recipient is successful in obtaining funding for the activity from another source
- funds are used for purposes other than those for which they were awarded
- the Challenge proposal does not result in the majority of funding for implementation being expended in WA
- funds are not fully spent at the conclusion of the activity.

Funding is offered subject to FHRI Fund budget availability, which could be varied in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

8. Contractual Arrangements

Grant Funding Agreement

Grants to entities external to the WA public health system are offered in accordance with the DoH Grant Funding Agreement (and its Terms and Conditions) which is a legal agreement between the DoH and the Responsible Entity. Within the WA public health system, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be entered into.

Where research is a component of the activity, this must be conducted in accordance with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018](#), and must have any required ethics and governance approvals.

The DoH reserves the right to withdraw an offer of award to a Responsible Entity if the Grant Funding Agreement and/or Grant Funding Agreement Terms and Conditions, or MOU, cannot be agreed.

Insurance

Responsible Entities will be required to demonstrate appropriate levels of insurance as a condition of the Grant Funding Agreement.

Note that recipients who require site governance approval will also be required to demonstrate appropriate levels of insurance during this process, which may vary depending on the site.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property (IP) that arises out of the activity will vest in the Responsible Entity. However, consideration will be given to the provisions of the [Western Australian Government Intellectual Property Policy 2015](#), that IP rights should be allocated to optimise the economic, social or environmental benefits for WA from the use, commercialisation and disposal of the IP.

Any questions regarding IP matters should, in the first instance, be directed to the Research and Innovation Office (RIO.DOH@health.wa.gov.au).

Requests for variation

Approval for variations to a Grant Funding Agreement or MOU, such as activity timing and duration, Responsible Entity, or Innovation Lead, will be at the discretion of the DoH. Note if variations are not approved this could result in termination of an activity with associated funding reverting to, or being recoverable by, the DoH.

9. Reporting

Stage 1 grant recipients will be required to submit a Final Activity Report and an auditable financial acquittal statement (Financial Report) at the completion of the activity.

The Stage 2 grant recipient will be required to submit Progress Activity Reports and Financial Reports during the activity period and a Final Activity Report and Financial Report at the completion of the activity.

The reports referred to above will be completed on template forms provided by the DoH.

The DoH reserves the right to request additional Progress Activity Reports at any point during a Stage.

10. Acknowledgements

The WA Minister for Health and/or the DoH will publicly announce, at their discretion, any significant milestone in the Challenge process.

Recipient Responsible Entities, and other participating entities, must withhold announcement/media coverage related to activities supported by this Program until authorised by the DoH.

Acknowledgment of FHRI Fund support should be made as opportunities arise in publications, conference presentations, public discussion, press statements etc, as appropriate. The preferred citation is: "This work has been supported by the Western Australian Department of Health, through the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund".

11. Complaints

Applicants who feel that their interests have been adversely affected by a decision made by the DoH and/or expert panels may lodge a complaint. Complaints can only be considered when they refer to the administrative process and not to the actual outcome of a particular decision. Complaints must be submitted in writing to:

Executive Director, Clinical Leadership and Reform
Clinical Excellence Division, Department of Health
PO Box 8172
Perth Business Centre WA 6849
Australia

12. Confidentiality

Summaries provided on applications or reports may be used for publicity purposes by the DoH upon agreement with the Responsible Entity.

Other information provided in applications and reports will be maintained confidentially by the DoH and expert panels.

All other information exchanged between the Responsible Entity/Innovation Lead and the DoH, expert panels and mentors during the course of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 activities will be maintained confidentially unless otherwise agreed to by all parties.

If requests are received by the DoH to make public any aspect of the Challenge, the authorisation of the Responsible Entity will be sought.

Applicants are advised that the DoH is subject to the *Western Australian Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)*. This can potentially provide a right of access to records held by State Government agencies.

13. Evaluation

The DoH will undertake an evaluation of the outcomes of the Challenge, and funded Responsible Entities, partner entities, team members and community consumers and/or carers will be required to contribute to this.



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