



Department of Health / Raine Medical Research Foundation Clinician Research Fellowships: Round 7

Guidelines and Conditions

1. Introduction

The Clinician Research Fellowship program is an initiative of the Department of Health in partnership with the Raine Medical Research Foundation.

Clinician researchers are well placed to identify issues and research opportunities related to patients and health care delivery, and to promote the translation of findings. Recognising this, the Clinician Research Fellowship program is designed to:

- encourage clinicians employed by Health Service Providers to develop their research capability, while continuing some clinical duties; and
- facilitate high quality research that will ultimately provide better health care outcomes.

Applications are invited from eligible clinicians:

- working in healthcare disciplines including allied health and health sciences, dental, medical, nursing and midwifery professions;
- who are either early or mid-career researchers; and
- who have minimal or no paid research time.

The research must be undertaken in Western Australia and be of direct relevance to the WA health system.

2. Eligibility

Clinician Research Fellowships are available to individuals who:

- (a) at the time of application are Australian citizens or hold Australian permanent residency, and are resident in Western Australia for the duration of the Fellowship;
- (b) are employees of an institution within a Health Service Provider. Health Service Providers include the Child and Adolescent Health Service, East Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service, South Metropolitan Health Service, WA Country Health Service and PathWest. Employees of health entities which are contracted to provide health services to the State are not eligible, for example, Joondalup Health Campus and St John of God Midland Public Hospital;

- (c) currently, and during the period of the Fellowship, are employed by a Health Service Provider institution to undertake clinical duties at no less than 0.3 FTE. Clinical duties are activities directly related to individual patient care, as distinguished from administrative, research or academic activities;
- (d) are able to be released from clinical duties for the period of the Fellowship with the post adequately back-filled (if applicable);
- (e) currently, and during the period of the Fellowship, are not in receipt of more than 0.3 FTE paid research/academic time;
- (f) have not more than eight years' research experience (full time or equivalent, taking into account part time and/or career interruptions);
- (g) are the first named Chief Investigator on the research project proposed to be undertaken during the Fellowship;
- (h) appoint a research mentor, who will generally be a senior/established researcher, who stringently reviews the proposal providing expert advice on the design and statistical analyses as well as providing guidance and ongoing support during the term of the Fellowship;
- (i) include only one project in the application and submit only one application per round; and
- (j) have not already received a Clinician Research Fellowship.

3. Funding

- (a) Fellowship salary funding is available for research duties up to 0.5 FTE, with a maximum value of \$150,000 per annum.
- (b) Fellowships may be awarded for up to three years. The requested duration must reasonably reflect the research activity.
- (c) The Fellowship FTE may replace or be in addition to Health Service Provider institution clinical duties, as long as clinical duties are retained at a minimum of 0.3 FTE. The Fellowship FTE must not replace a research or academic role. During the period of the Fellowship, the recipient shall not be in receipt of more than 1.0 FTE paid employment.
- (d) Research cost funding of up to \$10,000 may be requested. Additional research project costs, not included in the Fellowship award, will need to be obtained by the successful applicant. Requests for travel funds will normally not be approved.
- (e) The Fellowship FTE, duration and research costs offered to each successful applicant are subject to the discretion of the Department of Health and the Raine Medical Research Foundation. Fellowship funding is offered subject to the availability of funds, which could be varied in the event of unforeseen circumstances.
- (f) The Fellowship shall be taken up within one year of award. Any variation to this condition would require approval based on exceptional circumstances.
- (g) The provision of Fellowship funding to the Health Service Provider institution will be administered by the University of Western Australia on behalf of the Department of Health and the Raine Medical Research Foundation.

- (h) Fellowship salary will be paid to the successful applicant by the Health Service Provider institution in accordance with their clinician employment conditions.
- (i) Fellowship funding is based on the awarded Fellowship FTE, duration and research costs and this funding amount is final. In the event the successful applicant incurs additional expenses for whatever reason, these will not be paid by the Department of Health or the Raine Medical Research Foundation. Salary expense for the awarded Fellowship FTE and duration which is beyond the awarded Fellowship salary funding is the responsibility of the Health Service Provider institution.
- (j) If the successful applicant moves to a higher position classification (e.g. registrar to consultant), this does not affect the Fellowship, which remains funded and payable at the position classification applicable at the time of application.
- (k) Equipment purchased with Fellowship research cost funds remains the property of the host research institution.
- (l) Fellowship funding that is used for purposes other than that for which it was awarded, or is unspent at the conclusion of the Fellowship period, shall be recoverable by the University of Western Australia and shall revert to the Department of Health and the Raine Medical Research Foundation.
- (m) Fellowship expenditure is subject to the [Financial Management Act 2006 \(WA\)](#), and may be subject to audit by the Office of the Auditor General or their representative and/or the Department of Health.

4. Applicant Selection

- (a) The applicant selection process shall be administered by the Raine Medical Research Foundation. 'Raine Research Committee' refers to members of the Raine Medical Research Foundation Research Committee and may include specialist representatives co-opted in consultation with the Department of Health.
 - (b) Each application will be assessed, based on:
 - (i) the quality of the proposed research project*;
 - (ii) the proposed role and contribution of the applicant to the research project activities and outcomes**; and
 - (iii) the track record of the applicant relative to their research experience and opportunity.
- * *Applicants should ensure that project data can be confidently interpreted; outcome measures are valid for the purpose and are quantifiable; and the study design and analysis are matched to the form of the data.*
- ** *The applicant must demonstrate that they are making a significant independent contribution to the research project at a leadership level.*
- (c) In awarding the Fellowships, the Raine Research Committee will further consider:
 - (i) the significance of the research project and relevance to the WA health system;

- (ii) the likelihood that the proposed study may be successfully translated into improved patient outcomes through innovation or change to existing guidelines or health policies;
 - (iii) the relevance of the host research environment and its capacity to foster, strengthen and advance the research of the applicant, where applicable;
 - (iv) paid research/academic time already available to the applicant; and
 - (v) the intent of the Clinician Research Fellowship program.
- (d) The system of evaluation involves a four-stage process, which features:

- (i) Preliminary screening by the Raine Research Committee which may include co-opted specialist representatives.

At the completion of the preliminary screening stage, applicants will be informed as to whether their application, has, or has not, been short-listed for external assessment.

- (ii) External assessment of short-listed applications by independent researchers (local assessors are not used unless deemed necessary).

Applicants will be invited to nominate up to two Referees to assess their application and will have the opportunity to advise the names of assessors not to be approached.

Assessors are given assurances that Assessment Reports are afforded a high level of confidentiality. They are further informed that the evaluation process does not include applicant interviews, however, reports are released anonymously to the applicant and copies are also provided, anonymously, to the Raine Research Committee for the final selection process.

- (iii) Applicant response to Assessment Reports.

After Assessment Reports have been distributed to the applicant, they are invited to submit a response to the Raine Medical Research Foundation in accordance with the instructions provided.

- (iv) Final selection by the Raine Research Committee.

The decision of the Raine Research Committee shall be final. Correspondence will not be entered into regarding the decision.

5. Research Governance Requirements

All relevant research governance approvals shall be obtained and provided to the Raine Medical Research Foundation, before the commencement of the Fellowship.

Research Governance approvals which will be required include:

- (a) Ethics approval, from each relevant Ethics Committee (human and/or animal).

Depending on the type of project, additional HREC approvals may be required from:

- (i) Department of Health WA HREC (*Department of Health Data Collections and Data linkage*);
 - (ii) Coronial Ethics Committee (WA) (*access to coronial material*); and
 - (iii) WA Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee.
- (b) Research governance authorisation (also known as site authorisation) from each relevant institution/site conducting the project or providing access to data, participants or tissue samples.

Depending on the type of project, additional approvals may be required to be submitted with the research governance application, including:

- (i) Data Custodians
- (ii) Gene Technology Regulator
- (iii) Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
- (iv) NHMRC Embryo Research Licensing Committee
- (v) NHMRC Human Genetics Advisory Committee (HGAC)
- (vi) Radiation Safety Officer (Dosimetry Report)
- (vii) Radiological Council
- (viii) Reproductive Technology Council
- (ix) Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

6. Intellectual Property

The ownership of Intellectual Property produced by the successful applicant in the course of the Fellowship shall vest with the Health Service Provider. Intellectual Property that is produced in conjunction with a host research group or other agency shall be consistent with the [Western Australian Government Intellectual Property Policy 2015](#) or that policy's successor.

7. Reports

- (a) At the completion of each calendar year, the successful applicant is required to provide an Annual Progress Report.
- (b) At the completion of the Fellowship period, the successful applicant is required to produce a Final Report accompanied by an acquittal statement of the expenditure of funds. The acquittal must be certified by the relevant finance officer of the Health Service Provider institution.
- (c) Guidelines, templates and due dates for reports and the acquittal statement will be provided to the successful applicant by the Raine Medical Research Foundation as required.

8. Acknowledgment

- (a) The Department of Health and the Raine Medical Research Foundation will publicly announce the successful applicants for the Fellowship program. Fellowship recipients and all other parties are requested to withhold announcement/media coverage until after the Raine Medical Research Foundation advises this has occurred.
- (b) Appropriate acknowledgement must be provided to the Department of Health and the Raine Medical Research Foundation in the event the successful applicant receives opportunities to present the findings of the research for which this Fellowship was awarded. This includes publications, conference presentations, public discussion and media interviews.
- (c) References to the Fellowship should include the correct title "Clinician Research Fellowship".

9. Dissemination

Fellows are requested to forward copies of publications and other research communication activities resulting from the funded Fellowship to the Raine Medical Research Foundation.

In order to maximise knowledge exchange, successful applicants are asked to consider the [NHMRC's policy on the dissemination of research findings](#).