

## **HETI Awards in Psychiatry and Mental Health: 2024 Mental Health Research Awards**

### **Guidelines for the provision of Mental Health Research Awards and Submission of Applications**

Thank you for your interest in the HETI Mental Health Research Awards.

#### **General**

The Mental Health Research Awards will be offered for varying periods, up to a maximum of one-year full time equivalent and will commence in 2024. Part-time training is acceptable.

The Mental Health Research Award is regarded as a training experience for those new to research. Applicants will have demonstrated an interest in research and an ability to prepare a research proposal.

Applicants must have at least one supervisor and may have one or more co-supervisors. At least one of these supervisors or co-supervisors must hold a current academic appointment relevant to the project. The supervisor must be a person that HETI recognises in the field in which the project is to be conducted.

#### **Eligibility**

Applicants, for the Mental Health Research Award must be:

- must be from mental health related disciplines;
- must be enrolled or planning to enrol into a research degree to investigate the causation, prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of mental ill health or can demonstrate that they will be supported and included within a research group may also apply;
- must be Australian Permanent Residents and must, during the term of the Award, be resident in New South Wales.

Applicants who are in the early stages of their profession will be prioritised.

Applications from past Awardees will be accepted but please note that a maximum of two Awards will be granted to an individual irrespective of the quantum of the Awards.

Students in the last 18 months (FTE) of their PhD or last half of an equivalent degree, or postdoc, are not eligible.

## Submitting an Application

If you wish to apply please submit the following:

- A completed application form;
- A proposal that includes the following sections:
  1. Project title
  2. Applicant's name and institution
  3. Supervisor's name and institution
  4. Aim (s)
  5. Significance/innovation/impact on clinical practice
  6. Hypotheses or research questions
  7. Background (including pilot data if available)
  8. Plan:
    - (1) sampling
    - (2) materials
    - (3) method/s
    - (4) logistic issues and timetable
    - (5) data analysis
  9. Anticipated outcomes (e.g., CD Rom, practice guidelines, questionnaire, etc.)
  10. Other sources of support sought and/or obtained
  11. Ethical implications and a statement regarding the status of Ethics Committee approval from the relevant institutions
  12. Key references.

### Formatting Requirements for the proposal

<b>Page size</b>	A4
<b>Line spacing</b>	Double
<b>Font size</b>	No less than 11 point
<b>Margins</b>	At least 2cm
<b>Page limit</b>	The entire proposal, including reference list, must not exceed 12 pages

- Written statement of supervisor's support and comments regarding methodology and feasibility of the project.
- A Curriculum Vitae (CV) including publications where applicable.
- Applicant proposing full-time research should indicate whether and how their project might be implemented if funding is granted on a part-time basis.

For further detail and information regarding the submission of your research proposal please refer to the Research Proposal Guidelines.

## Psychiatry registrars

If you are a psychiatry registrar, you will also be required to submit the following:

- Completed and signed Support for Application forms from the following:
  1. Director of Training in the area in which the award will take place, stating that they support your proposal and that the research can be successfully undertaken in their Area;
  2. Director of Training in your current network if different from the above, stating support for your proposal and the implications of moving into a different training network have been addressed;
  3. Where applicable, Director of Advanced Training for the subspecialty in which the award will take place, stating that they would support an application to the RANZCP Branch Training Committee for the training in the proposal to receive accreditation by the RANZCP for that advanced training program;
  4. Supervisor of the proposed award, stating that they support your proposal, will provide supervision for it according to RANZCP guidelines and will attend with you (this can be by videoconference) if you are offered a selection interview.

## Assessment of Applications

Applying for the Mental Health Research Award is a two-stage process as follows:

1. Eligibility will be assessed. Applicants will be advised if their submission is ineligible.
2. Applications will be accepted and once received will be sent to a panel for review\*. It is expected that some applications will be culled at this point.
3. Those applicants who pass the culling process will be invited to proceed to interview. Please note applicants will need to make arrangements to have their supervisor attend in person or via videoconference on the day of the interview or the application will not proceed.

\* The project will be critiqued under the following headings:

Estimate of Scientific Merit (30%):	Very Poor 1	Poor 2	Fair 3	Good 4	Very Good 5	Excellent 6
Estimate of Supervisory/Institutional Support (20%):	Very Poor 1	Poor 2	Fair 3	Good 4	Very Good 5	Excellent 6
Estimate of the Potential for Providing an Effective Training Experience (20%):	Very Poor 1	Poor 2	Fair 3	Good 4	Very Good 5	Excellent 6
Alignment with national or state priorities in mental health (10%):	Very Poor 1	Poor 2	Fair 3	Good 4	Very Good 5	Excellent 6
Applicability to the NSW public health system (10%):	Very Poor 1	Poor 2	Fair 3	Good 4	Very Good 5	Excellent 6
Translation opportunities to achieving benefit for mental wellness (10%)	Very Poor 1	Poor 2	Fair 3	Good 4	Very Good 5	Excellent 6

If you are successful in obtaining an Award, ethics requirements will be discussed before commencing your Award.

The Ministry of Health funds HETI to provide substantial grants in aid for the Award program. A review of the Awards highlighted a need for greater attention to scientific merit and methodological rigour in research proposals.

Please note that once you have accepted an Award, your name and the Award granted will be displayed on the HETI website.

Applications close on 18 August 2023. **No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.**

Please send your complete application via email, in one package, to Ms Neridah Callaghan at [neridah.callaghan@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:neridah.callaghan@health.nsw.gov.au). Please contact HETI if you do not receive an email acknowledgement of your application being received. Please note the onus is on the applicant to ensure that all supporting documentation is completed and submitted by the due date.

If you should have any queries or require further information, please contact Neridah Callaghan on 9844 6329 or via email.

### **Financial administration of the Mental Health Research Award**

The Awards are offered at the basic **4<sup>th</sup> year rate** appropriate for the applicant's discipline, subject to award increases, with a **maximum rate** available being that of a Doctor in year 4 of Psychiatry training.

If you are successful in your application, HETI will advise the entity (LHD or SN) in which your position will be situated and offer them the full funding for your position, salary and on costs (pro rata if for a part-time position). The entity will then offer you a contract for the Award in addition to standard employment requirements.

**HETI strongly recommends you discuss the financial and employment implications of accepting an Award with your human resources department and Director of Training prior to submitting your application. This is important so that you can ascertain any particular local issues that might impact on you during the term of the Award.**