



Department of Health / Raine Medical Research Foundation Clinician Research Fellowships 2021

Guidelines and Conditions

1. Introduction

The Clinician Research Fellowship program is an initiative of the Western Australian (WA) Department of Health in partnership with the [Raine Medical Research Foundation](#). The State Government contribution to the program is funded by the [Future Health Research and Innovation \(FHRI\) Fund](#).

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 WA 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 health care 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 WA and be of direct relevance to the WA public 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 WA Health Service Provider. WA 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 WA Health Service Provider institution(s) 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 backfilled (if applicable);

- (e) currently, and during the period of the Fellowship, are not in receipt of more than 0.3 FTE paid research time (including paid research time which is a component of an academic/clinical/administration role);
- (f) have not more than eight years' research experience (full time or equivalent, taking into consideration career disruption (refer to Clause 5 for definition));
- (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 existing paid research time (including paid research time which is a component of an academic/clinical/administration 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 in total for the Fellowship term may be requested and may include minor equipment, consumables, and other expenses. Additional research project costs, not included in the Fellowship award, will need to be obtained by the successful applicant. Requests for travel funds and publication fees 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 WA 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 relevant Health Service Provider institution will be administered by the University of Western Australia on behalf of the WA Department of Health and the Raine Medical Research Foundation.
- (h) 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 WA 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. 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.

- (i) Fellowship salary will be paid to the successful applicant by the Health Service Provider institution in accordance with their clinician employment conditions.
- (j) Salary funding can be used for annual leave and long service leave entitlements that accrue during the Fellowship term. However, severance and termination payments and extended leave payments (leave entitlements accrued in non-Fellowship roles) are not supported and must not be paid for with Fellowship funding.
- (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 WA 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 WA Department of Health.

4. Applicant Selection Process

The applicant selection process shall be administered by the Raine Medical Research Foundation involving a six-stage process:

- (a) Preliminary screening by the Raine Management Office to check eligibility.
 - Applicants will be notified at this time if there are any concerns.
- (b) Shortlisting of applications by the Clinician Research Fellowship Advisory Panel.
 - At this stage, applicants will be informed as to whether their application has, or has not, been shortlisted for external assessment.
- (c) External assessment of shortlisted applications by independent scientific peer review.
 - Applicants are invited to nominate at least two external researchers to assess their application (who have no conflict of interest) and will have the opportunity to advise the names of assessors not to be approached.
- (d) A written response from applicants to their assessors' reports.
 - After anonymous Assessment Reports have been distributed to the applicant, they are invited to submit a response to the Raine Foundation in accordance with provided instructions.
- (e) Selection of recipients by the Clinician Research Fellowship Advisory Panel.
 - Selection will be based on the Assessment Criteria (Clause 5); paid research time already available to the applicant; and the intent of the Clinician Research Fellowship program.
- (f) Consideration and ratification of Advisory Panel recommendations 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. Assessment Criteria

Each application will be assessed based on the criteria and weightings below:

Assessment Criteria	%
<p>Quality of the proposed research project and host research environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 proposed research should be supported by a well justified and reasoned rationale, which addresses an issue of critical importance to advance the field of research and associated health outcomes. - The relevance of the host research environment will be considered and its capacity to foster, strengthen and advance the research of the applicant, where applicable. 	20
<p>Significance of research and potential benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The significance of the research project and relevance to the WA public health system. - The likelihood that the proposed study may be successfully translated into improved patient outcomes through innovation or change to existing scientific knowledge, clinical practice, and/or health policies and guidelines. 	20
<p>Consumer, carer and community participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consumer involvement should incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearly defined relationships with health consumers or community groups who have lived experience of the research project issue being investigated. - Willingness to include consumers in the research team where appropriate. - How consumer representatives will be engaged and contribute to the research project throughout the project timeline. 	10
<p>Proposed role and contributions of the applicant to the research project and Research Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The applicant must demonstrate that they are making a significant independent contribution to the research project at a leadership level. - The applicant's vision for their research career and how the Fellowship would assist in achieving this vision. 	25
<p>Track Record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Track record will be assessed based on the applicant's CV, the information provided below, and career disruption/relative to opportunity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Publications</i> – the productivity of the applicant and the quality of publications and journals in which the applicant has published. - <i>Leadership</i> – the extent to which the applicant demonstrates progress towards an independent research career. - <i>Research impact</i> – the verifiable outcomes that research makes to knowledge, health, the economy and/or society, and not the prospective or anticipated effects of the research. <p>“Career disruption” includes pregnancy, major illness/injury, carer responsibilities including parental leave. This must involve a continuous absence from work for 90 days or more or return to work on a part-time basis. Written evidence must be provided to the Raine Foundation if requested.</p> <p>“Relative to opportunity” includes clinical, administrative or teaching workload, clinician training, availability of research resources, relocation of the applicant or research lab/clinical setting, typical performance in the field of research, and employment in other sectors (e.g. industry). Written evidence must be provided to the Raine Foundation if requested.</p>	25

<p>“Research impact” is the verifiable outcomes that research makes to knowledge, health, the economy and/or society, and not the prospective or anticipated effects of the research - in line with the NHMRC definition and types of Research Impact (https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research-policy/research-translation-and-impact/research-impact).</p>	
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6. Research Governance Requirements

All relevant research governance approvals (when required) shall be obtained and provided to the Raine Medical Research Foundation, before any funding is provided to successful applicants.

Research Governance approvals which will be required include:

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

For information on ethics and governance submission requirements please refer to the following websites:

- <https://rgs.health.wa.gov.au/Pages/Research-Ethics.aspx>
- <https://rgs.health.wa.gov.au/Pages/Research-Governance.aspx>
- <https://rgs.health.wa.gov.au/Pages/Multi-centre-Research.aspx>

7. Data Linkage

- (a) A project that includes a request for linked data from the [Department of Health WA](#) requires the team to demonstrate feasibility to obtain, and adequate expertise to analyse, the requested data.
- (b) Where linked data are required, the Research Data Services (RDS) Team should be contacted for assistance with the Application for Data process. The RDS Team should provide both i) a cost estimate; and ii) an estimate of time required to obtain the data. All requests should state that the data request is associated with the Clinician Research Fellowships 2021 Program, which requires the project/research to be completed within a specific period.
- (c) The preliminary cost estimate should be included in the proposed project’s Budget and the time-estimate built into the project’s Milestones against timeline in the application form.
- (d) Following confirmation of funding support, the application for data process as outlined on the [Data Linkage WA](#) website should be followed.

8. Intellectual Property

The ownership of Intellectual Property produced by the successful applicant in the course of the Fellowship shall vest with the employing WA 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.

9. Reports

- (a) At the completion of each calendar year, the successful applicant is required to provide an Annual Progress Report.

- (b) If a satisfactory Annual Progress Report is not provided, then funding may be terminated.
- (c) At the completion of the Fellowship period, the successful applicant is required to submit:
 - (i) a Final Report;
 - (ii) an acquittal statement of the expenditure of funds that is certified by the relevant finance officer of the Health Service Provider institution; and
 - (iii) a one-page *Community Stakeholder Brief* which includes an outline of the research project, its outcomes, and next steps. This should be provided to all participating consumer groups.
- (d) If a satisfactory Final Report and/or acquittal statement is not provided when requested, applicants may not be eligible for future funding through the WA Department of Health and the Raine Foundation.
- (e) 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.
- (f) Clinician Research Fellowship program alumni will be asked to take part in follow-up questionnaires to evaluate research performance and impact that has come about after Clinician Research Fellowship funding and will inform the review of future funding programs. Alumni are asked to keep the [Raine Management Office](#) updated with any changes to contact information.

10. Professional Development

Recipients are encouraged to:

- (a) seek an adjunct or honorary title with a Western Australian University or other WA-based NHMRC-approved administering institution in order to apply for NHMRC funding; and
- (b) complete the WA Health Translation Network (WAHTN) Research Education and Training Program (RETP) Good Clinical Practice course, and other relevant WAHTN RETP courses.

11. Acknowledgment

- (a) The WA 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 WA 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”.

12. 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 open access policy](#).