

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST EXPERT REVIEWER

DIABETES AUSTRALIA IS CALLING FOR
EXPERT REVIEWERS TO REVIEW
STAGE 2 GRANT APPLICATIONS

FOR *DIABETES COMMUNITY PRIORITIES* AND
PROJECT GRANT APPLICATIONS

*Please read these Expert Reviewer Guidelines before submitting your Expression of Interest
via the SmartyGrants portal open on Friday 4 July 2025*

https://diabetesaustralia.smartygrants.com.au/EOI_ExpertReviewer

Closing date for EOI applications:

9 August 2025

OVERVIEW

Diabetes Australia is dedicated to reducing the incidence and impact of diabetes on people, health systems and society. We work with people living with or at risk of diabetes, their families and carers, health professionals, researchers, funders, other diabetes organisations and the community to positively change people's lives.

Diabetes Australia supports and develops outstanding diabetes research in Australia. We do this by funding research towards the prevention of diabetes, living well with diabetes, reducing the health and financial impact of diabetes, or finding a cure for diabetes. We foster young and upcoming diabetes researchers, and diversity in research across many areas of importance.

The Diabetes Australia Research Program has invested more than \$50 million in 800 diabetes research projects across Australia since 2008. The Diabetes Australia Research Program is made possible by the generous support of numerous generous supporters, partners, and donors.

In December 2024 through to May 2025, Diabetes Australia received Stage 1 Letter of Intent Applications for *Diabetes Community Priorities* and *Project Grants* for 2026. In August 2025, Diabetes Australia will invite high scoring Stage 1 Applicants to submit a Stage 2 Application by 14 September. This EOI relates to Expert Reviewers to assess Stage 2 Applications during a two-week period 14-30 September 2025.

For full details on how Expert Reviewers are expected to review Applications, please refer to information provided on pages 5-11. The full Grant Application Guidelines are available

<https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Diabetes-Community-Priorities-Grant-Guidelines-2025-2026.pdf>

<https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Diabetes-Australia-Project-Grants-Guidelines-2026.pdf>

The aim is to notify successful applicants for these 2026 Grants in November 2025.

EXPERT REVIEWERS – Eligibility Criteria

Expressions of Interest will be considered for Applicants that meet **ALL** of the following criteria;

- Hold a Masters by Research or PhD qualification
- A published researcher in one of the fields listed in the Table titled Area of Expertise. Note publications must be in English.
- Available 14-30 September 2025 to review up to THREE Applications (English only), with a time commitment of 2-hours per Application.
- Agree to using the SmartyGrants platform to complete all reviews allocated.
- Are not listed as Lead Investigator or Co-Investigator for a 2026 *Diabetes Community Priorities* and/or *Diabetes Australia Project Grant*.
- Agree at any stage of reviewing grant applications allocated to you, to declare if you believe you have an actual or perceived Conflict of Interest. The conflict will be reviewed and determined if reallocation is necessary. You should be familiar with and act in accordance with, the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, 2018 (the 2018 Code), including Guides, available from the NHMRC website.

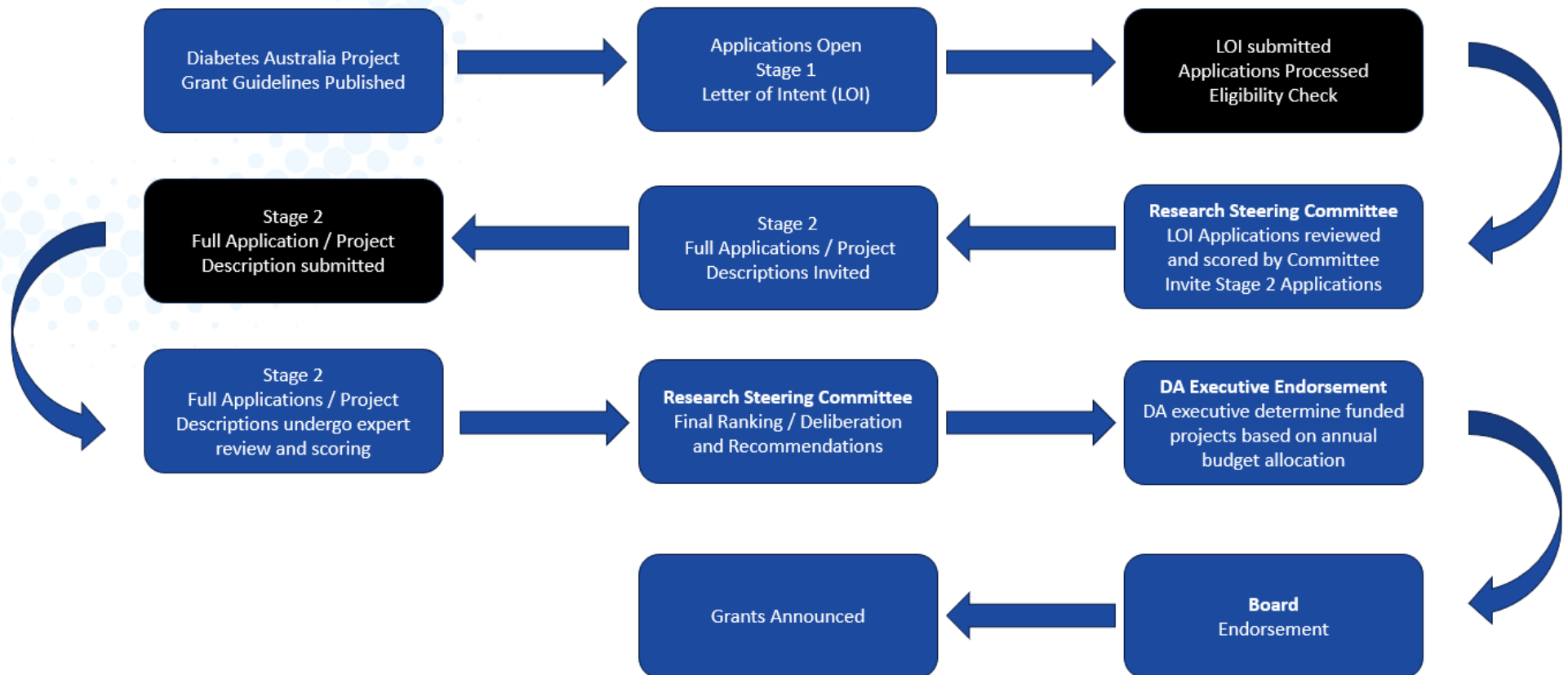
AREA OF EXPERTISE AND RESEARCH TYPE

RESEARCH TYPE	Health Services & Systems	Public Health	Clinical Research	Basic Science
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AREA OF EXPERTISE	
Beta-Cell Replacement	Islet Biology / Insulin Secretion
Clinical Nutrition	Lipids
Clinical Therapies	Macrovascular Complications
Diabetes Education	Metabolism / In Vivo (Animals)
Diabetic Kidney Disease	Metabolism / In Vivo (Humans)
Epidemiology	Neuropathy
Exercise	New Technology
Foot Care / Lower Extremities	Obesity / Pathogenesis of Obesity
Genetic and Gene Regulation	Paediatrics
Health Care Delivery-Economics / Quality Improvement	Pregnancy
Hypoglycaemia	Psychosocial / Behavioural Medicine
Immunology	Retinopathy
Insulin Action / Molecular Metabolism	

APPLICATION AND PEER REVIEW PROCESS

Diabetes Australia Project Grant Process



GUIDANCE FOR EXPERT REVIEWERS – STAGE 2 Applications

Expert Reviewers will be allocated no more than three Stage 2 Applications (2026 Round).

Reviewers must:

- Read Applications and review them against the FOUR **Grant Assessment Criteria** outlined below.
- Provide a score out of FIVE, for each criterion, based on the guidance provided below.
- Provide a brief overall comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the application with reference to the section criteria.
Note: upon request, and after the selection process has concluded, these comments will be provided as feedback to applicants but will not be attributed to any individual reviewer and will not include scores.
- Complete all reviews via the SmartyGrants platform.
- Agree at any stage of reviewing grant applications allocated to you, to declare if you believe you have an actual or perceived Conflict of Interest. The conflict will be reviewed and determined if reallocation is necessary. You should be familiar with and act in accordance with, the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, 2018 (the 2018 Code), including Guides, available from the NHMRC website.

GRANT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Diabetes Australia *Diabetes Community Priorities* and *Project Grant Applications* will be assessed against the four Assessment Criteria described below: Quality and Feasibility of the Research Proposal (30%) and Project Significance and Potential Impact (30%), Consumer Involvement (20%) and Team capability and stakeholders (20%).

Diabetes Australia will generate a single overall score for each application based on the weighted scores for each of the criteria from the panel of reviewers. This overall score will be used to rank the applications.

Scoring guidelines specifically aligned to these assessment criteria will be provided to each reviewer (see next section titled “Scoring System”).

Quality and Feasibility of Research Proposal (30%)

This criterion is based on the details of the research plan and assesses the appropriateness of the suggested methods and the scientific quality, clarity and feasibility of the study design and research plan. Applications will need to be well-written, clear and concise research questions, aims and objectives; the methodology is robust to deliver the research objectives, well-explained and justified including any intervention(s), and what is being evaluated, and any study endpoints.

Project Significance and Potential Impact (30%)

Diabetes Australia is looking to support innovative research with the potential for high impact that addresses the priority unmet needs of the Diabetes Community.

This criterion is drawn from the literature review, relevance to unmet needs of the Diabetes Community, and the plan to translate and disseminate outcomes to achieve high impact. This refers to the significance and impact of the research proposal on the identified area of diabetes research or clinical care to advance current practices and approaches to improve health care outcomes and/or quality of life for people living and/or at risk of diabetes and their families and carers.

It is important to note that proposals must strive to address health equity areas and priority populations. Applications must provide a rationale for not addressing health inequities and priority populations.

Applications will need to show that the results are likely to impact future diabetes research, treatment, or practice care and translation potential. Impact can be through any combination of knowledge, health, social and /or economic outcomes. Reviewers will need to consider the approaches that would be used to translate and disseminate expected research outcomes to end users and the primary stakeholders engaged to implement the research findings to achieve widespread improvements in diabetes health practices.

Impact Descriptions

Knowledge Impact: *New knowledge, demonstrating the potential benefits emerging from adoption, adaption or use of proposed new knowledge to inform further research, and/or understanding of what is effective.*

Health Impact: *Improvements in diabetes prevention, diagnosis and treatment and management of health problems (including new therapeutics, diagnostics, diabetes prevention or changes in behaviour) or health policy, healthy systems, and quality of life.*

Social Impact: *Improvements in the health of society, including the well-being to the end user and the community. This may include improved ability to access health care services, to participate socially (including empowerment and participation in decision making) and to quantify improvements in the health of society.*

Economic Impact: *Improvements in the nation's economic performance through creations of new industries, jobs, or valuable products, or reducing health care costs, improving efficiency in resource use, or improving the welfare/wellbeing of the populations within current health system resources. An economic impact may also contribute to social or health impacts, including human capital gains and the value of life and health.*

Consumer Involvement (20%)

Diabetes Australia is looking for applications that clearly define who the consumer they are creating value for is and that these consumers are meaningfully involved at all stages of the research cycle supported by appropriate remuneration.

This includes how consumers have and will be involved in the proposed research, including their contributions throughout the project lifecycle: conceptualisation, design, and implementation. When assessing applications, reviewers will consider who the consumer is (person living with or at risk of diabetes,

carers, health care professionals, health system leaders, or the public) to understand the need for all proposals to address consumer engagement in a meaningful way.

We understand that the level of consumer involvement may vary depending on the nature of the research. Where not relevant, applicants must provide a rationale for not involving consumers and stakeholders in their proposal.

If the applicant has identified that consumer involvement is not relevant for the proposed project, the reviewer will consider to what extent has the proposed research and project been validated by the intended end user.

Team capability (20%)

The reviewer will also need to consider the feasibility of project and whether the research team has the necessary skills, experience, and environment to complete the project and achieve its desired impact; in doing so they should consider the timeframes, sufficiency of the budget and whether the environment in which the research will be undertake has the necessary resources to be achieved within the term of the grant. This will include the inclusion of team members that are required to achieve impact as well as consideration of any scientific or technical risks and mitigation strategies identified including staff and participant recruitment and access to external data sources if relevant.

SCORING SYSTEM

This scoring matrix is used as a guide when scoring an application against the technical assessment criteria. While the scoring matrix provides reviewers with benchmarks for appropriately scoring each application, it is not essential that all descriptors relating to a given score are met. The scoring matrix employs a “best fit” approach. Reviewers will refer to this scoring matrix to ensure thorough, equitable and transparent assessment of applications.

Assessment Criterion 1: Quality and Feasibility of Research Proposal (30%)

5	4	3	2	1
Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Below Standard	Poor
<p>Clearly articulated, extremely well-founded and justified concept and rationale.</p> <p>Clear objectives with flawless design</p> <p>Highly feasible with high certainty of success with all resources required and relevant expertise available and techniques established.</p>	<p>Well-articulated and justified concept and rationale.</p> <p>Clear objectives with strong design and with a few minor design concerns.</p> <p>Feasible with most resources and relevant expertise available and techniques established.</p>	<p>Generally clear and satisfactory concept and rationale.</p> <p>Clear objectives with solid design with several minor concerns</p> <p>Generally feasible but requires some confirmation and development of resources and relevant expertise and techniques being established.</p>	<p>Rationale and basis for hypothesis and aims lacks some clarity.</p> <p>Unclear objectives, design not appropriate to address the objectives with some major design concerns.</p> <p>Several major feasibility concerns with insufficient resources and relevant expertise and techniques to be established to be successful.</p>	<p>Poorly described rationale with no basis for hypothesis and aims.</p> <p>Poorly described objectives and design that is not appropriate to address the objectives and is unlikely to be successful.</p> <p>Unfeasible and poorly described research plan unlikely to be successful and generate high quality data or evidence.</p>

Assessment Criterion 2: Project Significance and Potential Impact (30%)

5	4	3	2	1
Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Below Standard	Poor
<p>Comprehensively and convincingly addresses an unmet need of the Diabetes Community.</p> <p>Comprehensively and convincingly considers the needs, priorities, views, and values of consumers (particularly those with lived experience and their carers), the community, and health providers and/or end users.</p> <p>If successful, the project will rapidly and significantly improve knowledge, health, social and/or economic outcomes.</p> <p>Clearly and comprehensively articulates a translation plan that can be implemented immediately post research.</p> <p>Demonstrates broad and meaningful engagement of relevant translation partners.</p>	<p>Addresses an unmet need of the Diabetes Community.</p> <p>Effectively considers the needs, priorities, views, and values of consumers (particularly those with lived experience and their carers), the community, health providers and/or other end users.</p> <p>If successful, will improve knowledge, health, social and/or economic outcomes.</p> <p>Adequately articulates a translation plan that has good opportunity to translate findings.</p> <p>Demonstrates good involvement of relevant translation partners.</p>	<p>Generally, addresses an unmet need of the Diabetes Community with minor concerns.</p> <p>Adequately considers the needs, priorities, views, and values of consumers (particularly those with lived experience and their carers), the community, health providers and/or other end users.</p> <p>If successful, is expected to improve knowledge, health, social and/or economic outcomes.</p> <p>Describes a translation plan with potential to implement findings.</p> <p>Demonstrates sufficient involvement of relevant translation partners.</p>	<p>Indirectly addresses an unmet need of the Diabetes Community that is not convincing.</p> <p>Demonstrates limited consideration of the needs, priorities, views, and values of consumers (particularly those with lived experience and their carers), the community, health providers and/or other end users.</p> <p>If successful, may improve knowledge, health, social and/or economic outcomes.</p> <p>Describes a minimal translation plan with translation difficult due to dependencies.</p> <p>Demonstrates narrow or otherwise limited involvement of relevant translation partners.</p>	<p>Does not address an unmet need of the Diabetes Community.</p> <p>Does not demonstrate consideration of the needs, priorities, views, and values of consumers (particularly those with lived experience and their carers), the community, health providers and/or other end users.</p> <p>If successful, will not improve knowledge, health, social and/or economic outcomes.</p> <p>Does not provide a translation plan with little/no translation opportunity.</p> <p>Demonstrates no meaningful involvement of relevant translation partners.</p>

Assessment Criterion 3: Consumer Involvement (20%)

5	4	3	2	1
Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Below Standard	Poor
<p>Clearly and comprehensively articulates extensive involvement and contributions of consumers throughout the research journey.</p> <p>Comprehensively and convincingly demonstrates the team has the skills, experience, and capacity to involve and support consumers appropriately and effectively.</p> <p>Where relevant, demonstrates comprehensive leadership and involvement of priority populations(s) that the research is intended to benefit.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Clear rationale for not involving consumers and stakeholders with comprehensive articulation of how the project addresses an unmet need of the intended end user.</p>	<p>Strongly articulates involvement and contributions of consumers throughout the research journey.</p> <p>Substantially demonstrates the team has the skills, experience and capacity to involve and support consumers appropriately and effectively.</p> <p>Where relevant, demonstrates effective leadership and involvement of priority population(s) that the research is intended to benefit.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Strong rationale for not involving consumers and stakeholders with comprehensive articulation of how the project addresses an unmet need of the intended end user</p>	<p>Adequately demonstrates involvement and contributions of consumers throughout the research journey.</p> <p>Sufficiently demonstrate the team has the skills, experience and capacity to involve and support consumers appropriately and effectively.</p> <p>Where relevant, demonstrates adequate leadership and involvement of priority population(s) that the research is intended to benefit.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Adequately rationale for not involving consumers and stakeholders with comprehensive articulation of how the project addresses an unmet need of the intended end user</p>	<p>Demonstrates minimal involvement and contributions of consumers throughout the research journey.</p> <p>Raises concerns about the skills, experience and capacity to involve and support consumers</p> <p>Where relevant, demonstrates limited leadership and involvement of priority population(s) that the research is intended to benefit.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Minimal rationale for not involving consumers and stakeholders with comprehensive articulation of how the project addresses an unmet need of the intended end use</p>	<p>Does not consider any involvement and contributions of consumers throughout the research journey.</p> <p>Limited to no evidence of the skills, experience and capacity to involve and support consumers.</p> <p>Where relevant, does not demonstrate leadership and involvement of priority population(s) that the research is intended to benefit.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>No rationale for not involving consumers and stakeholders with comprehensive articulation of how the project addresses an unmet need of the intended end use</p>

Assessment Criterion 4: Team capability and stakeholders (20%)

5	4	3	2	1
Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Below Standard	Poor
<p>Team is highly experienced and have exceptional expertise and access to relevant capabilities in all aspects of the project.</p> <p>Exceptional track record of outcomes and impacts through translation or implementation of research findings in relevant research areas.</p> <p>All relevant organisations engaged during research.</p>	<p>Team has relevant expertise and experience and access to relevant capabilities that covers most of the aspects of the project.</p> <p>Substantial evidence of relevant research outcomes and impacts through translation or implementation of research findings.</p> <p>Most relevant organisations considered during research.</p>	<p>Team has sufficient relevant expertise and experience and access to sufficient relevant capabilities.</p> <p>Some evidence of relevant research outcomes and impacts through translation or implementation of research findings.</p> <p>Some relevant organisations considered during research.</p>	<p>Team has minimal relevant expertise and experience and access to relevant capabilities.</p> <p>Limited evidence of relevant research outcomes and impacts through translation or implementation of research findings.</p> <p>Most relevant organisations not considered during research.</p>	<p>Team has no relevant expertise and evidence or access to relevant capabilities.</p> <p>No evidence of relevant research outcomes and impacts through translation or implementation of research findings.</p> <p>No consideration of relevant organisations.</p>

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Diabetes Australia Research on 07 3554 4218 or contact us via email: research@diabetesaustralia.com.au