



MEDIBANK AND DIABETES AUSTRALIA RESEARCH AWARD GUIDELINES

*Please read these Guidelines before completing your application
via the SmartyGrants portal open on FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2025*

<https://diabetesaustralia.smartygrants.com.au/>

Closing date for applications:

FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER 2025

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OVERVIEW

The Medibank Better Health Research Hub and Diabetes Australia have a shared commitment to funding high quality research that focuses on collaboration, meaningful consumer engagement and research translation to improve health service delivery and health outcomes for people living with and/or at risk of diabetes.

Through a newly established co-funded research award, we are calling for research projects that focus on implementation of innovative early interventions in primary care to prevent type 2 diabetes in people living with pre-diabetes and priority populations. This includes innovative models that address healthcare workforce issues including education and training, peer support and care integration to improve prevention, screening and early diagnosis of type 2 diabetes in primary care to prevent and reduce the conversion rate to long-term, advanced diabetes in Australians.

Applications will be assessed on scientific merit, meaningful consumer and community involvement and ability to tangibly improve primary healthcare service delivery. We welcome applications that demonstrate strong potential and a considered approach for scalable translation of research outcomes into practice.

One award of up to \$200,000 for a project of up to two years will be offered to researchers of any career stage addresses the focus area of the award. The closing date for Letter of Intent is 19 December 2025 (5pm AEST).

GENERAL INFORMATION

STAGE 1: SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT

Stage 1 Letter of Intent applications open **28 NOVEMBER 2025** and close **19 DECEMBER 2025**. Late applications will not be accepted. We expect to be able to notify successful applicants in **APRIL 2026**.

Applications will be checked for eligibility by the Diabetes Australia Research Team. Applications that do not comply with any element of the Guidelines, will be deemed ineligible. Eligible LOIs will then be reviewed and a shortlist of those LOIs deemed most competitive for funding will then be invited to submit a full application.

Applications will be reviewed by the Grants Review Committee including representatives from Diabetes Australia and Medibank Better Health Research Hub with diverse experience in clinical, public health and translational research including in primary care.

The LOI is intended to provide brief details of the proposed research to ensure it is eligible, meets the topic brief and is suitable for funding consideration before it progresses to full application stage. Applicants should note that there are strict word limits for the LOI form and are advised to use the provided word limit efficiently and not to repeat themselves across sections. There is no requirement for detailed budget information, nor supporting references in the LOI form. The LOI form should be signed by the nominated lead investigator.

Information within the LOI is considered to be strongly indicative of the intended application. Applicants may change minor details of the project (e.g. co-investigators), however, significant changes to the project design or research question should be discussed with the Diabetes Australia Research Team prior to submission of the full application as the changes may result in the project no longer meeting eligibility requirements.

Please note that in order to progress to Stage 2, a LOI must be submitted in Stage 1.

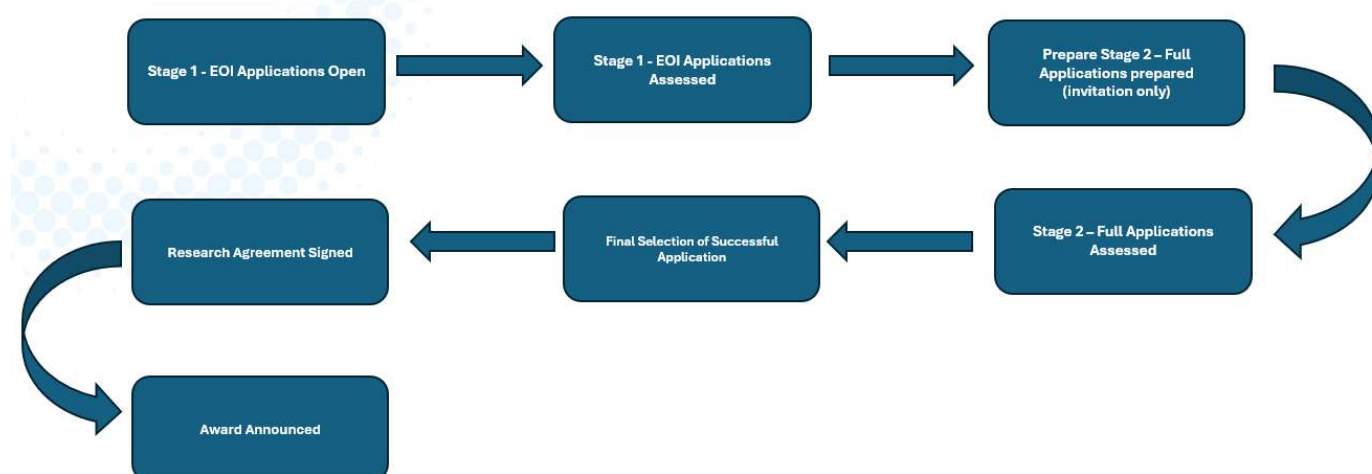
STAGE 2: INVITATION TO SUBMIT A FULL RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION

Applicants who are successful in Stage 1 (LOI) will be invited to enter Stage 2 of the application process and submit a full application.

Full application forms will be available via Smarty Grants by the individual that submitted the LOI. Applicants should note there are strict word limits for the application form and are advised to use the provided word limit efficiently and not to repeat themselves across sections.

Full applications will be assessed by the Grants Review Committee with input and feedback from content and lived experience experts.

Medibank and Diabetes Australia Research Award



diabetesaustralia.com.au



The decisions of Medibank and Diabetes Australia will be final. Diabetes Australia will ensure all applicants are made aware of their application outcome. No feedback will be provided regarding specific applications.

WHO CAN APPLY (ELIGIBILITY)

A single reputable institution must be nominated as the Administering Institution. The Medibank and Diabetes Australia Research Award is available for non-profit and public sector organisations concerned with the promotion of health care, education and/or medical research in the area of diabetes. This includes universities, medical research institutes, hospitals, professional associations and other not-for profit organisations.

These organisations must possess the requisite facilities to carry out the activities detailed in the application and it is expected the nominated Administering Institutions to have policies and procedures in place for the management of research funds, management of intellectual property, and for the conduct of research consistent with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The SmartyGrants application form must be used and completed in its entirety; any incomplete forms may not be accepted. Only one application per Chief Investigator (CI) may be submitted for the award. The CI must have secured the appropriate approval from the supporting organisation prior to submitting

an application. The accuracy of the information in the application is solely the responsibility of the applicant and the supporting organisation (institution).

Any proposed research involving humans or animals, must conform to the general principles set out by the NHMRC. **Note:** successful applications requiring ethics approval will need to provide proof that approval has been granted before any funding will be provided.

BUDGET

No detailed budget information is required for an LOI submission (only an indicative range). In a full application, all items in the requested budget must be directly related to the project and fully justified. Failure to sufficiently justify items may result in a reduced offer of funding. Submitted budgets should be divided into two components – salaries and direct research costs. All funding is at the discretion of Medibank and Diabetes Australia.

All personnel whose salaries are funded under the application will be subject to the conditions of employment of the organisation by which they are employed. It is the responsibility of the CI to ensure that the salaries of all personnel listed in the budget are appropriate and include on-costs.

Applications that include equipment costing over \$5,000 or conference travel will be ineligible. An application that seeks funding for administrative or other indirect expenses will not be considered. The budget information needs to be transparent; this will assist Medibank, Diabetes Australia and the reviewers in the assessment of the application.

Medibank and Diabetes Australia will not fund:

- Institutional overhead and administration costs and office supplies
- Research infrastructure
- Insurance costs
- Costs related to intellectual property
- Entertainment, hospitality, and personal expenses (including subscriptions and professional membership fees).

REVIEW CRITERIA AND SCORING GUIDE

Applications will be scored against each of the four review criteria:

Quality and Feasibility of the Research Proposal (30%)

Project Significance and Potential Impact (30%)

Consumer Involvement (20%)

Team capability and stakeholders (20%)

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%)

Medibank and Diabetes Australia are 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 topic area of improving primary care to reduce type 2 diabetes in people living with pre-diabetes and priority populations.

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 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 disseminated expected research outcomes to end users and the primary stakeholders engaged to implement the research findings to achieve widespread improvements in diabetes health practices.

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT (20%)

Medibank and Diabetes Australia are 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 (i.e. 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%)

Medibank and Diabetes Australia will also consider the feasibility of the 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 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 will be considered. 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.

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 health literacy, 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.*

SCORING SYSTEM

This scoring matrix is used as a guide when scoring an application against the technical assessment criteria. While the scoring matrix provides the Grant Review Committee and 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 population(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. 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>

SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The funded research project is expected to be completed within two years, unless a shorter timeline is requested.

6 monthly progress reports must be provided using our Final/Progress Report template, available on our website or by contacting the team at research@diabetesaustralia.com.au.

FINAL/PROGRESS REPORT

6-monthly progress reports are required for monitoring of progress, risks and outputs.

Within three months of the expiry of each granting period, a Final Report must be forwarded to Medibank and the Diabetes Australia teams.

The report should be consistent with the information requirements of our Final/Progress Report template, available on our website or by contacting the team at research@diabetesaustralia.com.au.

FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL

Within three months of the expiry of the award, the institution responsible for administering the grant must provide a financial acquittal of the funds received to Diabetes Australia.

The report should include the amount of funding received; expenditure across the categories identified in the application; and should be signed by the finance officer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Any public announcement, publications or presentations arising from work funded by this award must appropriately acknowledge the support of Medibank and Diabetes Australia.