

# Health Systems Research Theme: 2023 Collaborative Grant

## Guidelines

### 1. Health Systems Research Theme

The goal of the UNSW Health Systems Research (HSR) Theme is to develop and implement high-quality, person-centred health systems research that will improve individual and population health and well-being for Australians and the global community.

The HSR Theme aims to identify and respond to significant challenges that will improve the quality, value and equity of health systems and health care delivery; and develop, implement and evaluate responses to these challenges.

For more information on the HSR Theme, click [here](#).

### 2. Scheme Overview

The objective of the scheme is to facilitate collaboration to support high quality health systems research at UNSW that will strengthen health system performance leading to improved individual and population health and wellbeing.

The intended outcomes are to:

- generate new knowledge to strengthen and improve health system performance,
- build capacity among early- and mid-career researchers (EMCRs), and
- foster multi-disciplinary collaboration between researchers, health care professionals, policymakers and community.

#### Funding

*All funds must be expended by 30 November 2023. Therefore, applicants should carefully consider the scope and feasibility of the proposed research activities (including Human Research Ethics requirements).*

The scheme is funded from the UNSW HSR Theme budget.

- 4 grants of up to \$80,000 per grant are available (GST exclusive).
- Grant funds can be used for direct costs including personnel costs (salary and salary on-costs) and non-salary costs. Grant funds cannot be used for indirect costs levied by UNSW (costs incurred to support research that are not attributed to individual projects).
- Applicants must make a clear case to demonstrate how the funds will strengthen and improve their program of health systems research and how the outcomes would not be otherwise

realised without the funding. Funds can be used to supplement existing research programs, but clear measurable outcomes associated with this scheme are required.

- The scheme is open to all areas of health systems research and does not need to align with the theme's Flagship Programs.
- All projects funded under the scheme will be required to provide a final report.
- Funding will be provided as a one-off grant and must be spent by 30 November 2023, in accordance with UNSW Finance close-off guidelines. Any unspent funds must be returned.
- Applicants who have been awarded funding from any other source for the same purpose/project are ineligible. Chief Investigator A is required to inform the Research Development Manager – HSR Theme immediately should funding from other sources for the same purpose/project be awarded.

### 3. Eligibility

- Chief Investigator A
  - Must be an EMCR, defined as a researcher who is ≤10 years post-PhD, relative to opportunity.
  - Must be UNSW Medicine & Health academic staff or have a formal conjoint appointment with UNSW Medicine & Health, and
  - Can only be listed on one application as Chief Investigator A
- The team must:
  - include at least 2 UNSW units and/ or affiliated organisational units e.g., Schools and Centres within FMH, other UNSW Faculties, and affiliated MRIs/Centres.
  - include no more than 5 Co-Investigators. Broad engagement with health care professionals, service providers, policy makers, community and/or consumer involvement will be highly regarded.
- Members of the Health Systems Research theme [Executive Committee](#) are ineligible to apply as Chief Investigator A, but can be listed as co-investigators.

### 4. Timeline

<b>Stage One applications: Open</b>	31 March 2023
<b>Stage One applications: Close</b>	30 April 2023
<b>Stage One applications: Assessment</b>	3–15 May 2023
<b>Applicants notified and feedback provided to shortlisted applicants</b>	22 May 2023
<b>Stage Two applications: Presentations</b>	5-8 June 2023
<b>Applicants notified</b>	Week of 12 June 2023
<b>Project start</b>	June 2023
<b>Project end</b>	December 2023
<b>Final report due</b>	31 January 2024



## 5. Assessment Process and Criteria

For this scheme, there will be a two-stage assessment process.

Stage One: Expression of Interest

Stage Two: Invitation to present to the Executive Committee

For Stage One, applicants are to submit an Expression of Interest application form, responding to the eligibility and assessment criteria. Applications will be reviewed for completeness/adherence to submission requirements, before being assessed by the Grant Review Panel.

The Grant Review Panel will be multi-disciplinary in composition (including members of the Executive and other stakeholders such as consumers). The Panel will assess all eligible Stage One applications and make recommendations on which applications are suitable for progression to stage two. Up to 8 applications will be shortlisted for Stage Two.

Applicants who are successful in Stage One will be required to present their proposals to the Executive Committee of the HSR Theme. The presentation is expected to take place as a hybrid/online meeting, in the second week of June 2023, and further details will be communicated to shortlisted applicants in due course.

Successful stage one applicants may be provided feedback on specific areas of their proposal, drawing on the insights of the Grant Review Panel. This feedback is intended to support applicants in refining their proposals in preparation for Stage Two of the application process.

Grants will be awarded based on these presentations.

### Assessment Criteria for Stage One and Two

1. Knowledge gain and project design (30%)
  - a. Applicants must clearly articulate:
    - i. the rationale/motivation of the project, the extent to which it addresses a significant health system challenge, the aims, study design and methods.
    - ii. alignment to the theme's mission and objectives.
2. Pathway to Impact (20%)
  - a. Applicants must describe the potential pathway to impact, including:
    - i. how the funds will support future funding applications
    - ii. plans for research translation and impact including expected outcomes and how they will be measured.
3. Team quality and Feasibility (30%)
  - a. Applicants must describe:
    - i. the multi-disciplinary nature of the proposed team highlighting the collective strength, experience, and diversity, and how the team will work together to achieve the aims.
    - ii. Team's track record.
    - iii. Likelihood of successfully completing the research project within the proposed timeframe.
4. Collaboration and engagement of key stakeholders/end-users (20%)
  - a. Applicants must describe:



- i. the integration of members and multiple disciplines necessary to address the research question: key stakeholders that will be impacted by the research project, their level of engagement within the project (e.g. guidance on project design, interpretation, and dissemination of findings); and the sustainability of the collaboration, and if it is likely to extend beyond the life of the project.

## 6. Submission process

Use the *HSR 2023 Collaborative Grants EOI Form* template to complete your stage one application.

Applications should provide all requested information, keep to the word limits for each section. Responses must be in 11-point Arial font. Exceeding the word limits may render your application ineligible for review.

Applications must be submitted to [medicine.themes@unsw.edu.au](mailto:medicine.themes@unsw.edu.au) by **11:59pm (AEDT) 30 April 2023**. Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted.

You are encouraged to seek advice about the eligibility of your project and team prior to submission.

For more information, please contact:

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