



Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre 2019 Research Seed Grants Guidelines

The Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre (TAAHC) is a collaboration between the five hospital and health services (HHSs) in northern Queensland (Cairns and Hinterland, Mackay, North West, Torres and Cape and Townsville), the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) and James Cook University (JCU), including the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine (AITHM).

The purpose of TAAHC is to improve the health of the northern Queensland population and grow prosperity in the tropical region through a partnership that enhances collective capability in health service delivery, health and medical research, and workforce development. Through an emphasis on translational research, TAAHC aims to embed research into health service delivery to improve quality and efficiency of care, enhance recruitment and retention of professionals in the region and encourage greater investment in the north.

TAAHC will consolidate health research in the region under a unified Company structure, leveraging economies of scale and the proven opportunities of the Academic Health Centre concept for northern Queensland.

Introduction

The TAAHC Research Seed Grants aim to seed translational research projects that address TAAHC strategic research priorities and that demonstrate the potential to develop into significant programs of work capable of accessing external funding sources. Research supported by the Seed Grants will contribute to enhancing high-level translational research capacity within TAAHC. Successful projects will demonstrate the potential to generate quality pilot data that will leverage further translation-related research and the translation of evidence into clinical practice.

In 2019, a total of \$300,000 is available for investment through the Research Seed Grants.

Seed grants are open to staff employed by one (or more) of the TAAHC Members:

- Cairns and Hinterland HHS;
- Mackay HHS;
- North West HHS;
- Torres and Cape HHS;
- Townsville HHS;
- Northern Queensland Primary Health Network; and
- James Cook University, including AITHM.

Application is by way of an Application Form. Each program of work will be funded for up to 2 years, with a total maximum investment of \$50,000 from TAAHC for the duration of the grant.

Eligibility

This grant scheme is targeted at supporting translational research that aligns with TAAHC Strategic Research Themes. Applications must demonstrate translational potential and address one or more of the TAAHC Strategic Research Themes:

- Service delivery to regional, rural, remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations;
- Non-communicable diseases with high regional prevalence;
- Innovative health workforce models;
- Infectious diseases and biosecurity.

Chief Investigators on a program must be clinical, academic or research staff with a current employment contract at one of the TAAHC Members (Cairns and Hinterland, Mackay, North West, Torres and Cape and Townsville HHSs, Northern Queensland Primary Health Network and James Cook University, including AITHM). The Project must be a collaboration between one or more TAAHC Members (i.e. the Chief Investigator/s and/or Associate Investigators must be drawn from more than one TAAHC Member).

A person can be included as a Chief Investigator on no more than two projects in this funding round.

How to Apply

Application to the scheme is via the TAAHC Research Seed Grant Application Form.

Submission Details

An eligible application consists of a completed TAAHC Research Seed Grant Application Form and a budget spreadsheet saved as one (1) PDF emailed to taahc@jcu.edu.au.

Closing Date

Applications must be submitted to TAAHC by **5pm, 5 April 2019**.

Process for application and review

Each Application will be reviewed by the TAAHC Research Sub-committee, an external expert, and by an appropriately qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander review panel (at least two members) for those applications addressing '[closing the gap](#)' priorities. Proposals will be ranked according to:

- Alignment with TAAHC Strategic Research Themes and potential for translation of research outcomes into policy and practice;
- Regional significance of the health problem addressed;
- Scientific quality and feasibility;
- Track record and quality of the team (does the team have the expertise and networks required to undertake the project);
- Likelihood of the Project to generate quality pilot data to leverage a successful future external grant/contract that will improve research translation into clinical practice.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander review panel will utilize the National Health and Medical Research Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander [Scoring System](#) in their review of those applications that address 'closing the gap' priorities.

Any Application considered by the TAAHC Research Sub-committee as not meeting eligibility requirements or which do not adequately satisfy the selection criteria of the round will not be externally reviewed.

The TAAHC Research Sub-committee will provide a list of Projects in rank order and a recommendation for funding to the TAAHC Steering Committee for their approval. Approval of funding is at the ultimate discretion of the TAAHC Steering Committee.

The level of funding awarded to successful Projects will be at the discretion of the TAAHC Steering Committee upon recommendation from the TAAHC Research Sub-committee. The Sub-committee and Steering Committee also has the discretion to request further information or clarification from Chief Investigators.

Appeals against the decisions of the Steering Committee will only be considered on the basis of process. The TAAHC Steering Committee will have sole discretion in determining if an appeal is considered and the appropriate means of review.

Budget Items Supported

Research Seed Grant funds may be used to support research support positions and specific direct research costs, such as research assistance, equipment, maintenance, consumables, travel and publication costs.

Budget Items Unable to be Supported

Research Seed Grant funds are unable to support:

- Conference or event travel
- Infrastructure Costs for basic facilities such as:
 - Accommodation (e.g. laboratory and office);
 - Access to a basic library collection;
 - Standard reference materials or funds for abstracting services;
 - Provision of computers, including laptops (excluding access to high-performance computers or other specialised applications) and basic computing facilities such as printers, word processing and other standard software; and
 - Use of photocopiers, telephones, mail, fax, email and internet services.

Duration of Grant

TAAHC Research Seed funds will fund a Project for up to 2 years.

Management and Reporting

An Administering Organization nominated by the applicants will be responsible for receiving and managing the TAAHC Research Seed Grant Funding. Administering Organizations must be one of the TAAHC Members.

Administering Organizations will be required to sign a Project Agreement outlining relevant Terms and Conditions of the Project. Administering Organizations will be responsible for ensuring compliance with these Terms and Conditions. TAAHC will make a Project Agreement available for this purpose.

TAAHC will call for a progress and final report outlining relevant outputs and outcomes of the Project with regard to the Selection Criteria. TAAHC will provide a pro-forma for this purpose.

Anticipated timeline

Please note that this is an anticipated timeline only and is subject to change without further notification.

February 2019: Calls for TAAHC Research Seed Grant Applications open

5 April 2019: Calls for TAAHC Research Seed Grant Applications close

April 2019: Review of Applications by the TAAHC Research Sub-committee and those meeting eligibility requirements and deemed to satisfy the criteria will be sent for external review and ranking

May 2019: Final ranking by TAAHC Research Sub-committee and recommendations sent to the TAAHC Steering Committee for approval

June-July 2019: Notification to successful and unsuccessful applicants and funds disbursement