

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The National Health and Medical Research Council annually awards grants for the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research from funds made available by the Commonwealth Government. Applications are invited annually for Fellowships in this Priority Area.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this fellowship is to provide a vehicle for research training or training in areas of particular relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The fellowships are to enable Fellows to work on research projects under nominated advisers. The fellowships are offered to persons who wish to make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research a significant component of their career. This Fellowship is available to graduates in all health-related fields. Priority will be offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The objectives of these fellowships differ only from those of the Council's other Fellowships in the specific focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health research training be it any of the research disciplines.

At the discretion of the Training Awards Committee the application may be transferred to the Biomedical, Clinical Research or Public Health Fellowship categories.

Applicants may apply simultaneously for both Australian-based and Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowships in this Priority Area. Separate applications are required.

Successful applicants will be referred to as NHMRC Training Fellows in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research.

Applicants for this Fellowship may also apply concurrently, or if successful, at any time during the Fellowship, for an NHMRC Project Grant as a Chief Investigator. Such applicants should also consider, however, any Project Grant eligibility requirements.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply, candidates must at the time of application:

- (i) Hold a doctorate in a health related field of research or will submit a thesis for such by December of the year of application. The Fellowship can commence on 1 January.
- (ii) Be actively engaged in such research in Australia or overseas.
- (iii) at 30 June 2006, normally have no more than two (2) years postdoctoral research experience from the date that the doctoral thesis was passed.
- (iv) Be Australian citizens, or be graduates from overseas with permanent Australian resident status, not under bond to any foreign government. Applicants whose most recent degree was attained overseas should have these accredited by their institution.
- (v) For Australian-based Fellows, and for years 1 and 2, must move from the Department, and preferably the Institution, where the applicant's doctoral qualifications were obtained; any deviation from this condition must be presented with full justification in the application.

- (vi) Incorporate a clear indication of the training component proposed.

TENURE

The fellowships are normally awarded for a maximum of four years and may be divided between two different institutions. A Fellow must take up the Fellowship within 12 months of the Offer of Award. Applicants seeking Overseas Fellowships should read the information sheet for the Overseas Biomedical, Clinical or Public Health Fellowships.

The Fellowships are tenable only in the institutions approved by the NHMRC, such as teaching hospitals, universities and research institutes.

APPLICATION

All applications should be submitted on the special forms that, together with details of the salary package and conditions associated with NHMRC grants and fellowship awards, are available from the NHMRC's web site or research administrative officers of universities, hospitals and other research institutions. General information is available on the Internet on NHMRC's home page:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>

The Deed of Agreement and Schedule are to be read by the applicant. Applications should be submitted through, and have the endorsement of, the research institution with which the Fellowship is associated.

Applications must be lodged with NHMRC electronically (see Instruction Booklet). In addition, the original single-sided A4 application and a double-sided copy must be submitted to NHMRC by the due date. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all referees reports are provided by the due date. Of particular importance is the statement from the proposed supervisor agreeing to host the Fellow, without which the application will be deemed ineligible.

Forms are provided for completion by:

- (i) Two referees, one of whom should be well acquainted with the applicant's work, to comment on the project and the applicant's ability to undertake the work proposed. The second is to be an independent referee. This referee is to have had no substantive professional or private contact with the applicant or to have had any previous or current collaboration with the applicant's recent or planned supervisors, but should be knowledgeable in the field of study. This referee should not be at the applicant's current institution.
- (ii) the initial Supervisor at the proposed Australian institution.
The proposed supervisor is to attach to their report a 2 page CV incorporating the following:
Personal details: name, title, current position
Education: degrees/qualifications, year, institution
Experience: postgraduate professional and research positions held in last 5 years.

Support: details of current and past (last 6 years) grants held.
Publications: list in chronological order the titles, all authors and complete citation of publications (of the supervisor) pertinent to the application.

Referees should email their reports to
NHMRC.Referee.CARSS@health.gov.au

SELECTION PROCEDURES

Fellowships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research are awarded in open competition on the basis of merit following detailed assessment. The Fellowship must be competitive with successful applications in the other Australian or overseas Training Award categories, and will be assessed separately for relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. The Council may exercise discretion as to the number and type of Fellowships to be offered in any one year and may not recommend any, if such a course is warranted.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

A decision on awards will be made by November each year. Applicants will be advised as soon as possible thereafter.

ADMINISTRATION OF FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships for Indigenous Health Research shall normally be administered by the Australian Institution through which the applicant has applied and to which the NHMRC shall forward stipend payments, travelling expenses and family allowances. Certification is required that the institution is willing to administer the grant.

SALARY PACKAGE, TRAVELLING EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES

Fellowship salary packages at the TSP level 1 (currently at \$62,250) and if appropriate, clinical loadings will be paid.

Salary packages and allowances are payable to the Australian Institution nominated by the Fellow and approved by the Council. Such payments shall be made quarterly in the case of salary packages and at such periods as may be appropriate and as determined by the Council in respect of other payments. Advances against anticipated and authorised expenses may be paid.

The Council may, at its discretion, for what is considered grave cause, suspend the tenure of the Fellowship for such time as is thought fit, or deprive a Fellow of his/her Fellowship and from that date the stipend or other payments shall cease.

The NHMRC will provide for the Australian Institution's employer's contribution to superannuation. This will include the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution (SGC) and contributory superannuation components. These amounts, along with other institutional on-costs are included in the TSP 1 salary package

Minimum airfares will be provided for Fellows and their dependants for the direct journey to the designated research centre within Australia. Travel expenses are payable to Fellows relocating from overseas.

The cost of any travel requirements in excess of those authorised by the Council under these rules shall be met by the Fellow. No allowance shall be payable in respect of the conveyance of luggage, goods or chattels not covered by the free allowance provided under normal passenger agreements.

An allowance of \$5,000 p.a. is payable for research support, including conference travel.

These allowances are reviewed annually by Council.

REPORTS ON FELLOWSHIPS

A **mid-term report** on the research work undertaken during the first two years and details of the intended program for the following two years is required by the Secretary of Council on the anniversary date of commencement of the fellowship.

A **full report** is to be submitted within three months of completion of the Fellowship. This report should cover all aspects of the work undertaken and should incorporate details of any new knowledge gained in the field of study.

A **brief final report** 12 months after completion of the Fellowship, detailing current employment status and publications arising from the Fellowship, is required.

Appropriate recognition for the assistance of Council should be included in publications resulting from work undertaken during the tenure of a Fellowship, by stating that the author (or co-author) holds a National Health and Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship, and quoting the Fellowship application ID number.

PLEASE NOTE: All applications must be sent to the NHMRC through the appropriate research administrative officer of the Australian Institution concerned. To meet the deadline of 07 July applications must be submitted to that officer by.....

Please refer to full Deed of Agreement for Postdoctoral Fellowships for details of any areas not specifically detailed herein.

IMPORTANT: CLOSING DATE 07 JULY 2006. NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED