NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION RESEARCH FUND

In 2017, the Australian Government provided $12 million of seed funding over three years to establish the first National Suicide Prevention Research Fund (The Fund). This investment will support the knowledge development in relation to suicide prevention with an emphasis on the rapid translation of research outcomes into real world improvements.

The Fund is managed by national peak body Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA) in partnership with leading experts from research, service delivery and the lived experience community.

In 2018 the Fund will draw upon the NHMRC Project Grant peer review process to assess the scientific excellence of applications submitted for funding. Researchers seeking funding should submit applications to the NHMRC Project Grant scheme and, in the ‘privacy’ section of their application, give consent for NHMRC to provide the application and assessment information to other funding organisations (ie SPA). See the NHMRC website for details ([https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants-funding/apply-funding/project-grants](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants-funding/apply-funding/project-grants)).

SPA will consider funding Project Grant applications that address the following priority areas:

1. **What works to prevent suicide and suicidal behaviour? For whom? Why?** Studies of indicated, selective and universal interventions will be considered, with particular emphasis being given to studies of indicated interventions. Studies employing any type of research design will be considered, providing they can yield meaningful data on effectiveness and, where possible, cost-effectiveness.

2. **What factors are protective against suicide? What are the mechanisms by which these protective factors operate? How might we bolster these protective factors for individuals in different communities and/or from different target groups and/or social and cultural backgrounds?** Again, studies employing any type of research design will be considered, providing they can yield meaningful data on protective factors and their promotion.

Applicants should include a knowledge translation plan as part of their Project Grant Research Proposal.

This new investment into research will enhance development of new and more effective programs, improve existing programs and provide appropriate services for those at risk. Following the NHMRC process, fundable applications, not selected for funding by NHMRC, will be prioritised for funding by the Research Committee of SPA, Chaired by Professor Don Nutbeam, and finally approved by the Board of SPA.

For more information visit: [www.suicidepreventionaust.org](http://www.suicidepreventionaust.org)