



# Postgraduate Scholarships applications recommended for funding commencing in 2026

## About the scheme

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The NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarships scheme funds successful applicants to attain a research based postgraduate degree (Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or a Research Masters Degree).

It aims to support these outstanding health and medical graduates early in their career so they can be trained to conduct research that is internationally competitive and develop a capacity for original independent research within Australia.

The intended outcome of the Postgraduate Scholarships scheme is increased research capacity within Australia.

Postgraduate Scholarships are very competitive and offered to a limited number of graduates of outstanding ability who wish to make research a significant component of their career. This year NHMRC received 190 Postgraduate Scholarship applications of which 67 were successful. The applications listed in the following table have been approved for funding by the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP.

**Table 1.** Applications approved for funding by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

App ID	Chief Investigator	Application Title	Administering Institution	Budget
2049357	Dr Shaun Khanna	Epicardial adipose tissue in heart failure: a potential marker of risk and response to cardiometabolic therapy	University of New South Wales	\$118,150.00
2049408	Ms Eliza Oliver	Dramatic Recovery: Exploring the integration drama and theatre practices with psychotherapies as novel treatment for trauma.	University of Sydney	\$149,825.00
2049455	Dr Victor Yang	Characterising the plasma proteome of polymyalgia rheumatica	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2049534	Dr Farzana Zaman	Developing peptide MHC targeting therapies in melanoma	Monash University	\$163,400.00
2049554	Dr Rose Lin	A randomised multi-centre open-label trial of Tolvaptan vs. Urea for therapy of hyponatraemia after failure of fluid restriction in hospital inpatients	University of Melbourne	\$140,775.00
2049561	Dr Danielle Robinson	Developing a novel multifunctional antithrombotic for the treatment of stroke	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	\$163,400.00
2049562	Ms Caroline Deen	Development of culturally appropriate household food security indicators for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	University of Sydney	\$129,150.00
2049565	Dr Simone Chin	Exploring Novel Models of Care to Optimise Management of Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Pregnancy	University of Melbourne	\$122,675.00
2049571	Dr Tamasine Stewart	Utilising a novel "test and correct" platform to improve diagnosis, prognostication and therapies for patients with bone marrow failure and germline predisposition to myeloid malignancies.	The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research	\$163,400.00
2049575	Dr Olivia-Paris Quinn	Improving outcomes for children with stroke through implementation of coordinated statewide systems of acute stroke care.	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	\$163,400.00

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2049609	Dr Diva Baggio	Evaluation of a novel consumer co-designed outcome measure for use in lymphoma clinical trials	La Trobe University	\$163,400.00
2049617	Miss Rachel Cutting	Improving decision-making in health services: from system-level change to patient-facing tools	University of Sydney	\$131,725.00
2049630	Dr Annabelle Hayes	Elucidating the phenotype of immune checkpoint inhibitor related pituitary toxicity	University of Sydney	\$118,150.00
2049651	Ms Dhrita Khatri	To design and implement a multi-faceted immersive education intervention to increase health workforce capability in using Pharmacogenomics in practice, that is scalable and sustainable	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	\$140,775.00
2049689	Ms Holly Chung	Commercial Determinants of Equity in Lung Cancer: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of the Australian Context	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2049690	Dr Craig Coorey	Improving post-kidney transplant outcomes with a patient-centred causal inference framework	University of Sydney	\$163,400.00
2049699	Dr Joel Vanderniet	Evolution of paediatric thyroid cancer management: from an orphan disease to a structured and targeted model of care	University of Sydney	\$122,675.00
2049700	Dr Angie Xiang	Novel circulating biomarkers of neuroendocrine tumours	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2049703	Dr Jayant Ravindran	COMparative Pharmacotherapy And peRsonalised stratErgy in the management of Coronary Microvascular Dysfunction (COMPARE-CMD) Trial	University of Sydney	\$118,150.00
2049722	Dr Sarah Thomas	Clot radiomics and haemodynamic profiling in acute ischaemic stroke: Towards precision diagnostics and therapy	University of Melbourne	\$145,300.00
2049724	Dr Winston Dzau	Biomarkers of multiple sclerosis disease progression and treatment response	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00

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2049726	Dr Jacob Cao	Mechanistic and Epidemiological Evaluation of Long-Term Complications in Patients with a Fontan Circulation	University of Sydney	\$118,150.00
2049748	Miss Ana Carolina Machado Colling	Reaching the under screened - Exploring and evaluating the potential of new and emerging integrated models of HPV self-collection cervical screening in Australia to increase equity	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2049753	Dr Beryl Lin	Improving cardiorenal outcomes in type 2 diabetes: real-world implementation and population-level impact of SGLT2 inhibitors and GLP-1 receptor agonists	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	\$163,400.00
2049757	Dr Douglas Drak	Estimating in-hospital improvements in health outcomes and expenditure using an optimised electronic frailty index	The University of Queensland	\$131,725.00
2049758	Ms Ellie Tsiamis	Urban Nature for Young Minds: The Impact of Green Spaces for Child Mental Health	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2049766	Dr Francis Ha	Effect of Pulsed Field Ablation on Epicardial Adipose Tissue in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation	Monash University	\$163,400.00
2049770	Dr Zena Barakat	Improving Risk Stratification in Older Adults with Chronic Kidney Disease Using Novel Biomarkers	Monash University	\$163,400.00
2049787	Miss Elina McGuire	The Voices of Our Next Generation: Injury prevention and the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People in Australia	University of New South Wales	\$160,825.00
2049799	Miss Olivia Dobson	Medicinal Cannabis Use in Young People: Health Outcomes, National Trends, and Lived Experiences	University of Sydney	\$163,400.00
2049801	Dr Sian Raubinger	Metabolic Phenotyping for Predicting Pharmacotherapy Response in Type 2 Diabetes	University of Sydney	\$163,400.00

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2049809	Dr Emilia Nan Tie	Haemodynamic and metabolic determinants of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction in obesity	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	\$163,400.00
2049810	Dr Alice Liu	Redefining the role of clinical and biomarkers for infection outcomes in haematological malignancy in the era of targeted cancer therapies	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2049819	Dr Jessica Redmond	Aging with Multiple Sclerosis: Implications for Disease Progression and Quality of Life	Monash University	\$163,400.00
2049836	Ms Pippy Walker	Investigating the inclusion of spillover effects in economic evaluation in childhood obesity prevention	University of Sydney	\$163,400.00
2049854	Miss Lilith Allen	Deciphering immune responses to severe respiratory viral infection in vulnerable populations	University of Melbourne	\$140,775.00
2049857	Dr Michael Li	Identifying treatment targets and enrichment strategies for future trials in Parkinson's Disease by characterising cellular profiles and their clinico-pathological correlates.	University of New South Wales	\$140,775.00
2049860	Dr Saskia Rowson	Exercise to Complement the Management of Polymyalgia Rheumatica	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2049862	Dr Andrea Huang	Access to kidney transplant waitlisting and transplantation	University of Sydney	\$140,775.00
2049863	Dr Sylvia Ye	Advancing care in type 1 diabetes in adults and older adults: Enhancing classification and optimising management of glycaemia and cardiovascular complications	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	\$163,400.00
2049912	Dr Dana Forcey	Predicting chronic kidney disease progression in the Northern Territory to improve patient care and health services planning.	Menzies School of Health Research	\$163,400.00

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2049921	Dr Lu Yang	Evaluating the Acceptability and Appropriateness of a Person-Centred General Practice Mental-Health Triage and Navigation Model for Australian CALD Communities	University of Melbourne	\$91,000.00
2049924	Dr Brennan Collis	Optimising Perioperative Antimicrobial Prophylaxis in Liver Transplant Recipients Colonised with Multidrug-Resistant Organisms (OPTIMAL)	University of Melbourne	\$136,250.00
2049927	Dr Jane McKenzie	Understanding biomarkers of response and resistance to 177-Lutetium-PSMA (LuPSMA) in metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2049928	Dr Yehuan Zhou	New approaches for arrhythmia management using innovative ablation technology	University of Sydney	\$122,675.00
2049930	Dr Serena Chong	Characterising High-Risk Phenotypes in Type 2 Diabetes: The Intersection of Metabolic Liver Dysfunction, Diabetes-Related Foot Disease, and Cardiovascular Risk	University of Sydney	\$163,400.00
2049937	Dr Christopher Belder	Blood-based biomarkers in preclinical Alzheimer's disease - understanding pathogenesis to enhance diagnosis and inform dementia prevention	Adelaide University (previously University of Adelaide)	\$122,675.00
2049988	Dr Kyle Wu	Application of machine learning and spatial transcriptomics for the endoscopic and histologic detection of IBD dysplasia	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2050016	Dr Joshua Ginnane	Assessing the impact of extreme weather events on maternal health services in Bangladesh	Burnet Institute	\$140,775.00
2050019	Dr Athena Chin	Clonal Haematopoiesis in Rheumatoid Arthritis	Flinders University	\$122,675.00

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2050084	Dr Declan Connoley	Clinical and scientific predictors of response to faecal microbiota transplantation in Crohn's disease (MIRO) Study	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2050086	Dr Su Jen Chua	Beyond the Birth: Cardiorenal protection After Preeclampsia	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2050091	Dr Kristene Rimbaldo	International multi-institute Phase I/II study evaluating the safety and efficacy of ProTcells in children receiving HLA-mismatched haematopoietic stem cell transplant for acute myeloid leukaemia.	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	\$163,400.00
2050096	Ms Jennifer Corda	Remote Symptom Monitoring in people with Cystic Fibrosis	La Trobe University	\$163,400.00
2050102	Dr Stephanie Kuek	Preterm birth and respiratory outcomes post discharge: 1 and 2 year follow up of BLUEPRINT study	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	\$149,825.00
2050113	Dr David Chen	Kinetics-Guided Theranostics for Prostate Cancer: Utilising Dynamic Total Body PET for Dose Personalisation, Tumour Heterogeneity Assessment, and Pathological Correlation	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2050129	Dr Jessica O'Keeffe	Exploring infection-related models of care in adult cancer patients: managing patients safely at home	University of Melbourne	\$163,400.00
2050179	Dr Lauren Heath	Hyperaldosteronism, hypertension and potassium homeostasis in chronic kidney disease	University of New South Wales	\$163,400.00
2050196	Miss Sophie Matis	New neuroimaging biomarkers of pathology in frontotemporal dementia: bridging molecular mechanisms and clinical staging in-vivo	University of Sydney	\$136,250.00
2050217	Ms Emilia Janca	Driving improvements in the mental health and wellbeing of people released from prison: designing a culturally capable and lived experience co-led model	The University of Queensland	\$163,400.00



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2050220	Dr Kathryn Hulme	Reducing Short Acting $\beta$ -Agonist (SABA) overuse in the clinical care of Asthma in Australia	University of Sydney	\$163,400.00
2050225	Ms Kara Blackburn	Safety, feasibility and effectiveness of midwife-provided vacuum assisted birth in LMICs.	Burnet Institute	\$136,250.00
2050281	Dr Jeremy Russo	Optimising heart transplant trajectories in Fontan failure: clinical characterisation, risk stratification, and therapeutic intervention.	Monash University	\$163,400.00
2050284	Dr Nicole Wong	Examining health systems for children with medical complexity	Monash University	\$149,825.00
2050300	Dr Christopher Kwan	Radiomic prediction of acute ischaemic and haemorrhagic stroke outcomes of patients assessed at telestroke sites	University of New South Wales	\$163,400.00
2050302	Dr Mario Fernando	Adjunctive pulmonary function tests and imaging techniques for early diagnosis and optimisation of respiratory outcomes in pulmonary graft versus host disease following allogeneic haematopoietic stem cell transplant	University of Sydney	\$163,400.00
2050331	Dr Ashray Rajagopalan	Using transcriptomic signatures of chemosensitivity to develop a precision-guided treatment approach for advanced pancreatic adenocarcinoma	Monash University	\$136,250.00
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,087,425.00</b>