

**Women’s Health Research Catalyst Grants Program**

External Research Application Form

**OFFICIAL**

Background information

It is now well-understood that there is a gender health gap, with women on average spending 25% more of their lives in chronic or debilitating ill-health. However, there is still a paucity of research that looks specifically at sex and/or gender as a variable of difference in diseases and conditions, except for reproductive-associated conditions.

Several drivers have been identified as primary causes of the gender health gap, including a lack of understanding in biology of women as it differs from a default male body, underestimation and representation of women in health and medical datasets and lower investment in women’s health conditions relative to their prevalence.

Key gaps in the Victorian research environment have been identified through a capability and capacity assessment as part of the Women’s Health Reform Package. These include the following:

* Women’s health research can be siloed into specific groups, and sex and gender are not consistently or regularly used as variables of comparison in health and medical research.
* Biological determinants of sex in many conditions experienced by all sexes are not well established or known as most research has historically investigated a male body and generalised to female and intersex bodies.
* Many conditions which solely, differently affect or disproportionately impact women have historically have not received the focus and funding they deserve.

The intention is for this funding to support improving the above gaps, whilst laying groundwork for the other research initiatives in the Women’s Health Reform package that will aim to help lead a culture change across the sector, and facilitate big, bold changes.

Grant objectives

1. To encourage or support research in disease/condition areas that are experienced across sexes and/or genders to include different sex and/or gender comparison, for example, inclusion of male and female sex derived/biopsied cells, inclusion of female and male animals, or inclusion of women and gender-diverse people in human research.
2. To encourage or support research into underfunded or under-researched conditions which are women-specific conditions, conditions that disproportionately impact women, or conditions that differently affect women.
3. To support work towards attracting larger, federal or philanthropic funding for the above two categories.

Instructions to applicants

This application form must be completed by all researchers or research teams wishing to obtain one of the catalyst grants on offer. All questions must be completed and are part of the assessment process. Your application will be assessed based on the benefits delivered to the department’s clients and business based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment to the above grant objectives.
2. Potential benefits to the community and/or the understanding of sex and/or gender as variables of difference.
3. Novelty or innovation in the issue addressed or experimental design.
4. The risks associated with supporting the activity and feasibility of outcome.
5. Duplication of effort, coordination with similar or complimentary activities.

**Applicants must:**

1. Be from a Victorian Administering Institution.
2. Be performing research in a health and medical research field, including discovery, pre-clinical, clinical or lived experience/social research.
3. Have ethics approval for the proposed project or will apply for appropriate ethics approvals as a first step if successful.

Additional grant information

Proposals up to $150,000 will be considered. Each grant will be for one year duration. The grant will require a 6-month progress report and a 12-month final report.

Outcomes:

* The final report must show the results from the experiments from the initial proposal.
* The results should have some analysis and explanation as to how they will be used to further the understanding of the area of interest.
* There is an expectation that these results will be incorporated into a future research article publication.

All areas of health and medical research will be considered for these grants; however, some target areas have been identified as areas of need for more research understanding the influence sex and/or gender have on these conditions. These priority areas were identified as part of an extensive stakeholder consultation and concurrent data analysis of Australian health outcomes, particularly in women.

These include:

* Sexual and reproductive health
* Cardiovascular health
* Oncology
* Chronic pain
* Neurodegenerative conditions
* Autoimmune and inflammatory conditions
* Musculoskeletal health

Prioritisation will be given to proposals that:

* Have at least 50% women on their research team.

Research teams not previously performing research on in sex and/or gender difference are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Application Form**

**Application title**      

**Application type** Academic   Multi-centre   Hospital

Commercial  Community  Student (e.g. PhD)

Other:

**Applicant details**

Please list the details of the chief and associate investigators for the project. Students are eligible to apply and should be listed as the chief investigator. The supervisor of any student projects should be listed as the associate investigator.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chief Investigator** | | | | |
| Title: | First Name: | Surname: | | |
| Qualifications: |  | | |  |
| Department: | | | | Organisation: |
| Postal address: | | | | |
| Work Phone: | | | Mobile: | |
| Email:      @ | | | | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Associate Investigator** | | | | |
| Title: | First Name: | | Surname: | |
| Qualifications: |  | | |  |
| Department: | | | | Organisation: |
| Postal address: | | | | |
| Work Phone: | | Mobile: | | Fax: |
| Email:      @ | | | | |

Relevance to the Grant criteria

1. What problem/interest will this research be targeting?

**a. Please outline how this application adds to existing knowledge and research in this area (100 words or less)**

**b. Is this research proposal an addition to an already planned experiment/project or is it a novel proposal?**

**Addition to planned experiment  Novel proposal**

1. **Please outline what expected benefits will be delivered by this project?**

1. **Please outline the background and rationale for the project?**

1. **Please outline the aims of the project?**

1. **Please outline the research questions?**

1. **Please detail the proposed methodology for the research?**

1. **Please provide a timeline for project.**

1. **This grant requires a final report at one year after initiation. How long will do you anticipate the results from this project to be included in a submission to a research publication (as is or within a larger body of work)?**

**1-3 months  4 – 7 months  8 – 12 months  12 – 18 months**

**18 – 24 months  3 years  4 years  5 years**

1. **Please outline any risks that may be associated with this project/experiment.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Potential consequence** | **Mitigation** |
|  |  |  |
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1. **Please outline the anticipated cost and budget requirements for the project.**

**Cost: $****.**

**Budget requirements**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget item** | **Purpose** | **Amount anticipated** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

1. **Please provide details of any approval required by other organisations**

Not required (may be subject to the department’s human research ethics committee)

Required, please complete details in the table below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Organisation** | **Approval Granted** | **Approval Pending** | **Application yet to be submitted** |
|  |  |  |  |
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**Applications will be received in electronic form only. All applications must be received by 5pm, 23 February, 2025.**

**Please email the completed form to** [**womenshealth@health.vic.gov.au**](mailto:womenshealth@health.vic.gov.au)

**Please call 0430 366 511 if you require any assistance**.

More information available at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/catalyst-grants-womens-health-research-priorities>

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| Application Processing | | |
| Department use only | | |
| Reviewer: |  | |
| Review date: | /     / | |
| **Considerations** | | |
| Further information |  | |
| Consultation with area |  | |
| Resource availability |  | |
| Risks or issues |  | |
| Benefit of dissemination / application of evidence |  | |
| **Decision** | | |
| Requires discussion at the ERA | | |
| Approved without conditions | | |
| Approved subject to the conditions below | | |
| Conditions of approval | |  |
| Not approved for the reasons below | | |
| Reasons | |  |