

CMHDARN RESEARCH SEEDING GRANTS 2017: GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

ABOUT THE GRANTS

The Community Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Research Network (CMHDARN) invites member organisations from the Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) and the Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies (NADA) to apply for the CMHDARN Seeding Grants.

PURPOSE AND AIMS

The CMHDARN Research Seeding Grants provide community based mental health and/or alcohol and other drugs (AOD) organisations (NGOs) with access to funding to build their capacity to undertake research (i.e. to become 'research ready'). The program aims to:

- Enhance research capacity in community based mental health and AOD sectors.
- Foster research collaboration and partnerships.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

One-off grants of up to \$10,000 (excluding GST) are available to help organisations build their capacity to undertake research.

The grants are intended to support organisations to develop their research methodology and to identify suitable academic and/or other project partners to help carry out the research. Previous recipients used funding to develop research questions, explore emerging practice issues, and undertake preparatory work, including completion of literature reviews, to apply for larger research funding.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Expressions of Interest

The application process will include the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) which will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. All applicants must address the eligibility and selection criteria in their EOI.

The Selection Committee will include representation from CMHDARN, MHCC, and NADA, as well as an academic researcher and consumer representative.

Submitting applications

Applications must be submitted using the EOI form and emailed to info@cmhdaresearchnetwork.com.au. The closing date for applications is COB Friday 9 June 2017.

Organisations can submit multiple applications, however only one grant will be awarded per organisation, if successful.

Information and support

An information session will be held on 27 April 2017. The session will provide applicants with the opportunity to ask questions about the application and selection process, hear from previous recipients and learn how they might strengthen their application.

For more information visit: <https://cmhdarnturningideasintoaction2017.eventbrite.com.au>.

The Community Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Research Network (CMHDARN) is a collaborative project between NADA and MHCC, in partnership with Mental Health Commission of NSW

SELECTION PROCESS

Eligibility criteria

- 1 The research project must be conducted in NSW within a non-government organisation that has current membership with MHCC and/or NADA.ⁱ
- 2 Applicants must provide evidence of organisational support and capacity, including Chief Executive (or equivalent) sign off.
- 3 Applicants must provide confirmation that they will adhere to funding provisions should their application be successful, namely that:
 - a. An outcome of the project will include “Enhanced research capacity within the organisation”.
 - b. Funding will be quarantined for project delivery.
 - c. The project will be completed by 1 December 2017.
 - d. Accountability reports will be supplied as documented in the funding and performance agreement.

Selection Criteria

1. **Project design:** The strength of the research proposal in articulating:
 - a clear purpose, aims and objectives
 - methodology required to undertake the project
 - mechanisms for consumer involvementⁱⁱ
 - project risks and ethical considerationsⁱⁱⁱ and how they will be addressed
 - a clear evaluation framework/plan.
2. **Significance:** The extent to which the project links to existing research, practice and/or policy agendas.^{iv}
3. **Impact:** The extent to which the project will generate new or relevant practice knowledge and/or improve outcomes for clients/consumers.
4. **Collaboration:** The extent to which the project involves collaboration with academic partners and/or other organisations.
5. **Organisational capacity:** The capacity of the organisation to manage the project and implement practice change.

Small to medium organisations will be prioritised along with projects that focus on co-existing mental health and alcohol and other drugs issues.

KEY DATES

DATE	ACTIVITY
27 April 2017	Information session / workshop
1 May 2017	Applications open
9 June 2017	Applications close
23 June 2017	Applicants notified of outcome
7 July 2017	Contracts signed and initial instalment paid (final instalment will be paid upon receipt of the final report)
1 December 2017	Projects to be completed by 1 December 2017 (if not before)

ⁱ Individuals are not eligible to apply but are encouraged to partner with MHCC/NADA members, with the member agency as the project lead.

ⁱⁱ For guidance and tips, refer to the CMHDARN (2015) *Ask the experts: A CMHDARN best practice guide to enabling consumer and carer leadership in research and evaluation*. Available: <http://cmhdaresearchnetwork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/BPG-CCPIR-FINAL-201512011.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ For guidance and tips, refer to the CMHDARN (2016) *Research Ethics: A CMHDARN Best Practice Guide*. Available: <http://cmhdaresearchnetwork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/BPG-RE-FINAL-201603181.pdf>

^{iv} For example, for projects that focus on co-existing mental health and AOD issues, applicants might like to consider how their project aligns with the *Living Well: A Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW 2014 – 2024* (Section 6.3).