

INNOVATION AND EVALUATION GRANT 2024-2025

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Community Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Research Network (CMHDARN) invite Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) and the Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies (NADA) member organisations to apply for the CMHDARN 2024-2025 Innovation and Evaluation Grant.

The grant is intended to support community-managed/non-government mental health (MH) and alcohol and other drugs (AOD) organisations to undertake a project that focuses on innovation and evaluation across both MH and AOD service delivery contexts. Projects with lived experience collaboration and leadership are highly encouraged.

The grant aims to:

- Enhance innovation and evaluation capacity in community managed/non-government MH and AOD services
- Foster collaboration and partnerships across the two sectors
- Encourage innovation and evaluation that focuses on programs and practice involving **co-occurring** MH and AOD needs

GRANT DETAILS

The CMHDARN Innovation and Evaluation Grant is now open for application.

One \$20,000 (excluding GST) grant is available.

The Grant will be funded from **December 2024 – December 2025**

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the funds will be used to investigate and innovate in both MH and AOD, e.g., the project funded will need to cover both components and not singular in focus on either MH or AOD.

We encourage you to apply if:

- you have an innovative program that you would like to evaluate;
- you want to address a gap in your service delivery or practice;
- you want to find solutions to curious questions which continue to arise in your service

The successful applicant will be expected to meet the following milestones and two funding instalments will be issued at the completion of the first and last stage:

1. Completed project proposal submitted (application form for successful grant recipient)
2. Mid-grant report (due May 2025)
3. Final report (due December 2025)

The successful grant recipient **will be expected to lodge a request with the CMHDARN Research Ethics Consultation Committee (RECC)**. For further information on the RECC, please click [here](#).

The successful grant recipient will also be offered an academic mentor from the Matilda Centre in addition to support from the CMHDARN Coordinator throughout the project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications close **COB 25th October 2024**

Applications must be submitted using the **APPLICATION FORM** and emailed to info@cmhdaresearchnetwork.com.au

All criteria in the application form must be addressed.

Successful grant recipients will be notified by **22nd November 2024**.

Please Note: organisations may submit multiple applications for different project proposals.

SELECTION PROCESS

Each application will be assessed by a panel against the eligibility and selection criteria outlined below. The panel will include representatives from MHCC and NADA.

Eligibility criteria

- 1) The applicants must be a member of Mental Health Coordinating Council or the Network for Alcohol and Other Drugs Agency.
- 2) The project must enhance innovation and evaluation capacity in the community managed / non-government mental health (MH) and alcohol and other drug (AOD) sectors.
- 3) Applicants must have the organisational support and capacity to conduct this project.
- 4) Applicants must provide confirmation that they will adhere to funding provisions should their application be successful, namely that:
 - Funding will be quarantined for the research project
 - The project will be completed by **1 December 2025**
 - Accountability reports, as stipulated in the schedule of the Funding Agreement, will be submitted on time
 - The project will be conducted in NSW

Selection Criteria

- 1) **Project design:** The strength of the research proposal in articulating:
 - clear purpose, aims and objectives

- methodology required to undertake the project
 - mechanisms for lived experience involvement
 - project risks and ethical considerations, and how they will be addressed
 - a clear evaluation framework/plan
- 2) **Relevance / Impact:** The extent to which the project contributes to understanding of and quality improvement of practice in mental health and alcohol and other drugs services
- 3) **MH/AOD:** The focus of the project will incorporate mental health AND alcohol and other drugs elements and identify how these two areas are integrated.
- 4) **Collaboration:** The extent to which the project involves collaboration with other organisations and/or academic partners.
- Lived experienced researchers working across the MH / AOD fields are encouraged to apply.