



## Vanguard Grant

### Eligibility and Award Stipulations

Please read this document in conjunction with the How to Apply document carefully before completing an application form.

#### The Heart Foundation: supporting life-saving research

The Heart Foundation is an independent, Australia-wide, not-for-profit health organisation, funded almost entirely by donations from the Australian public.

Our purpose is to reduce premature death and suffering from heart, stroke and blood vessel disease in Australia.

The Heart Foundation offers awards to fund research which is conducted primarily in Australia and is engaged in research related to cardiovascular health.

#### Research Program Contact

Email: [research@heartfoundation.org.au](mailto:research@heartfoundation.org.au)

Phone: (03) 9321 1581

#### How to apply

All applications must be submitted through the Heart Foundation's Researcher Portal. This link will be accessible through the Heart Foundation website, along with further award details

<https://portal.heartfoundation.org.au/>

Please note, you should direct all eligibility and application content enquiries to the research office of your institution.

#### General information

The Heart Foundation may vary the conditions under which the award is made by granting prospective or retrospective awards.

#### Administering Institution

The research supported by the Heart Foundation award must be administered by an [NHMRC Administering Institution](#).

The Administering Institution (or its affiliate) shall provide the facilities and services necessary for the efficient conduct of research during the term of the award.

The Heart Foundation requires that all Administering Institutions will have appropriate policies and procedures in place to deal with any allegations of research misconduct that may arise.

An application must be endorsed by the Administering Institution's Research Office, before it is regarded by the Heart Foundation as submitted. The Heart Foundation funding process only recognises NHMRC Administering Institutions.

It is the responsibility of the applicant and the Research Administration Officer (RAO) to ensure that the application is complete and accurate.

Applications must be endorsed by the Research Office of the Administering Institution and submitted online by 5.00pm (AEST) on the due date. Applications that are late, or do not adhere to the instructions will not be considered further.

#### Funding from the tobacco industry

The individuals, research groups or research institutions associated with a Heart Foundation grant or award shall not accept any money by way of research grants, consultancies or sponsorships from the tobacco industry or persons connected with the tobacco industry. This includes direct funding, as well as advertising, sponsorship, gifts or loan of goods or services, or funding by any other means.

## Eligibility Criteria and Conditions

The purpose of the Vanguard Grant is to provide funding to test the feasibility of innovative concepts in clinical, public health and/or health services (including clinical service delivery) or biomedical research which may lead to larger, more rigorous studies in the future. Both pilot studies and 'stand-alone' projects will be considered. These projects are expected to produce tangible outcomes with the potential to further advance preclinical research technology or improve cardiovascular health.

Eligibility is as follows:

- Applicants (Chief Investigator only) must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent Australian resident or have applied for Australian permanent residency at the time of the application.
- Applicants must adhere to application word limits.
- The Heart Foundation will only accept one application per applicant. Should an applicant apply more than once, all their applications will be excluded from peer review. This provision applies to the applicant, not to Other Chief Investigators.

Throughout this document, the term 'applicant' is used to define the primary applicant in the application, otherwise known as the 'Chief Investigator A'. The applicant has responsibility for ensuring all 'Other Chief Investigators' have reviewed and approved the application.

### Relevance of the applications to the purpose of the Vanguard Grant

The relevance of an application to the purpose of the Vanguard Grant will be assessed by the Peer Review Committee after the award has closed. The Research Program cannot and will not assess the relevance of the application.

### Length of grant

Vanguard Grants are tenable for up to two years. Applicant must select from one year or up to two years, when submitting their application.

Applicants should be aware that the ability to realistically complete the project described in the application within the time frame selected, is one of the assessment criteria considered by the Peer Review Committee for this award.

### Timing

Successful applicants may choose to commence their Fellowship on either 1 January, 1 April, or 1 July. Special permission to commence on a different date must be approved by the Heart Foundation, prior to signing of a funding agreement.

## Application assessment

Only eligible and complete applications will proceed to peer review. The Review is conducted by an independent Peer Review Committee made up of eminent cardiovascular researchers with broad research experience in areas including biomedical, clinical, public health and health services research.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in October and successful applicants will be provided with administrative details for their funding.

### Stage 1: Executive Summary Review - Relevance to cardiovascular health

The Committee will assess all applications against each other based on **the executive summary** consisting of:

- how well the application addresses the purpose of the award
- justification for one year or up to two years funding
- the potential of the project to produce tangible outcomes which may lead to improvements in cardiovascular health or advance preclinical research technology.

It is expected that only the top 30-50% of applications will proceed to the next stage of assessment.

Feedback will not be provided to candidates who are unsuccessful at this stage.

### Stage 2: Detailed review of full application

Stage 2 applications will undergo a detailed review that will assess:

- quality and feasibility of the research proposal (incorporating an assessment of research environment, track record of the applicant and feasibility within budget) (*weighted 60%*)
- potential to lead to a successful full-scale research proposal or to lead to significant improvements in cardiovascular health practices. (*weighted 40%*)

The Committee will then make funding recommendations to the Heart Foundation. Funding recommendations are endorsed and approved by the Heart Foundation's Research Committee and Research Strategy Committee.

All unsuccessful applicants will receive quantitative feedback on their ranking.

## Successful Applicants

### Payment of Award

Funding provided is dependent on the applicant's project funding budget. The grant is valued at up to \$75,000 per year. If you are selecting "up to two years", you will be required to include Year 1 and Year 2 budgets.

- One-year - \$75,000 maximum budget
- "up to Two-years" - \$75,000 maximum budget per year with total budget no more than \$150,000

Funds may not be used to support salary for the applicant or as stipend for a PhD student or to support overheads.

Funds may be used to support a salary for someone to conduct the project (this person may be a named Other Chief Investigator), for consumables or for other project related costs not exclusively prohibited.

Payments will be made annually in the first quarter of the project starting. Administering institutions must submit a tax invoice (in accordance with the GST Act) to the Heart Foundation for payment to be made.

The Heart Foundation operates on a calendar year basis and funds not invoiced for within the calendar year will not be available after 31 December of that year.

### Funding agreements

All applicants and administering institutions will be required to sign the Heart Foundation funding agreement. Failure to do so will preclude eligibility for the award.

The funding agreement includes reporting requirements and stipulations of the award (including changes). It is important that administering institutions and awardees are familiar with the funding agreement.

The funding agreement will be prepared by the Heart Foundation and its content is not open to negotiation.

## Awardee Obligations

As required, awardees are expected to:

- Submit progress reports and financial acquittals in accordance with awardees funding agreement
- Notify the Heart Foundation of any amendments /changes to the project or awardee employment.
- Make the results of their research available through the usual scientific channels
- Contact the Research Program in advance of publications going to press or conference presentations occurring (where possible)
- Acknowledge the Heart Foundation in publications and presentations
- Send published papers to the Research Program
- Participate in peer review of applications

- Participate in Heart Foundation promotional initiatives

## Conduct of research and clearance requirements

Safeguarding the rights and welfare of human subjects involved in research and maintaining high standards for the humane treatment and welfare of animals used during the tenure of a Heart Foundation award is the responsibility of the awardee and of the institution in which the award is tenable.

Research funded by the Heart Foundation shall be conducted in accordance with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)*.

Ethics clearances required for the award, as outlined in the funding application, must be obtained and maintained for the duration of the Project and copies of these clearances shall be provided to the Heart Foundation within 30 days of approval, or as requested.

Individuals, investigators or research institutions associated with Heart Foundation awards shall abide by the current NHMRC Guidelines issued pursuant to Section 95 of the Privacy Act 1988.

## Confidentiality and Commercial-in-Confidence

All applications will be treated confidentially and will only be viewed by assessors, the review committees, and Heart Foundation Research Program staff.

The Heart Foundation acknowledges that some applications may have commercial outcomes and that in some instances commercially sensitive information may not be included in a funding application to protect the Intellectual Property (IP) of the project. However, applications must include sufficient information pertaining to the scientific rationale and principles underpinning the research for it to be vigorously peer-reviewed and assessed. As all applications are kept Commercial-In-Confidence, and the Heart Foundation adheres to the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, which protects any IP in the application, the provision of sufficient detail for peer review will not jeopardise their commercialisation potential.