



Dementia Australia™
Research Foundation

DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM

Project Grants

Post-doctoral Fellowships

Mid-Career Research Fellowships

Travel Grants

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

2023

**RACE
AGAINST
DEMENTIA**



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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This document contains important information for applicants regarding the process of applying for, and the eligibility conditions of, the 2023 Dementia Australia Research Foundation **Project Grant, Post-doctoral Fellowship, Mid-Career Research Fellowship and Travel Grant** schemes.

Applicants should read all the information included in this document and liaise with their host institution's research office before contacting the Foundation with any queries regarding the application process or eligibility conditions.

- **Applications Open:** Tuesday 27 June 2023 (9.00am AEST)
- **Applications Close:** Monday 21 August 2023 (5.00pm AEST)

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

- **Successful Applicants Notified:** December 2023
- **Funding Commences:** January to March 2024, or by arrangement

INTRODUCTION

The information in this booklet is designed to help those intending to apply for funding through the Dementia Australia Research Foundation – Dementia Grants Program. Applicants should read this document thoroughly to understand the grant conditions and application procedure. In most cases the answers to the '[frequently asked questions](#)' are covered in this document.

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation (DARF) is the research arm of Dementia Australia. The Foundation provides funding to support new and emerging dementia researchers, works with people living with dementia and carers to ensure that research reflects their concerns and promotes understanding and awareness of dementia research among the general community. The Foundation is entirely funded by donations and support from members of the public and Australian businesses and is managed by Dementia Australia. Further information about the Foundation including previous grant rounds and outcomes can be found [here](#).

Examples of the types of research projects funded in the past can be found on the Foundation's website [here](#). Please note that the Dementia Australia Research Foundation will not consider projects that significantly overlap with existing in-house projects of [Dementia Australia](#), or projects that do not align with the mission of Dementia Australia. Researchers who are considering projects on topics such as post-diagnostic support, learning experiences using technology or other products and services similar to those provided by Dementia Australia should first discuss their idea with us.

If you would like to discuss your project with Dementia Australia, please contact us at research@dementia.org.au.

OVERVIEW – 2023 DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM

The total value of the 2023 Dementia Grants Program is almost \$3 million. An overview of these awards is presented below (Table 1). This document contains important information for applicants regarding Project Grants, Post-doctoral Fellowships, Mid-Career Research Fellowships and Travel Grants. Further details regarding the Dr Stuart and Bonnie Bartle Research Translation Grant in Dementia Care are available [here](#).

Table 1. Overview of 2023 Dementia Grants Program

Grant Type	Number Available (up to)	Funding	Total Amount	Details
Project Grants				
1. Dementia Australia Research Foundation Project Grant	7	\$75,000	\$525,000	Early-career researchers in any area of dementia research
2. Dr Maree Farrow Memorial Project Grant	1	\$75,000	\$75,000	Early-career researchers in dementia risk reduction
3. Hazel Hawke Research Grant in Dementia Care	1	\$75,000	\$75,000	Early-career researchers in dementia care
4. Dr Stuart & Bonnie Bartle Project Grant	1	\$75,000	\$75,000	Early-career researchers in dementia care
Post-doctoral Fellowships				
5. Race Against Dementia - Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship	1	Salary \$114,000 p.a. ¹ Project grant \$125,000 5 years		Early-career researchers, within the broad area of dementia prevention and treatment
6. Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship	1	Salary \$114,00 p.a. ¹ Project grant \$75,000 3 years		Early-career researchers in any area of dementia research
Mid-Career Research Fellowships				
7. Royce Simmons Foundation Mid-Career Research Fellowship	1	Salary \$151,000 p.a. ² Project grant \$75,000 2 years		Mid-career researchers in biomedical or clinical areas of dementia research
8. Dementia Australia Research Foundation Mid-Career Research Fellowship	1	Salary \$151,000 p.a. ² Project grant \$75,000 2 years		Mid-career researchers in any area of dementia research

Grant Type	Number Available (up to)	Funding	Total Amount	Details
Travel Grants				
9. Dementia Australia Research Foundation Travel Grant	4	\$15,000	\$60,000	Researchers (PhD students to mid-career) in any area of dementia research
Research Translation Grant				
10. Dr Stuart & Bonnie Bartle Research Translation Grant ³	1	\$175,000	\$175,000	Early- and mid-career researchers in dementia care

¹ Salary costs \$114,000 in year 1; salary will be reviewed annually and indexation may be applied

² Salary costs \$151,000 in year 1; salary will be reviewed annually and indexation may be applied

³ Refer to separate [Information for Applicants](#) booklet and application form

Bartle Pathway to Care

The Bartle Pathway to Care initiative was established by the family of Dr Stuart and Bonnie Bartle, in honour of their generosity and legacy. Through this initiative, research funding is provided for projects that aim to enhance equal, compassionate and supportive care for people living with dementia and their families, while encouraging innovation and change in the care available. The Bartle Pathway to Care supports research that values the importance of family, enhances the care of people living with dementia and their families to create a supportive environment, and enables care facilities to provide a level of care that allows people living with dementia to do so with dignity, courage, and confidence.

In 2023, the Bartle Pathway to Care initiative will support two grants: a Project Grant (as [detailed below](#)) and a larger research translation grant (further details available [here](#)).

Hazel Hawke Alzheimer's Research and Care Fund

In 2003, Hazel Hawke AO and Dementia Australia (previously known as Alzheimer's Australia) established the Hazel Hawke Alzheimer's Research and Care Fund to support dementia care research across Australia. During her lifetime, Hazel Hawke was committed to community and advocacy work and passionate about women's rights, heritage and environment, social and community services and media issues. She was the first prominent Australian to speak publicly about her dementia.

In honour of her work, one Hazel Hawke Research Grant in Dementia Care will be offered in 2023. Further information about the Fund including previous award recipients is available [here](#).

Race Against Dementia

Founded by Formula 1 racing legend Sir Jackie Stewart, Race Against Dementia (RAD) raises and allocates funds to support international research into the prevention or treatment for dementia. To do this, RAD:

- Identifies and financially backs the most talented early-career researchers.
- Provides catalyst funding, enabling researchers to pursue innovative ideas at the highest level that might not get funded by the mainstream.
- Aims to instil a 'Formula 1 attitude' in attention to detail and urgency, to accelerate the pace of solutions development.
- Forms strong alliances with research centres of excellence on a global basis.

Further information including previous fellowship recipients is available on their website [here](#).

In 2023, Race Against Dementia together with the Dementia Australia Research Foundation will support one Post-doctoral Fellowship.

Royce Simmons Foundation

Founded by Penrith Panthers legend Royce Simmons, the Royce Simmons Foundation raises and allocates funds to support biomedical and clinical research into the prevention and treatment of dementia.

To do this, the Royce Simmons Foundation financially backs the most talented mid-career dementia researchers and provides catalyst funding, enabling researchers to pursue innovative ideas at the highest level that might not get funded by the mainstream.

In 2023, the Royce Simmons Foundation will support one Mid-Career Research Fellowship.

Dementia Advocates' and Professor Henry Brodaty Awards

All successful applicants will be nominated for the Dementia Advocates' Award. A small group of people with a lived experience of dementia (dementia advocates) will be invited to review successful applications and decide which is most likely to be of interest to, or yield important outcomes for, people living with dementia, their families, friends and carers. The Dementia Advocates' Award does not carry additional funding.

Successful applicants will also be eligible to receive a named award, acknowledging the significant contribution that Professor Henry Brodaty has made to the Foundation and the field of dementia over many years. It is awarded to one of the highest-ranking applications in any field.

PROJECT GRANTS

Purpose

Research needs bright and talented scientists to focus on the growing challenge dementia poses to current and future generations of Australians. The purpose of the Dementia Australia Research Foundation – Project Grant scheme is to build capacity in the field of dementia research by supporting new and early-career researchers. The Project Grants are intended to help new investigators establish their careers as independent dementia researchers by supporting small, time-limited research projects, or pilot projects.

Project Grants can be used to fund stand-alone research projects or projects that are attached to larger research programs. In such cases, there must be clear demarcation between the activities and the outcomes of the requested project to be funded and funding already available for larger/ongoing projects. The funds may also be used to support pilot projects. If an application is made for pilot study funding, then this should be clearly stated and explained in the application.

Topic and Scope

Dementia Australia Research Foundation Project Grants

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation Project Grants are open to Australian-based dementia researchers undertaking projects across all forms of dementia and in any topic area; biomedical (lab-based), clinical, psychosocial, or knowledge translation research projects will all be considered. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Gaining a better understanding of the causes of dementia.
- Developing strategies to reduce dementia risk and slow the progression of the disease.
- Providing accurate and timely diagnoses.
- Improving treatment and care options for people living with dementia, including support for families and carers as well as care practices.
- Increasing the awareness and understanding of rights, needs and experiences of people living with dementia, their carers and families.
- Finding a cure for dementia.

Dr Maree Farrow Memorial Project Grant

The Dr Maree Farrow Memorial Grant is in recognition of Dr Farrow's impact, contribution and leadership in the field of dementia and will support research in dementia risk reduction. Dr Maree Farrow made a significant contribution to the understanding of dementia and her research commitment to dementia risk reduction further contributed to increasing awareness about the impact of lifestyle choices on an individual's long term brain health.

Hazel Hawke Research Grant in Dementia Care

One Project Grant has been made available through funding from the Hazel Hawke Alzheimer's Research and Care Fund. The Hazel Hawke Research Grant in Dementia Care is awarded for research aimed at improving the quality of dementia care across Australia

and the services that people living with dementia and their carers and families receive. Further information about the history and aims of the Fund can be found [here](#).

Dr Stuart & Bonnie Bartle Project Grant

The Dr Stuart and Bonnie Bartle Project Grant is awarded to research exploring innovative strategies that aim to improve the quality of care that people living with dementia receive. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- **Supporting carers and families** i.e. research that addresses how carers and families can be better supported, or how carers and families can better support the person living with dementia.
- **Care systems** e.g. research addressing models of care in the community, residential aged care and hospitals, describing what facilities need to do to provide optimal care for people with dementia. Topics may include research into clinical care practices or workforce skills and training.
- **Translational research in care** i.e. moving evidence along the pathway to practice, to improve outcomes for people living with dementia, their families and carers.

Project Team

The individuals applying for funds must have the research credentials and appropriate strength in their proposal and team. We encourage applications from multi-disciplinary teams including scientists, health professionals and public health researchers. It is highly recommended that people living with dementia, their carers and families are involved in the project, from initiation through to completion. When assembling your team, please ensure that you have done so in line with the relevant [eligibility criteria](#).

Award Funding

Each Project Grant is worth \$75,000 and may be used over 1 to 2 years.

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Up to two Post-doctoral Fellowships will be available, including a Race Against Dementia - Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship and a Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship.

Race Against Dementia

Purpose

The purpose of the Race Against Dementia - Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship is to support talented early career researchers in their pursuit of innovative solutions to the big questions in dementia research. The award aims to attract early-career researchers, who have completed their PhD within the last six years, to the field of dementia research and provide them with an opportunity to fast-track their progress towards becoming independent researchers. Specifically, the objectives are:

- To accelerate progress towards research breakthroughs through innovative and ambitious dementia research.

- To provide outstanding early career dementia researchers with a unique package of flexible funding and developmental opportunities to fast-track their progress towards becoming independent researchers.
- To facilitate diverse secondments that foster interdisciplinary and inter-institutional interactions on a global scale.

RAD offers developmental opportunities for Fellows, including a mentorship scheme where they will be matched with top academics, industry and/or commercial professionals, including from the world of Formula 1 racing. RAD also hosts regular virtual meetings and an annual symposium, where Fellows will have a unique opportunity to participate in a community of expertise, and to interact with a diverse range of stakeholders. A shared focus will be to develop techniques and processes to drive faster progress in dementia research.

Fellows are strongly encouraged to undertake a secondment (for up to six months) to academic or non-academic sectors, to learn skills and develop collaborations that may not be available locally.

By the end of the Fellowship period, it is expected that the award recipient can demonstrate an emerging strong track record in dementia research. The applicant will be expected to produce outputs that will improve their competitiveness for further grant or fellowship funding in the field and enable them to conduct further substantial research and activities towards translating their findings into practice.

Topic and Scope

The Race Against Dementia - Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship is open to Australian-based dementia researchers undertaking projects across the broad areas of dementia prevention and treatment; biomedical (lab-based), clinical or psychosocial research projects will be considered. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Gaining a better understanding of the causes of dementia.
- Developing strategies or treatments to reduce dementia risk and slow or reverse the progression of the disease.
- Providing accurate and timely diagnoses.
- Finding a cure for dementia.

Project Team

The applicant will need to secure a supervisor at the host or a related institution who is expected to hold a contract (fixed-term or tenure) for the duration of the project. If the supervisor does not hold tenure, the application must include a co-supervisor at the host institution that does. The supervisor will provide the facilities required for the research, have oversight of the Fellow and their research program, contribute actively to the training of the Fellow and be supportive of the Fellow's involvement in the diverse developmental opportunities provided by RAD.

Secondments to other institutions, in Australia or overseas, are encouraged and should be outlined in the application. The Fellowship aims to be flexible; if opportunities for secondment arise after the start date, the Fellow should approach the Dementia Australia Research Foundation with their plans.

Further, the applicant must have the research credentials and appropriate strength in their proposal and supervisory team. We encourage applications from multi-disciplinary teams including scientists, health professionals and public health researchers. It is highly recommended that people living with dementia, their carers and families are involved in the project, from initiation through to completion. When assembling your team, please ensure that you have done so in line with the relevant [eligibility criteria](#).

Award Funding

The RAD Post-doctoral Fellowship is five years in duration, with a review completed at three years to ensure satisfactory progress and continuation of funding. It includes a salary component of \$114,000 per annum, which may be indexed in line with wage growth each year. Level of appointment and salary is to be negotiated between the host institution and the recipient; the host institution will be required to cover salary and on-cost expenses above the salary component of the award. The Fellowship is intended to be undertaken on a full-time basis, however, part-time (with salary pro-rata) may be negotiated under special circumstances. The five-year Fellowship also includes a \$125,000 project grant, to cover research expenses and costs associated with secondments. RAD will cover additional costs relating to the development opportunities provided to successful applicants.

Dementia Australia Research Foundation

Purpose

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship scheme aims to attract early-career researchers, who have completed their PhD within the last six years, to the field of dementia research and provide them with an opportunity to fast-track their progress towards becoming independent researchers.

Topic and Scope

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowships are open to Australian-based dementia researchers undertaking projects across all forms of dementia and in any topic area; biomedical (lab-based), clinical, psychosocial, or knowledge translation research projects will be considered. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Gaining a better understanding of the causes of dementia.
- Developing strategies to reduce dementia risk and slow the progression of the disease.
- Providing accurate and timely diagnoses.
- Improving treatment and care options for people living with dementia, including support for families and carers as well as care practices.
- Increasing the awareness and understanding of rights, needs and experiences of people living with dementia, their carers and families.
- Finding a cure for dementia.

Project Team

The applicant will need to secure a supervisor at the host or a related institution who is expected to hold a contract (fixed-term or tenure) for the duration of the project. If the supervisor does not hold tenure, the application must include a co-supervisor at the host

institution that does. The supervisor will provide the facilities required for the research, have oversight of the Fellow and their research program and contribute actively to the training of the Fellow.

Further, the applicant must have the research credentials and appropriate strength in their proposal and supervisory team. We encourage applications from multi-disciplinary teams including health professionals, statisticians, health economists, public health researchers and policy makers. It is highly recommended that people living with dementia, their carers and families are involved in the project, from initiation through to completion. When assembling your team, please ensure that you have done so in line with the relevant [eligibility criteria](#).

Award Funding

The Post-doctoral Fellowship is three years in duration and includes a salary component of \$114,000 per annum, which may be indexed in line with wage growth each year. Level of appointment and salary is to be negotiated between the host institution and the recipient; the host institution will be required to cover salary and on-cost expenses above the salary component of the award. Fellowships are intended to be undertaken on a full-time basis, however, part-time (with salary pro-rata) may be negotiated under special circumstances. The Fellowship also includes a \$75,000 project grant, to cover research expenses.

MID-CAREER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Up to two Mid-Career Research Fellowships will be available, including the Royce Simmons Foundation Mid-Career Research Fellowship and the Dementia Australia Research Foundation Mid-Career Research Fellowship.

Purpose

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation Mid-Career Research Fellowship scheme aims to support researchers, who have completed their PhD within the last 10 years, to continue their progress towards becoming independent researchers and leaders in the dementia field. It also provides an opportunity for mid-career researchers to establish their own research programs.

By the end of the Fellowship period, it is expected that the award recipient can demonstrate a strong track record in dementia research. The applicant will be expected to produce outputs that will improve their competitiveness for further grant or fellowship funding in the field and enable them to conduct further substantial research and activities towards translating their findings into practice.

Topic and Scope

The Mid-Career Fellowships are open to Australian-based dementia researchers undertaking projects across all forms of dementia and in any topic area; biomedical (lab-based), clinical, psychosocial, or knowledge translation research projects will be considered. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Gaining a better understanding of the causes of dementia.

- Developing strategies to reduce dementia risk and slow the progression of the disease.
- Providing accurate and timely diagnoses.
- Improving treatment and care options for people living with dementia.
- Increasing the awareness and understanding of rights, needs and experiences of people living with dementia, their carers and families.
- Finding a cure for dementia.

Project Team

The applicant will need to secure a supervisor at the host or a related institution who is expected to hold a contract (fixed-term or tenure) for the duration of the project. If the supervisor does not hold tenure, the application must include a co-supervisor at the host institution that does. The supervisor will provide the facilities required for the research, have oversight of the Fellow and their research program and contribute actively to the training of the Fellow.

Further, the applicant must have the research credentials and appropriate strength in their proposal and supervisory team. We encourage applications from multi-disciplinary teams including health professionals, statisticians, health economists, public health researchers and policy makers. It is highly recommended that people living with dementia, their carers and families are involved in the project, from initiation through to completion. When assembling your team, please ensure that you have done so in line with the relevant [eligibility criteria](#).

Award Funding

Each Mid-Career Research Fellowship is two years in duration and includes a salary component of \$151,000 per annum and may be indexed in line with wage growth each year. Level of appointment and salary is to be negotiated between the host institution and the recipient; the host institution will be required to cover salary and on-cost expenses above the salary component of the award. Fellowships are intended to be undertaken on a full-time basis, however, part-time (with salary pro-rata) may be negotiated under special circumstances. The Fellowship also includes a \$75,000 project grant, to cover research expenses. Any excess salary can also be put towards research expenses.

TRAVEL GRANTS

Purpose

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation Travel Grant is designed to assist Australian dementia researchers to travel nationally or internationally, to learn new techniques and/or build networks with well-known research teams. The scheme aims to strengthen and build research skills and promote networking, collaborations, communication or dissemination of research results through scientific events, meetings or work experience. The proposed travel must benefit dementia research.

The award aims to support researchers across the early stages of their career, from PhD students (who have completed at least one year full-time equivalent of their PhD and passed their PhD confirmation) to Mid-Career researchers (who are up to 10 years post-PhD).

Topic and Scope

Travel Grants are open to Australian-based dementia researchers undertaking projects across all forms of dementia and in any topic area; biomedical (lab-based), clinical, psychosocial, or knowledge translation research projects will be considered. Examples of eligible events for which a Travel Grant can be used include, but are not limited to:

- Work experience at another institution, to learn new techniques, share ideas and build collaborations.
- Attendance at a masterclass, symposium or other skill-based workshop.
- Workshops for collaborative planning ahead of funding calls.
- Conference attendance, including an accepted oral and/or poster presentation or as part of an organising committee.

One or more of the above activities should be included in a single application.

Award Funding

The grant is valued up to \$15,000. The study period can be up to six months (depending on the purpose for travel) and the applicant must undertake to return to a position in Australia after completion of the award. If the application includes conference attendance, the applicant must provide evidence of an accepted abstract prior to the specified travel date before grant payments will be provided. Evidence of an accepted abstract is not required at the time of application. Travel can be undertaken during 2024 or by arrangement.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Project Grants

To be eligible for a **Project Grant**:

1. At the time of application, acceptance and for the duration of the grant, the Applicant (Chief Investigator (CI) must be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen living in Australia, a permanent resident of Australia, or have an appropriate work visa in place. The CI must also be based in Australia for at least 80% of the project. All applicants must provide evidence to their host institution to support this criterion. Host institutions are responsible for certifying and ensuring that these requirements are met. The Dementia Australia Research Foundation may request further information in relation to these requirements, including evidence of residency and/or citizenship.
2. The CI must not have more than six years post-PhD experience at the time of applying, adjusted for career interruptions / relative to opportunity i.e. the CI was awarded a PhD or equivalent (DPhil or M.D. by research) on or after 14 August 2017 or has submitted a PhD thesis for examination (the thesis must be passed prior to the proposed commencement date of the project i.e. before March 2024).

3. The CI must not have been awarded project funding from NHMRC, ARC, MRFF or equivalent international schemes where they have been listed as the lead CI (i.e. CIA) on the application. CI's that have been awarded a Fellowship through NHMRC, ARC, MRFF or an equivalent international scheme that may or may not include some level of project funding are eligible to apply.
4. The research must be conducted primarily in Australia and address the topic and scope of the funding round.
5. The research must be approved by an authorised ethics committee, if applicable. Please note that grant payments may be withheld until ethics approval has been obtained.

Post-doctoral Fellowships

To be eligible for a **Post-doctoral Fellowship**:

1. At the time of application, acceptance and for the duration of the grant, the Applicant (CI) must be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen living in Australia or a permanent resident of Australia. All applicants must provide evidence to their host institution to support this criterion. Host institutions are responsible for certifying and ensuring that these requirements are met. The Dementia Australia Research Foundation may request further information in relation to these requirements, including evidence of residency and/or citizenship. Applicants who hold a temporary work visa are not eligible to apply.
2. The CI must not have more than six years post-PhD experience at the time of applying, adjusted for career interruptions / relative to opportunity i.e. the CI was awarded a PhD or equivalent (DPhil or M.D. by research) on or after 14 August 2017 or has submitted a PhD thesis for examination (the thesis must be passed prior to the proposed commencement date of the project i.e. before March 2024).
3. The CI must not hold a fellowship funded by another organisation unless, if successful, they plan to relinquish the existing fellowship.
4. The CI must identify an experienced dementia researcher as a supervisor, who is based at the same or a related institution (e.g. an affiliated hospital or research institute) as the CI. Under usual circumstances, the mentor would not have been the applicant's PhD supervisor.
5. The research must be conducted primarily in Australia and address the topic and scope of the funding round. However, the Race Against Dementia – Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship may include a 6-month secondment that may be taken within or outside Australia.
6. The research must be approved by an authorised ethics committee, if applicable. Please note that grant payments may be withheld until ethics approval has been obtained.

Mid-Career Research Fellowships

To be eligible for a **Mid-Career Research Fellowship**:

1. At the time of application, acceptance and for the duration of the grant, the Applicant (CI) must be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen living in Australia or a permanent resident of Australia. All applicants must provide evidence to their host institution to support this criterion. Host institutions are responsible for certifying and ensuring that these requirements are met. The Dementia Australia Research Foundation may request

further information in relation to these requirements, including evidence of residency and/or citizenship. Applicants who hold a temporary work visa are not eligible to apply.

2. The CI must not have more than 10 years post-PhD experience at the time of applying, adjusted for career interruptions / relative to opportunity i.e. the CI was awarded a PhD or equivalent (DPhil or M.D. by research) on or after 14 August 2013.
3. The CI must hold a position at or below the level of Associate Professor (or equivalent if not employed within the university system).
4. The CI must not hold a fellowship funded by another organisation unless, if successful, they plan to relinquish the existing fellowship.
5. The CI must identify an experienced dementia researcher as a supervisor, who is based at the same or a related institution (e.g. an affiliated hospital or research institute) as the CI.
6. The research must be conducted in Australia and address the topic and scope of the funding round.
7. The research must be approved by an authorised ethics committee, if applicable. Please note that grant payments may be withheld until ethics approval has been obtained.

Travel Grants

To be eligible for a **Travel Grant**:

1. At the time of application, acceptance and for the duration of the grant, the applicant (Chief Investigator (CI) must be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen living in Australia, a permanent resident of Australia, or have an appropriate work visa in place. All applicants must provide evidence to their host institution to support this criterion. Host institutions are responsible for certifying and ensuring that these requirements are met. The Dementia Australia Research Foundation may request further information in relation to these requirements, including evidence of residency and/or citizenship.
2. The CI must have completed at least one year full-time equivalent of their PhD (with confirmation passed) and not more than 10 years post-PhD experience at the time of applying, adjusted for career interruptions / relative to opportunity (i.e. the CI was awarded a PhD or equivalent (DPhil or M.D. by research) on or after 14 August 2013).
3. The CI must not have been awarded project funding from NHMRC, ARC, MRFF or equivalent international schemes where they have been listed as the lead CI (i.e. CIA) on the application. CIs that have been awarded a Fellowship through NHMRC, ARC, MRFF or an equivalent international scheme that may or may not include some level of project funding are eligible to apply.
4. Research that is to be presented publicly must be approved by an authorised ethics committee, if applicable. Please note that grant payments may be withheld until ethics approval has been obtained.

Involving dementia advocates in research

For all applications, the CI must demonstrate that:

1. People living with dementia, their carers and families and/or the wider public (if appropriate) have been or are involved throughout the project (beyond a role as participants). This may be achieved in any number of ways including:
 - a. Consultation about or involvement in the research proposal prior to submission – to ensure that a) it addresses an identified area of priority for people living with dementia, their carers and families and b) the relevant parts of the proposal are understood by anon-academic audience
 - b. Inclusion as joint grant holders or co-applicants on the research proposal.
 - c. Membership of a Steering Committee or Advisory Group or as a ‘research buddy’ for the researcher.
 - d. Providing comment on and/or developing participant information leaflets or other research materials.
 - e. Involvement in the interpretation and dissemination of research outcomes and the development of plain language project summaries.

Please note people with lived experience can be involved in different ways in all types of research projects, including research that focuses on technology and lab-based studies. For example, lab-based researchers may wish to discuss their ideas with people impacted by dementia (e.g. lab tours, public information forums, research ‘buddy’) and/or invite them to review plain English summaries of their research to ensure that their ideas are clear and easy to understand. Although people with lived experience are keen to know more about lab-based research, it is not expected that they conduct the experiments with you in the lab.

If you require assistance in finding a person living with dementia or carer to be involved in your project, please contact Dementia Australia by completing the request form located on the [website](#) or contact advocates@dementia.org.au for further information.

Further information on involving members of the public in research is available at:

- [*Becoming Involved in Research: A guide for People Living with Dementia, their Care Partners and Family Members*](#)
- [*Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research*](#)
- [*Dementia Centre for Research Collaboration \(DCRC\) Lived Experience Project*](#), which includes links to various guidelines and training resources.

2. Appropriate language and terminology are used throughout the application. For example, many people living with dementia prefer not to be referred to directly or indirectly as a ‘dementia sufferer’. A guide to dementia-friendly language is available [here](#).

Career interruptions

Circumstances leading to career interruption will be taken into account when assessing eligibility. Such circumstances may include an episode of extended illness, parental leave, caring commitments or other personal matters and time dedicated to clinical work as a health professional. Interruptions experienced due to the impact of COVID-19 have been

incorporated into the eligibility criteria and will not be considered as a career interruption as well as matters arising from normal vocational or research related activities, such as an applicant's choice to pursue research activities or seek employment outside of clinical work or dementia research. Track record (research training, publications, supervision, awards and other relevant experience) will be assessed relative to opportunity.

Eligibility for multiple awards

Where they are listed as the CI, applicants:

- May only submit one application within each funding scheme. Applicants who apply for a Fellowship, are eligible to and wish to be considered for a Project Grant must submit a separate Project Grant application i.e. a Fellowship application will not automatically be considered for a Project Grant.
- Are not permitted to submit an application to both the Post-doctoral and the Mid-Career Fellowship schemes.
- Can only be awarded one grant or fellowship from this year's Dementia Grants Program (except for Travel Grants, which can be held jointly with another award). If a researcher has submitted an application as a CI and also appears as an Associate Investigator (AI) on another application, both may be awarded.

Previous recipients can apply to the Dementia Grants Program, as long as they meet all relevant eligibility criteria.

Resubmission of previous applications

Applicants are welcome to resubmit previously unsuccessful applications, which will be assessed on their merits alongside all other applications. It should be noted, however, that the Dementia Grants Program is becoming increasingly competitive, and applications that have been unsuccessful in previous years are very unlikely to progress to the final stages of assessment in subsequent years, unless substantial improvements have been made with respect to the assessment criteria and any feedback that has been received.

Notification of additional funding

Applicants must notify the Dementia Australia Research Foundation if they receive funding from another source for a project that is the subject of a grant application to the Foundation. If successful, applicants who currently hold a fellowship funded by another organisation must relinquish this fellowship prior to commencing a fellowship funded by the Dementia Australia Research Foundation. Further, our fellowships cannot be used to top-up an existing fellowship i.e. a Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral or Mid-Career Research Fellowship must be the primary fellowship held by a successful applicant.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please note that as our Scientific Panel undertakes a **blind review of Project Grant and Fellowship applications** in the first instance, a number of sections of the application should be written in a way such that the chief or any other name investigators (including their affiliations) are not identifiable. These sections include the Abstract, Plain Language Summary, Implications of your Research and the Research Proposal.

Online application form

Applications must be submitted via an online application portal available through the Dementia Australia Research Foundation website [here](#). The portal will close at the advertised closing date, after which applicants will not be able to upload or modify any part of their application.

To start an application, applicants will click on the link provided. Please note applicants need to create an account prior to completing the application form. Log-in details will be sent to the email address provided.

To ensure that all relevant information is entered, each page of the application form needs to be completed in full before moving onto the next. Applicants may download a template to work on the application offline and to view each section of the application form [here](#). If there are any technical errors when uploading an application, please contact foundation@dementia.org.au.

Late applications and applications sent by mail or email will not be accepted.

The online application form includes required fields, such as:

- Details of the CI and the research team (up to 3 AIs/supervisors are permitted on the application form; details on the expertise and activities that the AIs will be undertaking must be provided).
- If applicable, relative to opportunity considerations and career interruptions that the Scientific Panel should take into account.
- Contact details of the host institution where the research will be undertaken. Please note that the host (or administering) institution must be an eligible university or research institute approved by [NHMRC](#).
- Project title.
- Abstract (250 word limit). With the exception of Travel Grant applications, the abstract should be written in a de-identified way, such that the chief or any other named investigators (or their affiliations) cannot be identified.
- Key words (3-5 words).
- How research findings (or outcomes of proposed travel) will be translated into practice, including how the research will be applied in the real world (over the short, medium or long term) to achieve the stated benefits (250 word limit). Knowledge Translation resources and training modules are available on the [DCRC website](#).
- Lay project summary, including reference to topics such as gaps in current knowledge, how your project looks to fill those, aims, method and intended impact of the research (or proposed travel) (250 word limit). With the exception of Travel Grant

applications, the summary should be written in a de-identified way, such that the chief or any other named investigators (or their affiliations) are not identifiable. Please ensure that this summary is free of scientific jargon and is presented in a way that someone without scientific knowledge will be able to understand. Below are some good links on writing a lay summary:

- Australian Clinical Trials Alliance – [writing in plain language](#).
- The Academy of Medical Sciences – [tips](#) and [what a lay should look like](#).
- Elsevier – [how to write a lay summary](#).
- Plain English Campaign – [how to write in plain English](#).
- Implications of the research, outlining the outcomes, significance, innovation and/or intended impact of the research (or proposed travel) (250 word limit). With the exception of Travel Grant applications, the implications of the research should be written in a de-identified way, such that the chief or any other named investigators and their affiliation cannot be identified.
- How people living with dementia, their carers, families and/or the wider public will be involved in the research, including research that forms the basis for a Travel Grant application (250 word limit). Please review the [criteria](#) before completing this section of the application.

Please note that dementia advocates will review the last four sections of the online application outlined above. As such, it is important that these sections are clear and 'stand-alone' (i.e. these sections should not refer the reader to content provided as part of the research proposal).

When planning research in which people living with dementia will be participants, applicants should make sure that they are familiar with the principles of and requirements for getting informed consent from people who may lack cognitive and/or legal capacity to provide written informed consent themselves. Further, recruitment is sometimes slower than anticipated and significant time and effort may be required to reach a desired sample size.

If the application proposes to involve Dementia Australia staff or our dementia advocates in the project in an advisory capacity, this must be discussed with the Foundation prior to submitting the application.

Supporting documents required

As well as completing the online application form, applicants must provide the following supporting documents (in PDF format) on the application portal. Applications that do not include the required documentation will be considered ineligible and will not be assessed. Please note that attachments cannot be amended or added to the application after the application closing date.

1. Evidence of Australian or New Zealand citizenship, permanent residency or appropriate work visa (required for CI)

A scanned copy of a birth certificate, passport, visa documentation or official documentation from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection does not need to be uploaded onto the online portal but must be provided to the applicant's host institution (the institution may already have this information on file). If applicable, an appropriate work visa must be in place at the time of acceptance and for the duration of

the project. A Statutory Declaration, Medicare card, Australian drivers' licence or other documents will not be accepted as proof of permanent residency or citizenship.

2. Qualifications (official record of PhD or equivalent higher degree, required for CI)

A scanned copy of an academic transcript, letter of completion or degree showing PhD or equivalent higher degree. Applicants who are currently completing a doctorate degree at the time of applying must provide proof of candidature upon application and, if applicable, acceptance of the PhD to the Foundation as soon as this becomes available. Students who are applying for a Travel Grant must provide evidence that they have completed at least one year full-time equivalent of their PhD and passed their PhD confirmation. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that confirmation of thesis approval is provided before Project Grant or Fellowship funding can commence.

3. Academic Career Summary (maximum 2 pages, required for CI)

A summary that includes: a career impact statement; top-5 publications with an explanation of how the publications illustrate the applicant's capability to contribute to the proposed research; and grants (funding body, amount and investigator status). Awards, conference presentations and service to the academic community may also be included as appropriate. Personal information such as date of birth or residential address is not required.

4. Research proposal – Project Grants and Fellowships

The research proposal should not exceed 5 pages (this does not include references i.e. references will start on page 6), using Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri font, minimum size 11 and margins not less than 1.5 cm. Any additional pages, or any explanatory appendices, will not be assessed.

The research proposal should be written in a way that the investigators or their affiliations are not identifiable. For example, applicants should not include their name in the header or footer of the document or refer to themselves (or the AIs if applicable) by name in the body of the proposal. The team's own publications can be included as references if appropriate but should be referred to as "previous research" rather than "our research" in the body of the proposal. Applications will be checked prior to review and any identifying information will be removed. Further information and guidance on writing a de-identified application can be found in the ['frequently asked questions'](#) section of this document.

The research proposal should include details on each of the following sections:

- a. **Project Title**
- b. **Aims:** List specific aims and potential significance of the project. Clearly state the research question and hypothesis to be tested, as well as the rationale and objectives of the project.
- c. **Background:** Summarise previous work in this field which provides the basis for the proposed research project.
- d. **Research methodology:** A clear description of methods and design, including the following, if applicable: participant recruitment strategy; participant inclusion/exclusion criteria; study design; intervention or manipulation; outcome measures; statistical analysis plan and rationale; safety and risk considerations; drug regimens; and special equipment or measures.

- e. Budget including justification and timeline:** Provide a high-level budget and project timeline, noting the amount of funding available from the Foundation and timeframe. Identify any other confirmed funding for the project. Funds can only be applied to costs that are directly related to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the project, including reimbursements to people living with dementia, their carers and families and/or the wider public for reasonable costs associated with their involvement in the project (e.g. their time, travel costs, phone calls). It is also recommended that applicants include recruitment costs in the budget (e.g. funding for advertising and participation incentives). The budget must be written in a de-identified way i.e. do not list any investigators or their affiliations by name.

Race Against Dementia – Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship applicants are permitted to include the costs associated with a secondment to another institution (in Australia or overseas) in their budget, such as visa, relocation and travel expenses.

University infrastructure costs or levies should not be included in the budget and will not be covered by the Dementia Australia Research Foundation. As the Dementia Australia Research Foundation is considered Category 1 – Australian Competitive Grant Income, such costs should be covered by the Australian Government’s Research Block Grants scheme. Further information on the self-assessment system for universities to determine which of their R&D income can be classified as Category 1 – Australian Competitive Grant Income is available [here](#).

- f. Key references:** Please include a list of up to 20 key references cited in the proposal. The reference list is not included in the 5-page maximum of the proposal, i.e. references can start on page 6.

5. Proposal – Travel Grants

The proposal should not exceed 2 pages (this does not include references i.e. references will start on page 3), using Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri font, minimum size 11 and margins not less than 1.5 cm. Any additional pages, or any explanatory appendices, will not be assessed.

The proposal, which is not required to be de-identified, should include details on each of the following sections:

- a. Project Title**
- b. Aims:** List specific aims, potential significance and the expected outcomes of travel as well as the overall objectives of the project to be funded through the Travel Grant.
- c. Background:** Summarise previous work in this field, which provides the basis for the research and the proposed travel.
- d. Travel details:** Provide details of the activities that will be undertaken as part of the Travel Grant, including dates and purpose of travel. For example, research teams that you expect to visit (including their expertise and commitment to hosting the visit), conferences that will be attended (including anticipated presentations – evidence of a submitted or accepted abstract is not required at the time of application) and any other planned activities. Outline how the travel

will promote networking, collaborations, communication or dissemination of research outcomes and benefit the applicant's professional development.

- e. **Budget including justification and timeline:** Provide a high-level budget and travel timeline, noting the amount of funding available from the Foundation and timeframe. Identify any other confirmed funding for the project. Funds can only be applied to costs that are directly related to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the project (e.g. airfares, accommodation, living expenses while travelling, costs associated with conference registration). Costs associated with co-presenting the research at a conference or workshop with a person with lived experience of dementia may also be included. The proposed travel should be no more than three months in duration.
- g. University infrastructure costs or levies should not be included in the budget and will not be covered by the Dementia Australia Research Foundation. As the Dementia Australia Research Foundation is considered Category 1 – Australian Competitive Grant Income, such costs should be covered by the Australian Government's Research Block Grants scheme. Further information on the self-assessment system for universities to determine which of their R&D income can be classified as Category 1 – Australian Competitive Grant Income is available [here](#).
- h. **Key references:** Please include a list of up to 20 key references cited in the proposal. The reference list is not included in the 2-page maximum of the proposal, i.e. references can start on page 3.

6. Career progression (Post-doctoral and Mid-Career Fellowships only, approximately 300 word limit):

Describe: how the applicant's current work fits within the team; the support or mentoring the applicant will receive (including whilst undertaking secondments to other institutions, if applicable); the type of secondment that the applicant will be seeking (provide details if a secondment has already been arranged); new linkages that may be established with other research teams; and how the fellowship will enable the applicant to develop their career as a researcher. All investigators, institutions, collaborators and studies can be identified in the statement.

7. Ethics approval (if available)

Evidence of approval of the proposed project by an authorised Human Research Ethics Committee, if available. If not available at time of application, funding agreements (for successful applicants) will be conditional upon ethics approval.

8. Endorsement form (template available [here](#)) signed by:

- Each investigator named in the application (i.e. CI and all supervisors/AIs listed), confirming their contribution to the project as described in the application
- The Head of Administering Institution (or nominee) in which the research will take place.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Review

The assessment process for all grant types involves the following stages:

1. Eligibility check

Foundation staff will check all applications after the closing date to ensure compliance with eligibility criteria and conditions of the award. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they meet all eligibility criteria and conditions of the award prior to submitting an application. The Foundation reserves the right to rule out of contention any application that does not include proof of eligibility without further assessment. Please note that applicants must inform the Foundation if their eligibility against the stated criteria changes in any way during the assessment process. Funding will not commence until all relevant requirements, including eligibility, have been met.

2. Initial review of applications

Academic members of the Scientific Panel will review all eligible, de-identified research proposals (unless where a potential conflict of interest has been identified) to determine those which are highly unlikely to receive an award due to weakness in one or more of the assessment criteria or feasibility and/or other issues. Applications that are ranked in the bottom half of all applications for a particular award by at least two members of the Scientific Panel are removed from the application process.

3. External review (if required)

National or international expert external reviewers may be approached for selected comment and/or rating against the assessment criteria if required. Applicants are invited to nominate external reviewers if desired on the application form, but the decision on external reviewers is made by the Scientific Panel.

4. Final review and ranking by members of the Scientific Panel

Academic and dementia advocate members of the Scientific Panel will consider and rank all remaining applications for each category of award after reviewing the feedback from external reviewers.

Awards are allocated to applicants in order of ranking within each category and according to their eligibility for particular awards. Consideration is also made to supporting approximately equal numbers of applicants in the following research fields, where applications are of comparable quality:

- **Discovery, pre-clinical and mechanistic studies:** Studies that primarily use cells and animal models and/or studies that aim to understand causes, mechanisms or aetiology of disease processes.
- **Human studies (interventional and non-interventional, implementation and psychosocial studies):** Studies focused on dementia risk or prevention. Studies focused on improving relevant intervention or treatment outcomes for people living with dementia and/or carers. Studies that aim to understand experience and meaning (organisational, psychological and/or social and societal factors) relating to people living with dementia and/or their care or carers. Studies that focus on

changing practice or management, knowledge translation or implementation of guidelines.

Applicants whose projects are considered fundable but are not allocated one of the available awards are placed on a reserve list and may be offered other funding opportunities in the future, for example, in the event that an applicant with a higher-ranked project turns down an award.

5. Interviews (Fellowships only)

Applicants shortlisted to receive a Race Against Dementia – Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship will be required to complete a short interview in December 2023, via Zoom. The interview panel will include members of the Scientific Panel (a person with lived experience of dementia and an academic) as well as a representative from RAD. Prospective Fellows will be asked to give a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation on their work, followed by questions. Further details will be provided ahead of the interview.

Interviews of the same format may be required for other Post-doctoral and Mid-Career Fellowship applicants where top-ranked applicants have competitive and similar scores.

6. Final decision

The final decision on awards is made by the Dementia Australia Research Foundation Board on the basis of recommendations made by the Scientific Panel. Recommended Race Against Dementia – Dementia Australia Research Foundation Fellowships will require approval from RAD.

Please be advised that all decisions are final, and there is no mechanism for appeal.

Notification of successful and unsuccessful

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email during December 2023; unsuccessful applicants may be notified earlier in the year, depending on the stage of assessment at which the decision is made. To facilitate notification, applicants must ensure that their contact details are filled in correctly on the application form.

Announcement of awards

An official announcement of the 2023 award winners will be made on the Dementia Australia Research Foundation website in early 2024. This announcement will detail each successful applicant's name, type of award, project title and institution. Award winners will be expected to assist the Foundation, if required, by being featured in media articles/releases and public announcements related to an award from the Foundation.

Feedback to unsuccessful applicants

Unsuccessful applicants will be provided with individual feedback upon request. Feedback is provided for the purpose of helping unsuccessful applicants improve the quality of subsequent applications to the Foundation or other funding bodies. No correspondence regarding the accuracy or merits of feedback will be entered into.

Acknowledgement of support

Successful applicants must acknowledge the support of the Dementia Australia Research Foundation and its funding partners in all publications, presentations and media announcements relating to the awarded research. Grantees must also provide progress reports on the research and be prepared to assist the Dementia Australia Research Foundation and its funding partners, if required, by speaking at functions, attending specified conferences, hosting laboratory visits, or being featured in media articles/releases.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Academic Assessment

The following assessment criteria will be used for rating applications:

1. Scientific merit and quality (40% weight)

This criterion considers the significance and value of the proposed research, along with the clarity of the research aim(s), hypotheses or research objectives, and the suitability of the research methodology and research plan in achieving the research aim(s). The general scientific relevance should be evident in the project proposal, and the research methodology should be sound and clearly presented. Projects must also be feasible and realistic within the available timeframe and budget. The roles of the AIs to support the project will also be considered.

2. Track record and independence of the applicant (30% weight)

This criterion considers whether the applicant's previous research experience demonstrates they are capable of successfully undertaking the proposed research and publishing the outcomes. Track record (career impact statement, research training, publications, supervision, awards and other relevant experience) will be assessed relative to opportunity, including career stage.

3. Innovation and/or significance (20% weight)

This criterion considers the novelty and originality of the proposed research as well as its overall significance to the field. The criterion considers, as appropriate to the topic and scope of the project, the extent to which it has the capacity (if successful) to introduce innovative and new research directions, treatments, interventions or models of care etc. to the field and/or the potential for it to have a direct, beneficial impact on policy, clinical practice and, ultimately, people living with dementia, their families and carers.

4. Knowledge Translation (10% weight)

This criterion considers whether the applicant has articulated how their research findings will be translated into practice and/or how the research will be applied in the real world (over the short, medium or long term) to achieve the stated benefits.

This criterion will be assessed relative to the opportunity for the applicant to undertake knowledge translation activities within the scope of the project.

- For projects at the ‘discovery’ research phase, a knowledge gap may be identified and the potential for new knowledge is clearly outlined (e.g. research that changes our understanding of the causes or progression of the disease, describes the path to translation).
- For projects closer to implementation, how the research findings will be translated into practice and/or how the research will be applied in the real world to achieve the stated benefits will be articulated (e.g. generate awareness, facilitate practice or policy change).

Travel Grants will be assessed according to the track record and independence of the applicant, scientific merit of the research that forms the basis of the Travel Grant and the benefits of the proposed travel to furthering the applicant’s professional development and dementia research capability more broadly.

Dementia Advocate Assessment

The following assessment criteria will be used by dementia advocate members of the Scientific Panel for rating those applications that have been shortlisted:

1. Importance of the research and potential benefit (60% weight)

This criterion considers the rationale for, and importance of, the proposed research and the potential for it to have a direct, beneficial impact on the lives of people impacted by dementia and/or the wider public. The innovation and originality of the proposed research as well as how the research findings will be translated into practice and/or how the research will be applied in the real world will also be considered.

2. Involvement of the people impacted by this research (40% weight)

This criterion considers whether and how people living with dementia, carers, family members or friends of someone diagnosed with dementia, or other relevant members of the public have been involved in the research.

The dementia advocate and academic assessment scores will be combined, with the dementia advocate assessment comprising 20% of the overall score. As such, it is important that the lay summary, implications of your research, knowledge translation and the involvement of people with lived experience of dementia sections of the application are written in a way that someone without a scientific background is able to understand.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

Do you have to nominate within the application which award/scheme (e.g. Hazel Hawke Research Grant in Dementia Care) you are applying for or is this automatic?

All Project Grant applications will be automatically assessed for eligibility for each scheme and only one application needs to be submitted. However, there is a section in the online application form where you can highlight how your project meets the aims and objectives of a particular scheme. For example, if your project focuses on improving the care of people living with dementia, you can indicate that the application is suitable for consideration for the

Hazel Hawke Research Grant in Dementia Care or the Dr Stuart and Bonnie Bartle Project Grant. You can justify your suitability for other awards as well.

Can a senior researcher be a member of the research team as long as the CI is an early or mid-career researcher?

Yes, the AIs and/or the applicant's supervisors can be senior researchers (e.g. at the level of Associate Professor or Professor).

Can overseas collaborators be listed as AIs who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents?

Overseas collaborators can be listed as AIs, however, the project must be primarily conducted in Australia.

Could a sessional academic apply for a Project Grant as a CI?

Sessional Academics are eligible to apply as the CI, however, they would need to have a contract with the university that states employment for the duration of project.

I currently hold a Fellowship from the ARC/NHMRC/MRFF which includes some project funds – am I still eligible to apply for a Project Grant?

Yes, provided the applicant meets all other eligibility criteria, they are still eligible to apply as the lead investigator on a Project Grant if they hold (or previously held) an ARC/NHMRC/MRFF (or equivalent international) Fellowship. If project funds are included in the fellowship award, this will not impact their eligibility.

I have an existing fellowship funded by another organisation. Can I apply to DARF for a fellowship to top-up my funding?

No, if you already hold a fellowship funded by another organisation, you cannot apply for another from DARF unless, if successful, you plan to relinquish your existing fellowship. If you already hold a DARF-funded fellowship, you can apply to other organisations to top-up your salary, if the funding body permits.

What circumstances would DARF consider eligible for those seeking a part-time fellowship?

The special circumstances by which an applicant can undertake the fellowship part-time include parental leave, caring responsibilities, and extended illness. Relevant information can be included in the 'Relative to Opportunity' section of the application. An applicant can start full-time and then move to part-time if the special circumstances apply and the variation is approved by DARF.

Can an AI apply on multiple applications with different CIs?

If successful, a CI can only hold one grant or fellowship as the CI in a single grant round. However, it is possible for AIs to be on one or more projects or a CI to be an AI on another successful project.

Is the eligibility based on position at the time of submission? If I receive a promotion after applying, would this make me ineligible to receive an award?

Eligibility with regards to academic status will be assessed at the time of submission.

Is there a limit on the amount of time since PhD completion for the CI?

There is a limit as to how much time has passed time since your PhD was completed, adjusted for career interruptions. The time limits specified for each grant at the time of application are provided below (also see [‘eligibility criteria’](#)):

- Project Grant – up to six years post-PhD experience.
- Post-doctoral Fellowship – up to six years post-PhD experience.
- Mid-Career Research Fellowship – up to 10 years post-PhD experience.
- Travel Grants – completion of at least two years full-time equivalent of PhD or up to 10 years post-PhD experience.

Do I need to have submitted my PhD thesis prior to applying for a DARF grant?

A PhD qualification is required in order to be eligible to receive a Project Grant or Fellowship. However, the PhD thesis does not need to be submitted by the closing date for applications but must be passed prior to the proposed commencement date of the project (i.e. before March 2024). Students who have completed two years full-time equivalent of their PhD are eligible to apply for a Travel Grant.

Is there a place to upload the proof of residency status?

The applicant is not required to upload proof of citizenship in the online portal – the research branch at your university or institution should sight this information to ensure that the requirements are met prior to signing the endorsement form.

The CI will join the university from overseas for a 3-year period. The Visa application has been submitted but has not yet been granted. Can they apply for a grant?

At the time of application, acceptance and for the duration of a grant, a Fellowship applicant must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident of Australia. Project Grant and Travel Grant applicants must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, permanent resident of Australia or hold an appropriate work visa. As the university will need to sign off on this, you will need to provide them with the appropriate immigration documentation, as they are responsible for certifying and ensuring that the requirements are met.

Research proposal

Is ethics approval required at the date of the application?

Ethics approval is not required on the date of application but if the application is successful, ethics approval will be required before any funds will be released. If ethics approval is confirmed at the time of applying, please upload the approval letter from the HREC as part of the online form.

Can pilot studies be a subject of research within the Dementia Grants Program?

Yes, we accept and encourage applicants to submit pilot studies.

Can data from overseas studies be used in the research?

Researchers may use data or samples from overseas studies but the analyses must be undertaken in Australia.

For my Post-doctoral Fellowship application, do I need to have a secondment, either in Australia or overseas, approved at the time of application?

If you have already made arrangements to visit another institution during the Fellowship, please provide the details in the Career Progression statement. However, secondment opportunities can be worked out after the Fellowship commences. Please outline in your proposal details about the type of secondment that you might be seeking.

I wish to involve people with lived experience in my project but I'm not sure what to do. Who do I contact for assistance?

If you would like to request the assistance of Dementia Australia in finding a person living with dementia or carer to be involved in your project (beyond that of a participant), please complete the request form located on the Dementia Australia [website](#) or contact advocates@dementia.org.au for further information.

I have made an error in my submitted application. Can I amend it?

Unfortunately, we are unable to re-open the application once submitted. However, the DARF team can discard a submitted application and a new submission can then be made, providing the request is received prior to the closing date of the grant round. Please contact our team at foundation@dementia.org.au to discuss further.

Do we retain intellectual property (IP) relating to the grant upon submission of the proposal and awarding of funds?

Yes, nothing in the agreement will affect background IP and any IP resulting from the project will remain with the host institution. The Dementia Australia Research Foundation will enter into an agreement with the successful applicant's host institution.

Budget

Can meeting costs (e.g. travel costs, catering) be included in the budget? Can the budget also include future conference presentations and journal publications?

Yes, the costs associated with organising meetings with policy makers or advisory group members can be included in the budget, where they directly relate to a specific project activity. Apart from Travel Grants, conference travel cannot be included in the budget, however, costs associated with open access publications can be included. Project Grant and Fellowship applicants can also apply for a Travel Grant, which can be held jointly with another award.

Can the salary of the applicant (CI) be requested in the budget?

Project Grants can be used to cover the salary of lab and/or research assistants. If the applicant of a Project Grant is seeking a salary, it must be well justified in the budget and directly linked with achieving the research outcomes. Further, the applicant must not have another source of salary and it must not make up 100% of the budget as other project costs would need to be considered. Post-doctoral and Mid-Career Fellowships include a salary component. A Travel Grant cannot be used to cover the salary of the applicant.

Can I include a stipend request in the budget?

A PhD or Masters stipend for research personnel can be included in the budget, if they are not also the applicant (CI). The rationale should be well justified with a clear explanation of the elements of the project that will be undertaken by the student. The stipend request should be directly linked with achieving the research outcomes and the recipient should not already have a source of income to carry out this work.

De-identifying the application

How can I highlight the previous work of the team in the research proposal?

In instances where you would like to refer to members of the team where no publications are referenced, this can be done by referring the members as “CI” or “AI”. The CI and AIs own publications can be included as references if appropriate but should be referred to as “previous research” in the body of the proposal rather than “our research”. If your application progresses to the second stage of review, the identity of the named investigators will be known to the reviewer who will then re-read the proposal (including the reference list) in that context.

Do not bold or put an asterisk next to your name (or other named investigators) in a reference as this will identify the CI and/or AIs to the reviewer.

I am using a large, existing cohort in my study, can the cohort be identified by name in my proposal?

Yes, you can list the name/acronym of the cohort in your research proposal.

When de-identifying specific sections of the application and the proposal, can I still reference the affiliated institution?

The de-identified sections must be written in such a way that the chief and other named investigators cannot be identified. Reference to a university or institution can often identify the CI or AI so we would request that you do not mention your affiliation by name.

Does the budget have to be de-identified?

Yes, the entire proposal document must be de-identified. Please do not list the CI or AIs by name or refer to their affiliated institutions in the budget. For example, if you wish to include travel expenses for the CI as a line item in the budget, you would write “CI travel expenses”.

Investigators

Where in the application can I demonstrate the capabilities of the team?

The online application form has a section where the expertise and the role of each named investigator can be described. For the applicant (CI), a capability statement or similar can be included in the Academic Career Summary, which is uploaded.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For any enquiries, please email: foundation@dementia.org.au.