



# Dementia Australia Research Foundation®

## DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM

Project Grants

Post-doctoral Fellowships

Mid-Career Research Fellowships

Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipends

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

2026

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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 2026 Dementia Australia Research Foundation **Project Grant, Post-doctoral Fellowship, Mid-Career Research Fellowship and Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipend** 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 criteria.

- **Applications Open:** Monday 1 June 2026 (9.00am AEST)
- **Applications Close:** Monday 27 July 2026 (5.00pm AEST)

### LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

- **Successful Applicants Notified:** December 2026
- **Funding Commences:** From March 2027, 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 is the research arm of Dementia Australia. The Foundation provides funding to support new and emerging dementia researchers (based in Australia), 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](#).

The Foundation's grants program is strategically aligned with the [World Health Organization's Blueprint](#) for Dementia Research. We support relevant WHO research drivers and themes, including the empowerment and engagement of people with living experience of dementia, knowledge translation and exchange (relative to the size, duration and nature of the project), diversity and equity, sustainable funding, capacity building and the generation of high-quality, ethical research. Alignment is applied in a manner appropriate to the Foundation's role as a funder and to the scope, scale and career stage of the research we support. The Foundation expects all funded research to uphold human rights principles consistent with the WHO Blueprint, including autonomy, dignity, safety, accessibility and non-discriminatory inclusion. Applicants should consider these principles in study design and participant engagement.

Examples of the types of research projects funded in the past can be found on the Foundation's website [here](#). Proposals must focus on outcomes relevant to dementia. 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](mailto:research@dementia.org.au).**

## OVERVIEW – 2026 DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM

The total value of the 2026 Dementia Grants Program is over \$2.6 million. Table 1 provides an overview of the likely distribution of funding in 2026, although this may be subject to change. This document contains important information for applicants regarding Project Grants, Post-doctoral Fellowships, Mid-Career Research Fellowships and Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipends. Further details regarding our Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grants and the Research Translation Grant are available [here](#).

**Table 1. Overview of 2026 Dementia Grants Program**

Grant Type	Number Available (up to)	Funding (up to)	Details
<b>Project Grants</b>			
1. Dementia Australia Research Foundation Project Grant	1	\$85,000	Early-career researchers in any area of dementia research
2. Hazel Hawke Research Grant in Dementia Care	1	\$85,000	Early-career researchers in dementia care
<b>Post-doctoral Fellowships</b>			
3. Race Against Dementia - Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship	1	Salary \$122,000 p.a. <sup>1</sup> Project grant \$125,000 Up to 5 years	Early-career researchers, within the broad area of biomedical or clinical dementia prevention and treatment research
4. Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship	1	Salary \$122,000 p.a. <sup>1,3</sup> Project grant \$85,000 3 years	Early-career researchers in any area of dementia research
<b>Mid-Career Research Fellowships</b>			
5. Dementia Australia Research Foundation Mid-Career Research Fellowship	2	Salary \$162,500 p.a. <sup>2,3</sup> Project grant \$85,000 2 years	Mid-career researchers in any area of dementia research

Grant Type	Number Available (up to)	Funding (up to)	Details
<b>Post-graduate Stipends</b>			
6. Dementia Australia Research Foundation Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipend	2	\$30,000	Health professionals undertaking a PhD, in any area of dementia research
<b>Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grants <sup>4</sup></b>			
7. Dementia Australia Research Foundation Professional Development and Collaboration Grant	2	\$15,000	Researchers (PhD students to mid-career) in any area of dementia research
8. Dr Pratishtha Chatterjee Memorial Travel and Collaboration Grant	1	\$15,000	Researchers (PhD students to mid-career) in biomedical or clinical areas of research
<b>Research Translation Grant <sup>5</sup></b>			
9. Research Translation Grant	1	\$200,000	Researchers in any area of dementia research

<sup>1</sup> Salary costs \$122,000 in year 1; salary will be reviewed annually and indexation may be applied

<sup>2</sup> Salary costs \$162,500 in year 1; salary will be reviewed annually and indexation may be applied

<sup>3</sup> Dementia Australia Research Foundation Fellowships include up to \$15,000 for professional development, travel and collaboration.

<sup>4</sup> Refer to separate [Information for Applicants](#) booklet and application form.

<sup>5</sup> Refer to separate [Information for Applicants](#) booklet and application form. Funding may vary depending on the quality of applications received and proposed budgets i.e. within a total funding pool of \$200,000, more than one grant may be awarded.

## Named Awards

All successful applicants will be nominated for the following named awards.

### ***Dementia Advocates Award***

A small group of people with a living experience of dementia (Dementia Advocates, who are members of Dementia Australia's Dementia Advocates Program) 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.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to involve people with a living experience of dementia in their research. Further information on [ways to involve people living with dementia, their families and carers in research](#) and how Dementia Advocates [assess each grant application](#) is provided below.

### ***Professor Henry Brodaty Award***

Successful Project Grant or Fellowship applicants will 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, as decided by the Scientific Panel.

### ***The Royce Simmons Foundation Award***

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 early- and 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. Successful project grant or fellowship applicants in a biomedical or clinical area of dementia research will be eligible to receive The Royce Simmons Foundation named award, as decided by the Scientific Panel and The Royce Simmons Foundation.

### ***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***

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 2026, 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 and Bonnie Bartle Award in Dementia 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 2026, a Grant, Fellowship and/or Stipend that contributes to best practice approaches to dementia care will be awarded.

## Dementia Research Platform

Dementia Australia and Dementia Australia Research Foundation have partnered with The Sax Institute to develop the Dementia Research Platform, a new and nationally significant research tool that brings together 20 years of longitudinal survey data from the [45 and Up Study](#).

The Platform has been purpose-designed providing an opportunity to generate robust evidence on dementia risk factors and outcomes, to contribute directly to research that informs policy, advocacy and improved care for people affected by dementia.

By combining long-term cohort data with comprehensive administrative and age-care linkages, the Dementia Research Platform represents a nationally unique resource for dementia research and will be freely available to Dementia Australia Research Foundation – funded researchers from June 2026.

Using the Dementia Research Platform, applicants this year will be able to investigate questions such as (but not limited to):

- How do lifestyle, social, and health factors across adulthood influence dementia risk?
- How do comorbidities and medication use relate to dementia onset and progression?
- What are the patterns of healthcare and aged-care use before and after dementia diagnosis?
- How do dementia outcomes differ across population sub-groups and over time?

Applicants wishing to access the Dementia Research Platform as part of their proposal should contact us for further information.

## 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

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, epidemiological, 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.
- Testing potential new treatments for specific sub-types of dementia.
- 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 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/researchers, health professionals, policy makers and industry. 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 \$85,000 and may be used for a period of up to 2 years.

## Eligibility Criteria

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.
2. The CI must not have more than six years post-PhD experience at the time of applying, adjusted for career interruptions i.e. the CI was awarded a PhD or equivalent (DPhil or M.D. by research) on or after 27 July 2020. The thesis must be passed prior to the proposed commencement date of the project i.e. before March 2027.
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. 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

Up to two Post-doctoral Fellowships will be available. The highest-ranked application in an area that aligns with the objectives of Race Against Dementia will receive the prestigious Race Against Dementia - Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship.

If the proposals are near identical, Post-doctoral Fellowship applicants may choose to have their application considered for a Project Grant. As the time frame for these awards differ, details on the work that would be undertaken within a two-year Project Grant and a revised budget and timeline must be provided. Please note that the applicant will only be eligible to receive one award i.e. if both the Project Grant and Fellowship application are successful, the applicant will have the opportunity to choose which award they wish to accept.

### 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.
- Testing potential new treatments for specific sub-types of dementia.
- 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 \$122,000 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 an \$85,000 project grant, to cover research expenses.

Over the course of the Fellowship, successful applicants will have the opportunity to apply for further funding of up to \$15,000, to support professional development, travel and/or collaboration activities (see Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant Information for Applicants Booklet for examples of the types of activities that may be supported).

## **Race Against Dementia**

### **Purpose**

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

- 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 2026, Race Against Dementia together with the Dementia Australia Research Foundation will support one Post-doctoral Fellowship.

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.

Race Against Dementia 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. Race Against Dementia also hosts regular virtual meetings and an annual Summit and Forum, 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) or human/clinical 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 Race Against Dementia.

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 with a living or lived experience of dementia (i.e. people living with dementia, carers or former carers) 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 Race Against Dementia Post-doctoral Fellowship is up to 5 years in duration, with a review completed at three years to ensure satisfactory progress and continuation of funding. Applications should provide a 3-year proposal, with a brief outline of work to be undertaken in years 4 and 5 (this work may also be discussed at interview). Successful applicants will be required, at the end of the 3-year review, to submit a detailed 2-year proposal extension.

The award includes a salary component of \$122,000 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 5-year Fellowship also includes a \$125,000 project grant (\$85,000 in the first three years plus \$40,000 after a satisfactory 3-year review), to cover research expenses and costs associated with secondments. Race Against Dementia will cover additional costs relating to the development opportunities provided to successful applicants.

Race Against Dementia Fellowship applications will also be assessed as part of the 3-year Dementia Australia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship scheme.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for any **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. 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 i.e. the CI was awarded a PhD or equivalent (DPhil or M.D. by research) on or after 27 July 2020. The thesis must be passed prior to the proposed commencement date of the project i.e. before March 2027.
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

Up to two Mid-Career Research Fellowships will be available.

### Purpose

The Mid-Career Research Fellowship scheme aims to support researchers, who have completed their PhD within the last 10 years (accounting for career interruptions), to continue their progress towards being internationally recognised leaders in the dementia field. It also provides an opportunity for mid-career researchers to establish their own independent 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.
- Testing potential new treatments for specific sub-types of dementia.
- 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 mentor 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 mentor does not hold tenure, the application must include a an AI who has a contract for the duration of the project who could provide mentorship if required. The mentor 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 mentorship 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 2 years in duration and includes a salary component of \$162,500 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 an \$85,000 project grant, to cover research expenses.

Over the course of the Fellowship, successful applicants will have the opportunity to apply for further funding of up to \$15,000, to support professional development travel and/or collaboration activities (see Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant Information for Applicants Booklet for examples of the types of activities that may be supported).

## Eligibility Criteria

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. 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 i.e. the CI was awarded a PhD or equivalent (DPhil or M.D. by research) on or after 27 July 2016.
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 mentor, 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.

## CLINICAL PRACTICE POST-GRADUATE STIPEND

### Purpose

The purpose of the Dementia Australia Research Foundation Clinical Post-graduate Scholarship scheme is to build capacity in the dementia field by supporting a health professional to undertake a PhD and embark on a career in dementia research. It is expected that the award recipient will continue to make research an integral part of their professional career and produce outputs that will improve their competitiveness for further grant and scholarship funding in the field.

### Topic and Scope

The Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipend is open to Australian-based health professionals currently or proposing to undertake a part-time or full-time PhD in any form 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.
- Testing potential new treatments for specific sub-types of dementia.
- 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 applicant and their research program and contribute actively to the training of the applicant.

Further, the applicant must have a clinical background 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 Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipend is worth \$30,000 and may be used over 1 to 2 years. The funds may be used to cover (or backfill) the applicant's salary and/or associated research activities and can be taken in conjunction with another scholarship.

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a **Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipend**:

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. Applicants who hold a temporary work visa are not eligible to apply.
2. The CI must be a health professional (e.g., medicine, nursing, pharmacy, occupational therapy, dentistry, physiotherapy) prior to the commencement of the award.
3. The applicant must be enrolled in a research PhD (part-time or full-time) at an Australian university or show that they have made arrangements to undertake a PhD in research at an Australian university, alongside their clinical work.
4. The applicant must have endorsement from of a qualified supervisor and the support of an Australian university to carry out the proposed project.
5. The research must be conducted primarily in Australia and address the topic and scope of the funding round.
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.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### Involving people with a living or lived experience of dementia in research

Consistent with the World Health Organization's Blueprint for Dementia Research, meaningful and proportionate involvement of people with living or lived experience across the research lifecycle is highly recommended.

For all applications, the CI must demonstrate that:

1. People with a living or lived experience of dementia (i.e. people living with dementia, their carers and families (including former carers) or the wider public (if applicable) will be engaged meaningfully throughout the development and conduct of the program of research relevant to this application (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; b) the relevant parts of the proposal are understood by a non-academic audience; and c) aspects of the study design are feasible and relevant (if applicable).
  - b. Inclusion as a co-investigator on the research proposal.
  - c. Invitation to co-present the research project and/or outcomes of the research at conferences and other events.
  - d. Membership of a Steering Committee or Advisory Group to provide guidance on all or some aspects of the project as it progresses or as a 'research buddy' for the researcher.
  - e. Providing comment on and/or developing participant information documents or other research materials.
  - f. Involvement in the interpretation and dissemination of research outcomes and the development of plain language project summaries.

Please note people with a living or lived experience of dementia 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 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 a living or lived experience of dementia 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, carer or former carer to be involved in your project (Dementia Advocate), please contact Dementia Australia by completing the request form located on the [website](#) before **Monday 6 July 2026** or contact [advocates@dementia.org.au](mailto:advocates@dementia.org.au) for further information. Costs associated with involving people with a living or lived experience of dementia in the research should be included in the project budget.

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation has launched an online course (**Stronger Research, Together**), that provides researchers with guidance and resources on involving people with a living or lived experience of dementia in their research in a meaningful way. To register and complete the training, click [here](#).

Guides and resources:

- [Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research](#) – National Health and Medical Research Institute (NHMRC)
- [Involving people impacted by dementia in research: a guide for researchers](#) – Dementia Centre for Research Collaboration (DCRC)
- [Becoming Involved in Research: A guide for People Living with Dementia, their Care Partners and Family Members](#) – National Institute for Dementia Research (NNIDR)
- Guidelines and training resources developed as part of [Lived Experience Project - Dementia Centre for Research Collaboration \(DCRC\)](#)

2. Appropriate language and terminology are used throughout the application. This refers to both dementia-friendly language and the use of plain English where required. 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](#).

## Inclusion and diversity

We are committed to supporting diversity and inclusion in dementia research, consistent with the World Health Organization's Blueprint for Dementia Research. Applicants are encouraged to consider diversity within their research teams, including career stage, gender, cultural background and geographic representation, where relevant and feasible. The Foundation monitors diversity across applicants, funded researchers and research topics to ensure its programs support inclusive participation and research relevance.

## Career interruptions

Track record (research training, publications, supervision, awards and other relevant experience) will be assessed relative to opportunity. Circumstances leading to career interruption that will be considered by the Scientific Panel when assessing an applicant's track record include clinical or teaching workloads, working outside of research, personal circumstances (including illness, caring commitments or international relocation) and unemployment.

When determining an applicant's eligibility for an award (i.e. number of years post-PhD experience), the Foundation will consider the following career disruptions: an episode of extended illness, parental leave, caring commitments and time dedicated to clinical work as a health professional. 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, will not be considered as a career disruption. Please contact the Foundation if further guidance or clarification is required.

Career circumstances and disruptions should be documented in the relative to opportunity section of the application form.

## Eligibility for multiple awards

Where they are listed as the CI, applicants:

- May only submit one application as CI within each funding scheme.
- Are not permitted to submit an application to both the Post-doctoral and the Mid-Career Fellowship schemes.
- Can submit separate applications for both a Fellowship and a Project Grant in different areas of research. If the proposals are near identical, Post-doctoral Fellowship applicants may choose to have their application considered for a Project Grant. In both instances, the applicant will only be eligible to receive one award i.e. if both the Project Grant and the Fellowship application are successful, the applicant will have the opportunity to choose which award they wish to accept.
- May hold a Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant jointly with a Project Grant or Clinical Practice Stipend (funding for professional development and/or travel is included within a Fellowship)

If a researcher has submitted an application as the lead CI and also appears as an Associate Investigator (AI) on another application or a co-investigator (AI or CI) on a Research Translation Grant 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. The Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipend can be undertaken in conjunction with another scholarship.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please note that as our Scientific Panel undertakes a **blind review of Project Grant, Fellowship and Stipend 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:

- Abstract
- Knowledge Translation
- Plain Language Summary
- Implications of your Research
- Involving People with a Living or Lived Experience of Dementia
- Research Proposal.

For tips and guidelines for writing your application in a de-identified way, please review [Frequently Asked Questions](#) the before completing these sections of the application.

### Online application form

Applications must be submitted via the Dementia Australia Research Foundation grants management portal [here](#).

The portal will close at the advertised closing date and time, after which applicants will not be able to upload, modify or submit any part of their application.

If there are any technical errors when completing or submitting your online application, please contact [foundation@dementia.org.au](mailto:foundation@dementia.org.au).

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

The online application form includes the following sections:

#### Eligibility check

Confirm eligibility to apply for the specific award. Evidence of Australian or New Zealand citizenship, permanent residency or appropriate work visa is required for the applicant. 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.

#### Chief Investigator

Provide applicant details, including confirmation of residency status. The Foundation will also collect information on diversity and inclusion – providing this information is optional and will not be used in assessing the application. It will be used only in aggregated form to help us understand who is applying for our grants and how we can improve access and support.

### **Relative to opportunity**

If applicable, detail career circumstances that the Scientific Panel should take into account when assessing track record. Also provide details of career disruptions that the Foundation should consider when assessing eligibility (number of years post-PhD experience). Refer to the [career interruptions](#) section for allowable career circumstances and disruptions.

### **Academic qualifications**

An official record of PhD or equivalent higher degree is required for the applicant. If you have not yet completed your PhD, upload evidence of enrolment or confirmation of candidacy.

The applicant should also provide an Academic Career Summary (maximum 2 pages). This summary should include current role, 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, relevant work experience 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.

### **Associate Investigators**

Provide details of the research team, including supervisors where applicable. Include a brief outline of their role and any knowledge or experience relevant to that role. You can provide up to three Associate Investigators/supervisors, however, a fourth Associate Investigator is allowable only if they are a person with a living or lived experience of dementia.

### **Institution details**

Provide contact details of the host institution where you are employed or affiliated and where the research will be undertaken (university, research institute or organisation). Note that the host (or administering) institution must be an eligible university or research institute approved by [NHMRC](#).

### **Research Proposal**

This section of the application asks applicants to provide basic information such as proposal title, key words, broad area of study and state in which the research will be undertaken. It also includes the following sections:

#### *Abstract (250 word limit)*

The abstract should focus on the research proposal – background information should be kept to a minimum and dementia prevalence data is not required.

#### *Knowledge translation (250 word limit)*

This section should describe how research findings 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. Translation pathways will differ depending on the nature of the research and may include implementation into practice, policy influence, workforce capability, industry collaboration, commercialisation, further translational research, or other impact pathways. Applicants should consider the steps required to progress the work toward sustainable practice and impact as well as the expertise required to strengthen translation opportunities. Knowledge Translation resources and training modules are available on the [DCRC website](#).

*Plain language summary, rationale, implications and living or lived experience involvement*

The following sections of the online form will be reviewed and assessed by people with a living or lived experience of dementia as well as being available to the Scientific Panel in their assessment. 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) and appropriate language has been used.

- Plain language summary, including reference to topics such as how your project looks to fill gaps in current knowledge, aims, method and intended impact of the research (250 word limit). The summary should also focus on the research proposal – background information should be kept to a minimum and dementia prevalence data is not required. 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](#).
- The rationale for the project, including why the research is needed and the gap in knowledge that will be addressed from this research (250 word limit).
- Implications of the research, such as the expected benefits to arise from the research, the outcomes, significance, innovation and/or intended impact of the research (250 word limit). This section 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:
  - Have been involved in the application and/or research to date (250 word limit).
  - Will be involved in the research project, if funded (250 word limit).
  - Will be supported, for example, financial reimbursements included in the budget, flexible time frames etc. (150 word limit).

Please review the [additional information](#) before completing this section of the application.

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.

### *Research Proposal*

The main body of the research proposal should not exceed 5 pages (this does not include the budget and timeline and references), using Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri font (minimum size 11) and margins not less than 1.5 cm. The budget and timeline should be on page 6 (up to 1 page only) with references starting on page 7 (up to 20 key references). Any additional pages, or any explanatory appendices, will not be assessed. Upload the research proposal as a PDF.

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. The name/acronym of existing cohorts or datasets can be identified in 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. **Proposal 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 (including any strategies you will use to reach or include under-represented groups); participant inclusion/exclusion criteria; study design; intervention; outcome measures; data sets; statistical analysis plan and rationale; safety and risk considerations; drug regimens; and special equipment or measures.
- e. **Budget including justification and timeline (up to 1 page):** Provide a high-level budget (up to advertised award amount excluding GST) and project timeline, noting the amount of funding available from the Foundation and timeframe. The budget must include sufficient information for the Foundation to properly assess the feasibility of the project and all budget items should be clearly justified. 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 should include a 3-year budget and are permitted to include the costs associated with a secondment to another institution (in Australia or overseas), such as visa, and travel expenses.

University standard equipment costs (such as computer hardware), infrastructure costs or levies should not be included in the budget and will not be covered by the 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 Research Block Grants scheme is available [here](#).

For applicants including access to the Dementia Research Platform as part of their proposal, access is free of charge and does not need to be included in the budget.

- f. **Key references:** Please include a list of up to 20 key references cited in the proposal (starting on page 7).

#### *Optional Project Grant submission (for Post-doctoral Fellowship applicants)*

If the proposals are near identical, Post-doctoral Fellowship applicants may choose to have their application considered for a Project Grant. As the time frame for these awards differ, details on the work that would be undertaken within a two-year Project Grant and a revised budget and timeline must be provided (1 page limit uploaded as a PDF). Please note that the applicant will only be eligible to receive one award i.e. if both the Project Grant and the Fellowship application are successful, the applicant will have the opportunity to choose which award they wish to accept.

#### *Career progression statement (300 limit) (for Project Grants, Fellowships and Clinical Stipends)*

The applicant should provide a career progression statement describing (as appropriate): how the applicant’s current work fits within the team; the support or mentoring the applicant will receive; details of any planned secondments to other institutions (if applicable); new collaborations and linkages that may be established with other research teams; and how the grant, fellowship or stipend will enable the applicant to develop their career as a researcher or enhance their clinical practice. All investigators, institutions, collaborators and studies can be identified in the statement.

#### **Ethics Approval**

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

## **Endorsement – CI, AI(s) and Institution**

The application must be endorsed by:

- Each investigator named in the application (i.e. CI and all supervisors/AIs listed), confirming that the information provided in the application, including their contribution, is correct.
- The Head of Administering Institution (or nominee, normally the Research Office) in which the research will take place to certify that your application satisfies the requirements of the institution and that the institution has established administrative procedures for assuring sound scientific practice in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research. The institution must also confirm that the C I meets all eligibility criteria, including residency status.

Endorsement will be required through the online application portal. Once all sections of the application are completed (and before submission), the applicant will provide the Institution and AI(s) details on the endorsement tabs and click 'request endorsement'. An automated email will be sent to the endorser with a link to the portal (note that the endorser does not need to register with Good Grants but, if they already have an account with Good Grants or Award Force, they will be required to login). The relevant sections will be visible to the endorser.

Please ensure that sufficient time is available between completing your application and requesting endorsement. The application can be submitted before all endorsements are received but the application and all endorsements must be received prior to the closing date/time. Once the application is endorsed, by the Institution or AI(s), the applicant will receive an automated email confirming the endorsement has taken place.

### **Suggested Assessors**

Applications will be assessed by the Scientific Panel. However, expert external reviewers may be approached for selected comment and/or rating against the assessment criteria if required. Provide the names and details of up to three potential external reviewers, based in Australia, who would not have a direct conflict of interest and would have the expertise to review your application. The application may or may not be forwarded to these assessors.

### **Finalising your application**

Use the checklist included in the online form to ensure that your application is complete and ready for submission.

## 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.

Shortlisted applicants that include the Dementia Research Platform as part of their proposal may be required to provide additional information that will be assessed by The Sax Institute, to ensure that their proposal is feasible.

#### 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 2026, 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 Race Against Dementia. 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 Race Against Dementia.

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

## **Notification of successful and unsuccessful applications**

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email during December 2026; 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. Any changes to contact details after submission are to be reported to the Foundation.

The Dementia Grants Program is well-regarded in the dementia research space and as such, can be highly competitive. Success rates for each funding scheme are available [here](#). Please note that although the Foundation aims to fund an equal number of discovery (lab-based) and human studies projects, the success rates in each of these fields will vary depending on the number of applications received each year.

## **Announcement of awards**

An official announcement of the 2026 award winners will be made on the Dementia Australia Research Foundation website in early 2027. 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. Successful applicants 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. Dementia Australia and the Foundation will, where possible, promote successful applicants and their research.

# ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

## Academic Assessment

The following assessment criteria will be used for rating applications:

### 1. **Scientific merit and quality (Project Grants - 40% weight, Fellowships and Stipends - 30% 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 and the strength of the team to support the project will also be considered.

### 2. **Track record and independence of the applicant (Project Grants - 30% weight, Fellowships and Stipends - 40% 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, collaborations 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 and relevance to the field of dementia. 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 dementia 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).

### **Dementia Advocate Assessment**

For shortlisted applications, Dementia Advocates will be given relevant sections of the application on which to assess the following criteria:

#### **1. Clarity of plain language summary (20% weight)**

This criterion assesses the clarity of the plain language summary by evaluating whether it is well-written and can be understood by someone without scientific a scientific background or knowledge.

#### **2. Rationale (20% weight)**

This criterion assesses the rationale for the research, which identifies a gap in the knowledge being addressed.

#### **3. Benefit (20% weight)**

This criterion assesses whether the research will be of benefit to the lives of people with a living or lived experience of dementia and/or the community (as appropriate to the topic and scope of the project).

#### **4. Involvement of people with a living or lived experience of dementia to date (20% weight)**

This criterion assesses how individuals with a living or lived experience of dementia and/or the community (as appropriate to the topic and scope of the project) have been involved in the application and/or research to date.

#### **5. Planned involvement of people with a living or lived experience of dementia (20% weight)**

This criterion assesses how individuals with a living or lived experience of dementia and/or the community (as appropriate to the topic and scope of the project) will be involved in the research project if funded.

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 relevant paragraphs in 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 applications will be automatically assessed for eligibility for specific awards and only one application needs to be submitted within each scheme.

**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 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 the Dementia Australia Research Foundation unless, if successful, you plan to relinquish your existing fellowship. If you already hold a Dementia Australia Research Foundation-funded fellowship, you can apply to other organisations to top-up your salary, if the funding body permits.

### **What circumstances would the Foundation 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 the Dementia Australia Research Foundation.

### **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 the eligibility criteria sections for each grant type):

- 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.
- Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grants – completion of at least one year full-time equivalent of PhD or up to 10 years post-PhD experience.
- Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipend – enrolled in a PhD before the commencement date of the project (i.e. before March 2027).

### **Do I need to have submitted my PhD thesis prior to applying for a 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 2027). Health professionals who are enrolled in a PhD are eligible to receive a Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipend.

### **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 endorsing the application.

### **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, Fellowship or Stipend applicants must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident of Australia. Project Grant applicants must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, permanent resident of Australia or hold an appropriate work visa for the duration of the award. 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 living or lived experience of dementia 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](mailto:advocates@dementia.org.au) for further information.

### **My project relates to a specific diverse group. Do I need to have representation on the project team?**

If your project is focusing on people from a specific background (such as CALD or First Nations), we would expect to see engagement either on the study team, through a steering or advisory group and/or consultation. Consumer engagement from that specific background will strengthen your application.

### **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.

### **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 on behalf of the applicant.

### **Does the Foundation have a policy on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in writing research proposals or applications?**

Whilst the Foundation does not have a specific policy on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence, please refer to the NHMRC policy available [here](#).

### **If successful, am I able to delay my commencement date or apply for an extended period of leave?**

Requests to delay the commencement date or for an extended period of leave during the project (e.g. parental leave, carers leave or leave due to health reasons) will not be reasonably refused by the Foundation. Grant payments may be paused or delayed during the period of leave. An Agreement Variation with a revised schedule of milestones and payments will be implemented.

## **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?**

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 Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grants, conference travel cannot be included in the budget, however, costs associated with open access publications can be included.

Project Grant and Clinical Practice Post-graduate Stipend applicants can also apply for a Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant, which can be held jointly with another award. Successful Fellowship applicants will have the opportunity to apply for further funding of up to \$15,000, to support professional development travel and/or collaboration activities.

### **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.

### **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, institution or associated company 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”.

## Submitting the application

### **Do other investigators or the administering institution need to create a Good Grants account to endorse an application?**

No, endorsers do not need to create an account to endorse an application. However, if they already have a Good Grants/Award Force account, login is required.

### **Can the institution’s research office login to Good Grants to view applications?**

The portal does not allow for the Research Office to login and view applications related to your institution. However, at any time, the applicant can generate a pdf of their draft application.

### **Can I make changes to the application after requesting endorsement, and awaiting approval?**

Changes can still be made after the endorsements are requested. However, if you make any substantial changes to the application/proposal you should re-endorse the application or communicate these changes clearly to your AIs and institution. Your AIs/institution are endorsing the application you submit to us.

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

If you have submitted your application but need to make changes, please contact the Foundation team at [foundation@dementia.org.au](mailto:foundation@dementia.org.au). We can reopen your application providing that the request is received prior to the closing date/time of the grant round. Resubmission must take place before the round closes. Note that if the application is reverted to 'in progress', you will need to re-confirm your eligibility before the application is edited.

## **Finalising the application**

### **How do I check that I have completed all application requirements?**

Please ensure that you have:

- Read the Information for Applicant's booklet, particularly sections relating to eligibility.
- Outlined how people with a living or lived experience of dementia have been involved in your application and will be involved in your research.
- Included all the relevant sections within your Research Proposal, including a budget.
- Checked that the relevant sections of your application, and the Research Proposal, have been de-identified so as to not identify any investigators or their affiliations by name.
- Prepared the Research Proposal within the allowable specifications and page limit.
- Used the correct naming convention for all uploaded documents.
- Completed all mandatory fields in the online application form, including uploading required documentation.
- Checked that your Associate Investigators and Institution have endorsed your application by the specified deadline.
- Submitted your application by the specified deadline.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For any enquiries, please email: [foundation@dementia.org.au](mailto:foundation@dementia.org.au).