



Dementia Australia  
**Research Foundation**<sup>®</sup>

## **DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM**

Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grants

### **INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

**2026**

## CONTENTS

BEFORE YOU BEGIN .....	2
INTRODUCTION .....	2
OVERVIEW – 2026 DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM.....	3
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAVEL AND COLLABORATION GRANTS.....	5
Purpose.....	5
Topic and Scope .....	5
Award Funding .....	6
Inaugural Dr Pratishtha Chatterjee Memorial Travel and Collaboration Grant.....	6
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA .....	7
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS .....	8
Involving people with a living experience of dementia in research .....	8
Inclusion and diversity .....	9
Career interruptions.....	9
Eligibility for multiple awards.....	10
Resubmission of previous applications .....	10
Notification of additional funding .....	10
APPLICATION PROCEDURE.....	10
Online application form.....	10
ASSESSMENT PROCESS .....	15
Review .....	15
Notification of successful and unsuccessful applicants .....	16
Announcement of awards.....	16
Feedback to unsuccessful applicants .....	16
Acknowledgement of support .....	16
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA.....	17
Academic Assessment .....	17
Dementia Advocate Assessment .....	17
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS .....	18
Eligibility .....	18
Proposal .....	19
Budget.....	20
Investigators.....	21
Finalising the application .....	22
FURTHER INFORMATION .....	22

## 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 **Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant** scheme.

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

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

**If you would like to discuss your project with Dementia Australia, please contact us at [research@dementia.org.au](mailto:research@dementia.org.au).**

## OVERVIEW – 2026 DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM

The total value of the 2026 Dementia Grants Program \$2.6m. 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 Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grants. Further details regarding Fellowships, Stipends, Project 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> <sup>4</sup>			
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> <sup>4</sup>			
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> <sup>4</sup>			
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> <sup>4</sup>			
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</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</b>			
9. Research Translation Grant <sup>5</sup>	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.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAVEL AND COLLABORATION GRANTS

## Purpose

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant is designed to support Australian dementia researchers' professional development and/or build networks and collaborations with well-known research teams.

The scheme aims to strengthen research skills, expand professional networks, build collaborations to support joint working (for example, with other researchers, people with a living or lived experience of dementia and industry), and promote the dissemination of research findings. This can take place through attending scientific conferences or events, meetings, internships or work experience, either nationally or internationally. The proposed activities must benefit dementia research.

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

## Topic and Scope

Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grants are open to Australian-based dementia researchers undertaking projects across all forms of dementia and in any topic area; biomedical (lab-based), clinical, psychosocial, or knowledge translation research projects will be considered.

Examples of eligible activities for which a Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant can be used include, but are not limited to:

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

One or more activities should be included in a single application. The Foundation notes that with current world events, international travel may be difficult. Therefore, researchers who plan to travel as part of their professional development and/or collaboration activities will have the flexibility to adjust their travel plans to mitigate risk (e.g. undertake domestic travel only).

## Award Funding

The grant is valued up to \$15,000. The activity period can be up to six months and the applicant must undertake to return to a position in Australia after completion of the award and any associated travel. Funding can be used for conference or workshop registration fees, travel, reasonable accommodation expenses and involvement of people with a living experience of dementia. Activities can be undertaken during 2027 or by arrangement.

Where applicable, the applicant must provide the following before grant payments commence:

- Evidence of an accepted conference presentation abstract, either virtual or in-person.
- Letter of support from the institution or department, agreeing to host the applicant's visit (must be provided at the time of application).
- Evidence of ethics approval, for research that may be undertaken as part of the proposed travel.
- Evidence of PhD confirmation or conferral.

## Inaugural Dr Pratishtha Chatterjee Memorial Travel and Collaboration Grant

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation, in collaboration with Pratishtha's foundation (currently in formation), will award one additional Grant in honour of the late Dr Pratishtha Chatterjee.

Dr Chatterjee was an exceptional dementia researcher and an extraordinary human being whose work significantly advanced the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease through blood-based biomarkers. Her research aimed to replace invasive diagnostic procedures with simple blood tests capable of identifying different forms of dementia and tracking disease progression. She held The Royce Simmons Foundation Mid-Career Research Fellowship at the Centre of Research Excellence in Enhanced Dementia Diagnosis at The Florey and had been awarded an NHMRC Emerging Leader Fellowship due to commence in 2026, an achievement she was deeply proud of and eager to pursue.

There is a painful irony in her story. While living with the challenges of a cerebral AVM, she dedicated her intellect and compassion to improving the diagnosis and understanding of another devastating brain disease, Alzheimer's disease. Her resilience, curiosity and empathy inspired everyone who knew her.

As a former recipient of a Travel Grant and a Dementia Australia Foundation Mid-Career Research Fellowship, Dr Chatterjee made an outstanding contribution to the field and generously shared her expertise with the Foundation's Scientific Panel. Her dedication to improving the lives of people impacted by dementia was recognised through the Dementia Advocates Award, selected by people with living experience of dementia.

Dr Chatterjee was also deeply committed to supporting the next generation of researchers, particularly early-career scientists, women and those from diverse backgrounds. She looked forward to visiting research groups to learn new skills and techniques that would advance her work, and to attending conferences where she could broaden her network and exchange ideas. Like many scientists at a similar career stage, she often found it challenging to fund these opportunities without dedicated travel support.

This Grant reflects her belief in collaboration, skill building and community. It aims to support an individual who can use the opportunity to extend their research, generate meaningful impact and gain invaluable experience.

The Dr Pratishtha Chatterjee Memorial Travel and Collaboration Grant will be awarded to an applicant undertaking dementia research in a biomedical or clinical field, with a particular focus on improving the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through blood-based biomarkers. Applications from female researchers and researchers from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To be eligible for a **Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant**:

1. At the time of application, acceptance and for the duration of the grant, the applicant (Chief Investigator (CI) must be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen living in Australia, a permanent resident of Australia, or have an appropriate work visa in place. All applicants must provide evidence to their host institution to support this criterion. Host institutions are responsible for certifying and ensuring that these requirements are met. The Dementia Australia Research Foundation may request further information in relation to these requirements.
2. The CI must have completed at least one-year full-time equivalent of their PhD (with confirmation passed) and not more than 10 years post-PhD experience at the time of applying, adjusted for career interruptions (i.e. the CI was awarded a PhD or equivalent (DPhil or M.D. by research) on or after 29 July 2016). If applicable, evidence of the applicant's PhD confirmation must be provided by March 2027.
3. Research that is to be presented publicly must be approved by an authorised ethics committee, if applicable.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### Involving people with a living 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 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 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 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.
- May hold a Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant jointly with a Project Grant or Clinical Practice Stipend. Successful Fellowship recipients will receive funding for professional development as part of their award.

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 activities that have been included as part of their Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant application. If successful, applicants who currently hold an award funded by another organisation must relinquish this award prior to accepting a Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant funded by the Dementia Australia Research Foundation.

# APPLICATION PROCEDURE

## 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 or modify 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.

Unlike other awards, applicants are not required to submit a de-identified Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant application.

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](#).

## 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:

*Plain language summary, benefits to professional development, 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. Summarise the proposed activities (such as workshop attendance, conference presentation, networking, collaborations, hosted visits to other institutions). Include reference to topics such as gaps in current knowledge and how the activities looks to fill those, aims and intended impact of the proposed activities (250 word limit). 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](#).
- Benefits to professional development. Describe how the proposed activities will further the applicant's knowledge, skills and/or professional development (250 word limit).
- Implications for your research. Outline how the proposed activities are linked to current research, including the benefits/significance and the role of the proposed activities in achieving research aim(s) and/or disseminating the research outcomes (250 word limit).
- How people living with dementia, their carers, families and/or the wider public:
  - Have been involved in the application and/or research related to the proposed activities to date (250 word limit).
  - Will be involved in professional development, travel and/or collaboration activities, where it is appropriate and feasible to do so (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 proposal in an advisory capacity, this must be discussed with the Foundation prior to submitting the application.

### *Proposal*

The main body of the proposal should not exceed 2 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 3 (up to 1 page only) with references starting on page 4 (up to 20 key references). Any additional pages, or any explanatory appendices, will not be assessed. Upload the proposal as a PDF.

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

- a. Proposal title**
- b. Aims and Significance:** List specific aims, objectives, potential significance and the expected outcomes of the proposed professional development, travel and/or collaboration activities.
- c. Background:** Summarise the program of research, including research aims, methods and work completed to date, which provides the basis for the proposed professional development, travel and/or collaboration activities.
- d. Proposal details:** Provide details of the activities that will be undertaken as part of the Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant, including dates and purpose of travel. For example, research teams or industry representatives that you expect to visit (including their expertise and commitment to hosting the visit), collaboration with people with a living or lived experience of dementia, conferences or workshops that will be attended and how these will enhance career development (including anticipated presentations – evidence of a submitted or accepted abstract is not required at the time of application) and any other planned activities. Outline how the proposed activities will promote networking, collaborations, data collection and/or communication or dissemination of research outcomes and benefit the applicant's professional development.
- e. Budget including justification and timeline (up to 1 page):** Provide a high-level budget (up to \$15,000 excluding GST) and 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 proposal and all budget items should be clearly justified. Identify any other confirmed funding for the proposed activities. Funds can only be applied to costs that are directly related to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the proposal (e.g. airfares, accommodation, living expenses while travelling, costs associated with conference registration). Costs associated with involving people with a living or lived experience of dementia in the research (e.g. co-presenting at a conference or workshop) may also be included in the project budget. The proposed travel should be no more than six months in duration.

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 Dementia Australia Research Foundation. As the Dementia Australia Research Foundation is considered Category 1 – Australian Competitive Grant Income, such costs should be covered by the Australian Government’s Research Block Grants scheme. Further information on the Research Block Grants scheme is available [here](#).

- f. **Key references:** Please include a list of up to 20 key references cited in the proposal (starting on page 4).

### **Ethics and Support**

If available and applicable, provide evidence of approval by an authorised Human Research Ethics Committee for any research that may be undertaken as part of the proposed activities. If not available at time of application, funding agreements (for successful applicants) will be conditional upon ethics approval.

Applicants who plan to visit another institution must provide written agreement (letter of support) from the relevant institution or department to host the applicant for the specified travel dates.

### **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 CI 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.

## 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. 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 Foundation.

#### 3. Final review and ranking by members of the Scientific Panel

Academic members of the Scientific Panel will review all eligible travel proposals (unless where a potential conflict of interest has been identified). Academic and Dementia Advocate members of the Scientific Panel will consider and rank all applications (reviewing the feedback from external reviewers if required).

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.

#### 4. 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.

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

#### Notification of successful and unsuccessful

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email during December 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. Grantees must also provide progress reports on the research and be prepared to assist the Dementia Australia Research Foundation and its funding partners, if required, by speaking at functions, attending specified conferences, hosting laboratory visits, or being featured in media articles/releases.

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

### Academic Assessment

The following assessment criteria will be used for rating applications:

#### 1. Benefits to furthering applicants' professional development (50% weight)

This criterion considers the potential benefit to the applicant's professional development as a result of the proposed activities (e.g. workshop attendance, submission of a conference abstract, conference presentation, conference networking, hosted visits to other institutions and building international relationships, collaborations with researchers, industry and people with living or lived experience of dementia). The applicant should clearly outline how travel will build connections with other teams and enhance individual learning in their field of dementia research. Where the applicant intends to visit another institution, consider whether the institution and team would be suitable given the research area and/or can provide suitable mentoring.

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

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

#### 3. Scientific merit and quality (20% weight)

This criterion considers the significance and value of the applicant's ongoing research that is the subject for their reason for travel and other proposed activities, along with the clarity of the research aim(s), hypotheses or research objectives, the suitability of the research methodology and research plan (if described and applicable to the application) and the role of the proposed travel in achieving the research aim(s) and/or disseminating the research outcomes. The general scientific relevance should be evident in the proposal. The proposed activities must also be feasible and realistic within the available timeframe and budget.

### 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 or a scientific background or knowledge.

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

This criterion assesses the rationale for the research related to the proposed activities (or the activity itself). The proposal outlines how the professional development, travel and collaboration activities will further the applicant's knowledge, skills and/or professional development and/or addresses an important gap in knowledge in the field.

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

This criterion assesses whether the research related to the proposed activities (or the activity itself) 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 proposal). The benefit of the proposed activities for progressing the program of research will be considered.

### **4. Involvement of people with a living or lived experience of dementia to date (30% 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 proposal) have been involved in the application and/or the research related to the proposed activities to date.

### **5. Planned involvement of people with a living or lived experience of dementia (10% 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 proposal) will be involved in professional development, travel and/or collaboration activities, where appropriate and feasible. For example, co-presenting with the applicant at a conference or workshop, visiting consumer groups and/or reporting on the outcomes of the travel to people with a living experience of dementia for their feedback.

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**

#### **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.

#### **Do I need to submit letters of support from hosting institutions (as part of the travel activities) with my application?**

Written agreement from the institution hosting a visit is required at the time of application. A letter of support can be uploaded as part of the online application.

### **Can an AI apply on multiple applications with different CIs?**

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?**

No, students who have completed at least one year full-time equivalent of their PhD are eligible to apply for a Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant.

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

The applicant is not required to upload proof of citizenship in the online portal – the research branch at your university or institution should sight this information to ensure that the requirements are met prior to 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, Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant applicants must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, permanent resident of Australia or hold an appropriate work visa. As the university will need to sign off on this, you will need to provide them with the appropriate immigration documentation, as they are responsible for certifying and ensuring that the requirements are met.

## **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 for any work that will be undertaken as part of the proposed activities before any funds will be released.

### **Can data from overseas studies be used in the research?**

Researchers may use data or samples from overseas studies if the analysis forms part of their professional development, travel or collaboration activities.

**I wish to involve people with living or lived experience of dementia in my research 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.

**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.

**If I am successful but cannot travel due to international events, can I make alternative plans?**

Dementia Australia Research Foundation will be flexible if international events prevent the proposed activities from being undertaken. A variation request can be submitted with alternative domestic travel and/or other proposed activities for consideration.

## Budget

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

Yes, the costs associated with organising meetings with researchers, policy makers, industry, people with a living or lived experience of dementia or advisory group members can be included in the budget, where they directly relate to a specific collaboration activity. For Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grants, conference travel can also be included in the budget.

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

A Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant cannot be used to cover the salary of the applicant.

## Investigators

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

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

## 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 experience of dementia have been involved in your application and will be involved in professional development, travel or collaboration activities (where appropriate). Included all the relevant sections within your Proposal, including a budget.
- Prepared the 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 application has been endorsed by all named Investigators and your Administering Institution through the online application portal.
- Submitted your application by the specified deadline.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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