



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

## **DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM**

Research Translation Grant

**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 **Research Translation 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 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](#). 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 the Dementia Australia Research Foundation Research Translation Grant. Further details regarding Project Grants, Fellowships, Stipends and Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grants 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
<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

Grant Type	Number Available (up to)	Funding (up to)	Details
<b>Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grants</b> <sup>4</sup>			
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> <sup>5</sup>			
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> 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.

# RESEARCH TRANSLATION GRANT

## Purpose

The Research Translation Grant aims to accelerate the real-world adoption of innovative and evidence-based strategies that aim to reduce the impact of dementia. The scheme aims to attract proposals from new and established groups, which may be multi-disciplinary and include members with expertise in knowledge translation or implementation science. By bringing expertise from outside (as well as within) the field of dementia, new approaches and collaborations may be identified that enable evidence to move more efficiently into sustainable practice and, ultimately, improve outcomes for people living with dementia, their families and carers.

## Topic and Scope

The Research Translation Grant is open to Australian-based dementia researchers undertaking knowledge translation or implementation science projects across all forms of dementia. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Strategies to reduce dementia risk and slow the progression of the disease.
- Techniques for providing accurate and timely diagnoses.
- Treatment and care options for people living with dementia, including support for families and carers as well as care practices.
- Improved models of care in the community, residential aged care and hospitals, such as clinical care practices or workforce skills and training.
- Strategies for increasing the awareness and understanding of rights, needs and experiences of people living with dementia, their carers and families.

Importantly, the project will move evidence along the pathway to practice, to improve outcomes for people living with dementia, their families and carers. This may include a pilot study of the real-world evaluation of interventions or strategies that have been the subject of significant pilot work, or the adaption of interventions or strategies developed internationally for the Australian context. Applications involving lab-based, pre-clinical work will not be considered.

## Project Team

The individuals applying for funds must have the research credentials and appropriate strength in their proposal and team. We encourage applications from multi-disciplinary teams including scientists, health professionals, public health researchers, implementation science experts, industry or commercialisation experts, policy makers, or community and residential aged care providers (application may include up to 10 Investigators in total). The team must consist of at least one early- and/or mid-career researcher, not more than 10 years post-PhD at the time of application.

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 Research Translation Grant is worth up to \$200,000 and may be used over 2 to 3 years. 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.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for a **Research Translation Grant**:

1. At the time of application, acceptance and for the duration of the grant, the applicant (Chief Investigator (CIA) 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 CIA 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 research team must include at least one early-and/or mid-career researcher with not more than 10 years post-PhD experience at the time of applying, adjusted for career interruptions i.e. PhD or equivalent (DPhil or M.D. by research) on or after 27 July 2016. The thesis must be passed prior to the proposed commencement date of the project i.e. before March 2027. Please identify early-and/or mid-career investigator(s) in the application (evidence to support this requirement may be requested).
3. The research must be conducted primarily in Australia and address the topic and scope of the funding round.
4. 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 CIA, applicants:

- May only submit one application as CIA within this funding scheme.
- If eligible, can only be awarded one grant or fellowship from this year's Dementia Grants Program.
- If eligible, may hold a Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant jointly with another award.

If a researcher has submitted an application as CIA and also appears as an Associate Investigator (AI) on another application, both may be awarded.

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

## Resubmission of previous applications

Applicants are welcome to resubmit previously unsuccessful Dementia Grants Program 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.

## 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 Research Translation Grant application.

The online application form includes required fields, such as:

### 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.

### **Other Chief and Associate Investigators**

Provide details of each member of the research team. Include a brief outline of their role and any knowledge or experience relevant to that role (250 word limit for each investigator). Each CI must provide an Academic Career Summary as outlined above; an Academic Career Summary is not required for people with a living or lived experience of dementia who are listed as a CI on the application.

Up to 10 investigators (including the CIA, other CIs and/or AIs) are permitted on the application form. At least one early-and/or mid-career researcher must form part of the team and be identified in the application. They should not be more than 10 years post-PhD at the time of application.

For the purposes of this funding round:

- CIs hold ultimate responsibility for the design, conduct and overall management of the project and are expected to remain active on the project as outlined in the application for the full duration of the grant.
- AIs are supporting team members who may provide some intellectual and/or practical input into the research at various points during the project.

### **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).
- 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 25 key references). Any additional pages, or any explanatory appendices, will not be assessed. Upload the research proposal as a PDF.

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

- a. Project Title**
- b. Aims:** List specific aims and potential significance of the project. Clearly state the research question and hypothesis to be tested, as well as the rationale and objectives of the project.
- c. Background:** Summarise previous work in this field which provides the basis for the proposed research project.
- d. Research methodology:** A clear description of methods and design, including the following, if applicable: participant recruitment strategy (including any strategies you will use to reach or include under-represented groups); participant inclusion/exclusion criteria; study design and implementation strategy; intervention; outcome measures; statistical analysis plan and rationale; safety and risk considerations including barriers or capability gaps that may affect translation or scalability; and special equipment or measures.
- e. Budget including justification and timeline (up to 1 page):** Provide a high-level budget (up to \$200,000 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).

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 25 key references cited in the proposal (starting on page 7).

## **Ethics and Support**

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.

Applicants must provide written agreement (Letter of Support) from partner organisations involved in the project (e.g. government departments, industry, not-for-profit organisations). The Letter of Support should include a brief description of the partner organisation, why it is important for them to be involved in the research, an outline of how they will contribute to the project (e.g. specific activities, cash and/or in-kind contributions) and a statement indicating that the organisation has the capability, infrastructure, and resources to successfully complete their portion of the project. The letter should be no more than 2 pages in length and must be on the partner organisation's official letterhead and signed by an authorised representative.

## **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.

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

### 3. External review (if required)

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

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

Academic and Dementia Advocate members of the Scientific Panel will consider and rank all remaining applications 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.

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. 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. Scientific merit and quality (40% weight)

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

#### 2. Track record and independence of the team (20% weight)

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

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

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

#### 4. Knowledge Translation (20% weight)

This criterion considers whether the applicant has articulated how their research findings will accelerate the real-world adoption of strategies that contribute to best practice approaches in dementia. In particular, how the 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 enable the evidence to move more efficiently into sustainable practice and ultimately improve outcomes for people living with dementia, their families and carers.

## 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 whether 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

#### **Does the CIA have to be an early- or mid-career researcher?**

No, for the Research Translation Grant only, the CIA can be a senior researcher if appropriate (i.e. up to the level of Professor). However, the team must consist of at least one early- and/or mid-career researcher, who must be identified in the application. Up to 10 investigators are allowable.

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

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

#### **Could a sessional academic apply for the Research Translation Grant as a CIA?**

Sessional Academics are eligible to apply as the CIA, 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 the Research Translation Grant?**

Yes, provided the applicant meets all other eligibility criteria, they are still eligible to apply as the lead investigator on the Research Translation 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.

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

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

No, for the Research Translation Grant only, the CIA can be a senior researcher and as such, there is no limit as to how much time has passed time since your PhD was completed. An early-and/or mid-career researcher should form part of the team and should not be more than 10 years post-PhD at the time of application.

#### **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 Research Translation Grant as CIA. 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).

**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 CIA 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, the applicant (CIA) must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent resident of Australia or hold an appropriate work visa. As the university will need to sign off on this, you will need to provide them with the appropriate immigration documentation, as they are responsible for certifying and ensuring that the requirements are met.

## Research proposal

**Is ethics approval required at the date of the application?**

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

**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?**

Yes, the costs associated with organising meetings with policy makers or advisory group members can be included in the budget, where they directly relate to a specific project activity. The costs associated with open access publications can also be included. Conference travel cannot typically be included in the budget; the rationale for including conference attendance as part of a Research Translation Grant must be well justified and directly linked with achieving the research outcomes. Applicants can also apply for a Professional Development, Travel and Collaboration Grant, which can be held jointly with another award.

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

The Research Translation Grant can be used to cover the salary of research assistants. If the applicant 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.

**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 (CIA). 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.

## 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 (CIA), a capability statement or similar can be included in the Academic Career Summary, which is uploaded. Academic Career Summaries should be provided for all CIs listed on the application with the exception of a person with a living experience of dementia.

### **Can I include payment for the involvement of a person with a living or lived experience of dementia if they are listed as a CI?**

Yes, reimbursements for the involvement of people with a living or lived experience of dementia are encouraged to cover out-of-pocket expenses, even if they are listed as a CI.

## 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 your research.
- Included all the relevant sections within your Research Proposal, including a budget.
- Prepared the Research Proposal within the allowable specifications and page limit.
- Used the correct naming convention for all uploaded documents.
- Included and identified early-and/or mid-career researcher(s) on your team.
- 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).