Gold Coast Health Collaborative Research Grant Scheme

Major Research Project Grant

2027 Application Guideline

Gold Coast Health always care

Queensland Government

Collaborative Research Grant Scheme - Major Research Project Grants 2027 Application Guideline

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An electronic version of this document is available at https://healthqld.smartygrants.com.au/

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Version history

Version	Date	Changed by	Description
V 1.0	23/06/2026		Launch Webinar
V 1.1	29/06/2026	Research Office – Research Development Manager (Grants & Education)	Added version number into footer Added version history table
V 1.2	08/07/2026	Research Office – Research Development Manager (Grants & Education)	Removed broken link to ARC Early Career Researcher (ECR) definition page 8. Inserted typed definition for academic partner ECR defined as “within 5 years of PhD award date”. Added clarity for academic partner ECRs without PhD.
V 1.3	09/07/2026	Research Office – Snr Research Coordinator	Removed broken link to Gold Coast Heath Strategic Plan (G28) on pages 5 and 12 and replaced with link to new Strategic Plan 2026-2030. Added Budget Template link to page 10.
V 1.4	18/07/2026	Research Office – Research Development Manager (Grants & Education)	Amended and added email addresses for support / Digital Health and Innovation.

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1. Introduction and Highlights

The **Collaborative Research Grant Scheme** is delivered by Gold Coast Health in collaboration with academic partners Griffith University, Southern Cross University and Bond University. With the support and commitment of our partner institutions, Gold Coast Health offers a grants program for both established and early career researchers including a **Major Research Project Grant** along with a program of **Capacity Building and Collaboration Building Grants.** The Grant Scheme is open to all Gold Coast Health staff across all disciplines.

Major Research Project Grant

The Major Research Project Grant (Major Grants) will provide up to $150,000 to support research projects for a duration up to two years. Major Grants are open to established Gold Coast Health researchers to lead a collaborative research grant with a co-lead Chief Investigator (CI) from an academic institution.

Major Research Project Grant	Value	Funding Period	Grants Offered
Gold Coast Health co-lead (CI) and a co-lead (CI) from **Griffith University Health Group**	$150,000	Up to 2 Years	1
Gold Coast Health co-lead and a co-lead CI from **a University or a Research Institute, based in Queensland**	$150,000	Up to 2 Years	1

Key Dates

Key Dates	Details
13 July 2026	Major Grants applications open
28 September 2026	Major Grants applications close
Week commencing 22 February 2027	Applicants notified of outcome
4 March 2027 – TBC	Announcement of successful applications at the Research, Innovation and Transformation Showcase

2. Program Objectives

2.1. About the Collaborative Research Grant Scheme

The **Collaborative Research Grant Scheme (Grant Scheme)** is a peer-reviewed and competitive grant program which provides funding to support both established and early career researchers within the health service to collaborate with academic partners to undertake research that transforms health. The Grant Scheme is open to all Gold Coast Health staff across all disciplines.

In alignment with the vision and purpose of the Gold Coast Health Research Roadmap 2025-2028, the Grant Scheme aims to advance and translate high-quality research to address our health priorities, leading to improved patient care.

The objectives of the Grant Scheme are to:

- develop a pipeline of innovative research
- support areas of existing strength towards national and international recognition
- develop emergent research fields and support early career researchers
- support meaningful collaborations between Gold Coast Health, our academic partners, external institutions, industry partners and community organisations
- conduct high-quality health research that leads to impact.

2.2. About the Major Research Project Grants

Up to two Major Research Project Grants (Major Grants) will be awarded and provide up to $150,000 to support research projects for a duration up to two years. The Major Grants are open to established researchers and early career researchers across all disciplines in Gold Coast Health.

The Major Grant provides up to two opportunities for Gold Coast Health researchers and clinicians to **co-lead** an application funded by Gold Coast Health, the Study, Education, and Research Trust Account (SERTA) and Griffith University (Health Group).

The research activity may be conducted across partner locations, but the application must clearly describe a genuine collaboration which strongly aligns to the Gold Coast Health Strategic Plan 2026-2030 and the 2025-2028 Research Roadmap with the potential to translate into benefits for patients, the health service and wider community, in line with Gold Coast Health's Values.

Gold Coast Health researchers and clinicians (at any career stage) can **co-lead** a research project as a co-lead Chief Investigator (CI) with an academic partner **co-lead CI**. Early Career Researchers (ECRs) applying for the Major Grants must include established researchers as Chief Investigators (CI's) on the project.

A Gold Coast Health ECR is defined as a researcher with **no more than a total of 10 publications published or in press at the close date of applications (any order of authorship**). Major Grants provides the below collaboration opportunities for Gold Coast Health researchers and clinicians.

3. Grant Funding and Support

3.1. Funding Categories

Up to two Major Grants will be awarded and provide up to $150,000 to support research projects for a duration up to two years.

Major Research Project Grant	Value	Funding Period	Grants Offered
Gold Coast Health co-lead (CI) and a co-lead (CI) from **Griffith University Health Group** **Gold Coast Health** co-lead (CI) must be an employee with a minimum 0.4 FTE for the full duration of the project. **Griffith University Health Group** co-lead (CI) must have a paid academic appointment of a minimum 0.4 FTE within the Griffith University Health Group for the full duration of the project. Applications are invited from all disciplines across the health group and from all disciplines at Gold Coast Health. *This grant is exclusively tied to Griffith University and co-funded by Griffith University and Gold Coast Health.*	Up to $150,000	Up to 2 Years	1
Gold Coast Health co-lead and a co-lead CI from **a university or a research institute, based in Queensland** **Gold Coast Health** co-lead CI must be an employee with a minimum 0.4 FTE for the full duration of the project. The project must include a co-lead CI from a **university or a research institute based in Queensland** with a paid appointment of a minimum 0.4 FTE for the full duration of the project. *This grant is funded by Gold Coast Health.*	Up to $150,000	Up to 2 Years	1

Anticipated outcomes:

Anticipated outcomes from this grant would include (but not be limited to):

- publication in a quartile one (Q1) journal
- development of an application for a nationally competitive grant
- long-term collaboration with the partner university
- translation to practice and/or other benefits to patients, the health service or wider community.

3.2. Support from Gold Coast Health Research Office

Preparation of Application

We would encourage all applicants to make use of the following additional supports and resources before commencing their application. Contact the Grants Administrator at GrantsGoldCoast@health.qld.gov.au for any specific advice.

Support with protocols, budget preparation, statistics, ethics and governance
The **Research Development Hub** is accessible to all Gold Coast Health staff and contains a variety of resources and support for researchers including webinars, information on involving consumers in research, the Advancing Researcher Alliance and Research Office drop-in clinics. Applicants can attend a Research Office drop-in clinic, which are held in the Gold Coast University Hospital Library, Level 1, E Block, Pathology and Education Building on a Tuesday morning at 7am (Book an appointment here: Gold Coast Health Research Office - Book an Appointment) or a Thursday afternoon 2:00pm – 4:00pm (walk in only session) for assistance with protocols, budget preparation, statistics, ethics and governance.

Applicants are encouraged to access **research career development resources** to identify their strengths and development opportunities in research, translation, and leadership. One research career development framework relevant to a health service research environment is the Queensland Health Allied Health Research Careers Development Framework. The Framework and accompanying Individual Assessment Tool helps clinicians assess capabilities across core domains and support career discussions with managers, research mentors and early career researchers.

Support with digital ideas or technology components (e.g. AI, software, data, or system integration)
Applicants must engage with the Digital Health and Innovation (DHI) Division before commencing their application to ensure alignment with technical, cybersecurity, and infrastructure requirements. DHI can help identify risks, clarify integration requirements, and highlight opportunities to leverage existing systems, strengthening the application and implementation planning. Please complete the Digital Ideas form to submit for consideration. Please contact DHI's Investment Portfolio Management Office for any specific advice at GCDigitalIMO@health.qld.gov.au or via GCDHIPMO@health.qld.gov.au.

Projects requiring purchase of goods or services
Applicants must comply with procurement rules to ensure transparent and accountable financial management. The Gold Coast Health co-lead is responsible for the project budget, expenditure and monitoring against the approved budget. Applicants must obtain quotation(s), noting that multiple quotes may be required depending on cost thresholds (refer to procurement procedures). Projects involving equipment may need to address post-research ownership, location, insurance and any ongoing maintenance requirements. Ensure suppliers are aware if the research outcome is later adopted, a competitive procurement process may be required. Please refer to the Procurement Procedure document for guidance and contacts for advice.

Please contact Research Finance GCHResearchFinance@health.qld.gov.au for any specific advice.

Successful Applicants

The Gold Coast Health Research Office will provide dedicated support to Major Grant recipients for the duration of the grant program. This support will include structured training experiences (online and in person) delivered in partnership with academic partners or one-to-one consultations designed to strengthen research capability across all stages of the research lifecycle, including project design, statistical analysis, ethics and governance processes, funding development, and dissemination.

4. Eligibility

Please ensure the application meets the following eligibility criteria before submission.

4.1. Applicant Eligibility

- The Major Grant is open to all Gold Coast Health staff across all disciplines.
- The applicant who signs the application must be a Gold Coast Health employee at the time of applying, with a minimum 0.4 FTE at Gold Coast Health for the duration of the grant.
- The co-lead CIs are responsible for the administration of the grant and may only submit one application to the 2027 Major Grants round to a maximum of $150,000.
- Applicants may only hold one active Major Grant as a co-lead CI at one time.
- The co-lead applicant on one application may be named as an Additional Chief Investigator or Associate Investigator on another grant (BUT not as a co-lead CI).
- The project cannot previously have been funded by the Collaborative Research Grants Scheme (2016-2025).
- The project must focus on an issue, dataset and/or population involved in delivering or receiving care at Gold Coast Health. Projects that use these insights to translate knowledge beyond Gold Coast Health are encouraged.
- The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)'s *Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research* is a useful tool to review and inform consumer and community involvement in all aspects of health and medical research.
- The Gold Coast Health applicant must secure approval from their line manager and relevant leadership in the area where the project activity will take place.
- The letter of support template should be used for these approvals.

4.2. Research Team Eligibility

- The co-lead CI from Gold Coast Health and the University / Research Institute must have a paid appointment, with a minimum 0.4 FTE the full duration of the project.
- The co-lead CIs must secure approval from their institution (for Gold Coast Health, this is their divisional executive) to co-lead the project for its full duration. The letters of support templates should be used for this approval. The Gold Coast Health Institutional Letter Support template and the Academic Partner Letter of Support template is available online.
- Up to four additional CIs can be named in the application from either Gold Coast Health or the collaborating institution. For this Major Grant, all CIs named in the application must be employed by Gold Coast Health and/or the relevant academic institution.
- The CI team must include at least one academic partner ECR, defined as "within 5 years of PhD award date". If the academic partner ECR does not have a PhD, revert to the definition of ECR for Gold Coast Health applicants of "no more than a total of 10 publications published or in press at the closing date of applications (any order of authorship)".
- The application can also name a maximum of four Associate Investigators (AIs). The AIs are not required to be aligned to Gold Coast Health for this Major Grant.
- Please note: If an individual with a single conjoint appointment across Gold Coast Health and an academic partner is an applicant, the applicant should clearly specify which institution they are representing in their application.

5. Conditions of Funding

5.1. Funding Use

The funding request for each application cannot exceed $150,000 for the Major Grant. Applicants should be aware of the following funding conditions when preparing a budget:

What can be funded:

- Costs incurred to conduct the activities of the project, which may include salaries to engage staff to undertake specific tasks that are not standard operational requirements. For example, Research Assistants can be engaged at a level commensurate with the work being undertaken.
- Consumables and equipment that are not usually part of standard practice or patient care.
- Fees associated with the use of facilities that are required for the project to be delivered.
- Fees associated with one open-access publication, up to $5000. Open access costs will not be supported where a member of the research team has access to publication support through their university affiliation via the Council of Australian University Librarians Transformative Agreement.
- Costs associated with the production of a single poster or infographic, to a maximum value of $200.

What can NOT be funded:

- Typically, operational salaries and costs, however some allowance may be made for funding backfill requirements.
- Salary or costs for researchers to work or train outside Australia, nor will the grant support the work of an overseas researcher at an overseas institution.
- Employment of individuals whose rate of pay exceeds what would be reasonably required to undertake a specific task within the study.
- Consumables, equipment and facilities that could be expected to be provided by the hospital or the associated university partner.
- Administrative costs (overheads), including university levies and indirect costs associated with administrative support.
- Conference travel or accommodation expenses (funding for these should be sought through other funding opportunities e.g. professional development leave/allowances and SERTA applications).
- Research costs covered by another funding source. Applicants are required to notify the Research Office of any parallel funding applications that gain approval at any point throughout the application / project process as no discrete costs can be jointly funded.
- Costs associated with work that has already been completed.

6. Application Process

6.1. Application

The application must be submitted by the advertised closing date using the required SmartyGrants online application form (extensions will not be granted).

Applications missing required information, evidence, documentation, signatures or exceeding the word limits, will not be considered.

Form Sections

The following will need to be provided as part of the application. Where noted, word limits will apply.

Application Section	Further information
BUDGET **Budget Justification** (200 words)	A budget must be completed using the required budget template, accompanied by a detailed justification for budget items (see further information on preparing your budget below). Applicants must review the Research Budget Guide and refer to the worked example which will assist with budget preparation.
LAY SUMMARY (200 words)	A lay summary is to be provided.
RELEVANCE TO THE GRANT SCHEME (200 words per dot point)	The following criteria are to be addressed in the application form: o addresses the **significance**, originality of the study and anticipated **impact** of this research. (Applicants are encouraged to refer to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)'s Research impact position statement and the AAMRI Research Impact Framework for guidance). o a well-developed description of team research **capability and plans for research capacity building** of Gold Coast Health staff, including but not limited to identified novice researchers. (Applicants are encouraged to use a **research career development** framework relevant to a health service research environment, for example the Queensland Health Allied Health Research Careers Development Framework). o an outline of planned **collaboration with consumers** in the development and/or conduct of the study.
PROTOCOL (5000 words)	A completed protocol of no more than **5000** words (**including reference lists**) is to be submitted. Please use the protocol template available online. A maximum of 2 additional pages may be included for tables and figures. Tables and figures are not included in the word limit. Study protocols that exceed these criteria will not be considered.
CV FOR ALL TEAM MEMBERS	A CV (no more than 2 pages) is to be provided for each applicant. An *optional* CV template is available online.
LETTERS OF SUPPORT	The Gold Coast Health Institutional Letter Support template is available online. The Academic Partner Letter of Support template is available online. Additional external partner letters of support will be required where use of their facilities and resources is necessary to complete the study.

Budget Preparation

The **Research Development Hub** contains a variety of resources and support for researchers on budget preparation, such as the Research Budget Guide and budget template.

When preparing the budget, the following principles should be adhered to:

- All budget items must be clearly documented in the required budget template and closely align with expected costs (see worked example and refer to the Research Budget Guide).
- Funds can only be used for discreet and specified costs as outlined in the budget. Discreet costs refer to specific activities or phase of a project that are supported by funds provided under this grant only.
- Include full justification of all labour and non-labour costs associated with undertaking the research project.
    - where relevant, obtain quotation(s) to support the budget development and compliance with procurement procedures.
    - please refer to the Department of Health Costing template for calculating labour and non-labour expenses.
        - please read the instructions and use the 'Data Input' tab to calculate estimates and refer to the 'Summary' tab for calculation results.
        - the 'Summary' tab provides the breakdown of costs by Financial year that you can input into the required budget template.
- Research Finance will be delivering 'Budget Preparation' workshops for the Grant Scheme and applicants are encouraged to participate.
- It is expected that the Major Grant application and proposed budget will be reviewed and verified by the applicant's line manager and financial delegate prior to submitting the application to ensure feasibility (e.g. Head of Department and/ or Executive Director).
- During the review process, the Grants Administrator or Research Finance team may contact the applicant to seek clarification on elements of the submitted budget.

6.2. Submitting an Application

Once the grant round is open applications must be completed via the SmartyGrants online platform. Applicants should follow the prompts to login and create an account (if no account exists). When the account is created, applicants can refer to the Help Hub for the Help Guide for Applicants.

Please note that applications can only be initiated by the Applicant (Gold Coast Health co-lead CI). Applicants can then enable sharing functionality to allow co-applicants to collaborate on draft applications through SmartyGrants' data repository platform SmartyFile (using an existing SmartyGrants login). Please contact the Grants Administrator to gain access and refer to the information sheet for instructions on using 'SmartyFile'.

Once the application has commenced, ensure it is regularly '**saved**' to avoid losing any work due to timeouts. Save again after each session to ensure the application is updated. Applications can be saved at any point within the application form to return later. Once 'submitted', applicants will be unable to make further edits, you will, however, be able to **view** the application.

7. Assessment Process

7.1. Assessment Criteria and Weighting

Applications will be assessed by the Major Grant reviewers using the following criteria. An assessment framework is provided to assist applicants when addressing the assessment criteria.

Criteria	Description	Weighting (%)
Significance and impact for Gold Coast Health	Reviewers will consider if the project: • provides a justification for, and addresses the significance and originality of the study • addresses an important health issue relevant to the population serviced by Gold Coast Health (refer to the Gold Coast Health Strategic Plan 2026-2030 and the Research Roadmap and the purpose of this Grant Scheme • has the potential to improve scientific knowledge, technical capability / capacity, or change practice and or likely to result in a successful future national funding application • has a clear dissemination plan for study results, and; • will result in impactful outcomes, including publication, support future grant applications, and form long-term collaborations.	35
Scientific quality and feasibility	Reviewers will consider if the project: • proposes a clear research question or hypotheses supported by the literature and aligns with the study aim and overall methods, and; • provides a rationale and explanation of the proposed study methods that are appropriate and feasible for the research question being proposed.	30
Research capability and capacity building	Reviewers will consider: • the track record of investigators and relevance to the proposed study, including evidence of successful management and completion of research projects • the role of each investigator in undertaking the proposed research • the career stages of the research team members and any relevant career disruptions • the research environment, including infrastructure and resources, in which the team will be undertaking the research, and; • the plan for research capacity building within the team and the roles of mentors.	20

Criteria	Description	Weighting (%)
Collaboration and Consumer engagement	Reviewers will consider: • the contributions of the collaborating organisation/s including in-kind support available; • the roles of collaborating researchers, including the mutual benefits afforded by the collaboration; • evidence of previous effective research collaboration or, a clear research collaboration plan for this study if this is the first time the researchers have collaborated; and • how consumers have been meaningfully engaged in the development of the research and the plan for ongoing involvement in the study.	15

7.2. Review Process

The Gold Coast Health Chair of Research will chair and convene the Major Grants Review Panel. The Panel will include representatives of the clinical researcher community at Gold Coast Health, academic partner organisations (where relevant to the specific grant) and at least one Gold Coast Health consumer.

Any Conflict of Interests (COI) will be declared and reported to the RGS Chair. These may include:

- A direct relationship (personal, reporting or supervisory) with any applicant, and/or
- A direct interest in the project, and/or
- Co-publications and/or shared grant awards and/or shared PHD student supervision within five years.

The Review Panel will assess all applications in each stream (i.e. Gold Coast Health Major Grants and Gold Coast Health / Griffith University co-funded Major Grants applications) and determine those which are eligible and considered competitive to be sent for additional review by external subject matter experts.

Those receiving the lowest ranking (least competitive) will not be externally reviewed and early indication of unsuccessful applications will be provided to the Gold Coast Health Lead-CI.

Each application will be reviewed and scored by a minimum of two expert external reviewers. The Major Grants Expert Reviewer is a reviewer with a high level of expertise and research experience in line with the research project topic. Expert Reviewers are sourced externally to undertake review of applications.

The full criteria and score weightings for the Review Panel and expert reviewers are provided in the application assessment criteria. Once all expert reviews have been received, the Major Grants Review Panel will convene to consider the scoring and comments of the expert reviewers alongside the Review Panel scores and comments (presented by the Review Panel primary and secondary spokespersons) to determine its final funding recommendations.

Reviewers will score applications against each of the above criteria as follows:

Grade	Category	Description
7	Outstanding	Fully addresses all assessment criteria to an outstanding and exceptional by nationally competitive standard and presents an outstanding argument for selection.
6	Excellent	Addresses all outlined assessment criteria to an excellent standard and makes a compelling argument for selection.
5	Very good	Addresses most outlined assessment criteria to a very good (above average to high) standard and makes a strong case for consideration.
4	Good	Meets the outlined assessment criteria to an acceptable standard and presents a sound proposal for consideration.
3	Below average	Addresses only some of the outlined assessment criteria and the case for consideration is weak or poorly formulated.
2	Marginal	Does not sufficiently address the outlined assessment criteria and presents no case for consideration.
1	Unsatisfactory	Does not address any of the selection criteria and is not satisfactory for consideration.

Please refer to Appendix 1 – 2027 Assessment Framework for further detail

Considerations will be based on:

- Major Grants Review Panel recommendation report
- Gold Coast Health's strategic objectives and research strategy, and;
- available funding.

7.3. Decisions

The final decision of successful applications rests with the Major Grants Review Panel and is not subject to reconsideration or appeal.

The Gold Coast Health co-lead CI will be notified of the outcome of the application via email. Brief general-in-nature feedback will be provided for both successful and unsuccessful applications.

Following the announcement of successful grant applicants funding agreements will be prepared for execution by all parties to the agreement. Where defined, conditions for funding must be reconciled prior to execution of the funding agreement.

8. Contractual Arrangements

8.1. General/ Funding Agreement

Grant recipients must adhere to the following conditions outlined in the Funding Agreement, including:

Gold Coast Health co-lead CI Responsibilities:

- Be the lead active researcher on the project and the primary administrative contact for the grant application and project
- Be responsible for submission and confirmation of all required approvals and reporting requirements, including:

- Human Research Ethics Committee application (HREA)
- Site-Specific Authorisation, and reporting responsibilities (e.g. serious adverse events, protocol amendments)
- compliance with codes of good practice in research, including the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research
- be responsible for the financial management of the project
- notify the Research Office of any parallel funding applications that gain approval at any point throughout the application / project process, as no discrete costs can be jointly funded.

Research approvals

- Projects must comply with the National Statement for the Ethical Conduct of Human Research 2025 and the Good Clinical Practice (GCP) for clinical trials in Australia.
- Grant recipients must gain approval from the Gold Coast Health Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) or another National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) certified HREC under the National Mutual Acceptance Scheme or another state-wide ethics review process.
- An application for HREC review must be submitted **within three months** of the commencement date of the Funding Agreement unless otherwise negotiated and agreed. Gold Coast Health may withhold grant payments until HREC approval is granted.
- All research conducted at a Gold Coast Health facility must obtain Site-Specific Authorisation (SSA) from the Research Office.
- It is a requirement that the co-lead CI's have completed GCP training. Certificates of completion will be required prior to disbursement of funding.

Reporting

Grant recipients are required to submit annual milestone progress reports. These reports are to be submitted via SmartyGrants for review by the RGS Chair and Senior Director of Research. Information requirements include:

- summary of progress, outputs and any measures of impact
  - Grant recipients will be encouraged to consider the NHMRC's Research impact position statement and the AAMRI Research Impact Framework to assist with this process.
- challenges or obstacles in undertaking or completing the project, and;
- a financial statement for the reporting period, endorsed by the Research Finance Team.

Reports will be requested annually, due 30 April commencing the year following award. Notification will be provided to recipients when the reporting template is available in the SmartyGrants system, more than one month prior to the due date for completion. This due date is stipulated in the Funding Agreement. Annual reports should address progress against timelines and any delays incurred.

Variation requests

Variation requests are to be completed for consideration and approval by the Chair of Research. Types of variations include:

- change to team member(s)
- change in the budget or expenditure
- pause or delay in the project
- extension to the project timeline, or
- other major project change.

Variation forms for completion and submission will be made available in SmartyGrants on request. A variation form request should be directed to the Grants Administrator.

8.2. Dissemination and Publicity

Appropriate recognition of the grant scheme

Recipients must acknowledge the Grant Scheme in reports, publications and presentations that draw upon work associated with the funded research. The standard acknowledgement to be used is as follows:

This work was supported by the Gold Coast Health Collaborative Research Grant Scheme.

It is the responsibility of the Gold Coast Health co-lead CI to ensure that copies or links to all published articles, preprints and conference abstracts are provided to the Research Office via the Grants Administrator as soon as they become available.

Participation in promotion, monitoring, and evaluation of the grant scheme

Grant recipients may be contacted to provide information or attend an event to:

- present outcomes and updates of progress of the funded research at events, including research-related symposiums at Gold Coast Health or partner organisations, or
- raise the profile of the research work or Grant Scheme through internal or external Communications opportunities.

The Gold Coast Health co-lead CI is expected to proactively communicate and disseminate project outcomes, including working with the Research Office and Strategic Communications.

8.3. Confidentiality and Privacy / Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual Property Rights

Recipients must adhere to the Gold Coast Health Intellectual Property Policy (Document ID POL1283) and comply with any amendments and adhere to the clauses detailed in the Funding Agreement. Please refer to the Policy for the definition of “Intellectual property”. Ownership and the associated rights of all Intellectual Property generated because of funded research will initially be vested in Gold Coast Health, unless otherwise agreed.

Where funded research involves a collaboration between Gold Coast Health and one or more university/research institute partner, conjoint employees or students, the Intellectual Property generated may be vested as agreed between the participating institutions. This will be negotiated through preparation of Funding Agreements.

8.4. Administration of Funds

Grant funds are administered through the Gold Coast Health Research Office, which holds financial delegation and oversees the financial management of grant funds. No administrative charges apply to grant funds.

Funding will be made available upon execution of the Funding Agreement. A project cost centre ION will be created and provided to the Gold Coast Health co-lead CI.

The Gold Coast Health co-lead CI is responsible for managing the project budget and operational expenditure in line with the approved budget. A grant recipient may only use funding provided under this scheme against the approved budget.

Grant recipients should liaise directly with the Research Finance Team for payment of invoices, staff costs and other financial flows.

Any funding not expended within the agreed grant period will be returned to the Grant Scheme unless a variation request has been approved. All grants are awarded for a maximum of **two years**, with extensions only allowable via an approved variation request.

As the grant recipient is not expected or required to supply any direct, routine, or regular goods or services in return for grant funding, no GST is payable on grant funding.

9. Further Information

Gold Coast Health Research Office

Email: GrantsGoldCoast@health.qld.gov.au.

Phone: (07) 5687 0663

Research Development Hub:

https://healthqld.sharepoint.com/teams/GCHHS-RDHUB

Access Major Grant Application: https://healthqld.smartygrants.com.au/

Appendix 1

Gold Coast Health Major Research Project Grant Assessment Framework 2027

Criterion	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4	Grade 3 and below* (grades 3,2,1)
1: Significance and impact for Gold Coast Health (35%)					
Significance and impact for Gold Coast Health	Provides an outstanding, compelling and well-argued theoretical justification, clearly identifying key gaps in the literature and explicitly demonstrating how the research will advance scientific knowledge, technical capability, or practice. Demonstrates strong and explicit alignment with the Gold Coast Health vision (G28 Strategic Plan and Research Roadmap) and scheme objectives. Includes a detailed dissemination and translation plan outlining clear pathways to impact (e.g. publication, future funding, sustained collaboration).	Provides an excellent and strong theoretical justification, identifying relevant gaps in the literature, with a clear explanation of how the research will advance knowledge or practice. Demonstrates clear alignment with Gold Coast Health priorities and scheme objectives. Includes a clear dissemination plan with explanation of how outcomes will lead to impact.	Provides a very good theoretical justification, identifying relevant gaps in the literature, with a general explanation of how the research will advance knowledge or practice. Alignment with Gold Coast Health priorities is described but lacks specificity. Includes a dissemination plan with limited detail on impact.	Provides a limited theoretical justification, with gaps not fully articulated and unclear contribution to knowledge or practice. Alignment with Gold Coast Health priorities is described only in general terms. Includes a brief or non-specific dissemination plan with limited consideration of translation.	Provides a weak or unclear theoretical justification and does not demonstrate how the research will contribute to knowledge or practice. Alignment with Gold Coast Health priorities is not articulated. No clear dissemination or translation plan is provided.

Criterion	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4	Grade 3 and below* (grades 3,2,1)
2: Scientific quality and feasibility (30%)					
Scientific Quality and feasibility	Research question is clearly defined, fully supported by the literature, and explicitly aligned with the study aim and overall methods. Study design is robust and well-justified. Methods are detailed, appropriate, and clearly feasible.	Research question is clear, supported by the literature, and aligned with the study aim and methods. Study design is robust with well-explained and appropriate methods.	Research question is clear and mostly supported by the literature, with alignment to study aim and methods. Study design and methods are generally appropriate and feasible.	Research question or alignment with study aim and methods is unclear or incomplete. Study design and methods are insufficiently described to assess appropriateness or feasibility.	Research question is unclear or unsupported by literature and does not align with study aim or methods. Study design is inappropriate or not justified, and methods are unclear or not feasible.

Criterion	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4	Grade 3 and below* (grades 3,2,1)
3: Research capability and capacity building (20%)					
Research capability and capacity building	Provides an outstanding and detailed description of team expertise, roles, and demonstrated ability to undertake the research. Clearly describes the research environment, including infrastructure and resources. Includes a structured and comprehensive plan for capacity building across investigators at different career stages, with defined activities and outcomes.	Provides an excellent and detailed description of team expertise and environment. Includes a clear plan for capacity building across investigators at different career stages.	Provides a very good description of team capability, though some gaps in detail regarding environment or infrastructure exist. Capacity-building plan is present but focuses mainly on less experienced investigators or lacks detail.	Provides a brief or incomplete description of team capability or environment. Capacity-building plan is limited in scope or focus and may not be feasible.	Provides a poor or unclear description of team capability and environment. No clear or appropriate plan for capacity building is presented.

Criterion	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4	Grade 3 and below* (grades 3,2,1)
4: Consumer engagement (15%)					
Consumer engagement	Provides a comprehensive and clearly articulated plan for consumer involvement across all stages of the research cycle (priority setting, design, conduct, analysis, dissemination, and translation). Demonstrates co-design or co-production approaches, where consumers actively shape research questions, methods, and outcomes. Consumers are engaged as partners in decision-making with clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and influence. Includes appropriate recruitment strategies (including priority populations), training, support, and remuneration, and demonstrates a safe, inclusive, and culturally appropriate approach.	Provides a strong and detailed plan for meaningful consumer involvement across multiple stages of the research cycle. Demonstrates active engagement in study design and ongoing participation. Consumers have clearly defined roles and some influence on decisions. Includes consideration of appropriate support, inclusion, and engagement processes.	Provides a clear plan for consumer involvement at selected stages of the research cycle (e.g. design, dissemination). Consumers contribute to aspects of the project, but decision-making influence is limited or unclear. Roles are described but lack specificity. Limited detail on how engagement will be supported or resourced.	Provides a limited or poorly defined plan for consumer involvement. Involvement is infrequent, consultative, or tokenistic, and not integrated across the research cycle. Roles are unclear or passive, with minimal evidence of meaningful contribution. Little consideration of diversity, support, or safe engagement practices.	Consumer involvement is absent, inappropriate, or not aligned with the research aims. No clear plan for engaging consumers in the research process. Engagement, if present, is limited to participation only.

*Reviewers will be asked to provide a grade. Where reviewers have graded 3 or below, additional feedback can be provided but the application will not be competitive