



WA Early-Career Child Health Researcher Fellowships Program 2023 Guidelines and Conditions

1. Introduction

(a) The Western Australian Early-Career Child Health Researcher (ECCHR) Fellowships Program (the Program) is a Co-Funding Partnerships Program funded by the:

- **Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund**¹; and
- **BrightSpark Foundation (Foundation)**²,

(together **Program Sponsors**).

(b) The **FHRI Fund** provides a secure source of funding to drive health and medical research, innovation and commercialisation and through these activities, improve the health and prosperity of all Western Australians. It also provides an opportunity to diversify the economy, create jobs, improve the sustainability of the health system and position WA as a leader in research and innovation.

(c) For more than 45 years, the **BrightSpark Foundation** has supported over 200 researchers in WA (alumni) and distributed more than \$8.75 million in child health research funding. Since 2015 the Foundation has collaborated with **Raine Medical Research Foundation**³ to co-fund annual Priming Grants to emerging researchers and other collaboration awards for WA based child health research projects assessed on a competitive basis.

(d) The **BrightSpark Foundation** provides funding to deliver better health outcomes to the community, through early-career researcher programs that support the next generation of research leaders in Western Australia.

(e) The Program contributes to the following FHRI Fund Priority Goals:

- Establish co-funding partnerships that will secure genuinely new non-government funding for research and innovation aligned with Priorities for the FHRI Fund
- Support the development of early- and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self- sustaining career
- Target high- performing researchers in WA to maintain and/or advance the State's position as a leader in health and medical research.

¹ <https://fhrifund.health.wa.gov.au/>

² <https://www.brightsparkfoundation.com.au/>

³ <https://www.rainefoundation.org.au/>

- (f) The purpose of the Program is to:
- encourage WA based post doctorate early- stage researchers to stay involved with child health research longer; and
 - help early-career researchers establish their child health research credentials in order for them to progress into more senior and securely funded child health research career roles.
- (g) This Program is administered by the **BrightSpark Foundation Company Ltd**⁴ as the Program Administrator jointly appointed by the Program Sponsors.

2. Program Description

- (a) The Program has been designed to encourage WA based ‘early-career’ researchers to progress with their child health research projects (either their own and/or as a collaborator on other child health research projects) and develop their independent research skills and career capabilities.
- (b) The intention is to support the Fellows to become better qualified, experienced and positioned to seek longer term and more advanced substantial child health research funding through avenues such as NHMRC’s Investigator Grants Emerging Leadership scheme.⁵
- (c) The Fellow’s research must be:
- undertaken in WA with a WA based Research Entity (university, health service provider, medical research institute or foundation) (**Research Entity**)
 - supported by a suitably qualified WA based professional research supervisor throughout the term of the Fellowship (**Research Supervisor**), and
 - be of relevance to better health outcomes for children.
- (d) The Program recognises that ‘early-career’ researchers may not yet have a credible child health research project that by itself merits funding. The review and assessment process will focus on the demonstrated commitment, capacity and skillset of the applicant and track record of their Research Supervisor and Research Entity to ensure the Fellowship is successful.
- (e) Subject to quality applications the Program will award at least one Fellowship in each round for Aboriginal-related child health research projects.

3. Eligibility

- (a) The Program is open to applicants who:
- are researchers in child health research including allied health and health sciences,
 - are ‘early-career’ researchers who have:
 - a. just completed or are nearing completion (within six months) of their PhD, most preferably (not mandatory) related to child health research, and are seeking funding for a child health research project to commence soon after the conferral of their PhD; or

⁴ Trustee and manager for the BrightSpark Foundation.

⁵ Refer Annexure 1 for description of that program.

- b. cumulatively the equivalent of no more than 5 FTE years (0-5 years relative to opportunity⁶) postdoctoral research experience and are wanting the opportunity to progress and develop their child health research skills and research project management capabilities through transitional funding support.

(together '**Eligible Candidates**').

- have minimal or no paid research time currently, and during the period of the Fellowship, are not in receipt of more than 0.5 FTE paid research time (including paid research time which is a component of an academic/clinical/administration/part-time role),
- have not received independent grant funding greater than \$50,000 for a project they lead or have led since completing their PhD,
- have nil or minimal ongoing committed funding support for their child health research proposal,
- are an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent resident of Australia, or have an appropriate work visa in place for the period of the Fellowship,
- nominate a WA based Research Supervisor, who will be a senior/established researcher active in child health research, who undertakes to:
 - a. stringently review the application
 - b. provide expert advice on the design and statistical analyses
 - c. provide guidance and ongoing support during the period of the Fellowship; and
 - d. assist with reporting on progress directly to the Program Sponsors
 - e. the application includes only one project; and
 - f. be listed as a Research Supervisor on no more than one application per round.
- have no overdue reports for any Department of Health Office of Medical Research and Innovation (OMRI) or FHRI Fund grant funding programs from any year (excludes authorised extensions).
- The applicant will be required to specify which of the following applies:
 - a. employee of the Research Entity; or
 - b. honorary or adjunct title at the Research Entity. If the Fellowship recipient is or will be employed by another entity (the Employer), this entity must have a physical and operational presence in WA, and confirmation must be provided that either:
 - a) an affiliation agreement exists between the Research Entity and the relevant Employer; or
 - b) the intention is for the Fellowship to be subcontracted to the relevant Employer.
- The Research Entity must:
 - a. have an active Australian Business Number (ABN)
 - b. have a physical and operational presence in WA

⁶ Meaning excluding "Career Interrupting Events", such as major illness, and/or carer responsibilities including parental leave.

- c. be a WA university, WA research institution, WA public health service provider or a WA public-private partnership provider; and
 - d. co-partner with the Program Sponsors by agreeing to contribute at least a minimum gap share⁷ of the overall total Fellowship funding package amounts.
- The Program is not open to applicants who already have been awarded an Early-Career Child Health Researcher Fellowship or a Raine Priming Grant.
 - Applications must be submitted in accordance with the 'Application Instructions' section of this document.

4. Funding

- (a) Fellowship funding will provide FTE salary support for child health research duties, as well as contribute to direct research costs (consumables) up to a maximum amount per annum. The duration of each Fellowship can be up to three years, depending on the extent of the child health research proposal.
- (b) During the term of the Fellowship, clinical, academic, or other professional part-time duties in a WA based hospital or health service provider or WA based tertiary institution may be continued but research duties at the Research Entity must be maintained at a minimum of 0.5 FTE. Should this requirement cease to be met, then the Fellowship funding may also cease or be suspended, unless special circumstances apply (e.g.: carer leave including parental leave, where funding may be suspended and/or deferred).
- (c) Fellowship financial support is an FTE funding package contribution to the value per annum of \$120,000. This funding may be applied towards payment of:
- base salary components (including holiday, annual or compassionate leave taken) up to a maximum value of \$90,000 per annum (excluding on- costs);
 - up to 15% on- costs⁸ (including statutory super limited to the equivalent of the ATO super guarantee levy) per annum; and
 - direct research costs (DRCs) allowance of up to \$16,500⁹ per annum.
 - The Fellow's employing Research Entity must also contribute a minimum 30% share of the overall three years FTE funding package (**Minimum Gap Contribution**). The following Table summarises the respective funding package commitments:

| Contribution per Fellow | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Program Sponsors | 80% / \$96k | 70% / \$84k | 60% / \$72k |
| Fellow's Research Entity minimum gap contribution | 20% / \$24k | 30% / \$36k | 40% / \$48k |
| Total | 100%/\$120k | 100%/\$120k | 100%/\$120k |

⁷ The Research Entity's total research cash and in-kind support for the project will need be discussed between the candidate and relevant Research Entity project budget, but indicatively the minimum gap contribution will need to be no less than 30% of the overall total Fellowship funding amount.

⁸ This on- costs percentage may be less than what the Research Entity usually provides to its researchers. The Project Sponsors expect that the Research Entity any shortfall over and above their Minimum Gap Contribution.

⁹ This DRC allowance may be less than what the Research Entity usually provides to its researchers. The Project Sponsors expect that the Research Entity any shortfall over and above their Minimum Gap Contribution.

- (d) Any additional salary, on costs and/or DRCs are to be carried solely by the employing Research Entity in addition to their committed Minimum Gap Contribution.
- (e) The base salary component of the funding package may be applied towards payment of salary due during holiday, annual or compassionate leave taken, but not towards entitlements for any untaken annual leave, long service leave, or extended leave (incl. parental leave) or severance, redundancy and termination payments that may arise or be accrued during the Fellowship term.
- (f) Any salary, severance and termination payments and long service leave or extended leave (incl. parental leave) entitlements related to or leave entitlements accrued in non-Fellowship roles are not supported and must not be paid for with Fellowship funding.
- (g) Any salary, on- cost or other expenses related to the successful applicant for the awarded Fellowship FTE and duration which is beyond the term of the awarded Fellowship is the responsibility of the relevant Research Entity. If the successful applicant moves to a higher position classification (e.g.: research officer to research fellow), this does not affect the Fellowship, which remains funded and payable at the position classification applicable at the time of application.
- (h) The provision of Fellowship funding to the relevant Research Entity will be administered by the Program Administrator on behalf of the Program Sponsors.
- (i) The Research Entity will invoice the Program Administrator at the commencement of each 6-month period of a Fellowship term. The invoice is to total the amount due from the Program Sponsors for the 6-month period.
- (j) Fellowship salary will be paid to the Fellowship recipient by the relevant employing Research Entity in accordance with their employment conditions.
- (k) The DRC allowance can be requested and applied without further approval towards defraying the cost of items directly related to the research e.g.: access to relevant research databases, pathology tests, consumables, paper, publishing costs. Annual acquittal statements will be required.
- (l) Additional research project costs, not included in the Fellowship, will need to be obtained independently by the Fellowship recipient. Requests for travel funds and any/additional publication fees will not be approved.
- (m) The Fellowship funding must not be applied towards facility, administrative or other indirect costs that would be provided by an organisation in the normal course of undertaking and supporting health and medical research (e.g.: those costs often incurred for common or joint objectives, utilities and services, regulatory and research compliance and administration of research services).
- (n) The Fellowship FTE, duration and research costs offered to each Fellowship recipient are subject to the discretion of the Program Sponsors. Fellowship funding is offered subject to the availability of funds, which could be varied in the event of unforeseen circumstances.
- (o) The Fellowship shall commence on 1 January in the year following the award of the grant. Any variation to this condition would require approval.
- (p) Fellowship funding is based on the awarded Fellowship FTE, duration and research costs and this funding amount is final. In the event the Fellowship recipient incurs

additional expenses for whatever reason, these will not be paid by the Program Sponsors.

- (q) Fellowship deferrals will generally be supported in relation to carer responsibilities and major illness or injury.
- (r) Equipment purchased with Fellowship funding remains the property of the relevant employing Research Entity.
- (s) Fellowship funding that is used for purposes other than that for which it was awarded or is unspent at the conclusion of the Fellowship term, is repayable to the Program Administrator and shall revert to the Program Sponsors.

5. Consumer Involvement

In line with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) definition, consumers are people who have lived experience of a health issue. They include patients and potential patients, carers, and people who use health care services. Consumers can also be people who represent the views and interests of a consumer organisation, a community or a wider constituency.

Guidance on consumer involvement can be found at the Consumer and Community Involvement Program [website](#) and the [NHMRC Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research 2016](#).

Applicants are encouraged complete the free online 30 minute Consumer and Community Involvement in Health Research [course](#).

Applicants are encouraged to describe how consumers can and will be involved in the Fellowship research and to detail the plan for ongoing engagement.

6. Applicant Selection Process

The applicant selection process shall be administered by the Program Administrator involving a five-stage process:

- (1) **Preliminary screening** by the Program Administrator to check eligibility. Applicants will be notified at this time if the application is not eligible.
- (2) **Independent review and initial rank list of Applications** by the Program Fellowship Advisory Panel (**PFAP** - comprising representatives of WA research organisations, representatives of the Project Sponsors and chaired by the BrightSpark Research Advisory Committee (**BRAC**) nominee). Applications will be assessed by the PFAP using the Assessment Criteria (Annexure 2).
- (3) **PFAP meets to discuss the top ranked Applications.** Following the initial assessment and preliminary ranking of the Applications, the PFAP will consider and develop in merit order a list of the top ranked Applications using the Assessment Criteria and Weightings (Annexure 2) and a recommendation will be made to the BRAC. This step may include an interview by members of the PFAP with Applicants and their Research Supervisor. Recommendations will consider paid research time already available to the Applicant and the intent of the Applicant's proposal. Applications will be finally assessed and ranked by the PFAP based on the interview (if any) and the Assessment Criteria and Weightings (Annexure 2).

- (4) **PFAP submits a ranked merit list of the applications to the BRAC.** Funding recommendations in merit order will be made by the PFAP to the BRAC for review. The recommendations may include priority funding for top ranked Applications in the area of Aboriginal child health research.
- (5) **BRAC submits funding recommendations to the BrightSpark Board.** The BRAC will make the final funding recommendations to the BrightSpark Board and any amendment to the merit order recommended by PFAP is to be highlighted. The consideration and decision by the BrightSpark Board of the final funding recommendations by the BRAC may be informed by available budget considerations and be preceded by consultation with the Program Sponsors and the decision of the BrightSpark Board shall be final and shall be communicated to Applicants by the Program Administrator. Correspondence will not be entered into regarding the decision.

7. Assessment Criteria and Weighting

- (a) The review and assessment process will focus on the demonstrated commitment of the applicant and Research Supervisor to undertake child health research by assessing:
- projects they have worked on that illustrate experiences and examples of:
 - leadership, mentoring (mentor or mentee) and training;
 - funding management including progress milestones and acquittal reporting; and
 - contributions to the scientific community (e.g. committee work);
 - publications they are listed on;
 - Research Supervisor's statement/recommendation;
 - Research Entity's commitment to supporting child health research, including preparedness and ability to:
 - support the Fellow throughout the period of the Fellowship; and
 - provide opportunities for the Fellow to progress and develop their child health research skills and research project management capabilities, including making available research facilities, conference attendance grants (where available) and publishing opportunities and support;
 - support the applicant's expressions of interest for and goals in continuing child health research in WA;
 - the applicant's work program for undertaking a particular child health research project and how that meets the applicant's goals
 - the applicant's team building and people management skills; and
 - the applicant's genuine interest in pursuing a WA-based child health research career, including applicants progressing to an 'early-career' researcher role equivalent to the NHMRC Investigator Grants Emerging Leadership Level 1.

Each application will be assessed based on the criteria and weightings outlined in **Annexure 2- Assessment Criteria and Weightings.**

8. Application Instructions

The instructions below must be followed when making a submission:

- (a) The Application Form is available from the BrightSpark website and must be submitted by 1:00 PM (AWST) Tuesday 29 August 2023.
- (b) The application must be completed in Arial font 11 point or larger.
- (c) Electronic signatures are acceptable. The onus is on the applicant to ensure approval to use an electronic signature has been obtained.
- (d) The application is to be emailed to administrator@brightspark.com.au as a single PDF, not exceeding 5 MBs, including CVs, and bibliographic references (if applicable).
- (e) The application and email subject line must be titled as follows:
 - Applicant SURNAME, First name – ECCHR Fellowship e.g. SMITH, Alex – ECCHR Fellowship.
- (f) Applications must be complete, include requested certifications and be submitted by the closing date/time. Applicants are responsible for complying with internal deadlines.
- (g) Acknowledgement of receipt of application will be provided via email to the Research Entity within 5 working days of the closing date.

9. Grant Funding Agreement

- (a) Fellowship funding will be paid in six-monthly instalments following execution of a Grant Funding Agreement with the Fellowship Recipient, their Research Supervisors and the relevant Research Entity and subsequently following the receipt of regular satisfactory progress reporting and there being no outstanding breach or suspension of the Grant Funding Agreement.
- (b) The terms and conditions of the Grant Funding Agreement will be made available on the Program Administrator's website closer to the closing date.

10. Research Governance Requirements

- (a) Research projects supported through the Fellowships program will be conducted in accordance with the Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research¹⁰.
- (b) The Research Entity will be responsible for obtaining any research ethics and governance approvals that might be required for undertaking funded activities and ensuring these are maintained as required for the duration of the funded activity.
- (c) Research ethics approvals must be obtained from appropriate ethics committees (human and/or animal). Research governance authorisation (also known as site specific

¹⁰ <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/grant%20documents/The-australian-code-for-the-responsible-conduct-of-research-2018.pdf>

authorisation) must be obtained from each relevant institution/site conducting the project or providing access to data, participants, or tissue samples.

- (d) For information on research ethics and governance submission requirements for the WA public health system please refer to the following websites: Research Ethics;¹¹ Research Governance¹²; Multi-centre Research.¹³

11. Use of Data Collections

- (a) A project that requires access to and use of WA Department of Health data collections requires review and approval for data release in accordance with the *Health Services Act 2016* and the *Health Services (Information) Regulations 2017*. This is in addition to research ethics and governance approvals and will include a feasibility assessment to determine whether the data requested is appropriate for the purposes of the study and approval for use of the data, from the data custodian.
- (b) Preliminary cost and time estimates can be obtained from contacting DataServ@health.wa.gov.au. Cost estimates should be included in the proposed budget and an estimate of time for release of the data should be incorporated into the milestones in the application.
- (c) Should the applicant be awarded a Fellowship, we recommend you immediately begin the data request and approval process.
- (d) If the use of WA Department of Health data collections is proposed, please review the Research Data Services website^{14,15}.

12. Intellectual Property

- (a) The ownership of Intellectual Property produced by the successful applicant in the course of the Fellowship shall vest with the employing Research Entity. Intellectual Property that is produced in conjunction with an external host research group or other organisation shall be owned and controlled consistently with the relevant IP research policies of the relevant employing Research Entity.

- (b) The Research Entity must agree to the following licence terms:

Subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Agreement, Research Entity hereby grant to WA Health, a non-exclusive, irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free licence to use (excluding the ability to sub-licence or grant further licences) any of the Intellectual Property generated in the Activity, and which falls within the scope of WA Health's normal activities. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, activities related to healthcare provision, teaching, training and research. This license does not automatically extend to any potential or eventual commercial development of the Intellectual Property, and any commercial products that might directly or indirectly result from the Activity Intellectual Property. However, where the Research Entity believes that there is the potential for commercialisation of the Intellectual

¹¹ <https://rgs.health.wa.gov.au/Pages/Research-Ethics.aspx>

¹² <https://rgs.health.wa.gov.au/Pages/Research-Governance.aspx>

¹³ <https://rgs.health.wa.gov.au/Pages/Multi-centre-Research.aspx>

¹⁴ <https://www.datalinkage-wa.org.au/apply/>

¹⁵ Dataseservices@health.wa.gov.au

Property developed in the course of the Activity, both Parties shall negotiate in good faith the appropriate legal and beneficial interests, rights and access to the Intellectual Property by WA Health.

- (c) The Research Entity must ensure that appropriate agreements are in place with the Fellow, Research Supervisor and participating entities. This includes relevant permissions to use third-party IP required to deliver the research activity. When a recipient or a project team member(s) from the WA public health system is a participant (i.e. the WA public health entity is not the Responsible Entity), the IP agreement must be authorised at an appropriate level by the relevant WA public health system entity.
- (d) Any questions regarding such IP matters should, in the first instance, be directed to Program Administrator.

13. Reports

- (a) At the completion of each calendar year, the Fellow is required to provide an Annual Progress Report, including an annual acquittal statement of expenditure of the funds during that calendar year.
- (b) If a satisfactory Annual Progress Report is not provided, then funding may be suspended or terminated.
- (c) At the completion of the Fellowship period, the Fellow is required to submit:
 - a Final Report; and
 - an acquittal statement of the expenditure of funds that is certified by the relevant finance officer of the relevant Research Entity.
- (d) If a satisfactory final report and/or acquittal statement is not provided when requested, applicants and/or the Research Entity may not be eligible for future funding through all or any of the Project Sponsors.
- (e) Guidelines, templates and due dates for reports and the acquittal statement will be provided to the Fellow by the Program Administrator as required.
- (f) Fellowship alumni will be asked to take part in follow-up questionnaires to evaluate research performance and impact that has come about after Fellowship funding and will inform the review of future funding programs. Alumni are asked to keep the Program Administrator updated with any changes to their contact information.

14. Professional Development

Fellowship recipients are encouraged, during the term of the Fellowship, to:

- (a) seek an adjunct or honorary title with a WA University or other WA-based NHMRC-approved administering institution in order to apply for NHMRC funding
- (b) familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures and timelines for applying for NHMRC's Investigator Grants Emerging Leadership scheme; and
- (c) complete the WA Health Translation Network (WAHTN) Research Education and Training Program (RETP) Good Clinical Practice course, and other relevant WAHTN RETP courses.

15. Acknowledgement

- (a) The Minister for Medical Research will publicly announce the recipients of the Fellowship. Fellowship recipients and all other parties are requested to withhold announcement/media coverage until after the Program Administrator advises this has occurred.
- (b) Acknowledgment of the Program Sponsors support should be made as opportunities arise in publications, conference presentations, public discussion, press statements etc, as appropriate. The preferred citation is:

“This work is/has been supported through the Western Australian Early-Career Child Health Researcher Fellowships Program, which is a co-funded partnership program of the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund and BrightSpark Foundation”.

- (c) References to the Fellowship should include the correct title: “*Western Australian Early-Career Child Health Researcher Fellowship*”.

16. Dissemination

- (a) Fellows are requested to forward copies of publications and other research communication activities resulting from the funded Fellowship to the Program Administrator.
- (b) In order to maximise knowledge exchange, funding recipients must comply with the NHMRC’s ‘Publication and dissemination of research: a guide supporting the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research’, which can be downloaded from the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* page, and the NHMRC’s [Open Access Policy](#).
- (c) All peer-reviewed publications that are supported in whole or in part by the Program Sponsors must be made immediately open access, that is, without any embargo period at the time of first online publication, regardless of whether such publication is an advanced or early online publication or the Version of Record. Funding recipients are encouraged to upload to a pre-print site any draft publication or report resulting in whole or in part from the funded Activity prior to submission to a peer-reviewed publication (if permitted by the publisher) The funding recipient must notify the Program Administrator of all publication DOIs. If the paper is peer-reviewed and published, the funding recipient must notify the Program Administrator of the publication DOI.
- (d) The corresponding author’s ORCID should also be notified to the Program Administrator.

17. Privacy Statement

- (a) In this Privacy Statement, the term Personal Information has the meaning given to that term in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).
- (b) The Program Administrator will ensure that any Personal Information received from an applicant in connection with their application is used and disclosed only to the extent

necessary for the purposes of assessment of the application, any award made and any required reporting requirements by law or by a Regulatory Authority.

- (c) The Program Administrator will take all reasonable steps to ensure that Personal Information managed by it in connection with the application and any award is protected against misuse, interferences and loss, and from unauthorised access, modification and disclosure.
- (d) By submitting an application, the applicant acknowledges that the Program Administrator may use their Personal Information for purposes in connection with the application and any award and may disclose their Personal Information to the Research Entity for the purposes of any award.

Annexure 1 - NHMRC Investigator Grants 2021 Peer Review Guidelines

Extract from the NHMRC Investigator Grants 2021 Peer Review Guidelines (Appendix H Statement of Expectations):

Emerging Leadership Level 1 (EL1)

It is expected that EL1 Investigator Grant recipients will typically be between 0 and 5 years post PhD (or equivalent) and will be beginning to gain recognition in their research area with demonstrated:

- original contribution(s) in their field of expertise
- ability to contribute to the conception of research projects
- scientific contributions within their region, state or territory (e.g. community leadership, state level contribution to a professional society)
- limited but developing supervision of research staff and students
- contributions within their department, centre, institution or organisation e.g. organising journal clubs, seminar series etc. It is also expected that Emerging Leadership applicants will be working within a larger team under the mentorship of more senior researchers.

Qualification Equivalency

If the applicant holds a research higher degree that is not a PhD or has equivalent research experience, the applicant's Administering Institution must confirm that, in its judgement, the applicant's qualification or research experience meets the level 10 criteria of the *Australian Qualifications Framework Second Edition January 2013*¹⁶ and must provide evidence of that judgement, if requested by the Program Administrator.

The Program Administrator reserves the right, at any time during the application or peer review process, to exclude applicants who, in its judgement, do not have appropriate qualifications or experience.

¹⁶ <https://www.aqf.edu.au/publication/aqf-second-edition>

Annexure 2 - Assessment Criteria and Weightings

The assessment criteria and weightings referred to in item 6 of the 2023 Guidelines and Conditions is as follows:

Each application will be assessed based on the criteria and weightings below:

| Assessment Criteria | % |
|---|----------|
| <p>Track Record of the applicant relative to opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Track record - assessed based on the applicant's Curriculum Vitae, the information provided below, and career disruption/relative to opportunity. ✓ Child health research commitment- the extent of the applicant's demonstrated scientific interest in and commitment to child health research. ✓ Research aptitude- the demonstrated research organisational skills of the applicant including transparency of aims and objectives, data investigation and analysis, work plan management and interaction with team members. ✓ Publications – the productivity of the applicant and the quality of publications and journals in which the applicant has published ✓ Leadership – the extent to which the applicant demonstrates progress towards an independent research career. ✓ The applicant's vision for their research career and how the Fellowship would assist in achieving this vision. <p>“Relative to opportunity” includes clinical, administrative or teaching workload, clinician training, availability of research resources, relocation of the applicant or research lab/clinical setting, periods of unemployment, typical performance in the field of research, and employment in other sectors (e.g. industry). COVID-19 related disruptions will also be considered.</p> <p>“Research impact” is the verifiable outcomes that research makes to knowledge, health, the economy and/or society, and not the prospective or anticipated effects of the research - in line with the NHMRC Research Impact definition.</p> | 25 |
| <p>Quality and feasibility of the proposed child health research project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Applicants should ensure that the project relates principally and predominantly to child health research, and the project data can be confidently interpreted, outcome measures are valid for the purpose and are quantifiable, and the study design and analysis are matched to the form of the available data. ✓ The proposed child health research project should be supported by a well justified and reasoned rationale in relation to the specific aims and methodology/techniques used and how those specific aims can and will be achieved within the funding and timeframes specified. | 20 |
| <p>Significance and novelty of research and potential benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The significance of the child health research project and relevance to WA child health outcomes. | 20 |

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How the project may lead to new paradigms, challenge current paradigms, develop or introduce novel concepts, methodologies, technologies, interventions, or other uniquely creative qualities. ✓ The likelihood that the proposed study may be successfully translated into improved health outcomes for children through innovation or change to existing scientific knowledge, clinical practice, and/or health policies and guidelines. | |
| | <p>Capacity, capability, and resources (of the team, including role and contribution of the applicant, the Research Supervisor and the WA Research Entity) to deliver on the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The applicant must demonstrate that they are making a significant independent contribution to the research project at a leadership level and how the applicant’s work will contribute to building the ongoing research capacity of the research team. ✓ How the research team’s capacity, capability and available resources will enhance the research of the applicant and provide support to the project. ✓ The relevance of the host research environment, the Supervisor level of commitment to the applicant, and the capacity to foster, strengthen and advance the research capabilities of the applicant, where applicable. | 25 |
| | <p>Consumer, carer and community participation Consumer involvement should incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clearly defined relationships with health consumers or community groups who have lived experience of the research project issue being investigated. ✓ Willingness to include consumers in the research team where appropriate. ✓ How consumer representatives will be engaged and contribute to the research project throughout the project timeline. | 10 |