

## Allied and Scientific Health Seed Funding 2025/2026

# GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

The Allied and Scientific Health Office (ASHO) offers seed funding for eligible SA Health Allied and Scientific Health Professionals to support clinician-initiated research or quality improvement (QI) projects to build research and translation capacity in SA Health.

Allied and Scientific Health Seed Funding envelope is \$20,000, and it is anticipated that 2-4 projects will be funded, with a maximum of \$10,000 (incl. GST) for a single project. This funding is available for allied and scientific health research projects or quality improvement activities.

Seed Funding applications will open on Monday 10 February 2025 and close 5 pm on Friday 11 April 2025. All related documents are available on the ASHO website. For additional information please contact the ASHO office via email [Health.AlliedHealthSeedFunding@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.AlliedHealthSeedFunding@sa.gov.au)

The 2025 round of ASHO Seed Funding will operate over the 2025/26 financial year and funds will be available from July 1, 2025. Preference will be given to early-mid career clinician-initiated projects that demonstrate outcomes directly related to patient care and build allied health research capacity in SA Health.

### Eligibility requirements for 2025/2026 seed funding grants

1. The Project Lead (PL) (the Applicant) must be:
  - an allied or scientific health professional as outlined in the [current SA Public Sector Enterprise Agreement Salaried \(2021\)](#) and be classified as an Allied Health Professional (AHP), Medical Scientist (MeS) or Medical Physicist (MPH) currently employed by SA Health and working in clinical practice and must remain employed by SA Health for the duration of the project funding period
  - involved in delivery of patient care or patient outcomes as part of their primary role (note: staff employed primarily in a research role are ineligible for this funding)  
\*Applicants receiving funding from another source will not be eligible

Note: Previous winners of seed funding rounds are ineligible to apply as the Project Lead in subsequent rounds. However, they may elect to be an associate investigator.

2. Research experience - project leads must have one or more of the following:
  - a. completed the [Training series Research Plan on a Page, with registration available via this link](#)  
Note there is a series commencing Tuesday 20th February, every week until 9th April.
  - b. have an experienced researcher on their team with roles of all team members outlined in the application

Note:

Project leads completing their PhD full time will not be eligible for funding.

All members of the research team to provide a brief Research Curriculum Vitae (CV) outlining their relevant research or quality improvement experience with



templates available on the ASHO website.

Possible options to identify an experienced researcher for mentoring include

- i. via the ASHO IIMPACT partnership; please complete [the application form](#) for a research mentor as soon as possible
  - ii. Local health service staff.
3. Both quality improvement (QI) and formal research projects are eligible to apply for funding. Relevant projects should:
    - a. involve some aspect of the mechanism, diagnosis, treatment or management of one or more health conditions, from an allied or scientific health perspective
    - b. be clinician-led, involving at least one AHP, MeS or MPH within SA Health
    - c. have tangible outcomes that are achievable within the proposed timeframe
    - d. clearly express potential financial and/or operational impact and value
  4. Ethical review

The PL must ensure appropriate ethical approvals have been obtained prior to commencement of the project. At the time of application, documentation from the relevant research ethics committee (REC) must be provided indicating that the project has either:

    - a. been submitted to the relevant research ethics committee for approval
    - b. received relevant ethics approval
    - c. or that ethics approval is not required.
  5. A statement from the discipline / operational manager supporting the PL's ability to undertake the planned work will be required and is included in the Application Form.
  6. PLs are strongly encouraged to consider the team composition to successfully complete the proposed work, including possible partnership with appropriate colleagues within the health service or university sector.
  7. Applicants will need to demonstrate the potential impact of their work by outlining a proposed pathway to translation to clinical practice.
  8. All sections of the Application Form must be completed in full, in accordance with instructions provided on the form. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
  9. As part of the proposed research or quality improvement project, possible items that may receive funding include:
    - a. short-term AHP, MeS or MPH backfill to allow staff time to complete data collection, data analysis or a pilot study.
    - b. Allied Health Assistants (AHA) and Technical Grade Officers (TGO) may be funded provided they are assisting the Project Lead (AHP, MeS or MPH) to complete their research
    - c. direct research costs including consumables
    - d. electronic survey or software subscriptions
    - e. data analysis costs for example, interview transcriptions, thematic analysis, quantitative or qualitative analysis.

Applicants should not apply for resources that are readily available through their LHN, such as computers, library resources, software licenses, etc.

### Project timeline

The project proposal should clearly outline a feasible timeline for project activities **to be completed within 12 months**. All funds awarded to successful applications must be expended before the end of the 2025/2026 financial year (noting that invoices and

salary journals must be finalised by May 31, 2026 to meet end of financial year schedules).

### **Project translation**

Attracting research funding is increasingly competitive with funding bodies supporting work that is relevant, methodologically sound, feasible and impacts health in a positive way. Project translation relates to the changes needed for knowledge created from research activity to be implemented and impact health outcomes.

This aspect of the application requires the applicant to demonstrate an understanding of translation to practice in the context of their organisation and LHN. It is recommended that scalability, visibility of outcomes, stakeholders (organisational support e.g., consumer participation and engagement) and sustainability be considered.

### **Project reporting**

A key component of any project is reporting and disseminating the learnings. Applicants must outline how they intend to share the project outcomes within their work unit, across SA Health and outward to other stakeholders as appropriate. In addition to project-specific dissemination strategies, funding recipients will be required to provide a written report to ASHO outlining the project outcomes and expenditure of funds by the end of the calendar year the money is awarded. Recipients will also be required to present their findings at relevant staff forums and research seminars, including the South Australian Allied Health Research Forum. Relevant information about your project may also be published on the ASHO website.

Copies of any publication, media and/or conference presentations derived from a funded project will be sent to ASHO. Acknowledgement of the funding support provided by ASHO must be included in any presentation or paper arising from the research and arrangements regarding Intellectual Property will conform to SA Health policy. Applications must clearly articulate the potential clinical significance, economic and operational impacts of the project. The proposed methodology should be feasible and link directly to the intended outcomes.

### **Assessment**

Applications will be assessed by a panel including an independent academic member. Scoring will be based on applications meeting the criteria in section 2 of the application form.

### **Application submission**

1. Download the [ASHO Seed Funding Application Form 2025\\_2026 \(DOCX 228KB\) \(opens in a new window\)](#).  
The form is designed for details to be typed directly into the Word document, with the exception of the Confirmation section, which should be completed by hand. In text instructions/guidelines/hints in italics must be deleted prior to submission of application.
2. Save the completed application form as a PDF with filename “[Surname] Seed Funding Research Application 2025\_2026”.
3. Email to [Health.AlliedHealthSeedFunding@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.AlliedHealthSeedFunding@sa.gov.au) with the subject line “[Surname] Seed Funding Research Application 2025\_2026”
  1. Completed application form
  2. Research CVs for all team members
  3. Relevant Human Research Ethics Committee documentation.
4. Applications will close at 5 pm on Friday 11 April 2025. Late applications will not be considered.

### **Enquiries**

All enquiries can be sent via email to [Health.AlliedHealthSeedFunding@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.AlliedHealthSeedFunding@sa.gov.au)





### **Application outcome**

1. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application as soon as possible.
2. The decision of the ASHO Seed Funding Panel will be final.