Beyond Blue Partnership Project Grants 2021

Grant Round Guidelines

Closing date: 20 August 2021 – 5pm AEST

Introduction
Beyond Blue is excited to announce an opportunity for researchers across Australia to involve Beyond Blue as a partner on a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Project funding application or an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkages Project funding application.

Beyond Blue is seeking Expressions of Interest (EoIs) from researchers addressing depression, anxiety and/or suicide who would like to involve Beyond Blue as a partner organisation on an NHMRC or ARC application. The following document outlines instructions for those who which to submit an EoI to Beyond Blue.

About Beyond Blue
Beyond Blue was established 20 years ago and today we are Australia’s most well-known and visited mental health organisation, focused on supporting people affected by anxiety, depression and suicide.

Millions of people from all over Australia each year put their trust in Beyond Blue as a safe and reliable source of mental health and suicide prevention advice, support and referral, and hope. We give people the tools and knowledge they need, whatever the state of their mental health – from low-level worries right through to life-threatening distress.

Beyond Blue has been a major funder of research into depression, anxiety and suicide in Australia since 2000. In our role as a knowledge leader and catalyst, we are committed to continuing to invest in research. This includes commissioning and funding research that contributes to our mission and strategic priorities, forming research partnerships, and translating research findings into practice to improve community outcomes.

Funding available
If your research proposal fits with our mission and priorities, and your application to the NHMRC or ARC is successful, Beyond Blue will provide up to $50,000 per annum (excl. GST) for three years (total up to $150,000 excl. GST) and in-kind support. If requesting an in-kind contribution, the proposed contribution from Beyond Blue must be recorded in the application form. Beyond Blue reserves the right to negotiate the in-kind contribution with applicants if they are successful in their application.

Beyond Blue intends to be a partner in up to five applications in their submission to the NHMRC or ARC.
Application Criteria
Beyond Blue will consider a broad range of research projects on depression, anxiety and suicide prevention. However, applicants must address at least one of the Beyond Blue research priority areas listed below in their EoI.

Research that is aligned to Beyond Blue’s strategy, mission and vision, and considers our focus on applied research, knowledge translation, and expanding the evidence base for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing, will be viewed positively. This will be extend to research that is also aligned with recent mental health sector reviews, including the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health, the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System, and the advice of the National Suicide Prevention Adviser and Taskforce.

Beyond Blue’s research priority themes are:

Understanding depression, anxiety and suicidality
This priority area will focus on research that strengthens our understanding of depression, anxiety conditions and suicidality. It will prioritise research into the biological, psychological and sociocultural factors that influence the cause, trajectory and personal experience of these conditions, how these factors change across the lifespan, how they differ between different population subgroups (gender, sexuality, ethnicity, culture and socioeconomic status), and how these factors can be recognised and modified.

Better treatments, supports and services
This priority area will focus on research into new treatments and services. It will prioritise research into: novel biological/psychological/social treatments; approaches involving self-management, peer-to-peer support or involving families or non-traditional workforce providers in service delivery; approaches that achieve integrated physical, mental and social health outcomes; and approaches that create new service platforms or strengthen existing ones.

Achieving equity
This priority area will focus on research that identifies and responds to the needs of individuals and communities at increased risk of depression, anxiety conditions and suicidality, or at higher risk of poor outcomes. It will prioritise research into: children who have experienced trauma; young people at risk of offending behaviour; carers – particularly those caring for someone with depression and anxiety; elderly Australians especially those in residential aged care; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, refugees and other potentially vulnerable cultural minority groups.

A holistic approach to prevention
This priority area will focus on research which generates new knowledge on depression, anxiety and suicide prevention across the range of settings appropriate for different stages of life, including families, early childhood settings, schools, tertiary education institutions, workplaces and the Internet and including economic analyses of these activities; and transferring this knowledge into practice, policy and behaviour change. It will prioritise research into building resilience and addressing the social determinants of health that contribute to these conditions.

Application Assessment
Applications will be assessed by a peer-reviewed panel comprised of experts from the Beyond Blue Research Advisory committee and Beyond Blue staff. They will be assessed in two stages using the criteria below. The first stage assessment will shortlist the EoIs received primarily based on the alignment of research. The second stage assessment will select up to five research projects that Beyond Blue will partner with in their application to the NHMRC or ARC.
Assessment criteria

1. **Alignment of research** with at least one of the four research priority themes.
2. **Clarity and soundness of the methodology.**
3. **Track record and team composition.**
4. **How the project includes people affected by depression, anxiety and suicide and those who support them.**
5. **Knowledge impact and translation.** Including the potential benefit and impact of the research on policy and practice, as well as for people affected by depression, anxiety and suicide and those who support them.

If the application is successful in being shortlisted, Beyond Blue may approach the applicant for additional information.

**Eligibility**

EoIs must be submitted from researchers at an eligible administering institution according to the NHMRC or ARC. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that Beyond Blue is an eligible partner and that the requested Beyond Blue involvement is in accordance with the rules of the partnership scheme to which the application is to be made. Applicants are advised to review the Funding Rules for the NHMRC and ARC grant they intend to apply for before submitting their EoI to Beyond Blue.

Beyond Blue have dedicated funds to support Indigenous led research. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers are encouraged to submit an EoI.

**Timelines**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expression of Interest open</td>
<td>Monday 26 July 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expression of Interest close</td>
<td>Friday 20 August 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment and shortlisting applications</td>
<td>September 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of outcomes to applicants</td>
<td>October 2021</td>
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Successful applicants will be expected to submit their application to the NHMRC or ARC in December 2021 and involve Beyond Blue in the drafting process. If this is not possible, it must be this identified in the EoI to Beyond Blue.

**How to Apply**

EoIs must be made using Beyond Blue’s standard template which can be found on the [research page](#) of the Beyond Blue website and be submitted via email to research@beyondblue.org.au by 5.00pm AEST on Friday 20 August 2021. No late applications will be accepted. Please name the file submitted using the CI’s surname, e.g. CISurname_EOI Beyond Blue

Contact details must be submitted at the same time using the standard contact detail spreadsheet which can be found on the [research page](#) of the Beyond Blue website. Please name the file submitted with the CI’s surname, e.g. CISurname_CIA contact details

Any questions regarding this EoI should be directed to Ms Rachel Mutch, Knowledge and Learning Lead via research@beyondblue.org.au