Introduction
Beyond Blue is once again, 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 or an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Projects grant application.

Beyond Blue is seeking Expressions of Interest (EoI) from researchers addressing depression, anxiety and/or suicide prevention, who would like to include Beyond Blue as a funding partner and project support on their NHMRC Partnership Project or ARC Linkage Project proposal in 2023.

The following document outlines instructions for those intending to submit an EoI to Beyond Blue.

About Beyond Blue
Beyond Blue was established 23 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.

Since 2000, Beyond Blue has been a major funder of research into depression, anxiety and suicide in Australia. 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
Project proposals best suited to Beyond Blue’s current research priorities, strategy and mission will be selected. From here, should those selected projects be awarded a NHMRC or ARC grant in 2023, they would receive from Beyond Blue - up to $50,000 per annum (excl. GST) for three years (total $150,000 excl. GST) and in-kind support for the duration of the project.

Requests for any in-kind contribution(s) from Beyond Blue must be recorded and detailed in the application form. Beyond Blue reserves the right to negotiate any in-kind contribution with applicants if deemed successful with their proposal.

For this Partnership Grants round, Beyond Blue intends to select and partner with up to five applicants for their submission to either the NHMRC or ARC.
Application Criteria
Beyond Blue will consider a broad range of research projects on depression, anxiety and suicide prevention.

Research that aligns to Beyond Blue’s strategy and mission, considers our focus on applied research, knowledge translation, and/or expanding the evidence base for First Nations peoples’ social and emotional wellbeing, will be viewed positively.

Research that is also aligned with recent mental health sector reviews, including the National Mental Health Research Strategy, 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 that are influencing mental health sector reform, will be well regarded.

Applicants must address at least one Beyond Blue research priority area listed below in their EoI.

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 First Nations peoples, 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.

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 First Nation-led research. First Nation researchers are encouraged to submit an EoI.
**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. Beyond Blue may also approach shortlisted applicants for additional information.

**Assessment criteria**

1. **Alignment of research** with Beyond Blue’s research priority areas, strategy and mission.
2. **Clarity and soundness of the methodology.**
3. **Track record, team composition** and ‘application ready’ for submission to the NHMRC or ARC.
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.

**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>Wednesday 1 March 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expression of Interest close</td>
<td>Friday 31 March 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment and shortlisting applications</td>
<td>Late April 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification of outcomes to applicants</td>
<td>Mid May 2023</td>
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Successful applicants will be expected to submit their application to the NHMRC by 9 August 2023 for Partnership Projects PRC1, or the ARC by 31 July 2023 for Linkage Projects Round 2, 2023 and involve Beyond Blue in the drafting process. If this is not possible, please identify this in the EoI to Beyond Blue.

**How to Apply**

EoIs’ must be made using Beyond Blue’s template(s) 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 31 March 2023. No late applications will be accepted.

*Please name the EoI file submitted using the Chief Investigator’s (CI) surname, e.g. CISurname_EoI Beyond Blue*

Contact details must also be submitted at the same time using the CIA contact details spreadsheet which can be found on the research page of the Beyond Blue website.

*Please name the file submitted with the Chief Investigator’s (CI) surname, e.g. CISurname_CIA contact details 2023 Beyond Blue*

Any questions regarding the EoI application process should be directed to Ms Mischali Meerwald, Research Partnerships Co-ordinator via research@beyondblue.org.au