

Education Research Grants

Guide



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Program Objectives

Education Research Grants (ERGs) provide an opportunity for organisations to establish and develop research partnerships with academic institutions in their training region. These organisations include, but are not limited to:

- Rural Clinical Schools
- Universities
- Rural Hubs
- Rural Generalist Coordination Units (RGCUs)
- Rural Workforce Organisations.

ERGs aim to continue to build research capability in medical education and training with a specific focus on education improvement. The overarching objective is to develop evidence-based education initiatives that increase training capacity and improve educational outcomes, specifically:

- Exploration of innovative education models with a view to building sustainable training capacity;
- Identification, implementation and evaluation of new and existing education improvement initiatives suitable for regionalised primary care settings;
- Building the knowledge base for education improvement through increased research activities and publications;
- Promoting collaboration and engagement in research and development initiatives directly relating to education improvement.

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) manages two ERGs on behalf of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria address the three essential project components: an educational issue or problem identified, academic input on how best to research that issue or problem and skilled project management.

Eligibility

1. Organisation-led project with a clear academic institution partnership.

Meets Program Objectives

1. Builds Research Capacity:
 - Demonstrate how the research project will develop research capacity within the organisation.
2. Builds on the rural generalist training knowledge base:
 - Focus on at least one of ACRRM's research priorities
 - Demonstrate how the project is relevant to rural generalist training; and
 - Demonstrate commitment to dissemination of the results and implications for training, including publishing in peer-reviewed journals.

Research

1. Clear project goal and research question
2. Clear and specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound targeted objectives with defined key performance indicators.
3. Clear background and purpose for the project supported by:
 - Literature review specific to the project topic; and
 - A review of current practice (environmental scan) specific to the project topic.
4. Clear methodology, research design and methods that are appropriate to answer the research question.
5. Proposal demonstrates a clear understanding of the ethical issues that may arise from the project and how they may be mitigated.

Project Management

1. Demonstration of a clear project governance structure and to whom the project team will report within the organisation.
2. Clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of the project team.
3. Clearly identifies milestones and timelines, identifies risks with mitigation strategies and contingency plans.

Research Principles

ACRRM's research priorities are listed below. Applicants must consider how their research project supports one or more of these priorities:

- Enhancement of Rural Generalist education and training that would ultimately benefit the rural and remote communities
- Rural Generalist Advanced Specialised Training (AST)
- Rural Generalist training and supervision – in all contexts
- Teaching in the practice. Formal, informal and 'by the bedside'
- Competency-based training in the practice
- Data and information arising from a Multi-Source Feedback (MSF)
- Examination of the role of the patient (community member) in teaching undertaken in the practice

Funding Principles

Funding will be provided to research teams to undertake research, develop or evaluate one of the education research priorities. To ensure favourable consideration as a ground-up organisation-driven ERG project, any associated administrative costs should be included at an appropriate level within the organisation.

Organisations may submit an application to both ACRRM and RACGP. If offered a grant by both Colleges, the organisation will need to decide which grant is accepted. An organisation cannot receive two grants for the same research project.

Project Funding

Project funding will be available to organisations to be delivered over the academic year. Individual project funding is capped at \$150,000 (exclusive of GST). Project funding will only be available to projects meeting the selection criteria and application requirements.

Funding Exclusions

Funding is not permitted for the following:

- Ongoing costs associated with resource management and maintenance beyond the project completion date
- Physical infrastructure/contribution to large capital projects
- Subscriptions or memberships.

Application Process

Organisations submit applications to ACRRM for an ERG and the application requires the organisation to prepare a research proposal for the piece of research they intend to undertake.

Applications are accepted once a year for the next year's cohort. The application form is available on the ACRRM website. The applications are evaluated by the ERG Review Panel.

Application Stages

1. **Project development:** As the project sponsors, organisations are required to develop a research proposal and project plan in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Proposals are required to address the selection criteria and are completed using the ERG Application Form, obtainable from the ACRRM website.
2. **Project assessment:** Project proposals are assessed by a review panel and ranked according to merit. The panel will consist of staff with expertise in research and project management and external subject matter expert/s. Where required, further clarification will be sought from applicants.
3. **Grants offered:** Grants are offered in order of merit. Applicants advise ACRRM if they will accept the grant, noting that organisations can only receive one grant for each project.
4. **Funding agreements:** Funding agreements are issued, and funding allocated directly to organisations to co-ordinate and manage the project implementation.

Project applications which identify resources to be purchased for use by a group of practices need to identify a clear plan for usage and access by all relevant training practices.

Resource Ownership

Physical resources

Where the organisation procures resources on the basis that they are to be shared between project collaborators, the organisation shall bear responsibility for maintaining the resources.

Data and information

Data and information collected in the course of this project will be the property of the organisation and/or collaborating academic institution. The results and outcomes, data, and information collected (including literature review, base line data and environmental scans) shall be available for the use by ACRRM and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Disability and Ageing in the context of program policy development and publishing.

ACRRM Support

There will be supported opportunities during the year for grant recipients to share research findings, learn of other research being undertaken and network with other researchers.

These opportunities include attendance at a primary health care conference aligned to research and the Rural Medicine Australia (RMA) conference.

The cost of the attending the primary health care conference is to be included in the project budget. ACRRM will provide an additional \$4000.00 in the first instalment to enable up to two people to attend the RMA conference. Grant recipients are expected to attend all activities.

For further information please email training@acrrm.org.au.

Risk Assessment Tables

Consequences Ratings

Rating	Consequence(s)	Description
5	Severe	Would stop achievement of functional objectives
4	Major	Would threaten functional objectives
3	Moderate	Necessitates adjustment to overall function
2	Minor	Would threaten an element of function
1	Negligible	Lower consequences

Risk Likelihood Matrix

Rating	Likelihood of Risk Occurring	Likelihood of Risk Occurring
5	Almost Certain	Expected to occur in most circumstances
4	Likely	Will probably occur in most circumstances
3	Possible	Could occur at some time
2	Unlikely	Not expected to occur
1	Rare	May occur only in exceptional circumstances

Level of Risk & Residual Risk

LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCES				
	Negligible – 1	Minor – 2	Moderate – 3	Major – 4	Severe - 5
Almost Certain – 5	Low Risk (L)	Moderate Risk (M)	High Risk (H)	Very High Risk (VH)	Very High Risk (VH)
Likely – 4	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Moderate Risk (M)	High Risk (H)	Very High Risk (VH)
Possible – 3	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Moderate Risk (M)	High Risk (H)	Very High Risk (VH)
Unlikely – 2	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Moderate Risk (M)	High Risk (H)
Rate – 1	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Moderate Risk (M)	High Risk (H)