



beyondblue National Priority Driven Research Program Round 2

Guidelines for applicants applying under the priority: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

**Applications open: Saturday 3 December 2011
Closing date: 5pm AEDST Tuesday 28 February 2012**

Introduction

beyondblue, the national depression and anxiety initiative, is a national, independent, not-for-profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression, anxiety and related disorders in Australia. *beyondblue* works in partnership with health services, schools, workplaces, universities, media and community organisations, as well as people living with depression and/or anxiety and their carers, to bring together their expertise.

The National Priority Driven Research Program – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stream

The *beyondblue* National Priority Driven Research (NPDR) program is a national grant funding program aims to fund clinical and applied research in depression and/or anxiety.

This stream aims to specifically support **research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing** (eg, mental health promotion, strategies to address anxiety and/or depression, strategies to encourage help seeking).

The stream is based on the following core principles and applications must adhere to them:

- **Capacity building** – supporting career and skill development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, researchers and community members.
- **Research driven by community** – supporting research that responds to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities;
- **Partnerships with Indigenous communities** – research that strengthens existing, and creates new, partnerships to foster collaborative research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people social and emotional wellbeing;
- **Implementation** – a focus on research that can be transferred into practice to make a positive contribution to closing the gap between Indigenous and non- Indigenous people.

Grant funding and duration

Applications valued up to \$300,000 (GST exclusive) and for a maximum period of two years will be considered.

Co-funding from other organisations

beyondblue supports researchers to explore a variety of co-funding opportunities to leverage more funds for depression and anxiety research.

Research projects over \$300,000 will be considered if funding is sourced from other funding provider/s (eg, government, other non-profit organisations, research institutes). Researchers are expected to identify realistic partnership/co-funding opportunities. *Note: It is the policy of beyondblue **NOT** to accept funding from, or partner with, pharmaceutical companies.*

Support of infrastructure

Grants provided under the NPDR program are for **direct research costs** (refer to the NHMRC Direct and Indirect Research Costs as a guide), however, **indirect research costs** (eg, travel to associated conferences) **and infrastructure costs will not be covered.**

Project Eligibility Criteria

1. An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander researcher must hold one of the key Investigator positions (ie, Chief Investigator (CI) or Senior Investigator (SI)).
2. An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander undergraduate or postgraduate student must be included on the Research Team throughout the life of the project (note: the student will NOT be CI or SI).
3. Training and mentorship must be provided to the above student throughout the life of the project.
4. The proposed social and emotional wellbeing study focus must be a priority for the community in which the research is being conducted.
5. The proposal must have an appropriate and culturally sensitive methodology.
6. A letter/statement of partnership must be signed by all partners to the research.
7. Evidence of community support (eg, letter signed by a leader in the relevant community) should be provided.

All research proposals must adhere to the values and principles contained in:

Laycock, A. with Walker, D., Harrison, N. & Brands, J. 2011, *Researching Indigenous Health: A Practical Guide for Researchers*, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne.

Key Assessment Criteria

All applications will be reviewed on the above eligibility criteria as well as the following criteria.

Significance	Potential and extent of the proposed study to increase the knowledge and understanding of SEWB of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The extent to which the project, if successfully carried out, will improve the SEWB of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
Rigorous Research Methodology	Evidence of a culturally appropriate study design, methodology (including the selection and recruitment of participants), analyses, as well as documentation and dissemination of research results. These must be properly developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project.
Community engagement	Clear partnerships that show how the project will have relevant community engagement by individuals, communities and/or organisations in conceptualisation, development and approval, data collection and management, analysis, report writing and dissemination of results.
Sustainability and transferability	How the results of the project have the potential to lead to achievable and effective contributions to improved SEWB of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, beyond the life of the project. This may be through sustainability in the project setting and/or transferability to other settings.
Budget	Applicants are required to fully justify budget items.

Assessment Process

All applications enter a thorough and robust assessment process.

Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed for completeness, eligibility and alignment to the program by the Program Secretariat.

Assessments are undertaken by qualified experts in relevant research areas as well as consumers and carers trained in grant assessment.

Shortlisted applications will be reviewed through an independent peer review process.

beyondblue requires its assessment panel members and independent assessors to declare conflicts of interest and to withdraw from considering individual applications where such conflict exists.

Applications will be reviewed on the basis of merit before funding recommendations are made to the *beyondblue* Board.

Decisions made by the beyondblue Board are final.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application at the conclusion of the assessment and approval process. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Research Funding Agreement with Beyond Blue Limited. A project will not commence, nor funds expended, prior to signing of the Agreement.

Timeframe

Action	Date
Call for applications	3 December 2011
Applications close	28 February 2012
Notification of successful applicants	September 2012

Clearance requirements

Research funded by *beyondblue* shall be conducted in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007) and NHMRC Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research (2003). Clearances for research shall be obtained from the appropriate Ethics Committee prior to the commencement of the research and proof to *beyondblue* of obtained clearance is required.

How to Apply

Applicants applying under the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stream** must use the ***beyondblue* NPDR Round 2 (Indigenous) online application form** that can be accessed from the *beyondblue* website www.beyondblue.org.au.

Applicants must create an account (password protected) with SmartyGrants www.smartygrants.com.au in order to access the application form. A key feature of this online method is the ability for applicants to save their partially completed applications, and return and complete the application at any point prior to the grant round closing date.

Applications must be submitted by **5pm AEDST on Tuesday 28 February 2012**. Late applications will be considered ineligible.