



National Blood Sector Research
and Development Program
Round 6

Grant Opportunity Guidelines

These Grant Opportunity Guidelines should be consulted and applied to all applications for the National Blood Sector Research and Development program

Opening date:	7 March 2025
Closing date and time:	11:59 pm AEST on 27 May 2025
Commonwealth policy entity:	National Blood Authority Australia
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact Senior Project Officer to Research@blood.gov.au
Date guidelines released:	7 March 2025
Type of grant opportunity:	Targeted competitive

Contents

1. National Blood Sector Research and Development Program: Round 6 processes	4
2. About the grant program.....	5
2.1 Round 6 grant opportunity	6
3. Grant amount and grant period.....	7
3.1 Grants available	7
3.2 Grant period	7
4. Eligibility criteria.....	8
4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?.....	8
4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?.....	8
5. What the grant money can be used for	9
5.1 Eligible grant activities	9
5.2 Eligible expenditure.....	9
5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for.....	9
6. The assessment criteria	10
7. How to apply.....	12
7.1 Timing of grant opportunity processes.....	13
7.2 Questions during the application process.....	13
8. The grant selection process	13
8.1 Assessment of grant applications	13
8.2 Who will assess applications?	14
8.3 Who will approve grants?	14
9. Notification of application outcomes.....	14
9.1 Feedback on your application.....	15
10. Successful grant applications	15
10.1 The grant agreement	15
10.2 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards.....	16
10.3 How we pay the grant	16
11. Announcement of grants	16
12. How we monitor your grant activity.....	16
12.1 Keeping us informed	16
12.2 Reporting	17
12.3 Grant agreement variations	17
12.4 Evaluation	18
12.5 Acknowledgement.....	18
13. Probity.....	18
13.1 Transperancy	18
13.2 Conflicts of interest	19
13.3 Handling information	19
14. Glossary.....	20

1. National Blood Sector Research and Development Program: Round 6 processes

The program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to National Blood Authority's Outcome 1. The National Blood Authority works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRP\)](#)



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on [GrantConnect](#). Grant guidelines, application form and supporting information is made available to applicants on the National Blood Authority (NBA) website



Receipt of applications

Grant applications are received by NBA. The NBA acknowledges receipt of applications.



Compliance review

The NBA reviews each grant application to ensure applications are compliant. The applicants are notified about the outcome of the review.



Expert Review Panel evaluation

Grant applications are collated by 'type of grant'. A panel of expert advisors evaluate applications against the assessment criteria.



Expert Review Panel advice and Grant Evaluation Panel meeting

Expert Review Panel provides a report to the NBA Grant Evaluation Panel. Recommendations are provided to the NBA delegate.



Decision and notification

The NBA delegate decides on funding. Applicants will be advised of the decision



Contracting

The NBA negotiates and executes grant funding agreements with the successful applicants.



Delivery of grant

Successful applicant delivers granting activity in accordance with the grant funding agreement. The NBA pays in accordance with the grant funding agreement.



Evaluation

Successful applications report in accordance with the grant funding agreement to assist evaluation. The NBA evaluates how the funded activities contribute to the National Blood Sector Research and Development Program.

1.1 Introduction

The National Blood Authority (NBA) was established by the *National Blood Authority Act 2003* (the Act) following the signing of the original National Blood Agreement by state and territory health ministers.

Under section 8(l)(h) of the Act and clause 25(n) of the National Blood Agreement, the NBA is charged 'to facilitate and fund appropriate research, policy development or other action in relation to new developments by relevant government or non-government persons or bodies' on behalf of state and territory governments.

In December 2011, the Jurisdictional Blood Committee (JBC) agreed to the development of a strategy to promote blood sector specific research. In 2013, the *National Blood Research and Development Strategic Priorities 2013-2016* were published on the NBA website. These were reviewed in 2021 after extensive consultation across the blood sector and now replaced with [The National Blood Research and Development Priorities 2022-27](#). The priorities were developed to guide and focus the research sector to these identified areas of priority.

The National Blood Sector Research and Development Program (Program) was developed to provide niche funding to support projects in two identified target areas relating to existing priority programs under the national blood arrangements, namely:

- Efficient and effective utilisation of immunoglobulin products.
- Patient blood management research gaps.

These guidelines contain information for the Round 6 of the National Blood Sector Research and Development Program. You must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity,
- the eligibility and assessment criteria,
- how grant applications are considered and selected,
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments,
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated,
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#) (CGRPs).¹

2. About the program

The Program is to facilitate world-class research and development in Australia that contributes to optimising the use, management and administration of blood products, and improve patient outcomes.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- enhance the sustainability and affordability of the national supply of blood products, including through increased efficiency and reduced blood product usage and wastage;
- identify appropriate use and reduce inappropriate use of blood products;
- maintain or enhance clinical outcomes for patients.

¹ [Federal Register of Legislation - Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#)

These objectives will provide evidence or new knowledge to:

- understand the biological action of blood products;
- identify optimum treatment, dosing or indications for use for blood products;
- compare the use of blood products with alternative strategies and treatments.

This will enhance opportunities for blood sector specific research and build research capacity through:

- encouraging priority-driven research related to the use and management of blood products;
- funding research aimed at addressing gaps in evidence, including where that will inform policy development and program implementation;
- fostering collaboration between researchers and other stakeholders to build Australia's research capacity relating to the use and management of blood products;
- facilitating translation of research to improve patient outcomes and cost effectiveness.

Continuous improvement objectives

The continuous improvement objectives of the Program are to:

- confirm that the Program continues to deliver on its stated objectives;
- continue to monitor and improve administrative processes to support various research components, including potential Program documentation and promotion, application rounds, evaluation of applications, funding of projects, and contract management and reporting;
- continue to monitor and improve governance processes for oversight of research application and funding programs.

2.1 Round 6 grant opportunity

Funding is now available for Round 6 of the Program which will run over 3 years from 2025. Round 6 grants will focus on research areas that have been identified by pre-existing strategic programs of the NBA and governments in the blood sector:

- Patient Blood Management (PBM) evidence gaps
- Efficient and effective use of immunoglobulin (Ig) products.

Patient Blood Management

The PBM guidelines have resulted from exhaustive systematic reviews of the published evidence. These reviews have identified a large number of areas where additional research is required. These research gaps are articulated in each of the six modules of the PBM Guidelines with the 'Future Directions' chapter. The PBM guidelines and the extensive systematic reviews are available for researchers to access on the NBA website at [Patient Blood Management | National Blood Authority](#).

Immunoglobulin

The broad priority areas for research were identified through consultation with the Ig governance groups including specialist working groups and the National Immunoglobulin Advisory Committee. These broad areas are:

- dosing and administration:
 - pharmacokinetic studies - minimal effective dosing including lean body weight dosing;
 - approaches to dosing including frequency and titration of Ig therapy;
 - weaning off/cessation of Ig therapy;
 - relative effectiveness of routes of administration.

- use of alternative or concurrent therapies that reduce reliance on Ig therapy predictors relating to:
 - selecting patients for/responders to Ig therapy;
 - achieving long term remission.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The National Blood Authority has announced a total of \$1.25 million over 3 years for round 6 of the National Blood Sector Research and Development Program.

3.2 Grant period

While the NBA will provide funding under three different grant categories (see table below), the research approach in each of these categories may encompass a wide range of activities including but not limited to clinical trials, surveys, secondary research, translational research and epidemiological investigations.

Where applicants are applying for amounts or durations outside of the indicative and anticipated figures, clear justification will be needed.

Type	Indicative \$ amount	Anticipated Duration	Description
Project grant	Typically \$30-150k per annum	Expended over a period up to 3 years	Entire, discrete research project proposal
Seed grant	Typically under \$50k	Expended over a period up to 1 year	Seed funding for early stages of innovative new research effort Generation of preliminary data needed to support future grant application
Scholarship	Typically \$25-30k per annum for post graduate students and postdoctoral research fellows	Expended over a period up to 1 year	Intended to support medical researcher in attainment of PhD or Master's degree or postdoctoral research fellow research

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

An applicant for a project or seed grant must:

- be a legal entity with an Australian Business Number or Australian Company Number;
- be an administering institution listed on the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as an administering institution. The list of NHMRC registered administering institutions can be found at <https://nhmrc.gov.au/funding/manage-your-funding/nhmrcs-administering-institutions>;
- be affiliated with a Principal Chief Investigator who is an Australian citizen, permanent resident of Australia, or a New Zealand citizen with Special Category Visa (subclass 444) status.

An applicant for a scholarship must:

- be a legal entity with an Australian Business Number or Australian Company Number;
- be an administering institution listed by the NHMRC as an administering institution. The list of NHMRC registered administering institutions can be found at <https://nhmrc.gov.au/funding/manage-your-funding/nhmrcs-administering-institutions>;
- be for a scholar who is an Australian citizen, permanent resident of Australia, or a New Zealand citizen with Special Category Visa (subclass 444) status.

The NBA may waive the citizenship requirement where it can be demonstrated that the research is based in Australia and will benefit health and medical research in Australia.

A request to waive the citizenship requirement must be made by the research administration office of the Administering Institution on behalf of the scholar/applicant at the time of submitting the application. The request to waiver must also demonstrate how the research will benefit health and medical research in Australia and confirm that the research is based in Australia.

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for grant?

An applicant is not eligible to apply for funding if any of the following applies:

- The applicant fails to satisfy the requirements of section 4.1;
- The applicant, or a project partner, is an organisation included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' (<https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>);
- The applicant is Lifeblood, Lifeblood personnel or an associate of Lifeblood.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

To be eligible, funding can only be used for direct research costs associated with a research project or activity that supports the objectives of the Program set out in section 2 and 2.1.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred undertaking eligible grant activities or agreed project activities.

The following principles apply to determine if a cost is a 'direct research cost':

- The cost must be integral to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the research activity as set out in the application for funding for that activity;
- The cost must be directly related to the grant proposal as set out in the application;
- The cost must not be for a facility or an administrative cost that would be provided by an institution in the normal course of undertaking and supporting health and medical research.

5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for

Funding cannot be used for the following activities:

- the purchase of capital works;
- general maintenance costs;
- telephone/communication systems;
- basic office equipment such as desks and chairs;
- rent and the cost of utilities;
- research already funded by the NBA under an existing contractual agreement;
- base salaries for investigators.

Funding will not be provided for an NBA scholarship if the applicant has an existing personal scholarship with another funder.

Applications for projects or activities within scope of the Lifeblood Research and Development Framework will not be eligible for funding from the NBA under the Program. The framework operates under a deed of agreement between Lifeblood and the NBA on behalf of all Australian governments. Activities covered by the framework include (but are not limited) to:

- donor behaviour;
- donor health and wellbeing;
- product safety;
- product usage.

Before submitting an application, applicants are encouraged to view the Lifeblood Research Program at www.lifeblood.com.au/our-research/program.

6. The assessment criteria

The Applicant must address all the following assessment criteria in the application. Each criterion will be weighted equally, contributing a percentage of the total score. To be shortlisted, applications must achieve a minimum score of 4 (Good) or more in each criterion. The assessment will be undertaken by a panel of expert advisors comprised of clinical experts in patient blood management, immunoglobulin or referred nominees. All applications will be evaluated on how feasible and achievable the proposed milestones are, based on the applicant responses in the relevant application form.

Criterion 1

Research scope, focus and potential value

Applicant should demonstrate this through identifying:

- The proposal aligns with the Program outcomes (see sections 2 and 2.1);
- The proposed research addresses a topic of critical priority included in [The National Blood Research and Development Priorities 2022-27](#);
- How it is likely to have a significant impact on patient outcomes, product use or policy.

Criterion 2

Quality

Applicant should demonstrate this through identifying:

- whether the study design methods include a clear research plan;
- whether the proposal has a clearly defined hypothesis/es, objectives and outcomes;
- the capacity to achieve the proposed outcomes to a suitable quality with the available resources, timeframe and budget;
- consideration of strengths and weaknesses of the experimental design/methodology;
- the research team (for project and seed Grants);
- relevant prior research experience (e.g. projects of similar size and complexity as the proposed project);
- the appropriate mix of expertise for the project;
- the publications record (attached and relevant).

For scholarships, it will also consider the following criteria:

- whether there is an experienced supervisor with a track record of successful post graduate completions;
- whether the student is of high quality with a sound referee report from the primary supervisor.

Criterion 3

Efficient and effective use of funds

Assessment against this criterion is intended to consider whether the research proposal indicates an efficient and effective use of NBA funding, including that:

- all other financial and non-financial contributions to the proposed research project are identified, adequate, and sufficiently secured;
- the research proposal does not duplicate funding potentially available under other government programs, and does not relate to Lifeblood research within the scope of their R&D Funding Framework under the Blood Service Deed of Agreement;
- the research administering institution demonstrates capacity to effectively and efficiently manage research projects successfully;

- it is likely that the research will be completed within the allocated timeframe to a suitable standard including:
 - in cases of career interruptions;
 - with competing work commitments (other research, teaching, clinical and administrative demands);
 - gaining ethics approval;
 - obtaining support from collaborating/participating organisations/institutions;
 - facilitating adequate staffing resources;
 - obtaining participant consent / or dealing with recruitment challenges;
 - remedying data access issues;
 - ensuring the research will be completed within the estimated budget;
 - providing a feasible budget for the complexity of the project.

Criterion 4

Governance and ethics

Assessment against this criterion will seek to confirm that:

- appropriate oversight and governance arrangements are in place;
- required Human Research Ethics Committee approvals have been obtained;
- an appropriate lead applicant has been identified for dealings with the NBA;
- all organisations, collaborators and partners involved in the research have been identified and have indicated commitment;
- research will be conducted in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research;
- the application describes robust data governance arrangements;
- the application describes appropriate consent and privacy arrangements;
- the applicant agrees to the NBA draft grant funding agreement and reporting requirements;
- appropriate accountability, probity and transparency arrangements are in place;
- appropriate reporting arrangements are in place between the applicant and the Grant Recipient;
- there is a commitment to publish reports and findings;
- all relevant conflicts of interest have been declared, considered and managed.

7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines, the sample application form and the sample grant agreement.

These documents may be found at [GrantConnect](#). Any alterations and addenda² will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified on any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

To apply you must:

- Complete the application form available at [Research funding program | National Blood Authority](#). Scholarship Applicants are also required to submit a completed Scholarship Acknowledgement Form;
- Provide all the information required;
- Declare any relevant conflict of interest (see section 13.2);
- Address all evaluation criteria;
- Indicate full or partial agreement to the template grant funding agreement.

Email the completed application form and all required attachments to Research@blood.gov.au by 11:59pm, 27 May 2025 (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

Applications lodged wholly or partly after the closing time will be deemed late and will not be admitted to the assessment process unless it is demonstrated that it was due to a technical error.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995 \(Cth\)](#). We will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately on Research@blood.gov.au. We do not have to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time. Applicants are required to consent to the following information being made available on the NBA and the Whole of Government GrantConnect websites if their application is successful:

- research aim;
- recipient(s) (by name);
- administering institution;
- value;
- approval date;

² Alterations and addenda include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications, Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents

- grant term (date);
- grant funding location.

7.1 Timing of grant opportunity processes

Once we receive your completed application form and supporting documentation, the assessment process will take 4-10 weeks. Successful applicants must use reasonable endeavours to enter into a formal grant funding agreement with the NBA within four weeks of receiving advice of a successful funding decision.

7.2 Questions during the application process

Questions can be sent through to research@blood.gov.au

8. The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

The NBA will conduct a compliance review on all grant applications to ensure they are compliant and contain required key information and attachments. Applications that are found non-compliant risk being considered invalid and not considered further.

The compliance review will seek to ensure that the application:

- uses the correct application form for the type of grant being sought;
- is completed in English in a usable electronic format;
- provides attachments as requested within the application form;
- provides contact details as required in the application form;
- includes ALL signatures and approvals as required in the application form;
- addresses the evaluation criteria as required in the application form;
- confirms that the administering institution is registered under the [NHMRC Administering Institutions](#) list;
- confirms that the research will be completed within the required timeframes;
- confirms that the research will be conducted predominately within Australia;
- confirms that the Principal Chief Investigator (for Project and Seed Grants) and Applicant (for Scholarship Grants) is an Australian citizen, a permanent resident of Australia, or a New Zealand citizen with Special Category Visa (subclass 444) status or, a waiver for this requirement has been submitted and there is demonstrated evidence of how the research will benefit health and medical research in Australia.

The compliance review will seek to ensure that the application has submitted based on Section 7. How to Apply.

If eligible, expert advisors will then assess the application against the assessment criteria (see Section 6) and against other applications.

We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria;
- how it compares to other applications;

- whether it provides value with relevant money.³

8.2 Who will assess applications

An expert panel comprised of clinical experts in patient blood management, immunoglobulin or referred nominees will assess each application on its merit and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which grant applications should be awarded a grant. The assessment committee will be made up of experts from all areas of the blood sector and we will invite specialist advice for the evaluation of an application if the panel deems it a requirement.

The Grant Evaluation Panel consists of the following members:

- a member of NBA legal services;
- NBA Director Research and Product Review;
- Jurisdictional Blood committee members; and
- Department of Health representative.

Following assessment of applications by the Expert Advisors including a Grant Evaluation Panel, a recommendation on funding will be provided to the delegate.

8.3 Who will approve grants?

As a delegate, the NBA's Chief Executive will approve funding for projects under the Program. The NBA will maintain transparent processes by providing clear but concise advice including:

- information for grant applicants;
- information about grant round outcomes provided on the NBA website and the GrantConnect website.

The delegate will consider whether the application will make proper use of Commonwealth resources, as required by Commonwealth legislation, and whether any specific requirements will be imposed as a condition of funding, should funding be approved.

Funding approval is at the discretion of the delegate and the delegate's decision is final.

9. Notification of application outcomes

Applicants will be advised in writing of the funding decision. Information about timing of decisions will be made available via the NBA website.

Letters to successful applicants will contain details of any specific conditions attached to the funding. Grant offers must be accepted within the timeframe specified in the letter of offer.

During the period between acceptance and publication of results, the offer will be embargoed, therefore it will be prohibited to publicise the information or news provided by the NBA until further advice is provided.

Imposing an embargo enables applicants to know whether, or not, they have been successful in advance of the official announcement.

³ See glossary for an explanation of 'value with money'.

The NBA recognises that such delays can make it difficult to maintain partner commitments and employment contracts associated with research projects. By releasing grant funding results under embargo, NBA aims to facilitate researchers taking necessary steps to initiate research projects so they commence on time.

During the embargo:

- Applicants can share outcomes with the research team and partner organisations (where applicable) but they must also keep the information confidential until the embargo has been lifted;
- Successful applicants may accept offers and proceed with planning. This includes seeking necessary approvals (for example, ethics approvals) and recruiting staff. Successful applicants may add grants to CVs for review (for example, as part of a new grant application) provided they add the words 'under embargo'. Research projects may commence if the embargo continues past the commencement date;
- Applicants should facilitate research activities proceeding as usual;
- Applicants and Administering Institutions are NOT permitted to share outcomes publicly until the embargo is lifted. This includes posting comments regarding outcomes in public domains such as social forums, websites, journals or newspapers.

9.1 Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, you may ask for feedback within 14 days of being advised of the outcome. We will give written feedback within 3 months of your request.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

Successful applicants will be required to use reasonable endeavours to enter into a Simple grant funding agreement with the NBA within **four weeks** of receiving advice of a successful funding decision. The agreement establishes the obligations of both parties.

Prior to submitting an application, it is recommended that applicants familiarise themselves with the conditions of the agreement relevant to them or consider seeking independent advice on the implications of agreement conditions and their capacity to meet these conditions if funding is.

Grant funding agreements are legally enforceable documents and action may be taken under the law where an obligation is not met.

The NBA will work with successful applicants with the aim of having agreements signed within four weeks of funding approval.

Applicants should not make financial commitments based on approval of funding until the agreement has been executed. Financial commitments dependent on the funding which are entered into before an agreement has been finalised with the NBA, are done so at the risk of the grant recipient.

10.2 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

There may be specific conditions attached to the funding approval as a result of the appraisal process or further considerations by the delegate. These will be identified in the letter of offer or during agreement negotiations.

10.3 How we pay the grant

Payments will be made on achievement of agreed milestones.

Before any payment can be made, grant recipients will be required to provide:

- a tax invoice for the amount (GST inclusive) of the payment;
- a satisfactory progress report and supporting documentation providing evidence of meeting the requirements for payment.

The duration of funding will not be ordinarily extended beyond the period agreed in the grant funding agreement. Extension will only be considered in exceptional circumstances which could not be reasonably have been avoided or mitigated, and the NBA reserves the right to approve or not approve an extension at its discretion. Further information about monitoring requirements are provided at Section 12.

It is recommended that applicants consider seeking guidance about the implications for receiving funding from a tax advisor or the Australian Taxation Office (www.ato.gov.au) prior to submitting an application.

In accordance with the terms of Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2, if payments to other entities who are registered or required to be registered for GST with the Australian Taxation Office are payments in consideration for a taxable supply, those payments are expected to attract GST.

11. Announcement of grants

Successful grants will be listed on the NBA and GrantConnect websites 21 calendar days after the date of effect, as required by Section 5.4 of the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#).

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

Grant recipients will be required to actively manage the delivery of the project. The NBA will monitor progress against the grant funding agreement through progress reports submitted by the applicant and grant recipient and may undertake regular teleconferences to monitor progress of the project. This should be kept in mind when identifying a contact person for the grant application. Specific contacts are required in addition to generic or group email inboxes.

Active monitoring of the project also includes grant recipients providing as much notice as possible for any variation requests relating to their project (see Section 12.3).

12.2 Reporting

Grant recipients will be required to report on the progress of the project and acquit the expenditure of Program funding at the times and in the manner stipulated in the agreement. The NBA will monitor the progress for the project using the submitted milestone/progress report.

The NBA requires grant recipients to monitor research progress in accordance with the [NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2023](#).

Reporting requirements will be agreed at the time of negotiation of the agreement.

Completion Report:

As part of the responsibility of the Program, the NBA is required to report to the Commonwealth and state and territory governments on funded research outcomes and impact. Future funding for the Program is contingent on demonstrating in meeting the Program objectives detailed in Section To that end, the NBA requires those who receive funding under the Program to provide project completion reports and later follow-up reports on publications and other relevant output, in order to measure the success of the Program and increase the likelihood funding future rounds.

Funding recipients must agree in the funding agreement to provide the NBA with a written report within 3 months of completing of the research project.

The report should describe how the project met the following criteria.

The proposed research scope, focus and potential value, including:

- degree to which the project met the objectives of the Program;
- how it addressed the research priorities for either the PBM or Ig;
- if and how the project aims/objectives and outcomes were achieved;
- the key research findings;
- any publications/presentations that are planned as the result of the research (provide further updates to the NBA if this occurs more than 3 months after the completion of the project).

Project Management performance including:

- management of Governance and Ethics;
- contributions from the research team and partner organisations;
- risk management - summary of risks and how they were managed;
- performance against project timelines;
- final expenditure against budget.

12.3 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You should not assume that a variation request will be successful or can be used as a workaround for inadequate planning. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

You can request a variation for specific situations. Regardless of whether interim reporting is required, the NBA must be advised as soon as possible, by the contact officer of the following:

- changes to nominated research personnel, or research supervisors;
- withdrawal of resources, or a substantive research partner or organisation;
- changes to project timelines;
- substantive changes to the research aims, objectives or approach;
- cessation of research (as soon as known by the researchers);
- advice of any media releases (in advance of the release of the media release);
- advice of any unplanned publicity (within one day of the publicity).

12.4 Evaluation

Evaluations may be undertaken by the NBA to determine the extent to which the granting activity contributed to the outcomes of the Program. Grant recipients may be required to provide information to assist with evaluations for a period of time.

The NBA will work with successful applicants and grant recipients to determine the information required to undertake an evaluation. The nature of information required will be determined with consideration to the complexity and purpose of the evaluation.

12.5 Acknowledgement

Grant recipients are required to acknowledge the support of the NBA in any publications or presentations arising from research supported by the NBA. An example of appropriate wording for acknowledgements is outlined below:

'[Title] [Surname] and [Administering Institution] was supported by a [Project Grant / Seed Grant / Scholarship Research Grant] from the National Blood Authority, Australia.'

Grant recipients will be required (as applicable) to:

- register their research in the relevant research register such as but not limited to
 - [International prospective register of systematic reviews](#) (for non-Cochrane Reviews)
 - [Cochrane Database for Systematic Reviews](#) if funding is to complete this type of review
 - [Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials registry for clinical trials](#);
- publish research outcomes;
- acknowledge the NBA as the funding source.

13. Probity

13.1 Transparency

The NBA is committed to ensuring that the process for providing funding under the Program is transparent and in accordance with these guidelines. The NBA is also committed to ensuring that it will maintain transparent processes by providing clear but concise advice to applicants in accordance with its roles and responsibilities in section 12.5 of these guidelines.

All complaints should be emailed to the NBA Research and Development Program mailbox at Research@blood.gov.au.

OFFICIAL

Complaints concerning assessments and/or decisions will, in the first instance, be directed to the NBA Program Director. If the complaint is unresolved, the complaint will be referred to the Senior Management of the NBA.

Any enquires relating to aspects of the Program, should be emailed to Research@blood.gov.au. The NBA will endeavour to ensure enquiries are attended to in a timely manner.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072

Online Form: [Web Form Submission \(ombudsman.gov.au\)](http://ombudsman.gov.au)

Website: [Contact us | Commonwealth Ombudsman](#)

13.2 Conflicts of interest

Under the terms of the template grant funding agreement, grant recipients are required to declare a conflict of interest where the applicant or the grant recipient subsequently identifies that an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest exists or might arise in relation to their application for funding.

Applicants must inform the NBA of any conflict in writing at the time of application. Should any new conflicts arise, or the nature of any declared conflicts change, applicants must provide this information to the NBA as soon as practical.

A conflict of interest may exist, for example, if an applicant or a grant recipient or any of its personnel:

- has a relationship (whether professional, commercial or personal) with a party who is able to influence the appraisal process, such as an NBA staff member or Expert Advisors;
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict a successful funding proponent from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently;
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain as a result of the granting of funding under the Program.

Conflicts of interest will be handled in accordance with the NBA's processes for managing conflicts.

Conflicts involving Australian government employees will be handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (section 13) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#) and the NBA's processes for managing conflicts.

13.3 Handling information

The NBA collects information from applicants, including personal information, to assess their eligibility for funding. The NBA may give some or all of this information to Australian Government agencies, persons or organisations for the purposes of assessing applications and related purposes. Personal information will be used, stored and disclosed in accordance with the [Privacy Act 1988](#).

Applicants should identify any specific information which is to be treated as confidential and provide legally justifiable reasons as to why it needs to remain confidential. The NBA may still be required to disclose confidential information as permitted and required by law. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act).

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
contracted service provider	A contracted service provider is a person who is a party to a Commonwealth contract or is a party to a subcontract with a contracted service provider and is responsible for the provision of goods or services under contract, either directly or indirectly.
co-sponsoring entity	when two or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Eligibility criteria should be developed to enable objective validation and are either 'met' or 'not met'. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Commonwealth entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants

OFFICIAL

	administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
grant	for the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money⁴ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁵ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and 2. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement and specifies the details of the grant.
GrantConnect	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single [entity] Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)	The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is an independent Commonwealth agency. It detects, investigates and reports on serious or systemic corruption in the Commonwealth public sector. The Commission operates under the National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022 .
PBS Program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant

OFFICIAL

	Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
value with money	<p>value with money in this document refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the quality of the project proposal and activities;• fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives;• that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved; and• the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

^[1] Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

^[2] Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.