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Lifetime Support Authority of South Australia

Researcher Guidelines for Stream 1 Research Grant Round

1 June 2021

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Researcher Guidelines for Stream 1 Research Grant Round

1. Introduction

The Researcher Guidelines provide potential applicants with an overview of the Lifetime Support Authority (LSA) Stream 1 research grant round. Applicants are advised to read the guidelines before completing the application form. In addition, all applications are required to ensure that research conducted using the LSA grant is of the highest quality and integrity, consistent with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018.

2. About the Lifetime Support Authority (LSA)

The Lifetime Support Authority (LSA) is a statutory authority established under the Motor Vehicle Accidents (Lifetime Support Scheme) Act 2013 (SA). The LSA has a legislative function to funding research in connection with services provided to participants in the Lifetime Support Scheme (LSS), or 'the Scheme'.

The Scheme provides treatment, care and support for participants who have sustained serious, lifelong injuries in a motor vehicle accident in South Australia, regardless of fault.

Types of serious injuries include paraplegia, quadriplegia, brain injury, severe burns, amputations and blindness. The [Lifetime Support Scheme Rules](#) outline the eligibility for participation and criteria for injury to qualify as a participant of the Scheme.

3. Aim of the Lifetime Support Scheme (LSS) funded research

The LSA is responsible for the administration of research grants funded out of the Lifetime Support Scheme (LSS).

The aim of LSS-funded research is to:

- enhance the quality of life for the LSS participants
- encourage service innovation within the Scheme
- inform financial sustainable funding decisions
- protect the LSS fund's long-term financial sustainability and/or contribute to the long-term affordability of the Scheme
- impact the health of the Scheme participants through translation of findings into outcomes.

The LSA is working to strengthen its approach to research funding to enable more strategic investment in research projects that have a significant impact on end users. It is important for applicants to demonstrate that the research will have an impact on the LSS participants and/or the LSA.

4. Research priorities

The LSA has identified three research priorities and invites applicants to submit their proposals to address these key areas. Applications that do not address one or more of these priority areas will not be considered for funding. The three research priority areas are:

1. The impact of early treatments, rehabilitation or interventions to improve LSS participant vocational or physical health outcomes.
2. Usage of non-prescribed and prescribed medications and alcohol among LSS participants pre- and post-accident.
3. The impact of home automation for the LSS participants and the Scheme sustainability.

Applicants will be required to submit a research translation plan and indicate the relevant area/s of return on investment for the LSA. The intended outcome of the LSS-funded research is to increase knowledge that can be practically applied to improve decision-making to external service providers and/or LSA processes and/or the LSS participant experiences that impact health, social and economic wellbeing. A research translation plan should consider which partners could benefit from this evidence, when will partners will be engaged, what role partners will play and how practice or behaviour change will be implemented. It is important that the research translation plans to make an impact on the appropriate people using a suitable format.

5. Funding

The LSA will fund research projects for a duration of up to one year. Applications can be submitted for a value between \$20,000 and up to \$250,000 (exclusive of GST).

Funding covers:

- salary costs (applicants need to indicate the classification level and FTE)
- direct research costs (e.g. scans, posting questionnaires, transcribing, language translation, teleconference line, access to specialist archives/databases and outcome measurement tools)
- travel costs essential to the project (e.g. vehicle mileage, flights, transfers and accommodation where necessary for the purposes of data collection).

Funding does not cover:

- costs associated with obtaining, or delays associated with obtaining, Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approval
- registration, accommodation or travel expenses to attend conferences
- institution infrastructure levies or fees
- regular business running costs (e.g. office space, insurance or rent)
- technology devices (e.g. computers, smart devices and mobile phones)
- professional membership fees
- patent application costs
- professional development courses
- journal publication fees.

Administration of funding

The LSA will enter into a funding agreement with the Chief Investigator's nominated administrating institution.

Other finding

The applicant must inform LSA of any other funds that are awarded for the same research project.

6. Eligibility

To be eligible, the Chief Investigator must:

- have Australian citizenship or be a permanent resident in Australia
- hold a PhD or equivalent research doctorate
- have at least 12 months research work experience post the awarding of their PhD or research doctorate. Please note: clinical work does not qualify as research work experience
- reside and be employed within South Australia*
- not have outstanding contractual obligations to the LSA from previous grants.

7. Key dates

Event	Key dates
Round opens	1 July 2021
Round closes	30 July 2021 at 4pm ACST
Notification of successful applicants	30 October 2021

8. How to apply

Applications must be lodged through the SmartyGrants portal on the LSA website lifetimesupport.smartygrants.com.au by the closing date.

It is recommended applicants review the templates available on our website prior to applying. Note that once your application has been submitted, no further amendments or changes can be made. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Applicants will not be accepted via email or post. Applicants will receive email confirmation on successful submission of their application.

Email LSA.Research@sa.gov.au for technical assistance with the SmartyGrants portal. Applicants are advised that technical support will be unavailable from 4pm ACST on the closing date.

9. Selection process

All applications will be considered through a competitive review process. An external panel of assessors will assess eligible submissions according to the assessment criteria table (outlined below). The panel will make recommendations to the LSA. The LSA will make the final decisions on the grants awarded based on the external panel recommendations.

Assessors are required to declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interests. Assessors are required to preserve the confidentiality of any information supplied and will not make copies of, or disclose information, unless explicitly authorised by the LSA, or where required to do so by law.

* The LSA will consider collaborative applications between a South Australian and an interstate researcher provided that the collaborating organisation is also contributing to the project, and a majority of the research occurs within SA (except if this is not feasible due to highly specialised requirements not available in SA).

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If an application is incomplete or contains false or misleading information, the application will become ineligible. The LSA reserves the right at any point in the process to seek evidence from the applicant to support the certification of applications in SmartyGrants.

Assessment criteria

Criteria	Weighting	Scoring considerations
Research team	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">skills within the team to complete the researchresearch team's track record relevant to this project
Scientific merit	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">clear objectives and appropriate study methodsobjectives address LSA research priorities
Research translation plan	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">impact of translation plan into policy and/or practicevalue to the LSA and/or LSS participants
Feasibility	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">feasibility to deliver project in 12 monthsbudget feasibility

10. Notification of application outcome

A letter of offer will be sent to notify the outcome of your application. For successful applicants, the offer of award will be subject to the project being able to commence within six months of the date of award.

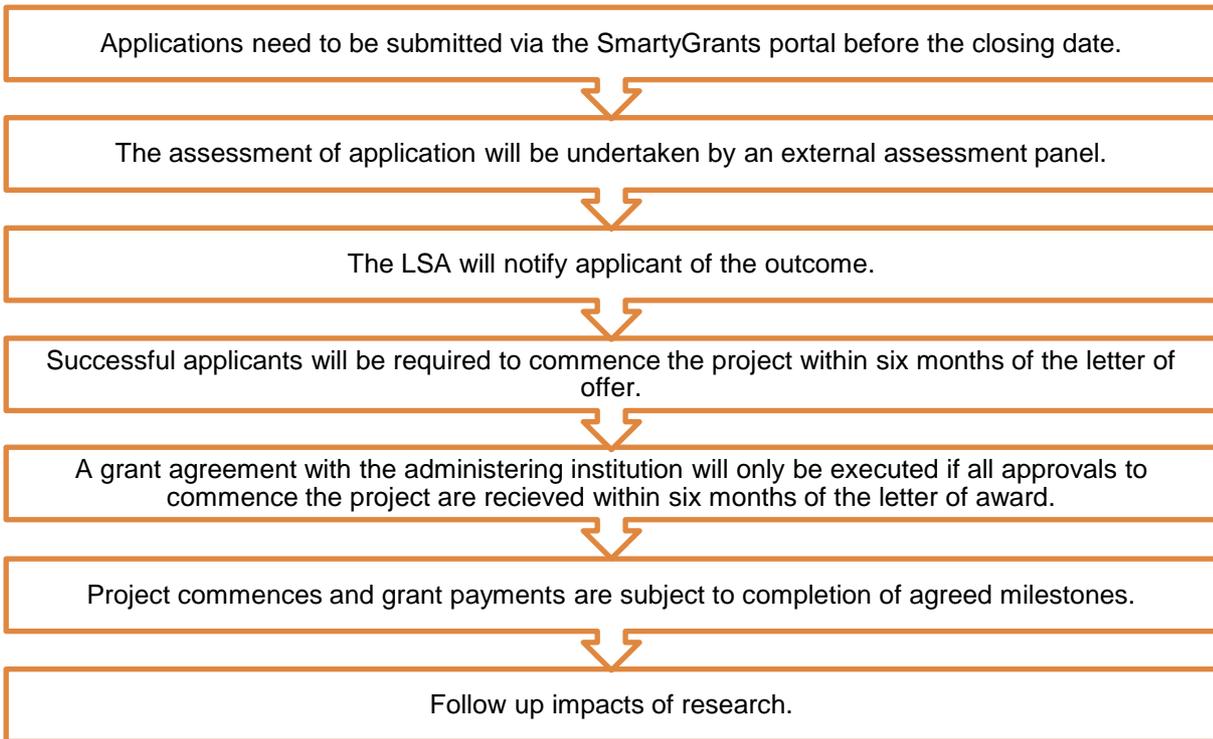
A grant agreement with the administering institution will only be executed if all approvals to commence project are received within six months of the letter of award. Project approvals required before project commencement may include ethics approval, data, site access approvals or staff recruitment. If the research is unable to commence within six months of the date of award, the LSA reserves the right to withdraw an offer and award the funds toward another project. The funding agreement with the Administering Institution must be fully executed before invoices will be paid.

11. Timelines for reports and payment

Progress of grant payments are directly linked to completion of milestones.

Milestones	Payment	Payment schedule
Project commencement	30%	Initial payment will be paid after relevant approvals are achieved prior to project commencement (e.g. ethics approval, site access approval, staff recruitment etc).
Six months	40%	Invoice will be paid after the agreed six-monthly milestones are the satisfactory completed.
Project completion	30%	The final proportion of the grant will be paid after the satisfactory completion of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none">final report (in format of publication manuscript)consumer summary (maximum 500 words)financial acquittal of the funds receivedproject completion form. These documents are to be submitted via SmartyGrants within 30 days of the expiry of the grant period.

12. Research grant process summary



13. Contact Details



For further information about research grants please contact:

Research and Care Innovation
The Lifetime Support Authority

Email: LSA.research@sa.gov.au

Ph: (08) 8463 6131

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