

Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund – Round 8

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Eligibility

What department is the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund delivered by?

Round 8 of the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund will be delivered by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (department).

Who is eligible to apply for funding?

The program is available to organisations in the health service, education or research sectors, or an organisation that has a commercial relationship with an organisation in one of these sectors. Applicants must also hold an active Australian Business Number (ABN) and have current insurance policies for Public Liability (of at least \$10 million) and Professional Indemnity (at least \$5 million).

Is collaboration mandatory?

Yes. To apply for this program, collaboration with at least one other organisation is required. Applicants must state their preferred collaborating partner and must attach relevant proof of collaboration to their application.

Can there be more than 2 collaborating partners?

Yes. Applicants can add the details of any additional project partners as an optional attachment to the application.

Can international partners be involved in the project?

Yes. Project partners can be international companies or researchers, provided that the project research activities will be predominantly conducted in Victoria.

Gender balance weighting

Does the Chief Investigator need to identify as a woman to apply for this program?

No. This is not an eligibility criterion. However, if the Chief Investigator does identify as a woman at the time of project commencement, the application will be awarded an additional 2.5% assessment weighting. To access the additional weighting, applicants will have to attest to meeting this criteria in the application form.

Does the research team need to consist of 50% women?

No. This is not an eligibility criterion. However, if the project team consists of at least 50% women at the time of project commencement, the applicant will be awarded an additional 2.5% assessment weighting. To access the additional weighting, applicants will have to attest to meeting this criterion in the application form.



What if my project team isn't yet decided? Can I still attest that it will consist of 50% women when the project commences?

Yes. As long as you attest in the application form that at the time of project commencement the project team will consist of 50% women, you will be eligible for the additional 2.5% weighting. To access the additional weighting, applicants will have to attest to meeting this criterion in the application form.

What is the maximum additional weighting my application can receive?

Applicants may be eligible to receive a maximum of 5% additional weighting – that is, up to 2.5% additional weighting for each of the following criteria:

- Project teams where at least 50% of members identify as women at the time of project commencement.
- A Chief Investigator (CI) who identifies as a woman at the time of project commencement.

Where applicants attest to meeting these criteria in the application form, the department will conduct due diligence checks to verify they have been met.

What if I attest to one or both of these criteria being met and by the time of project commencement one or both of these criteria are no longer met?

If an applicant attests to meeting either criterion and subsequently fails to meet it, the department will reassess scoring and has at its absolute discretion the option of terminating the Funding Offer or Grant Agreement.

Funding

Do I need to provide evidence of having secured matched co-funding in my application?

Yes. All applicants are required to have 1:1 matched cash co-contribution funding and will need to provide evidence of this as part of their application, to the department's satisfaction. Co-contribution funding can be provided by the lead organisation, the collaborative partner, or another source.

Does the matched co-contribution funding need to be dollar for dollar? How is this assessed?


Yes. Matched funding is dollar (\$AUD) for dollar (\$AUD). In-kind co-contribution or other government grant funding is not allowed as co-contribution funding for the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund.

Can the matched co-contribution funding be in-kind support?

No. In-kind funding cannot make up your co-contribution for the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund.

Is the matched co-contribution funding subject to the eligible and ineligible expenditure items outlined in the Guidelines?

No. Co-Contribution Funding is not subject to eligibility criteria. However, the applicant must demonstrate that all Co-Contribution Funding will be applied to the Applicant's project. Any



grant funding received under VMRAF Round 8 from the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions must be expended in accordance with the Program Guidelines.

How much funding is available through the program?

VMRAF Round 8 is expected to offer around \$1.5 million (GST exclusive) of funding across 2 tiers:

Tier	Description	Available grant funding per project
Tier 1 – Early Stage	Early-stage innovative research proposals that demonstrate potential for translation at a later stage.	Up to \$100,000
Tier 2 – Fast track	'Fast track' translation of research to products or practices into clinical or health practice.	Up to \$500,000

Applications

What are the key dates for the program?

The key dates for Round 8 of the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund will be listed on the program's webpage (link below). Key program dates are indicative only and may be subject to change.

How many applications can each organisation submit?

Organisations are invited to apply for funding for up to 4 research projects for Round 8 of the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund. The projects must be independent of each other.

Universities are invited to apply for up to 4 research projects per Faculty.

Does the research need to be conducted in Victoria?

As part of their application, applicants must attest that research activities will predominantly be led from, and conducted in, Victoria.

Can international or interstate companies or researchers apply as the lead applicant?

Yes. As long as the lead applicant meets the eligibility criteria and the research activities will be predominantly conducted in Victoria, international or interstate companies or researchers may apply as the lead applicant.

Is there a timeframe in which the project needs to be completed?

Activities funded by the grant must commence following the execution of the grant agreement and must be completed within 2 years of project commencement.

When will I hear about the outcome of my application?

It is anticipated that all applicants will be advised via email of the outcome of their application prior to June 2026.

Can I dispute the outcome of my application?

No. The decision from the Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs will be final.

Who will own the Intellectual Property Rights of the project?

The Applicant organisation will own all research project Intellectual Property.

What are the conditions of the grant?

As a condition of funding, successful applicants will be required to deliver regular project reports throughout the lifecycle of the grant agreement. Further conditions will be detailed in the funding agreement.

Where can I find more information?

For more information regarding Round 8 of the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund, please view the Program Guidelines available on the program's webpage:

<https://djsir.vic.gov.au/medical-research/sector-support/Victorian-Medical-Research-Acceleration-Fund>

For email inquiries relating to the VMRAF, please contact the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions at OHMR@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Important

Please note, to support the integrity and competitiveness of the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund, departmental staff will not provide advice to applicants regarding their individual circumstances relating to their eligibility.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Program Guidelines and this FAQ document which provides clear details on eligibility requirements.