2026-27 PREMIER'S AWARDS FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

VICTORIA State Government | Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

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1. Program summary

1.1 Overview

The Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research were established in 1995 by the Victorian Government, in partnership with the Australian Society for Medical Research, to provide support and recognition to Victoria's most talented early career health and medical researchers (Early Career Researchers), inspiring them to build a successful long-term career.

The Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research are administered by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR, the department).

1.2 Program objectives

The objectives of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research are to:

- provide targeted recognition and financial incentive to Victoria's Early Career Researchers
- recognise and promote Victoria's health and medical researchers and their research.

1.3 Program outcomes

The expected outcomes of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research are:

- Victorian health and medical researchers and their research have an increased profile within the Victorian health and medical research sector.
- The Victorian community has an increased understanding of the value and quality of Victorian health and medical research.
- State recognition motivates current and aspiring researchers to pursue and sustain a career in Victoria's health and medical research sector.

Over the longer-term, this program is expected to lead to the following outcomes:

- Awards finalists and winners sustain and build their career within the Victorian health and medical research sector.
- Current and aspiring researchers choose to pursue and sustain a career in health and medical research in Victoria.
- More First Peoples pursue and sustain a career in health and medical research in Victoria.
- Victoria's strong health and medical research brand is attracting and retaining the best medical researchers, as well as investment.

1.4 Key program dates

Key program dates will be published on the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website.

1.5 Key strategic overlays with intersection

Victoria's *Health and Medical Research Strategy: 2022-2032*, *Economic Growth Statement* and DJSIR's *Strategic Plan 2023-2027*

The Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research seek to deliver on the Victorian Government's vision for health and medical research, as articulated through Victoria's *Health and Medical Research Strategy: 2022-2032* and *Economic Growth Statement*. The *Economic Growth Statement* identifies health technologies and medical research as a key priority sector. The *DJSIR Strategic Plan 2023-2027* outlines the department's strategies, focus areas, portfolio priorities and key actions, many of which intersect with health technologies and medical research.

Victoria's Health and Medical Research Workforce Action Plan 2024

The Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research seek to deliver on the Victorian Government's vision for Victoria's health and medical research workforce, as articulated through *Victoria's Health and Medical Research Workforce Action Plan 2024*. The awards align with the second domain of the action plan, to attract and retain talent. They contribute to this outcome by raising the profile of and celebrating Victoria's health and medical research talent.

marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri: The Victorian Aboriginal Health, Medical and Wellbeing Research Accord

marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri endeavours to improve the ethical standards of health, medical and wellbeing research that impacts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Victoria. The implementation of the Accord is being led by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO).

The Victorian Government has endorsed the Accord and strives to uphold its values and guiding principles to ensure improved ethical standards and cultural safety in research, and adherence to self-determination principles.

For further information on *marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri* please visit the Accord webpage: www.vaccho.org.au/accord/.

2. Award recognition and prize money

The Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research will include 5 categories of awards (category awards):

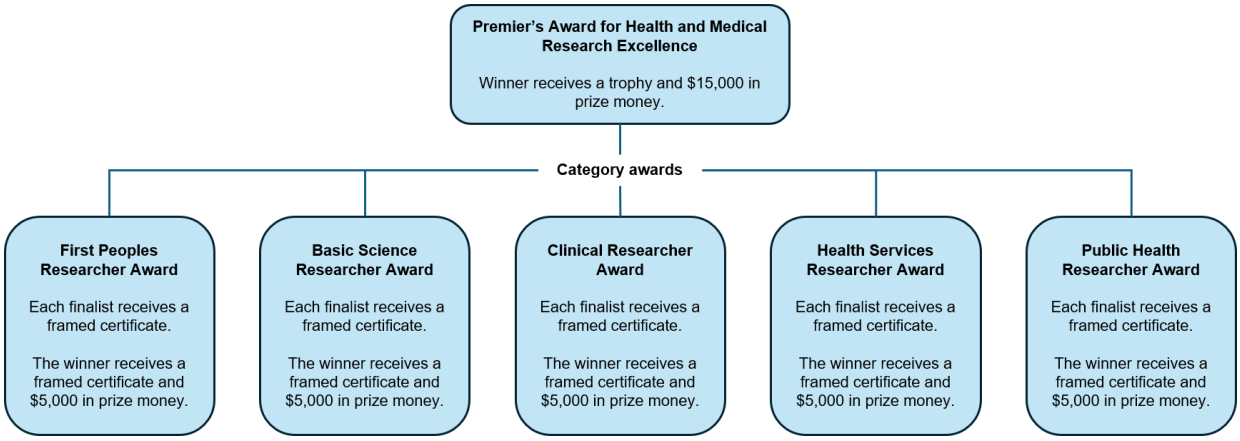
- First Peoples Researcher Award
- Basic Science Researcher Award
- Clinical Researcher Award
- Public Health Researcher Award
- Health Services Researcher Award.

Each of the 5 category award winners will receive $5,000 (excluding GST) in prize money. Each winner will also be presented with a framed certificate. All category award finalists will receive a framed certificate.

There will be an overall winner from the 5 categories who will receive the Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence. They will receive an additional $15,000 (total prize money of $20,000 excluding GST) and will be presented with a trophy.

Figure 1 provides a summary of the awards available through the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research. Please refer to **Appendix A** of these program guidelines for further information regarding the 5 category awards.

Figure 1: Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research – summary of awards



3. Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants may only apply for one category award. Applicants must only submit one application for consideration.

3.1 Eligibility

3.1.1 Applicant eligibility

To be eligible to apply, all applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. **Victorian academic or research institute**

Applicants must currently be conducting research at a Victorian academic or research institute. Please refer to **Appendix A** of these program guidelines for further details.

2. **Citizenship and residency requirements**

Applicants must be either an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have permanent residency in Australia.

3.1.2 Additional requirements for all category awards except the First Peoples Researcher Award

Applicants for the Basic Science Researcher, Clinical Researcher, Health Services Researcher and Public Health Research Awards must also meet the following criteria:

1. **Qualification requirements**

Must be either of the following:

a) A postdoctoral researcher who has met all the requirements of a PhD within a health and medical field in the last 5 years as of 1 September 2026, at a Victorian academic or research institute.

b) A postdoctoral researcher who has met all the requirements of a PhD within a health and medical field in the last 6 years as of 1 September 2026, at a Victorian academic or research institute, but has faced career disruptions for one or more years since their PhD requirements were met, due to extenuating circumstances.

2. Research project requirements

Must nominate one research project to form the basis of their application. The chosen research project must meet the following criteria to be eligible for consideration:

- Must have been or is conducted within a field of health and medical research, with research activities having been predominately led from a Victorian academic or research institute.
- Must have been or is underway following the applicant meeting the requirements of their PhD – this:
    - may include a project that was commenced prior to PhD requirements being met, and was actively continued following PhD requirements being met
    - cannot include a project that was completed prior to PhD requirements being met.
- Must align with the award for which their application has been submitted for consideration. Care should be taken by the applicant to review the eligibility criteria detailed within these program guidelines, when deciding on which award to apply for.

3.1.3 Additional requirements for the First Peoples Researcher Award

Applicants for the First Peoples Researcher Award must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and, be accepted as such by the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community in which they live (or originate).

Applicants for First Peoples Researcher Award must also meet the following criteria:

1. Qualification requirements

Must be one of the following:

a) A postdoctoral researcher who has met all the requirements of a PhD within a health and medical field in the last 5 years as of 1 September 2026, at a Victorian academic or research institute.

b) A postdoctoral researcher who has met all the requirements of a PhD within a health and medical field in the last 6 years as of 1 September 2026, at a Victorian academic or research institute, but has faced career disruptions for one or more years since their PhD requirements were met, due to extenuating circumstances.

c) A current PhD student within a health and medical research field at a Victorian academic or research institute, with a minimum candidature of 2 years as of 1 September 2026.

2. Research project requirements

Must nominate one research project to form the basis of their application. To be eligible for consideration, the chosen research project must have been or is conducted within a field of health

and medical research, with research activities having been predominately led from a Victorian academic or research institute.

If applying as a postdoctoral researcher, the chosen research project must also have been or is underway following the applicant meeting the requirements of their PhD – this:

- may include a project that was commenced prior to PhD requirements being met, and was actively continued following PhD requirements being met
- cannot include a project that was completed prior to PhD requirements being met.

If applying as a PhD student, the chosen research project must be the research project which forms the basis for their PhD in a health and medical research field.

All applicants must be able to meet all application requirements and supply all supporting documentation as outlined within these program guidelines.

3.2 Ineligible applicants

Previous Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence or category award winners are ineligible to apply.

4. Assessment information

The Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research represent a highly competitive program, and eligible applications will be required to rate highly against the assessment criteria compared to other eligible applications.

All materials supplied by applicants with their application will be taken into consideration during the assessment process.

4.1 Assessment process – eligibility assessment

Eligibility will be reviewed by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions and an eligibility report will be provided to the independent expert selection panel.

4.2 Assessment process – expert selection panel

Eligible applications will be assessed by an expert selection panel comprising leading members of the Victorian health and medical research community, representing a broad range of health and medical research fields. This panel will be external to the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, and will be supported by the department as secretariat.

Each expert selection panel member will sign a confidentiality agreement and complete a conflict of interest declaration to declare any conflict of interest they have with applicants and organisations. If a conflict is deemed material by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, the panelist will be removed from the assessment of the application.

The expert selection panel will review eligible applications against set assessment criteria in section 4.3 (Assessment criteria) of these program guidelines, and make the following recommendations for consideration and approval by the responsible minister:

- up to 3 finalists and one winner for each category award
- one winner of the Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence.

4.3 Assessment criteria

The assessment criteria as reflected in **Table 1** will be applied in the assessment of all applications for the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research. This includes applications from PhD students to the First Peoples Researcher Award.

Table 1: Assessment criteria and weighting

Criteria	Weighted percentage
1. Quality and significance of research project outcomes • Scientific rigour regarding all aspects of the research design, including methodology, hypotheses, measurement of outcomes and statistical analysis. • Applicant's project contributes novel insights into an issue where there is both burden and unmet research need, and the extent to which the research will lead to translational outcomes. • Research output as judged by measurable outcomes such as research publications, patent applications, adoption of findings or methods into clinical or public health practice, prizes, evidence of research and research-related knowledge transfer and other evidence of national and international recognition including conference/speaking engagement.	70%
2. Applicant's degree of independence and autonomy • In conceiving their research project, including the generation of hypotheses, research design and methodology. • In the execution of the research project, including interpretation of the results and in writing the papers.	15%
3. Demonstrates qualities of an emerging leader in their field • As judged by contributions such as: collaborative networking between other organisations/institutions, peer reviewing of publications, engagement with community or public advocacy, facilitating and/or speaking at events, student mentoring, equitable collaboration on their university or institute departmental activities, and active involvement in student or professional societies, committees, clubs or teams.	15%

5. Application process

5.1 Steps to apply

An overview of the application process is enclosed within **Table 2**.

Information regarding the application process and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) will be available on the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website.

Table 2: Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research application process

Step 1	Applicants should read these program guidelines in full and ensure that they understand and agree to the terms and conditions contained in these guidelines prior to participating in the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research. By applying for the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research, an applicant is agreeing to comply with the obligations of applicants as set out in these guidelines and the terms and conditions of the award (if selected as a finalist or winner).
Step 2	Applicants will need to provide referee letters. The reference letter template will be accessible via the online portal accessible through the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website. This template is for completion by referees.
Step 3	Applicants should ensure they have all required supporting documentation ready.
Step 4	Applicants are required to submit an application online via the online portal accessible through the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website. All questions in the application need to be completed or indicated not applicable. Late applications will not be accepted.
Step 5	Receipt of application will be acknowledged via automated email.

5.2 Application dates

Application opening and closing dates will be published on the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application via email.

5.3 General conditions and requirements

Personal information

Applicants are required to supply personal information relevant to the application and the personal information of referees (and PhD supervisors, where applicable), who must be aware of, and have consented to, their personal information being supplied.

Further information is available within section 9 (Privacy and confidentiality) of these program guidelines.

Allowable number of applications

Applicants must only submit one application for consideration. Applicants must only apply for one category award and are responsible for ensuring that they meet the requirements of the award they are applying for.

If an applicant submits multiple applications for consideration, representative/s of the department will contact the applicant and request they select one application to proceed with. Failure by the applicant to action this within prescribed timeframes will result in all submitted applications being deemed ineligible.

Application submission and email address

Applicants will be required to register and complete an online application form accompanied by the required documentation outlined in section 6 (Documentation and information requirements – all applicants) of these program guidelines.

Applicants should submit a maximum of one application for consideration, using their personal email address.

Applications must not:

- be submitted by third parties on behalf of an applicant
- be submitted from shared organisational email addresses – for example, shared mailboxes of research departments.

Failure to comply will result in the application being deemed ineligible.

Award consideration

While it is recognised that applicants may have been eligible to apply for more than one category award. Applicants will only be considered for the category award they have nominated in their application.

Applicant attestation, declaration and document requirements

Applicants must make the required attestation/s and declarations in the application form and must submit all required documentation (that meets the documentation and information requirements) to be eligible for award consideration.

Failure to comply will result in the application being deemed ineligible.

Application re-submission

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their application is submitted with all required information by the application closing date and time. Applicants may seek authorisation from the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions to re-submit their application in limited circumstances – for example, if they have encountered genuine technical issue/s with their submission. Please note that such requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and there is no guarantee that re-submission will be accepted or permitted.

If you believe that your submitted application meets the grounds for re-submission, please contact the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions at ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au as soon as possible.

Incomplete and late applications

To support the integrity and competitiveness of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research:

- Submitted applications that do not provide all the required information (such as missing attachments) will be deemed ineligible. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their application is submitted with all required information.
- Applications that have not been submitted by the application period closing date and time will not be considered. To be clear, this includes any incomplete and complete applications that have not been submitted by the specified closing date and time.

As noted, program dates will be published on Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website.

6. Documentation and information requirements – all applicants

Table 3 outlines the documentation and information requirements for all applicants to the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research.

PDF or Word formats are accepted for attachments.

Applicants may be contacted by representatives of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions if documentation contained within their application is unclear.

Table 3: Documentation and information requirements for all applicants

Requirement type	Requirement description	Reason for requirement
Research project	**Project title** – Title of the nominated one research project (up to 210 characters including spaces). **Project summary** – An abstract (short paragraph of up to 1,750 characters including spaces) explaining the research project and its importance in non-technical terms, understandable by the lay public. The abstract should clearly indicate the impact of the research on health outcomes. **Project report** – A complete description (up to 7,000 characters including spaces) of the project highlighting its importance and contribution to health or medical research.	Eligibility and assessment criteria
Referees	**Referees and reference letters** – Applicants must nominate 2 referees. Each referee must provide one reference letter. One referee must be the Head of the department or organisation where the nominated (one) research project was or is undertaken. Applicants must ensure that the letters are completed on the academic or research institute's letterhead and use the reference letter template accessible through the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website. The letters must cover the requirements detailed in **Annexure B** of these guidelines.	Eligibility, assessment criteria and due diligence
Attestation and supporting documentation	**Application attestation and supporting documentation requirements** Applicants must: 1) Attest to meeting the research project requirements detailed within these program guidelines. 2) Attest to having met the qualification requirements applicable to the category award they have applied for, as outlined in section 3 (Eligibility criteria).	Eligibility criteria and due diligence

Requirement type	Requirement description	Reason for requirement
	3) Attest to currently conducting research at a Victorian academic or research institute. 4) Attest to being an Australian or New Zealand citizen or having permanent residency in Australia. 5) Attest to not being a previous winner of an award in any year of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research from 1995 to 2025-26 (inclusive). 6) (where applicable) Include an attached signed statement of no more than 500 words attesting to the nature of the extenuating circumstances and duration of the career disruption faced. 7) (where applicable) Include evidence from the institution that has conferred their PhD (such as a letter detailing evidence of qualification and/or PhD conferral), or an academic transcript. 8) (where applicable) Confirm the date on which their PhD requirements were met and include details pertaining to their PhD institution and supervisor, as outlined within the application form. 9) (where applicable) Include evidence which confirms enrolment in a PhD and a minimum of 2 years candidature as of 1 September 2026. 10) (if applying for the First Peoples Researcher Award) Applicants must also attest to being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; identifying as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and, being accepted as such by the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community in which they live (or originate).	
Other documentation	**Curriculum Vitae (CV)** – CVs should aim to be no more than 3 pages with 12-point font. It should list publications and outcomes arising from the applicant's research projects or PhD studies, and relevant experience including: ○ a list of the applicant's top 5 publications or presentations, or those accepted for publication, within the last 5 years, and describe why they are important. The list of publications related to the applicant's PhD can be included as an appendix and is not included in the 3-page limit ○ evidence of research and research-related knowledge transfer ○ any commercial (e.g., patent), clinical practice, public health or policy outcomes	Assessment criteria

Requirement type	Requirement description	Reason for requirement
	○ evidence of involvement in extracurricular activities, or any other contributions to the scientific field beyond the applicant's research project that, demonstrates leadership capacity.	

7. Finalists and winners

7.1 Approval of finalists and winners

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions will brief the responsible minister on the expert selection panel's recommended award finalists and winners, for their consideration and approval.

The responsible minister will approve award finalists and winners at their absolute discretion. This decision will not be subject to review or appeal of any kind.

7.2 Publicity and acknowledgment – finalists and winners

Applicants selected as finalists or winners must agree to cooperate with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions in the promotion of the awards. This may include involvement in photography, video production, media releases, promotional events and ancillary activities. Such materials may be published by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions and/or via ministerial channels in an official capacity on behalf of the Victorian Government to support and promote the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research, including this year's finalists and winners.

Finalists and winners will be required to attend the awards presentation ceremony. They must not make any public announcement or issue any press release about the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research without prior written approval from the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions may publicise the benefits accruing to award finalists and winners and/or the state associated with the provision of the award. The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions may include the names of award finalists and winners, and awards provided in any publicity material and in the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions' annual report.

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions may request finalists and winners to fact check any text and seek approval to use any owned content associated with the activity prior to the publication of any such promotional materials.

7.3 Other award finalist commitments

Award finalists will be invited to attend and will be formally publicly announced at the awards ceremony. Award finalists must agree to:

- not disclose knowledge or make any reference to their status as a finalist of an award until otherwise advised by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

- attend the awards ceremony (exemptions will apply in certain circumstances). The department will advise of a confirmed date as soon as practical.
- work with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions in the development of media opportunities designed to support and promote the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research and its awards ceremony. This may include the production and submission of video footage, and/or photography for publication and promotional purposes.

7.4 Other award winner commitments

Winners will be invited to attend and will be formally publicly announced at the awards ceremony. Award winners must agree to:

- not disclose knowledge or make any reference to their status as a winner of an award until otherwise advised by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
- attend the awards ceremony (exemptions will apply in certain circumstances). The department will advise of a confirmed date as soon as practical.
- work with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions in the development of media opportunities designed to support and promote the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research and its awards ceremony. This may include the production and submission of video footage, and/or photography for publication and promotional purposes.
- acknowledge receipt of the award in their Curriculum Vitae for a 10-year period
- keep the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions updated with any significant career related news and achievements, via email at ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

The Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence winner is expected to provide a short speech at the ceremony upon receipt of their award. They may also be invited to participate in additional media and promotional opportunities by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

8. Compliance

8.1 Verification and due diligence assessments

Applicants may be subject to due diligence checks to enable the department to assess the application. Outcomes from such checks may be taken into account in any decision to recommend an applicant as an award finalist or winner.

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions reserves the right to:

- contact applicants and/or their reference letter referees to request further information regarding their application as part of the assessment process
- contact award winners to confirm details necessary for award prize money payment processing
- undertake other fact-checking or due diligence processes as deemed appropriate by the department.

8.2 False or misleading information

If any attestation, declaration or statement made, or information provided by the applicant is found to be inaccurate, false or misleading, the application will not be recommended for ministerial consideration, and any prize money that has been provided will be repayable on demand.

9. Privacy and confidentiality

Any personal information provided for the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research (the Awards) will be collected and used by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions for the purposes of administering the Awards (including but not limited to Awards monitoring and evaluation), assessing eligibility, and contacting applicants about their application.

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions completes a range of eligibility assessments that may include data matching to clarify the accuracy and quality of information supplied. This is part of our auditing and monitoring processes and for confirming eligibility across this program.

In assessing an application for the program as well as in any audit or evaluation of a successful grant, it may be necessary to share personal information with state and Commonwealth Government departments and agencies, as well as other external experts. If personal information about a third party is included in the application, the applicant must ensure the third party is aware of and consents to the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal information about the applicant or a third party will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed, or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic) and other applicable laws.

Enquiries about access or correction to your personal information, can be emailed to ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Other concerns regarding the privacy of personal information, can be emailed to the Department's Privacy Unit at privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au. The Department's privacy policy is also available by emailing the Department's Privacy Unit.

10. General conditions

10.1 Payment of award prize money

The responsible minister will approve all award finalists and winners. The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions will award prize money to award winners. The department's decisions on all matters pertaining to the award of prize money under this program is at the department's absolute discretion.

10.2 No right of appeal

Ministerial decision in relation to an application is not subject to review or appeal of any kind.

10.3 Feedback

Feedback on individual applications will not be provided.

10.4 Disrepute

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions may at any time, remove an applicant from the application and assessment process, if in the department's opinion association with the applicant may bring a departmental minister, the department or the State of Victoria into disrepute.

10.5 Amendments

These guidelines and application terms may be changed from time to time, within the discretion of the department and the changes will apply to your application. This may include suspending or cancelling the program.

10.6 Change in applicant contact details

It is the responsibility of applicants to advise of any change in their contact details from those submitted on the application form to support communication on program matters. Any changes should be forwarded as soon possible to the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions at ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

10.7 Program monitoring and evaluation

Applicants must agree to participate in monitoring and evaluation of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research program for a period of up to 3 years.

10.8 Other

As the Victorian State election will be held on Saturday 28 November 2026, the Victorian Government will assume a caretaker role from 6.00pm on 3 November 2026 until such time that either it becomes clear that the incumbent government will be returned, or when a new government is commissioned.

In line with the caretaker conventions, the incoming government will determine whether to continue the 2026-27 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research after the caretaker period.

Applicants should be aware that:

- all information about the 2026-27 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research represents the position of the current government only, and is subject to change; and
- an incoming government may decide to not continue with the 2026-27 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research.

11. Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI)

11.1

The department may use secure, generative artificial intelligence (gen-AI) tools for some elements of the assessment process. These tools are only intended to provide administrative support. The secure gen-AI tools retain data for a limited time, with data stored in Australia. Noting, external selection panelists will be prohibited from using gen-AI tools for the assessment process.

11.2

When an applicant uses a generative AI tool to prepare or assist in the preparation of their application, it remains the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all information in the application is accurate and correct.

If an application is ultimately successful, it is the applicant that enters into a binding agreement with the department and has contractual obligations to deliver.

12. Tax advice

Tax implications for prize money received may differ depending on individual circumstances. The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions recommends recipients of prize money to seek independent tax advice, or alternatively liaise with the Australian Tax Office (ATO) for advice that are specific to their individual circumstances. The ATO website also provides guidance in relation to prize and award payments which may be used for tax determination purposes.

13. Applicant declarations and acknowledgements

By submitting an application for these Awards via the online portal accessible through the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website, the applicant must acknowledge and agree to be bound by the conditions for this program set out in the application form as well as these program guidelines.

An agreement is formed between award finalists and winners and the department once award finalists and winners have been advised by email notification.

By submitting an application for these Awards, the applicant declares and acknowledges that:

- they have read the program guidelines and meet the eligibility criteria,
- the statements and information provided in their application are true and correct in every particular, and that they have not supplied false or misleading information,
- the information in relation to their research project (including research and academic work) provided as part of the application is their own and not plagiarised,
- they understand that they will only receive prize money through this program if they are selected as a winner of an award,
- they are responsible for their own costs and expenses related to the preparation and lodgment of their application,
- in lodging their application, they:
    - did not rely on any express or implied statement, warranty, or representation, whether oral, written, or otherwise made by or on behalf of the department, its officers, employees, agents or advisers other than any statement, warranty or representation expressly contained in this program guidelines,
    - considered and understood the program guidelines (including any other documents referenced or referred to in the program guidelines) and any other information made available in writing by the Department of Jobs, Skills Industry and Regions to applicants for the purposes of submitting an application, and

- did not seek or use the improper assistance of department employees or information unlawfully obtained from the department or any other person in compiling its application,

- they understand that the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research are being administered by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions for the State of Victoria, and acknowledge that this responsibility may be transferred to another Victorian Government department or agency should a Machinery of Government Change occur,
- they understand that they may be contacted by the department in relation to their application and they will provide additional information in a timely manner as and when requested by the department to clarify any matters contained in their application.

The applicant will need to confirm they have obtained the consent of any person whose personal information has been provided as part of the application and have provided those persons with a copy of the program guidelines.

14. Complaints and feedback

If an applicant wants to lodge a complaint or provide feedback to the department about the process for a grant application, requests can be made via this online form, by sending a written request to ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au or by calling 1800 878 969.

Requests can be made in relation to the application process and adherence to these guidelines. Re-assessment of an application or overturning of a decision will not be considered through the complaints process.

Once your complaint has been received by the department, it will be acknowledged within 2 working days and provided to the review team to be resolved. Your complaint will be resolved within 28 business days unless further investigation is required. If further investigation is required, you may be contacted by phone or email asking for additional information.

15. Further resources

For further information regarding the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research, including information regarding past award winners, please visit the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website.

Applicants are encouraged to review the FAQs document which will be available on the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website. If applicants have any questions while the application period is open, please contact the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, via email at ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au. Applicants are advised that departmental staff will not provide advice to applicants regarding their individual circumstances relating to their eligibility for award consideration.

Appendix A – Glossary

Victorian academic or research institute

For the purposes of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research, a Victorian academic or research institute is taken to represent an organisation in the health service, education, or research sector, with principal operations based in Victoria. Examples include:

- universities
- medical research institutes
- health services.

First Peoples Researcher Award

A researcher who has Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; who also identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and is accepted as such by the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community in which they live (or originate).

Basic Science Researcher Award

Basic research is experimental and theoretical work where the aim is to acquire new scientific knowledge without having a specific focus on practical applicability or long-term benefits. It provides the foundation to generate and advance further research and knowledge.

Clinical Researcher Award

Clinical research is a branch of healthcare science that determines the safety and efficacy of medications, devices, diagnostic products and treatment regimens intended for human use. These may be used for prevention, treatment, diagnosis or for relieving symptoms of a disease.

Public Health Researcher Award

Public health researchers work within local, national and global populations, seeking to improve the health of communities through evidence-based interventions to promote healthy behaviours. Supporting decision making, policy and practice through evidence and advocacy, public health researchers enable effective, integrated and equitable health care for all.

Health Services Researcher Award

Health services research is a multi-disciplinary research activity with the implicit objective of improving the health services patients receive. Improvement of health services includes better quality care (including care that is effective, timely and appropriate), more accessible care, more equitable distribution of health gains from health services, safer care, and improved efficiency in the provision of health care. Refer to https://www.hsraanz.org/ for more information.

Appendix B – Reference letter requirements

Reference letter requirements are outlined in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Reference letter requirements

Requirement	Description
Quality and significance of research project outcomes	• Scientific rigour regarding all aspects of the research design, including methodology, hypotheses, measurement of outcomes and statistical analysis. • The applicant's project contributes novel insights into an issue where there is both burden and unmet research need, and the extent to which the research will lead to translational outcomes. • Research output by the applicant, as judged by measurable outcomes such as research publications, patent applications, adoption of findings or methods into clinical or public health practice, prizes, evidence of research and research-related knowledge transfer and other evidence of national and international recognition.
Applicant's degree of independence and autonomy	• In conceiving their research project, including the generation of hypotheses, research design and methodology • In the execution of the research project, including interpretation of the results and in writing the papers.
Demonstrates qualities of an emerging leader in their field	• As judged by contributions such as collaborative networking between other organisations/institutions, peer reviewing of publications, engagement with community or public advocacy, facilitating and/or speaking at events, student mentoring, equitable collaboration on their university or institute departmental activities, and active involvement in student or professional societies, committees, clubs or teams.
Other	The applicant is required to provide referees with a copy of the program guidelines and the reference letter template includes that referees have: • consented to the release of the reference letter authored by them to third parties for the purposes of the assessment of applications • confirmed that the applicant has provided them with a copy of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research program guidelines • confirmed that they have read, understood, and accept the privacy statement as outlined within the program guidelines • consented to being contacted for further information if required.