

# 2024-25 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research

## Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Applications for the 2024-25 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research are now open.

### Questions about the Awards

#### What are the 2024-25 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research?

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 (ASMR), 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.

#### What types of awards are available through the 2024-25 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research?

##### Awards for Early Career Researchers

The Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research will include 5 categories of Awards for Early Career Researchers:

- Aboriginal Researcher undertaking research in any field of health and medical research Award
- Basic Science Researcher Award
- Clinical Researcher Award
- Public Health Researcher Award
- Health Services Researcher Award

There will be an overall winner from the 5 categories who will receive the Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence.

##### Legacy Award

In recognition of this year's 30th anniversary of the Awards program, a Legacy Award will be awarded to recognise the research excellence of one previous Premier's Award winner.

#### What prizes do the category award winners and finalists receive?

Each of the 5 Early Career Researchers category award winners will receive \$5,000 (excluding GST) in prize money. Each category finalist and winner will also receive a framed certificate.

The recipient of the Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence will receive an additional \$15,000 (total prize money of \$20,000 excluding GST) and will be presented with a trophy.

The winner of the Legacy Award will receive \$10,000 (excluding GST) and will be presented with a trophy. All Legacy Award finalists will receive a framed certificate.

## Questions about Award categories

### Who can apply for the Legacy Award?

Applicants for the Legacy Award must be a previous winner of an award in any year of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research from 1995 to 2023-24 (inclusive).

Applicants must also:

- meet the research project requirements for all applicants outlined within the program guidelines
- currently be conducting research at a Victorian academic or research institute
- be either an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have permanent residency in Australia
- be able to meet all application requirements and supply all supporting documentation as outlined within the program guidelines.

Previous Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research finalists or commendees who were not selected as an award winner are ineligible to apply.

Applicants for the Legacy Award are ineligible to apply for the Awards for Early Career Researchers and are ineligible for consideration for the Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence.

Further information regarding eligibility criteria is detailed within the program guidelines, available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

### Who can apply for the Awards for Early Career Researchers?

Applicants for the Awards for Early Career Researchers must be either of the following:

- a) a postdoctoral researcher who has completed a PhD within a health and medical field in the last 5 years as of 1 February 2025, at a Victorian academic or research institute; **or**
- b) a postdoctoral researcher who has completed a PhD within a health and medical field in the last 6 years as of 1 February 2025, at a Victorian academic or research institute, but has faced career disruptions for one or more years since graduating, due to extenuating circumstances.

Applicants must have completed their PhD at a Victorian academic or research institute.

Applicants must also:

- meet the research project requirements for all applicants outlined within the program guidelines
- currently be conducting research at a Victorian academic or research institute
- be either an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have permanent residency in Australia

- be able to meet all application requirements and supply all supporting documentation as outlined within the program guidelines.

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

Further information regarding eligibility criteria is detailed within the program guidelines, available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

## Questions about eligibility

**Am I eligible to apply for the Awards for Early Career Researchers if I am completing my PhD and/or have submitted my PhD, but it has not yet been awarded?**

No. Applicants must have been awarded their PhD and provide 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, as part of their application.

**With reference to the eligibility criteria for the Awards for Early Career Researchers, what counts as 'extenuating circumstances' with respect to career interruptions?**

Extenuating circumstances could include parental leave periods and health related disruptions. Circumstances are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Applicants will be required to provide a signed statement of no more than 500 words attesting to the nature of the extenuating circumstances and duration of the career disruption faced, as part of their application.

To support the integrity and competitiveness of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research, departmental staff will not provide personalised advice in response to applicant queries regarding their individual extenuating circumstances.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the program guidelines and this FAQs document which provide clear details on eligibility requirements for each award.

**Am I eligible for the Aboriginal Researcher undertaking research in any field of health and medical research Award?**

Applicants for this award category 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 this award must also meet all other applicable eligibility criteria, as detailed within the program guidelines available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

**Are part-time researchers eligible to apply for this program?**

Yes. If the applicant is conducting research in accordance with, and meets the eligibility criteria specified in, the program guidelines, they are eligible to apply.

There is no eligibility restriction pertaining to an applicant's FTE applicable to research activity.



## What are the citizenship and residency requirements for this program?

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

Applicants will be required to attest that this criterion has been met as part of their application.

If any attestation, declaration or statement made, or information provided by the applicant is found to be incomplete, 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.

## Do I have to be conducting research in Victoria to be eligible to apply for this program?

Yes. All applicants must currently be conducting research at a Victorian academic or research institute.

Further information regarding the program's eligibility criteria is detailed within the program guidelines available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

## Can my nominated research project be taking place overseas or interstate?

All applicants must nominate one research project to form the basis of their application. This 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.

It is recognised that research activity is collaborative by its nature and can span multiple jurisdictions. This criterion does not preclude a research project that involves interstate or overseas jurisdictions. It does, however, mean that a research project that was or is predominantly led outside of a Victoria academic or research institute is ineligible.

Further information regarding the program's eligibility criteria and information regarding what is constituted as a Victorian academic or research institute are detailed within the program guidelines available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

## I am still unsure if I am eligible to apply, can I seek personalised advice from the department regarding my individual circumstances?

No. To support the integrity and competitiveness of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research, departmental staff will not provide personalised advice in response to applicant queries regarding their individual circumstances and eligibility for awards.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the program guidelines and this FAQs document which provide clear details regarding eligibility requirements for each award.

## I would like to apply for an award category within the Awards for Early Career Researchers. Are there any restrictions on where my PhD was completed?

Applicants for the Awards for Early Career Researchers must also have completed a PhD at a Victorian academic or research institute within either of the last 5 years, or last 6 years (if they

have faced career disruptions for one or more years since graduating, due to extenuating circumstances).

Further information regarding the research project requirements and other eligibility criteria are available within the program guidelines available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

## Does prize money need to be spent on research-related activities?

Prize money awarded through this program is intended to support the ongoing work and development of the recipient; however, it is at the recipient's discretion how they choose to do this.

## Questions about the applications and assessment process

### What are the key dates for the program?

Key dates for the 2024-25 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research will be listed on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#). Key program dates are indicative only and may be subject to change.

### How do I apply?

You can apply online using the online application form available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

### Can I complete my application over multiple sessions and/or resume an application in progress?

Applicants will be required to register through the application portal in order to 'Save as Draft' or 'Submit' an application form. Applicants will be able to access their application through a link which will be sent to them once their application has been commenced, following registration.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete their application in one session to minimise the risk of technical issues and/or errors.

### What supporting documents will I need to provide in my application?

All applicants will be required to meet the following documentation requirements

- Project title
- Project summary
- Project report
- Referees and reference letters (x2) – as attachments
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) – as an attachment.

Additional attestation and/or documentation requirements apply depending to the type of award being applied for. Please refer to section 6 (Documentation and information requirements) of the program guidelines available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).



## How will the information I provide through my application be managed?

As part of the 2024-25 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research (Awards), the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) will be collecting personal information from you to assess your eligibility, administer the Awards, and to contact you about your application. Your personal information will also be shared with third-party assessors, who are a selection panel comprising of members of the Victorian health and medical research community.

Where you have provided personal information of a third party in the application, you must have notified the third party and obtained their consent to their personal information being handled in accordance with this Privacy collection notice and the Awards program guidelines.

Any personal information collected, held, managed, used, disclosed, or transferred will be held in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and other applicable laws. The department is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information.

You may contact DJSIR to request access or correction of your personal information by sending the request to [ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au). Any other concerns regarding the privacy of your personal information can be emailed to DJSIR's Privacy Team at [privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au). DJSIR's privacy policy is also available by emailing the Privacy Team.

## How will my application be assessed?

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

The panel will review eligible applications against set assessment criteria in section 4.3 (Assessment criteria) of the program guidelines and recommend award finalists and winners for consideration and approval by the Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs.

## Can I nominate someone else in place of the Head of the department or organisation where my nominated research project was or is undertaken, as my referee?

Applicants must nominate 2 referees and one of these must be from the Head of the department or organisation where the nominated (one) research project was or is undertaken. Each referee must provide one reference letter.

## What character, word, page and/or related restrictions apply for application documentation requirements?

Applicants must adhere to the following character and word limits withing documentation supplied as part of their application:

- **Project title:** up to 210 characters including spaces
- **Project summary:** up to 1,750 characters including spaces
- **Project report:** up to 7,000 characters including spaces

- **Reference letters:** must use the reference letter template accessible via the online portal accessible through the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** should be no more than 3 pages with 12-point font.

Please note that the character limitation is a feature of the application portal. The application portal will not accept content exceeding the character limits.

Please refer to the program guidelines for a detailed list of documentation requirements, available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

### Is the character limit for the project report inclusive of references, tables and figures?

The 7,000-character limit (inclusive of space) is inclusive of references. This field should be completed with text only – tables and figures cannot be included due to system limitations.

### Must I adhere to the document requirements outlined in the program guidelines, including document formats, character and word limits and/or page limits specified?

Yes. Applicants are expected to adhere to the documentation requirements relevant to the award nominated as part of their application.

Applicants must meet all required attestation, declaration and document requirements in the required form and substance to be eligible for award consideration.

### Are there any restrictions on the number of applications per applicant?

Yes. You must only apply for one award category within the Awards for Early Career Researchers, or the Legacy Award – that is, a total of one application submitted for consideration.

Applicants must ensure that they meet the criteria for the award nominated in their application.

### I work in a research office and would like clarification if there are any limits or restrictions on the number of applications per organisation?

There is no limitation or restriction on the number of applications with reference to the affiliated organisation.

Each applicant is only permitted to submit one application using their personal email address.

### I work in a research office and would like clarification on whether the same organisational referees can be nominated by different applicants to for these awards?

There is no limitation or restriction pertaining to the nomination of a given referee by different applicants.

## Can I submit my application from a shared mailbox and/or can someone else submit my application on my behalf.

No. You should submit a maximum of one application for consideration, using your own 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.

## Can my application be considered for multiple category awards?

No. It is recognised that applicants for the Awards for Early Career Researchers may have been eligible to apply for more than one award category. You will only be considered for the award category nominated in your application.

## I have applied for the Legacy Award, will I be eligible for consideration for the Awards for Early Career Researchers and/or the Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence?

No. Applicants for the Legacy Award are ineligible to apply for the Awards for Early Career Researchers and are ineligible for consideration for the Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence.

## How will I know if my application has been successfully submitted for consideration?

Submitted applications will be acknowledged via automated email. Please check your spam and junk mail folder/s if the confirmation email cannot be seen in your inbox.

## Can I make changes to my application after it has been submitted?

No. You will not be able to make changes to your application after it has been submitted. Please prepare your application in advance to ensure you provide all required information.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their application is submitted with all required information by the application closing date.

## I've submitted my application and realised that it is missing required content, what should I do?

To support the integrity and competitiveness of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research, applicants are not allowed to re-submit applications if they have omitted required content.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their application is submitted with all required information by the application closing date and time. Applications not submitted in full by the application closing date and time will be deemed ineligible and will not be accepted.

Applicants may seek authorisation from the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions to re-submit their application 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 is missing required content due to technical issue/s, please contact the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions at [ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au) as soon as possible.

## Questions about finalists and winners

### When will applicants be notified about the outcome of their application?

It is anticipated that all applicants will be advised via email of the outcome of their application approximately 8 weeks after the closing date.

Key dates for the 2024-25 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research will be listed on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

### I have been advised that my application has been unsuccessful. Can I request feedback?

No. Feedback on individual applications will not be provided.

### I have been advised that my application has been unsuccessful. Can I request that my application be re-reviewed or re-considered?

No. A ministerial decision in relation to an application is not subject to review or appeal of any kind.

### I have been advised that I am an award finalist. What additional commitments must I adhere to?

Finalists will be notified and invited to an awards ceremony (date to be confirmed, anticipated to be in late June 2025). Finalists will be formally publicly announced at the awards ceremony.

Finalists must agree to commit 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)
- 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.

For further information, please refer to section 7 (Finalists and winners) of the program guidelines available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

### I have been advised that I am an award winner. What additional commitments must I adhere to?

Winners will be notified and invited to an awards ceremony (date to be confirmed, anticipated to be in late June 2025). Winners will be formally publicly announced at the awards ceremony.

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)
- 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](mailto:ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au).

The Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research Excellence winner and Legacy Award winner are 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.

For further information, please refer to section 7 (Finalists and winners) of the program guidelines available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

## I have been advised that I am an award winner. When will I receive my prize money?

Further information regarding the process for award prize money payment will be communicated by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions with award winners, in due course.

## Where can I find more information?

For more information regarding the 2024-25 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research, please view the program guidelines available on the [Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions website](#).

### Important – please note

To support the integrity and competitiveness of the Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research, departmental staff will not provide advice to applicants regarding their individual circumstances relating to their eligibility for award consideration.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the program guidelines and this FAQs document which provide clear details on eligibility requirements for each award.

Acknowledging this, if you require further assistance please contact the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions at [ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:ohmr@ecodev.vic.gov.au).