

How to Apply for Writing Bursaries for Current CRCAH Projects

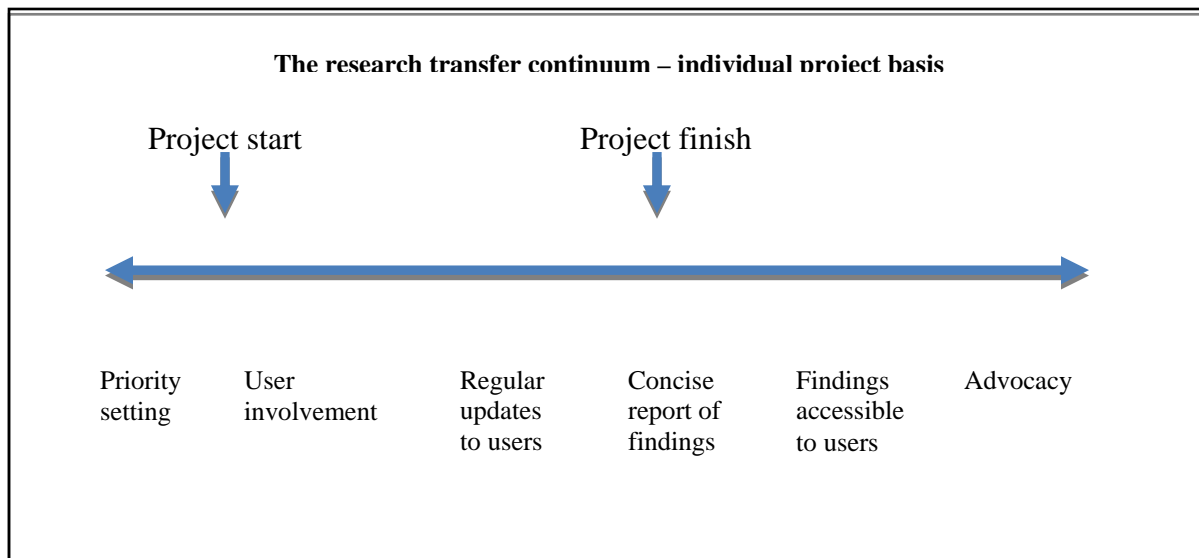
Background

The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRCAH) supports the strategic use of research for practical change that will help to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Accordingly, the CRCAH's entire approach to research is based on ensuring the uptake of research to inform policy and practice, and, ultimately, to produce improvements in Aboriginal health. This approach was developed from the evidence about best practice in research transfer from national and international sources, from the former Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health and the CRCAH's own research, and the experience and considered plans of CRCAH management.

Research transfer activity—which includes disseminating knowledge and information into the community and for use by health services, governments and others—is a central mechanism in achieving the CRCAH's goal. Our approach to research transfer activity involves:

- 1) Enhancing the 'pushing' of research knowledge out to relevant audiences (e.g. community members, health service staff or governments).
- 2) Increasing the capacity of audiences to 'pull' on available research knowledge.
- 3) Facilitating an 'exchange' environment through strategic involvement and partnerships that foster the sharing of expectations, interests and knowledge between researchers and the users of research (from the project start, throughout the research activity to beyond the project finish).

The research transfer continuum for individual projects is depicted in the figure below:



For more information about the CRCAH approach to research transfer see <http://www.crcah.org.au/research/researchtransfer.html>.

What is a CRCAH Writing Bursary?

The CRCAH Board has identified writing bursaries as a way of increasing the impact of project results, because they give researchers the time required to write up their findings and promote their messages about these findings to specific audiences and research user groups.

CRCAH writing bursaries are available as a one-off grant, generally between \$5000 to \$10,000, to supplement or pay a salary for a short period of time. The level of funding depends on the circumstances of each project.

The bursaries provide Project Leaders, students and others with the opportunity to increase the impact of their projects in a number of ways:

1. Publications—including full reports, discussion papers, policy briefs, fact sheets, summary reports, community reports and posters—that are credible, easy to read and accessible.
2. Quality assurance—internal assessment of quality, formal QA reviews of major publications and stakeholder involvement.
3. Events—such as research transfer showcases—centred around bundled topics or users (e.g. health services, government), but ensure time is provided for one-to-one interaction. Could be large or small (e.g. conference size or briefing size) and incorporate some advice on how to use evidence.
4. Promotion—promoting specific findings, to specific users (e.g. briefing government).
5. Advocacy—liaising with advocacy groups to assist them with accessing relevant evidence and with planning campaigns.
6. Building capacity—to use evidence and to work with government and community to increase their ability to identify and use research findings in policy and practice.
7. Apply for funding—to implement recommendations from the research or to continue research if required.

Criteria

- With the CRCAH at the end of its life-span writing bursaries will only be given to existing funded and in-kind CRCAH projects, in order to maximise their impact. These projects must not be underspent and have met all their milestones.
- Preference will be given to projects with main messages that contribute to community or government priorities in the Aboriginal health sector.
- Preference will be given to projects with key messages that would not otherwise be widely promoted.

How to apply

Applications for bursaries must be in writing (not more than two A4 pages in length), and can be submitted at any time via email attachment to the relevant Program Manager.

Applications must include information about:

- Project title and leader.
- Amount of funding requested.
- Proposed product to be developed through the writing bursary (e.g. a peer-review journal article, naming the journal; compiling a final report, community report, etc.)

- Name and contact details of the leader of the writing activity and their track record in producing similar products.
- Aboriginal involvement in the writing activity.
- Whether CRCAH mentoring or editorial support for finalising the product is needed.
- Anticipated impact and outcomes produced through the writing bursary.

What is the approval process?

On receipt of applications, the Program Manager will provide a brief either to the Research Development Manager or CRCAH Executive, depending on the amount being requested. The Program Manager will notify applicants of the outcome of their application in a timely manner.

For further information on CRCAH support for your project, please contact your relevant Program Manager or phone 08 8943 5000.