



Office for Ageing Well Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well 2025–2026

Open date: Friday 29 August 2025
Closing date: Friday 10 October 2025

Guidelines

Apply online at: dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants

INSPIRE. MOTIVATE. INNOVATE.



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About the Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services' purpose is 'Making a Difference so South Australia Thrives', and has three priorities:

- Increasing inclusion, independence, and shared decision-making for all.
- Supporting our communities when it matters most.
- Delivering modern services for our communities.

About Office for Ageing Well

Office for Ageing Well, Department of Human Services strives towards the vision that 'South Australia is a healthy, connected, equitable and sustainable community, which takes a whole of life approach that fosters many years of living well, and supports us to die with dignity in line with our wishes' as outlined in [South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020–2025](#).

Office for Ageing Well values consultation, advocacy and activities that are led by and include a diverse range of older South Australians. Whilst there is no universally agreed definition of older people, in general terms, Office for Ageing Well defines older people as people aged 50 years or older.

Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well

The Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well encourage researchers from a variety of disciplines to undertake innovative, independent research that generates new evidence and builds knowledge to address the social and structural determinants of ageing well to influence policy and practice.

Grants are available in two streams:

- 2 x Seed Grants will be awarded to successful grant recipients each to the value of \$25,000 for a research project of up to 12 months duration.

- 1 x Major Project Grant will be awarded to a successful grant recipient to the value of \$100,000 for a research project of up to 24 months duration.

The grants are an action of the [Strategic Research Agenda for Ageing Well in South Australia](#) (the Strategic Research Agenda), which describes the shared research priorities of a diverse range of researchers, policy makers and practitioners to encourage knowledge generation and translation to drive action on the social determinants of ageing well.

Strategic drivers

Strategic Research Agenda for Ageing Well in South Australia

The Strategic Research Agenda is a key strategic driver of the overall vision and aims of *South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025*, which outlines the State Government and community's vision and priorities for ageing well for all South Australians.

In 2021, Office for Ageing Well worked with the Centre for Health in All Policies Research Translation (CHiAPRT - jointly based at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) and the School of Public Health, University of Adelaide) to co-develop the Strategic Research Agenda with researchers, policy makers and practitioners. This work supports implementation of *South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025*, and drives action on the social determinants of ageing well.

Social and structural factors strongly impact health and wellbeing across the life course including quality of life. It is a challenge to achieve traction on the social determinants of ageing well without shared strategic and systemic effort across research, policy and practice. The Strategic Research Agenda aims to influence the change required for action on the social determinants of ageing well by having a shared agenda, stimulating research in areas of need and proactively supporting knowledge translation processes.

Find out more about the [Strategic Research Agenda for Ageing Well in South Australia](#).

Knowledge translation

The Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well encourage applications that address action at the community and system level. In addition, researchers are encouraged to take innovative approaches to the research aims, design and methods.

Despite the increasing focus on knowledge dissemination and co-production among the research community and research funders, many policy and practice questions remain unanswered, or research evidence and evaluations are produced with insufficient relevance to policy decision-making.

Decades of research have shown that simple dissemination of investigator-driven research has inconsistent impact on actual use of evidence in practice. It can also sometimes be inadequate to prompt improved or sustained health or social outcomes.

Over time, the practice and science of knowledge translation have strengthened to provide methods to address this gap - between what we know from research, and what we do in policy and practice. Some promising methods include research priority setting, cross disciplinary learning and relationship building, and the availability of funding to support strategic research agendas. These present the opportunity to effectively address emerging policy priorities and ensure that investigator-driven research is collaborative and relevant to policy and practice.

2025-2026 funding focus: Getting around

In the Strategic Research Agenda, research priorities are grouped under a set of 'pillars' corresponding with existing frameworks of the social and structural determinants of ageing well and aligned with *South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025*.

In 2025-2026, the Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well program will focus on answering priority research questions under the pillar of '**Getting around**'.

The full list of priority research questions, and the enablers for the research priorities - for example the importance of applying an equity lens to research can be found in the [Strategic Research Agenda for Ageing Well in South Australia](#).

Objectives

The objectives of the Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well are to:

- Support research and co-production of knowledge that can help to address questions of policy, practice and community importance in South Australia, and that have the potential to be used (implemented, scaled and translated) to guide ageing well policy and practice in South Australia.
- Reduce the time from evidence and knowledge generation to practice implementation, policy decision-making or real community benefit such as health or social impact.
- Enhance researcher capability, capacity and collaboration across disciplines, sectors and boundaries including academia, practice, policy and community.

Important dates

Grant round opens: Friday 29 August 2025, midday (ACST)

[Online information session](#): Friday 12 September 2025, 1:00pm (ACST)

Grant round closes: Friday 10 October 2025, 5.00pm (ACDT)

Applicants notified: February 2026

Project start date: Early June 2026

Project end dates: Seed Grants: June 2027 and Major Project: June 2028

Grant streams

Seed grant

Up to \$25,000 in seed funding for each of two research projects of up to 12 months duration.

The seed funding will enable researchers to produce preliminary data and/or secondary research synthesis, which can be used to apply for larger grants from national and international funding bodies to further advance discovery and practical implementation.

Projects must commence in June 2026 aligned with a one-off grant payment at this time.

Major project grant

Up to \$100,000 in funding for one major research project up to 24 months duration.

The major project funding aims to enable researchers to undertake research or knowledge translation that builds understanding about strategies and actions that can be undertaken to address the research priorities.

Projects must commence in June 2026 with split grant payments - \$50,000 to be paid at project commencement in June 2026 and the remaining amount in a second payment in June 2027 upon completion of agreed milestones from year one.

Eligibility criteria

Eligible organisations

To be eligible to apply, organisations must be:

- A South Australian based university, college, institute, association or organisation that is eligible for funding by the National Health and Medical Research Council and/or the Australian Research Council, or
- A South Australian not-for-profit organisation that conducts health and/or social research, or
- Other Australian not-for-profit organisations that can demonstrate a suitable partnership with the above.

And must be:

- Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985, or have evidence of a comparable legal status, such as Other Incorporated Entity; and
- Currently registered with a valid and eligible Australian Business Number (ABN); and
- Appropriately insured including professional indemnity.

Eligible applications

Applications will be considered for funding that:

- Address the relevant research priority pillar representing the social systems, policies, and environments that enable older South Australians to be active contributors, influencers, co-creators and participants in all aspects of life.
- Demonstrate how the research will work in partnership with practitioners, policy actors and communities of interest.

Note: Communities of interest may range from older South Australians broadly to specific cohorts. For example, based on a geographic location or on communities that identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, LGBTI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex +) and/or culturally and linguistically diverse.

- Specify the Knowledge Translation approach of the research, such as how it will have the potential to guide policy, practice or community action and impact, and how the research outcomes will be communicated to stakeholders and audiences.

Applications must be:

- Original primary research, or secondary research synthesis, or new evaluations of practice, policy or community action (including implementation science projects).
- Able to demonstrate that research activities will occur primarily in South Australia and have a primary focus on positive ageing outcomes aligned with the priorities of the Strategic Research Agenda.

Ineligible applications

Applications will not be considered for funding if they are:

- Basic science, biomedical, laboratory, clinical, health services or aged care research that does not have a clear link to the research priority theme (social determinants of ageing well);
- Not able to demonstrate sufficient or suitable South Australian based partnerships or research;
- Capital works such as buildings, maintenance or purchase of major equipment, or purchase and lease of land/vehicles;
- Commercial activities or commercially sponsored research;
- Core organisational operating costs;
- Projects that have commenced or have already been funded to commence;
- International travel or conference registrations in isolation from the specific project;

- From Commonwealth or South Australian Government departments or Statutory Authorities;
- From professional bodies and associations; or
- From organisations affiliated with industries related to smoking, gambling, alcohol or ultra-processed food and drinks, or that have been affiliated with these industries in the last five years.

Key considerations

Focus of the current grant round

In 2025-2026, the Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well program will focus on answering the priority research questions under the pillar of **'Getting around'**. Applicants should use the Priority Questions (and Sub Questions as relevant) in the Strategic Research Agenda to guide their research focus and inform the basis of their grant application.

Getting around

Acknowledging the extensive body of evidence on individual mobility (getting around), and the systemic factors that incentivise car use and discourage active modes of transport, this grant round will focus on translating existing research into practical policy solutions that address systemic barriers and car-dependence, to support people to age well and be able to get to where they want to or need to go. This includes rural/remote as well as urban/peri-urban areas.

Priority Question

How can we overcome systemic barriers to transport mobility - including those that currently incentivise car-use over walking, cycling, and public transport - to support ageing well and ensure people can access the places they need or want to go, without relying on a car?

Partnerships

To ensure that new evidence benefits the stakeholders and communities that it aims to serve, a strategic and inclusive approach is essential throughout any research process.

A range of participatory methods and engagement strategies is encouraged, such as community based participatory research, citizen science, co-design and co-production. Regardless of the approach taken, the most elementary strategy is stakeholder identification and community engagement at the commencement of new research, and ongoing authentic engagement throughout its duration, to enable shared decision-making between research producers and stakeholders in the knowledge generation process.

Applications should describe how they will work in partnership with practitioners, policy actors and community members of interest. The host organisation of the application should describe how they have identified or will identify and engage relevant partners, which may include:

- Commonwealth, state and local governments;
- Community groups, alliances or networks;
- Non-government/for purpose/community sector organisations;
- Older people from diverse backgrounds;
- Peak bodies and advocacy groups;
- Policy actors;
- Practitioners; and/or
- Researchers from other disciplines and institutes.

For each partner engaged, it should be clear in the application how partners will work with the researchers. Applicants may wish to consider the IAP2 spectrum in their response (inform, consult, involve, participate or empower) and other resources such as those provided through [Better Together](#).

Potential to inform policy, practice or community impact

Applications should specify the Knowledge Translation approach of the research. This includes how the research will have the potential to be used to guide policy, practice or community action or impact, as well as how the research will be communicated and disseminated to stakeholders and audiences.

As Knowledge Translation science has grown, a range of methods, tools and strategies is available to ensure that research has impact beyond the academy.

For example, researchers may develop knowledge translation goals, and choose to deliver the research with integrated knowledge translation strategies throughout. This can include policy advisory committees, deliberative methods, knowledge brokering or staff co-locations for example. Alternatively, researchers may adopt an 'end of grant' approach to knowledge translation such as using strategic communication planning for active dissemination.

The approach taken will be entirely up to the researcher/s to decide, according to what is most appropriate for the type of knowledge being generated. For example, this might form a Knowledge Translation plan (with goals), a logic model, an implementation plan or strategic communication plan.

To support researchers throughout the duration of the grant, successful grant recipients and collaborators will have access to resources developed by the CHiAPRT including knowledge translation and research impact planning resources, guides and other opportunities.

Innovations

In addition to addressing the intent and scope of the priority research questions outlined in the Strategic Research Agenda, the Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well seek applications that use creativity and new ways of forming research questions, interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary teams and methods. Grant applicants are encouraged to be both rigorous and innovative.

The Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well have been designed to encourage research that delivers impact at the community, population and system level. Research that focuses exclusively on change at an individual level, for example, behaviour change, will not be supported.

Additional considerations

Ethics

Ethics approval is not required at the application stage, but proposals should demonstrate that ethics requirements will be considered, if relevant. Researchers should plan to apply to the most relevant Human Research Ethics Committee, usually from the applicant's host institution. For research projects involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants, consultation with the Aboriginal Health Research Ethics Committee of SA is advised.

Guiding principles

It is important to ensure that any new research not only addresses an empirical gap in knowledge, but is designed for relevance and impact, represents key populations and stakeholders, is participatory and collaborative, promotes equity, and reflects on research process and impact.

While not all are demonstrable within the application process, below is a list of guiding principles that may be useful in considering new research proposals. These principles have been developed drawing on empirical evidence from research-policy-practice engagement or co-production research, combined with 'enablers' identified by stakeholders during the Strategic Research Agenda development process.

Further information about the enablers can be found in the Strategic Research Agenda.

Principle 1. Design – set goals for knowledge translation or research impact such as change practice, inform policy, increase awareness and to inform future research.

Principle 2. Represent – identify stakeholders, user, community needs and roles as relevant to the research, including which groups are likely to benefit.

Principle 3. Engage – build relationships for engagement, exchange, and/or co-production to promote collaborative knowledge generation, by working alongside other stakeholders. This requires careful attention to governance and process.

Principle 4. Equity – ensure that the knowledge generation activity does not discriminate and ensures that no one is denied the opportunity to age well. Also important is that new research does not contribute to, or exacerbate, inequities.

Principle 5. Reflect and evaluate – monitor process and impact of the research process and outcomes.

Assessment stages and criteria

Applications should:

- Address the relevant research priority pillar (the funding focus).
- Demonstrate partnerships with practitioners, policy actors and/or community members.
- Specify how the research will have the potential to be used to guide policy, practice or community action/impact, and how it will be communicated/disseminated to stakeholders and audiences.
- Demonstrate innovation, where possible.

Applications will be subject to a multi-stage assessment process, as outlined below, involving Office for Ageing Well staff as well as external peer and community reviewers.

Stage 1 - Shortlisting:

Applications will be assessed for eligibility against the criteria below and shortlisted by Office for Ageing Well and the CHiAPRT:

Alignment with pillar (40% weighting)

- How well does the research proposal align with the research pillar?

Innovation (30% weighting)

- To what extent does the research proposal demonstrate innovation? For example, does it pose new questions and/or a novel approach to tackle the research pillar?

Informing policy, practice or community action and impact across systems (30% weighting)

- How relevant/useful will the generated knowledge be for informing policy, practice at the community or system level?
- What is the scale of its potential benefits?

Stage 2 - Peer and community review

Shortlisted applications will be assessed by an external panel of experts in research, policy, practice and communities of interest against the criteria below:

Scientific quality (30% weighting)

- How robust is the scientific quality of the research proposal and methodology?
- How well does the research proposal articulate its proposed theory of change?
- To what extent does the proposal demonstrate innovation in research design, methods, or framing of research questions?

Informing policy, practice or community action and impact across systems (30% weighting)

- How relevant/useful will the generated knowledge be for informing policy, practice and/or community or system level action?
- What is the scale of its potential benefits?
- Does the proposal offer innovative approaches to generating or translating knowledge for community/system impact?

Feasibility (20% weighting)

- How viable and feasible is the project?
- Consider team expertise and resourcing requested, for example budget, timeline, skills to deliver the research project.

Partnerships (10% weighting)

- To what extent does the research proposal demonstrate genuine partnerships with communities of interest, practitioners or policy actors?

Knowledge translation (5% weighting)

- To what extent has knowledge translation been considered as part of the research proposal?

Value for money (5% weighting)

- Does the research proposal demonstrate efficient use of existing infrastructure, networks, and resources?
- Does the research proposal demonstrate strong cost-effectiveness?

Stage 3 - Selection panel

Criteria, weighting and assessment focus are as in Stage 2.

Successful applicants will be notified of assessment outcomes in February 2026.

How to apply

To apply you must:

- Be an authorised representative of the applicant organisation, and
- Register online with [SmartyGrants](https://SmartyGrants.dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants) and complete the online application available at dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants.

An online information session about the Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well and its current funding focus will be held at **1:00pm (ACDT) on Friday, 12 September 2025**. Visit [Strategic Research Agenda for Ageing Well in South Australia](https://dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants) for more information and to register your interest.

Further information, including a sample copy of the application form, is available at the ageing well community and research grants webpage: dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants

Applications must be submitted no later than 5.00pm (ACDT) on the close date. Written or emailed applications will not be accepted.

Accountability and obligations

The online application form must be submitted by an authorised representative of the applicant organisation – an ‘Office Bearer’. The First Office Bearer should be authorised to enter into legal contracts on behalf of the applicant organisation must be identified in the application.

The First Office Bearer will be informed of the outcome of the grant application, and for successful applications, will be required to sign the contract electronically via DocuSign AU, an electronic contract management system.

In addition, a Second Office Bearer is required to be identified within the application, to confirm the organisational bank details, and if successful sign the contract via DocuSign AU.

All organisations approved for funding will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well that will outline the agreed Terms and Conditions. You must use the funds in line with the grant agreement.

Grant recipients are paid through electronic funds transfer (EFT) into their nominated financial institution’s account for the total amount funded, plus GST if the grant is deemed eligible.

If the project cannot be completed, grant funding will need to be returned to Office for Ageing Well, Department of Human Services. In some circumstances, changes to the project may be negotiated.

Reporting requirements

Grant recipients will be required to:

- Submit a project plan to Office for Ageing Well within one month of funding commencement;

- Provide regular evidence in support of the progress of the project to Office for Ageing Well to enable the Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well to be satisfied that the Grant is being used effectively and efficiently;
- Provide, on project completion, a completed grant financial acquittal form certifying expenditure of the allocated funds in accordance with the grant agreement terms;
- Provide a final report including research findings, dissemination and knowledge translation to Office for Ageing Well;
- Present the research findings/outcomes to Office for Ageing Well and other stakeholders either during or at the conclusion of the research. An appropriate time for presentation will be negotiated with the research team and should align with the knowledge translation goals of the research; and
- Participate in knowledge translation and research impact planning opportunities to be specified in the grant agreement.

Grant recipients may be required to contribute to the implementation of the [Ageing Well Measuring Success Framework](#), which may include (but not be limited to) promotion of the Community Perception Survey, assistance with recruitment of participants for focus groups and/or interviews, and completion of the Close Out Survey for grant recipients.

Grant funding amounts remitted may be reported to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in a tax payments annual report on behalf of the Department of Human Services. For further information, refer to the [ATO website](#).

Acknowledgement and publicity

Grant recipients are required to acknowledge Office for Ageing Well, Department of Human Services as a funding body and to notify Office for Ageing Well in advance of promotion, media, communication, marketing or dissemination of project resources or publications arising from the project to the media or the public. Office for Ageing Well will provide grant recipients with its branding and acknowledgement guidelines.

It is a condition of funding that the Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well may promote or publicly refer to any Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well project. Grant recipients may be requested to provide project-related information for this purpose. This will be negotiated

with the research team to ensure the appropriateness of public information sharing for the research context and may include replication of research outcomes or intent in formats appropriate for policy actors, practitioners, community members and general audiences.

In addition, grant recipients are encouraged to report to Office for Ageing Well on ongoing knowledge translation or implementation of research findings beyond the funding period of their project. This is requested to gauge broader policy, practice and community impact of the research.

Grant recipients will be required to contribute at least one article to [WeekendPlus](#), the Seniors Card digital magazine, emailed fortnightly to over 110,000 Seniors Card members. This opportunity is free to grant recipients (valued at \$1500) to promote the project or raise community awareness of opportunities for older people to participate in or benefit from project activities.

Outcome notification

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email. Unsuccessful and ineligible applicants are given the opportunity to seek feedback.

Declaration

It is a condition of making a grant application that the authorised officer submitting the grant application declares that:

- All information supplied in the application form is complete and accurate and is not false or misleading, as at the date it is submitted to Office for Ageing Well, Department of Human Services;
- The parties listed in the application, and/or the Applicant Organisation have not committed, are not currently being investigated for, and will not partake in any fraud or dishonesty offences;

- All information in the application is capable of substantiation for the amount and purposes of expenses;
- They have made all necessary inquiries to ensure that expenses in the application meet the eligibility requirements;
- All documents that may be relevant to the application will be made available (upon request) to Office for Ageing Well, Department of Human Services;
- The project is not intended to result in financial gain for the applicant/applicant organisation;
- The organisation does not owe any reports or money to Office for Ageing Well or Department of Human Services as a result of previous funding or grants;
- The organisation has the appropriate insurance including Public Liability Insurance not less than \$1,000,000, for the activities that are the subject of the grant; and
- They are authorised to submit the grant application and to agree to the declaration on behalf of the applicant organisation.

The authorised officer understands that:

- Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. It is a criminal offence to attempt to obtain a grant or increase the amount of a grant through deceit, false or misleading representation or other unlawful means;
- The submission of an application does not guarantee funding and if successful does not involve any ongoing government funding commitment;
- If successful in obtaining a grant, the applicant organisation will enter into a binding agreement that includes grant terms and conditions relating to the approved expenditure of grant funds and specific reporting and compliance requirements;
- Office for Ageing Well must be notified immediately if funding for the same items budgeted in the application has been approved by another funding body, including another part of Department for Human Services; and
- The Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well may promote or publicly refer to any Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well project. This may be done directly or through the communication mechanisms of Office for Ageing Well and the South Australian Government. Funded organisations will be required, if requested, to provide project related information for the purpose of promotion by the Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well.

Enquiries and feedback

Applicants are encouraged to visit Office for Ageing Well grants webpage or contact the office via email for any grant related queries.

Webpage: dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants.

Email: ageingwellgrants@sa.gov.au

Office for Ageing Well is unable to provide advice or feedback on specific project ideas, however, can clarify the intention of the Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well and its current funding focus, and the outcomes Office for Ageing Well aims to achieve through the Strategic Research Agenda.

Office for Ageing Well welcomes applicant feedback. Following submission of your application, you will be sent a confirmation email with a link to an anonymous feedback form for your optional participation.