

Instruction to Applicants

The TAFE Centre of Excellence Health Care and Support (the 'Centre' or 'Health Care and Support') invites Applied Research Project Proposals for Round 1, *Translating Research and Community Knowledge for Aged Care*, which align with one of the focus areas as outlined under Stream 1 or Stream 2.

As per the **Grants Opportunity Guidelines**, the following priority areas for research have been designed with focus on supporting education and training for the aged care and support workforce, with a view to realising the opportunities and addressing challenges within the industry, alongside enhancing diversity, equity and inclusion.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to engage and partner with relevant organisations to ensure that applied research project proposals respond to the critical workforce needs of the aged care sector.

Should Applicants require clarification on the information required for a proposal please refer to the **Applied Research Grant Proposal Support Guide** for further detail, however, to uphold fairness and impartiality for all applicants, the Centre cannot provide feedback or advice on individual Proposals, discuss their suitability, or assist with the content of your application. You are welcome to contact the Centre for any technical support you may require.



Applied Research Focus

Applied research at the Centre aims to generate evidence-based solutions for skills training and education in the health care and support workforce (e.g., developing training products to address critical skills needs). Hence, competitive applications will ensure that the proposed research clearly demonstrates the potential to translate findings into a **skilled workforce** and/or the development of **inclusive, accessible training**.



Reporting Requirements

Successful Applicants, or Grantees, will be required to submit progress updates, including a **Commencement of Research Project Report**, an **Interim Report**, and a **Final Report**. Further details regarding these reporting requirements are outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and will be stipulated in the Letter of Offer.

Translating Research and Community Knowledge for the Health Care and Support Services

Applied research is a type of investigation that is aimed at finding education and training solutions for existing issues which can be implemented at the level of everyday practice and therefore produce immediate practical and/or commercial benefits. As such, applied research is problem oriented, involves an element of practical application, often requires an interdisciplinary and/or inter-sectorial approach, and typically includes real-time evaluation and feedback.

Applied research translation in the health care and support sector refers to the process of enacting academic evidence, and/or collective and community knowledge, to design a research project which provides practical education and training solutions through translating:

- academic peer-reviewed research into clinical practice pilots and/or trials to skill and/or upskill health care and support workers to support individual wellbeing, organisational cultural, and the quality of services delivered;
- the social knowledge of front-line service providers and workers within the health care and support sector to conduct community pilots and/or trial programs which support workers' wellbeing, improve organisational culture and or/systems, and the quality of service; and
- industry-led research which addresses specific challenges through designing and delivering innovative education and training, with evaluation measures, to support individual wellbeing, and the quality of service.

We encourage applications that:

- Partner with academia, industry, service receivers, or Aboriginal and Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)
- Demonstrate a commitment to impact, equity, and innovation
- Translate academic or community knowledge into practical outcomes

The following areas of priority, as detailed in Stream 1 and Stream 2 for the *Translating Research and Community Knowledge for Aged Care* Grant Opportunity, supports the building of an evidence-base for:

- informing excellence in aged care education and training to enrich students' learning experiences, which are culturally appropriate and safe;
- ensuring the needs of regional, rural, and remote communities and students are met through innovative training practices and modes of delivery; and
- supporting the aged care sectors' industry needs in building local workforces through developing accessible interventions that support growth and retention.

Stream 1: Education and Training

Project proposals seeking funding for applied research which translates academic, and/or community knowledge, to support the education and training of the aged care workforce, through research activity such as pilots and trials, should respond to one or more of the following focus areas:

- **Workplace Safety** to prevent common work-related injuries, including psychosocial injuries such as stress and poor mental health
- **Health equity** to ensure equal health outcomes through elevating place-based approaches to meet the specific community needs
- **Accessible models of education and training delivery** to support aged care students and workers in regional, rural and remote communities and build local care workforces
- **Cultural responsiveness** training to support aged care students and workers in providing culturally, safe, appropriate, and responsive care to First Nations Elders, and culturally and linguistically diverse older people



Stream 2: Attraction and Retention

Project proposals seeking funding for applied research which translates academic, and/or community knowledge, which supports measures of attraction and retention in the aged care workforce, through research activity such as pilots and trials, should respond to one or more of the following focus areas:

- **Strengthened clinical governance** practices with a focus on multiscale leadership models and/or frameworks which support healthy workplace cultures and workforce wellbeing
- **Workforce pathway interventions** which are co-designed to increase the diversity and inclusion of the aged care to attract and retain more First Nations workers, men, and people with a disability
- **Professional development investments** to upskill those currently working in aged care to provide best-practice person-centred care, trauma-informed care, and/or gerontological speciality skills
- **Digital literacy and capability** to assist current workers in navigating emerging and current demands for improved data stewardship, reporting requirements and service-user support

