

# 2025 Health Innovation Grant Application Guide

Expression of interest open	<b>Monday 14 April, 2025</b>
Expression of interest close	<b>8pm AEST Monday 2 June, 2025</b>
Invitation to apply	<b>July 2025</b>
Application close date	<b>8pm AEST Monday 18 August, 2025</b>
Grants announced	<b>October, 2025</b>

## Table of Contents

1. Introduction .....	1
2. Purpose.....	2
3. Eligibility Criteria .....	2
4. Application procedure .....	3
5. Submission deadline.....	3
6. Review process .....	3
7. Outcome of application .....	4
8. 2025 Grant Round Timeline of Peer Review Process .....	4
9. Approvals to be obtained prior to funding commencing .....	4
10. Acceptance of Conditions of Grant-in-aid Award .....	5
11. Varying a grant .....	5
12. Duration of grant and expenditure of funds .....	5
13. Reporting .....	6
14. Enquiries .....	6
15. Appendix 1: FAQ's.....	7
16. Appendix 2: Selection Criteria .....	10

## 1. Introduction

Established in 1991, The Bone Growth Foundation Inc. trading as the Bone Health Foundation (BHF/Foundation) is a not-for-profit organisation that raises money for research and education into bone health and musculoskeletal conditions that affect Australians of all ages. The Foundation receives no government funding and relies solely on support from public and private individuals and organisations.

The Australian and New Zealand bone and mineral society represent a research community that has a proven track record of producing internationally competitive research outcomes which have a meaningful impact on individuals with poor bone health.

The bone and mineral research sector is currently experiencing unprecedented challenges and historic low funding rates in major and international funding schemes.

The ANZBMS and BHF have aligned purposes to enable rigorous research, advocacy and education focused on reducing the burden of bone disease. Together they are committed to ensuring this track record of excellence and impact, continues and thrives in the current climate of complex national funding conditions. This Research Grant Application Guide serves to outline the overarching funding guidelines for the co-funded Health Innovation Grant. This document should be read before completing an application form.

## 2. Purpose

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Skeletal research is a core objective of the both the ANZBMS and BHF's mission to help prevent musculoskeletal disorders that impact the lives of young and old.

By supporting skeletal research, we can foster the current and next generation of researchers who will pave the way forward to the next innovation in bone disease prevention, treatment and care.

The purpose of this grant is to deliver funding to test the feasibility of innovative concepts to improve musculoskeletal health. The scope of projects includes clinical, public health and/or health services (including clinical service delivery) or biomedical research that may lead to larger, more rigorous studies and/or nationally competitive (NCG) grant funding. Specifically

- Pilot Studies and 'stand-alone' projects will be considered
- Projects would be expected to produce tangible outcomes with the potential to further advance preclinical 'proof-of-concept' outcomes or improve musculoskeletal health.

**THE MAXIMUM VALUE OF THE GRANT IS AUD \$50,000.** Research projects that receive support under the scheme should lead to joint publications in high quality research outlets, joint grant applications to NCG bodies and potential to develop, advance and/or translate new knowledge into musculoskeletal health practice or policy.

## 3. Eligibility Criteria

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### Who may apply for the ANZBMS/BHF Health Innovation Grant

- > The Principal investigator (PI-A) **must** be a financial member of the ANZBMS for the duration of the award. Applicants who are not members at the time of application must agree to join the ANZBMS and remain a member for the duration of the award.
- > If successful, other Co-applicants are encouraged to become financial members of the ANZBMS and remain a member for the duration of the award.
- > Applicants who have experienced career disruptions will be considered. Please provide appropriate information in the relevant application form.
- > A Principal Investigator may submit only one application per grant round, but is able to be named as an Associate Investigator on multiple applications.
- > Councilors and committee members of ANZBMS, and board members of BHF, are permitted to apply. When an ANZBMS Councilor, ANZBMS committee member or BHF Board member applies as a Principal Investigator, they will declare their conflicts of interest and will not participate in the grant assessments or endorsement processes by the BHF Board or ANZBMS Governing Council

### Proposal eligibility – what may be funded

- > The project must be focused on bone and mineral/musculoskeletal research and must not be currently funded by a major National or International funding body (eg NHMRC, ARC, or similar scale funding), or by any other industry-sector funding.
- > Funded projects must be completed within 18 months of funds being awarded.
- > The proposed project/research must be located/managed/operated under a University, hospital or major research institution based in either Australia or New Zealand.
- > The Applicant (Principal Investigator) must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, have resident status or have the appropriate visa to work in Australia or New Zealand for the entire duration of the funding period.
- > The Principal Investigator (PI) must reside in Australia or New Zealand.
- > Each grant must be used for resources, equipment, salary support of applicant, support personnel such as research assistants or other assistance required for a specific project.
- > The Foundation Board in conjunction with the ANZBMS Governing council makes the final decision on which applications will receive Research funding.

### Proposal ineligibility - what is not funded?

- > Applications that do not directly relate to the core objectives of the ANZBMS or BHF, or do not address the purpose of the grant.
- > Projects which have received any funding from the government or other industry sectors for the same/similar aims and proposed budget will not be considered for funding. If funding is received/notified during the application or assessment period, the application must be withdrawn.
- > Applications from Principal Investigators who currently hold a BHF or ANZBMS/BHF award at the date of application submission are not eligible to apply. Please note, you may appear as an Associate Investigator.
- > Researchers may apply as Principal Investigator on one application only. They may however appear as Associate Investigator across multiple applications/Grants.
- > Institutional fees, infrastructure costs and associated overheads **will not** be covered.

## 4. Application Procedure / Requirements

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- > The Research Grant Application Guide should be read before completing the EOI and application form.
- > Expression of interest template documents can be requested from [research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au) from **Monday 14 April, 2025**
- > Applicants submit an expression of interest, using the applicable template, for review. Short listed applicants will be invited to provide a full application to be reviewed by our independent panel of assessors.
- > The application form must contain all necessary information applicable to the project/research. All details included must be current at the time of application.
- > Applicants must use the Grant Application template and adhere to the length and formatting requirements as stated in the application form.
- > Any applications not using the BHF template will be **ineligible**.
- > Applicants are expected to provide all information prior to submission. No further information will be sought or accepted after the closing date.

## 5. Submission deadline

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- > Completed Expression of interest must be signed and submitted via email to [research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au) by the closing date and time of **8pm AEST Monday 2 June, 2025**. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- > Applicants will receive an email from the Bone Health Foundation acknowledging receipt of their application.
- > For queries or to confirm receipt, please contact [research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au).
- > Applicants are encouraged to submit applications at least a day ahead of the closing deadline.
- > Short listed applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

## 6. Review process

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- > The BHF and ANZBMS will form a Research Advisory Panel (**RAP**) to oversee the Research Program assessment and reporting.
- > All EOI/applications will be reviewed and scored by independent, non-conflicted reviewers.
- > All EOI/Applications will be reviewed for completeness and adherence to the Grant Application Guide.
- > All EOI/Applications that provide incomplete documentation at the deadline will be excluded.

> All EOI/Applications will be scored against the following criteria (See Appendix 2):

- Scientific Quality/Feasibility/Team and Environment Capability
- Significance, Innovation and Potential impact of the Expected Outcomes
- Applicant and Team Quality/Track Record (Relative to Opportunity)

Application assessment of feasibility/capability will consider financial contributions from host or collaborating programs/institutes/industry partners (actual or in kind) or leveraging of funding, however projects must not currently be funded by a major National or International funding body (NHMRC, ARC or similar) nor by any other industry sector funding.

## 7. Outcome of application

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- > Applicants and their institutional contact will be notified via email of the outcome of their Expression of interest. Short listed applicants will receive an invitation to submit a full application. See Section 8 for timing (listed below)
- > The Grant review process is robust and independent and focuses on impact and evidence. A strict conflict of interest policy is adhered to.
- > The decision-making process is final and there is no appeal process.
- > Re-submissions (either in whole or in part) are not considered outside of a grant round.
- > Up to 2 x \$50,000 grants are available in this round, which represents the full allocation of BHF/ANZBMS Health Innovation Grant funding pool.
- > Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to re-apply in future grant rounds.

## 8. 2025 Grant Round Timeline of Peer Review Process

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- > Expression of interest open **Monday 14 April, 2025**
- > Expression of interest must be received by **8pm AEST Monday 2 June, 2025.**
- > Grant Review Panel assessments of applications June, 2025
- > Outcome of EOI and invitation to submit full application by 1 July, 2025
- > Application close date for those invited to apply **8pm AEST Monday 18 August, 2025.**
- > Approval by Bone Health Foundation and ANZBMS Council Sept/October 2025.
- > Notification to applicants , October 2025
- > The Grant awardee(s) will be formally announced/acknowledged? at the ANZBMS conference in Cairns
- > Successful applicants commence project on date as specified in grant agreement (once all approvals have been gained)

## 9. Approvals to be obtained prior to funding commencement.

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- > Research undertaken must conform to the principles as set out by the NHMRC 's Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) and The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and any other conditions required by Research Ethics Committees.
- > Grant Funding will not be released to the nominated institution until all relevant approvals, particularly in relation to ethics and governance, have been received and lodged with the Foundation.
- > Funding will be released in 4 equal installments at the end of each quarter after the date of commencement of the research project, as detailed in the Grant Agreement, unless otherwise agreed.

## 10. Acceptance of Conditions of Research Grant-in-aid Award

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- > Research Grants are offered in accordance with the conditions specified in the ANZBMS/BHF Grant Agreement
- > Upon acceptance of an offer of funding, a Letter of Award and a copy of the ANZBMS/BHF Grant Agreement will be issued to the administering Institution for review and signing.
- > The Head of Department must sign the Grant Agreement for, and on behalf of, the administering institution.
- > On signing, the Recipient and the Administering Institution agree to abide by all the conditions, which includes but is not limited to;
  - research must be undertaken at the nominated institution;
  - a commitment to honour any in kind support that is required to complete the project (where applicable).
  - the ANZBMS/BHF Grant must be acknowledged in any presentation or publication of the research;
  - Quarterly invoices must be addressed to The Bone Health Foundation and submitted via [research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au)
  - progress reports will be requested at the time of submission of progress payment 2;
  - a final report and financial acquittal must be submitted to [research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au) within 60 days of the date of final invoice; and
  - agreement that the grant recipient may be contacted to provide information regarding their ANZBMS/Bone Health Foundation Grant for internal communication, media release or promotional activities.
- > The signed Grant Agreement must be returned to [research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au) for execution by the date stipulated in the Letter of Award.
- > Both parties must accept all terms of the Grant Agreement and complete the first quarter of research before any payments are made.

## 11. Varying a grant

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- > Variations occur when there is a requirement to modify a grant from the original proposal submitted. This may include changes in budget or personnel or an amendment to the budget or timing of the grant.
- > If the Recipient is unable to perform, or to continue to perform, activities in relation to the Grant Agreement, the ANZBMS or BHF must be notified in writing as soon as practicable.
- > If any funding from the government or any other industry sector for the same/similar aims and budget has been obtained during the award period, awardees must inform BHF ([research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au)) within 7 days, and submit a grant variation request. If significant overlap occurs between aims and budget, part or all remaining funding may be withdrawn at the discretion of ANZBMS/BHF.
- > Extensions to a research project end date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, with a maximum extension of 6 months.
- > Requests to amend a grant or the terms and conditions should be made to [research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au) and a Grant Variation Form will be provided for submission and review.

## 12. Duration of grant and expenditure of funds

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- > ANZBMS/BHF Grants are up to 18 month awards which take effect from the commencement date as agreed in the Grant Agreement document.
- > **The commencement date must be within 3 months of the date stipulated on the Grant Agreement, unless otherwise agreed.**
- > Expenditure of funds must be within the grant period and in accordance with the approved budget unless a variation has been submitted and approved by the ANZBMS/BHF.
- > If the Agreement is terminated before the Grant is complete, or the Grant is completed without full expenditure of the Grant amount, all remaining funds must be returned to the BHF within 30 days.

## 13. Reporting

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- > A progress report must be submitted for approval with progress payment 2, to ensure continuity of funding. Progress reports enable the ANZBMS/BHF to ensure satisfactory progress is being achieved.
- > At the completion of the Grant, and within 60 days of receipt of the final invoice, a final report must be submitted to [research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au), and must be accompanied by a financial acquittal.
- > All reports must use the relevant templates as supplied.
- > The ANZBMS/BHF may determine that all or part of the funding may be repaid if a Recipient fails to submit satisfactory reports.
- > A grant Recipient who fails to submit satisfactory reports may not be considered for future Research funding rounds.

Information provided in reports to the ANZBMS/BHF may be used for internal reporting, media releases and in any publications as agreed by all parties.

## 14. Enquiries

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Any enquiries regarding the administration of grants should be addressed to:

Linda Stanton, Bone Health Foundation  
Email: [research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au)

## 15. Appendix 1: FAQ's

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### Grant Types

#### 1. 2025 ANZBMS/BHF Health Innovation Grant(s)

The purpose of this grant(s) is to deliver funding to test feasibility of innovative concepts to improve musculoskeletal health. The scope of projects includes clinical, public health and/or health services (including clinical service delivery) or biomedical research that may lead to larger, more vigorous studies and/or nationally competitive (NCG/NHMRC) grant funding. Specifically:

- I. Pilot studies and 'stand alone' projects will be considered
- II. Projects would be expected to produce tangible outcomes with the potential to further advance preclinical 'proof of concept' outcomes or improve musculoskeletal health.

#### **Up to 2 x \$50,000 Grants will be awarded in 2025**

**The maximum value of each Grant is \$50,000.** Research projects that receive support under the scheme should lead to joint publications in high quality research outlets, joint grant applications to NCG bodies and have the potential to develop, advance and/or translate new knowledge into musculoskeletal health practice or policy.

### Eligibility

#### 2. Who is eligible to apply?

- The Principal investigator (PI-A) **must** be a financial member of the ANZBMS for the duration of the award. Applicants who are not members at the time of application must agree to join the ANZBMS and remain a member for the duration of the award.
- If successful, other applicants are encouraged to become financial members of the ANZBMS and remain a member for the duration of the award. For the proposal to be eligible, please read Section 3 of this Guide.
- Principal Investigators who currently hold a BHF or ANZBMS/BHF grant are not eligible to apply. They may however appear as an Associate Investigator.
- Researchers may appear as Principal Investigator on one Grant application only. They may however appear as Associate Investigator across multiple applications and grants.
- Councilors and committee members of ANZBMS, and board members of BHF, are permitted to apply. When an ANZBMS Councilor, ANZBMS committee member or BHF Board member applies as a Principal Investigator, they will declare their conflicts of interest and will not participate in the grant assessments or endorsement processes by the BHF Board or ANZBMS Governing Council

#### 3. Does bone research need to be the main area of past research of the Principal Investigator?

Not necessarily. Applications will be assessed against the purpose of the grant and selection criteria, which includes significance and innovation of the proposal, feasibility of the proposal, the team and research environment, and track record statement as it relates to the proposal which will be assessed relative to opportunity.

#### 4. How is career stage defined in relation to career disruption and relative to opportunity defined?

The ANZBMS/BHF uses similar criteria to NHMRC for these definitions. The time spent doing research is counted towards the career stage. If the applicant can demonstrate that they have not worked in research for a period of time, then this time can be considered to be deducted from the time post-PhD.

Circumstances considered under relative to opportunity include, but are not limited to:

- amount of time spent as an active researcher.
- career disruption (see below for further details).
- available resources, including situations where research is being conducted in remote or isolated location
- clinical, administrative or teaching workload.
- relocation of an applicant and his/her research laboratory or clinical practice setting or other similar circumstances that impact upon research productivity.
- research outputs and productivity commensurate with time spent employed in other sectors and restrictions on publication associated with time spent working in other sectors (e.g. industry, policy and government).
- the typical performance of researchers in the research field in question.

A career disruption, which is a type of relative to opportunity consideration, is defined as a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work due to pregnancy, major illness/injury and/or carer responsibilities. Interruptions must involve either a continuous absence from work for periods of 28 calendar days or more and/or a long-term partial return to work that has been formalised with the applicant's employer/institution.

**5. Can a researcher be named on multiple ANZBMS/BHF applications?**

A researcher can be named as the Principal Investigator on one application only but is able to be named as an Associate Investigator on multiple applications.

**6. Can I apply if I have submitted a relevant funding application to a National/International funding round but have not received an outcome letter/notification?**

Yes. However, if you are successful you must notify the ANZBMS/BHF within 7 days. We will review the overlap between project objectives and project expenditure to date. Funding may be reduced or withdrawn at the sole discretion of the ANZBMS/BHF.

**7. Can I apply if I have previously submitted an application that was unsuccessful?**

Yes. We encourage previous applicants to apply.

## Applying

**8. What format should EOI and applications be submitted in?**

All applications must be completed using the ANZBMS/BHF approved template. This must be submitted in pdf format. Application forms can be requested from [research@bonehealth.org.au](mailto:research@bonehealth.org.au)

**9. Who should submit the EOI/application?**

Either the Principal Investigator or the internal research grants office can submit the application.

Please confirm this arrangement internally ahead of submission.

## Documentation

**10. Do I need to include my PhD certificate to prove my eligibility?**

No, simply state when you received your PhD in the appropriate section of the application form.

**11. What evidence is needed to show experience in bone research?**

Relevant experience must be included in the track record statement on the application form.

Any related outputs (eg publications, industry reports, health policies and guidelines) can be noted.

**12. Are copies of CVs and ethics required?**

No. The information in the application template will be sufficient and should not require any further attachments. If you are successful, ethics approval will be required then.

**13. Are references required in the Project Summary (Section 1) of the application form?**

Responses are acceptable without references in Section 1 of the application form. However, anything based on prior work should be cited and then listed in the reference table (Section 5).



## Research Team

**14. Is there any limit to the number of Investigators included in the application?**

No.

**15. Can senior researchers or senior advisers of the bone research submit as Principal Investigator?**

Yes

**16. What if a Principal Investigator is transitioning from a different field of research to bone (clinical) research?**

This is fine as long as the research meets the criteria. Details of the transition can be included in the application in the when discussing achievements relative to opportunity.

## Grant funds

**17. Are grants subject to the GST?**

Yes

**18. Does the Grant funding cover institutional fees/infrastructure costs/overheads?**

No.

**19. Can grant funding be used for equipment, research assistant salaries, consumables and travel?**

Grant funding can be used to fund expenses that explicitly relate to the grant objectives. Please note these costs must be clearly outlined in the application budget.

**20. Can on-costs be included as part of the salary cost in the budget?**

Reasonable on-costs can be included in the project budget of \$50,000.

**21. Can severance pay be included in grant acquittals?**

No. The grant solely supports the actual cost of the project. Therefore, severance pay cannot be included.

## International

**22. Does the Bone Health Foundation award grants internationally (outside of Australia and New Zealand)?**

No. Applications will only be accepted from applicants who apply through an Australian or New Zealand based institutions and demonstrate that the conduct of the project will be administered in Australia or New Zealand.

**23. Can a researcher from another country be the Principal Investigator for the grant, but the research be completed at an eligible Australian or New Zealand based Institution?**

Applicants who reside in another country cannot be a Principal Investigator.

## APPENDIX 2. SELECTION CRITERIA

Criteria	Assessment	Weighting
<b>Quality, Feasibility/ Capability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly articulated aims that are consistent with the purpose of the Health Innovation Grant.</li> <li>Objectives and methodology designed to test the hypothesis(es). It should be feasible and almost certain to be achieved within the term of the grant</li> <li>Appropriateness of the applicant team and their expertise, the resources and access to additional personnel necessary to achieve the aim(s) of the project within the described timelines and milestones.</li> <li>The environment includes high-quality administrative and technical support systems for the project.</li> <li>Fully justified budget that demonstrates how they will deliver the project with the funding provided.</li> <li>Funding contributions from the lead or collaborating institutions/groups (financial or in-kind), or leveraging of other internal funding will be considered.</li> </ul>	60%
<b>Significance and potential impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential outcomes will result in significant advances in knowledge with potential for developing, advancing and/or translating new knowledge into practice or policy.</li> <li>The proposal tests the feasibility of innovative concepts, and demonstrates how it will lead to larger, more rigorous studies in the future?</li> <li>Addresses a fundamental, or unmet, need or issue of great importance to musculoskeletal health with potential for health, social, economic and/or academic impact.</li> <li>The proposal demonstrates how the applicant(s) plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>integrate translational outcomes;</li> <li>utilise and develop those outcomes at the completion of this funding;</li> <li>disseminated knowledge to consumers or end users; and,</li> <li>how they could ultimately lead to widespread improvements in musculoskeletal health practices.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	30%
<b>Track Record</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research impact. Including but not limited to: impact of academic publications, presentations, scholarly works, contribution of new knowledge to the discipline area/research field, influence on policy, practice or clinical guidelines, translation of knowledge into health practice. Policy. Guidelines, or intellectual property (commercialisation).</li> <li>Research leadership and contribution to the research community.</li> <li>Track record will be considered relative to opportunity</li> </ul>	10%