



HEAL Innovation Fund

Guiding Principles

1. Description and purpose of the HEAL Innovation Fund

The Healthy Environments And Lives (HEAL) Innovation Fund is a key initiative of the HEAL – National Research Network funded by the NHMRC Special Initiative in Human Health and Environmental Change.

The HEAL Innovation Fund is a competitive funding program established to assist the implementation of research priorities of the HEAL interdisciplinary research themes to develop solution-focused ideas. The HEAL Innovation Fund aims to support research with engagement and fund well-defined projects that include community and stakeholder co-design and have the potential to lead to further external funding.

Effective research translation, implementation and impact are important goals across the HEAL Network. It is expected that the HEAL Innovation Fund will promote research translation and implementation into policy and practice relevant to the HEAL themes, priority actions, and communities of practice to support meaningful real-world impact.

Key considerations for the HEAL Innovation Fund Program are:

- Overall, HEAL aims to allocate around 20% of the HEAL resources to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focused research and related engagement activities. Please refer to attached Appendix NHMRC Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria for more information.
- Projects should support areas of research and groups with clear potential of achieving impact through innovative research and translation into policy and practice.
- Projects help build critical mass in key research areas, and are well supported by research teams potentially comprising community, policy makers, service providers, senior researchers, early and middle-career researchers, and PhD students.
- Projects may support an under-funded area of research where there are important evidence gaps that need to be addressed.
- They have the potential to generate additional funds, for example through competitive research grant applications.
- They promote community/stakeholder engagement and collaboration, for example through support to HEAL Communities of Practice.
- Geographical balance is a consideration in the distribution of NHMRC resources to partner institutions in different regions across Australia.

2. Funding

Total funding for The HEAL Innovation Fund is \$1,000,000 over four years. Funding rounds will be conducted in 2023-2026. Total funding on offer each year will be determined by the HEAL Leadership Executive.



2. that suppress or distort the scientific evidence regarding climate change and other environmental pollution and its adverse health effects.

The list of excluded industries will be updated every year or earlier if a need arises (*Annex A*). All other entities will be considered on a case-by-case basis and voted on by the HEAL Network's Leadership Executive with direction from the HEAL Network's Indigenous Steering Group.

Annex A.

The list of industries and other entities from which donations should not be accepted by the HEAL Network

1. Coal, oil, and gas (fossil fuel) industries
2. Tobacco industry
3. Alcohol industry
4. Firearms industry
5. Gambling industry
6. Fast food or soft drink industry