

End of life and palliative care translational research funding opportunity

NSW Regional Health Partners is seeking to fund translational research in this area. Research may include studies of replicability, adaptability, scalability and effectiveness or studies using systems science methodologies. All research must address one or more of the Medical Research Future Fund priorities listed in the application form.

Areas of interest for funding include but are not limited to:

- Preparation for end of life – advanced care planning
- Dying in residential aged care
- Dying at home
- Better identification of when death is likely, allowing patients to be prepared, symptoms managed and non-beneficial tests and treatment avoided
- Reduction in futile surgery
- Support for General Practitioners
- Primary care research
- Aboriginal priorities
- Rural service provision (including telehealth)
- Resource utilisation and comparative effectiveness studies

Research is to be grounded in the existing evidence and applicants are expected to have read and considered the NSW RHP White Paper on End of Life and Palliative Care. Where possible, research should also directly improve outcomes for current patients and consumers. Highly exploratory work will not be funded, ideally studies will apply research from other settings into our region or into new population groups. Research that has the potential to create a sustainable solution to improve patient outcomes will be highly valued. Projects to develop staff training will not be funded, however such training may be created as a by-product, and studies seeking to determine whether existing tools and resources improve patient outcomes are welcome. Primary care research that is led by clinicians, can permeate daily practice and has potential for scalability will be highly regarded.

In order for NSW RHP to maximise the impact of the whole initiative, different areas of focus and a range of types of research will be sought for funding.

NSW RHP will, at their discretion, support unsuccessful applicants to apply for other sources of funding.

A panel composed of partner representatives, the Director of NSW RHP and consumers will assess the applications, prior to a face to face meeting chaired by an academic external to the partnership. The following rubric will be used to score applications:

	Outstanding	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor
Scientific quality	Coherent, strong objectives, innovative design 5	Coherent research objectives, excellent design 4	Clear research objectives, satisfactory design 3	Minor concerns with research objectives and/or design 2	Weak research objectives or inappropriate design 1	Weak research objectives and inappropriate design 0
Likelihood of influencing health policy or practice	Addresses an important problem, is highly likely to result in rapid translation into policy or practice 5	Addresses an important problem, is likely to result in translation into policy or practice 4	Addresses a well identified problem, is likely to result in translation into policy or practice 3	Addresses a well identified problem, research may or may not result in translation into policy or practice 2	Addresses a minor or poorly evidenced problem or research is unlikely to result in translation into policy or practice 1	Addresses minor or poorly evidenced problem and research is unlikely to result in translation into policy or practice 0
Project value for money	Represents excellent value for money 2.5	Represents very good value for money 2	Represents good value for money 1.5	Represents acceptable for money 1	Represents poor value for money 0.5	Represents very poor value for money 0
Team capability	Outstanding experienced team with strong clinical and academic leadership 2.5	Excellent balanced team of clinicians and academics 2	Good team, but balance between clinical and academic roles unclear or not ideal 3	Relevant clinicians and academics involved 1	Unsatisfactory team – wrong mix of skills and experience 0.5	Poor team 0