

Queensland Health

Genomics Research Grant 2026

Funding Guidelines



**Queensland
Government**

Queensland Health Genomics Research Grant 2026 – Funding Guidelines

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For more information email: QH_Fellowships@health.qld.gov.au.

An electronic version of this document is available at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/research-reports/research/researchers/grants-support/>

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1 Introduction

The Department of Health is proud to support Queensland Health researchers to conduct research relevant to their work, with the goal of improving patient health outcomes and finding new ways to deliver better care.

These Funding Guidelines describe the provision and distribution of funding for the Genomics Research Grant offered by the Department of Health (Department) in 2026 and provide information for Applicants considering applying for the Grant.

For successful grant awardees, the Funding Guidelines form part of an Agreement between the Department and the successful administering organisation (Recipient).

2 Genomics Research Grant 2026

The Queensland Health Genomics Research Grant 2026 supports Queensland Health researchers to undertake genomics research that has the potential to improve health outcomes for patients and the broader community. The Grant aims to support research projects that generate evidence that can be translated into clinical care, public health and health service delivery, advancing the use of genomics to improve diagnosis, prevention and treatment. It will support more equitable access to genomics informed care and contribute to the sustainable integration of genomics across Queensland Health.

The objectives of the Genomics Research Grant 2026 are to:

- Support high-quality genomics research addressing priority health and health service needs.
- Generate evidence to inform the translation and implementation of genomics and improve health outcomes.
- Advance equitable access to genomics-informed healthcare.
- Build sustainable genomics capability, leadership and partnerships across Queensland's health and research sectors

2.1 Grant funding, duration and additional support

Grant amount	Up to \$150,000 total per grant (GST exclusive).
Grant duration	One to two years
Number of Grants	Up to two grants, subject to available funding and application quality.
Additional priority weighting	Applications that meet one or more priority criteria relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, or regional, rural and remote Queensland, may receive additional weighting to their final assessment score. See Section 2.3.
Mentorship Supplement	An additional up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) is available to eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Applicants, regardless of location, and Applicants based at a regional, rural or remote Queensland health facility or service. See Section 2.7.

2.2 General eligibility

Applicants **must** meet the following general eligibility requirements:

- Hold a salaried appointment* with Queensland Health or other publicly funded healthcare facility for a minimum of 0.2 FTE over the duration of the Grant.
- Applicants may hold any relevant Queensland Health role that contributes to genomics research, clinical care, public health, laboratory services, data and analytics, or health service delivery.
- Continue to be employed and conduct research in Queensland for the duration of the Grant.
- At the time the Grant commences (upon execution of the Funding Agreement) and for the duration of the Grant, awardees are required to be Australian Citizens or Permanent residents or hold a Special Category Visa, or a visa that allows the Grant awardee to reside and work full time in Australia.
- At the commencement of the Grant and throughout its duration, individuals should possess, if applicable to their position, current registration with the relevant professional registration board or eligibility for membership/accreditation with a professional association.
- The employing Queensland Health Hospital and Health Service or other publicly funded healthcare facility must be named in the application as either the administering organisation **or** partner organisation.
- Have in place a collaboration with another Queensland Health Hospital and Health Service, a publicly funded healthcare facility or a Queensland-based research organisation external to Queensland Health. A research organisation could include a Queensland university or medical research institute, not-for-profit entity and/or industry. A research organisation can assume the role of administering organisation or partner organisation in the application.
- The researcher must have an administering organisation which could be their employing Queensland Health Hospital and Health Service or other publicly funded healthcare facility or a university or a research organisation.

The proposed research **must** :

- Be eligible for and subject to ethics approval, and Queensland Health Research Governance authorisation.
- Focus on genomics, genomic medicine, precision health, genomic data and analytics, population health applications and/or microbial genomics.
- Have a clear pathway to translation, with the potential to inform or improve clinical care, public health or health service delivery.
- Demonstrate potential to improve patient, population or health service outcomes.

The Applicant and administering organisation **must** ensure the application meets all above outlined eligibility requirements. Departmental staff will not make eligibility rulings before an application is submitted.

The research may contribute to one or more of the following areas:

- **Diagnosis, screening and prevention** – enabling earlier and more precise diagnosis, screening, risk prediction and prevention of disease.
- **Personalised care and clinical decision-making** – informing treatment and medicines, including pharmacogenomics, and supporting decision-making by clinicians, patients and families.
- **Population health and equity** – improving population health, detecting and responding to public health threats, and addressing inequities in access to genomics-informed care and health outcomes.
- **Genomics implementation and health system improvement** – supporting the integration of genomics into clinical pathways, models of care and health services to improve access, quality and outcomes.

*Note: *A salaried appointment is defined as holding a payroll number with, and being paid directly by, Queensland Health or other publicly funded healthcare facility. Applicants who hold formal conjoint appointments between a Queensland HHS (Hospital and Health Service) and a Queensland research institution or university, including those where the academic partner is the employer, are eligible. Such Applicants need to provide confirmation in the relevant HHS letter of support confirming the HHS's financial contribution to the conjoint appointment and the clinical elements of the role. These criteria must be met at the time of application and applies for the duration of the Grant.*

2.3 Eligibility for additional priority weighting

Applications may be eligible for additional priority weighting where they demonstrate one or more of the following:

- The Applicant identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.
- The proposed research will benefit First Nations peoples and communities and involve meaningful engagement, partnership or co-design with First Nations communities or organisations.
- The Applicant is based at, or partnering with a regional, rural or remote Queensland health facility or service*.
- The proposed research addresses health needs, access to care or health inequities experienced by regional, rural or remote communities.

Applicants seeking additional priority weighting must provide sufficient information in their application to demonstrate that the relevant criterion or criteria are met.

Additional weighting will be applied in accordance with the Selection Criteria outlined in Section 4.1.

*Note: * Regional facilities are generally considered to be Cairns and Hinterland HHS; Central Queensland HHS; Darling Downs HHS; Mackay HHS; Townsville HHS; West Moreton HHS; Wide Bay HHS. Rural and Remote facilities are generally considered to be Central West HHS; North West HHS; South West HHS and Torres and Cape HHS as well as Rural and Remote facilities within regional HHSs. Health facilities listed on the Rural and Remote Health Facilities map are considered rural and remote facilities::*

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/engagement/networks/rural-remote/rural-facilities/map>

2.4 Conditions of grant funding

- The level of active research participation by successful Grant awardees (the time the Grant awardee will spend on the research project) is expected to be at least 0.2 FTE averaged over the duration of the Grant.
- Applicants should ensure their time commitments are sufficient to ensure the viability of the Grant.
- The Grant eligibility requirements remain for the duration of the Grant.
- Applicants and successful Grant awardees may apply or hold other grants outside of this scheme. However, the other grants must not:
 - duplicate funding for the research proposed for the Grant,
 - duplicate funding of the Grant awardee's salary, or
 - impact the Grant awardee's time commitment on the research for the Grant.
- Grants are non-renewable and must be completed within the term of the Grant. No additional funds will be provided by the Department.
- Ethics and governance approvals should be in place within three months and no later than six months after the agreement is executed. If these timeframes are not met, the Department has the right to withdraw the offer.
- To expediate Queensland Health Ethics and Governance approvals, we recommend a parallel submission of ethics and governance approvals. We recommend that you talk to the HREC coordinator and Research Governance Officers for the committees that you are applying to at an early stage in your application process. Guides and link to contact details can be found here:
 - [Apply for ethics approval](#)
 - [Apply for governance authorisation](#)
 - [Researcher User Guide](#)
- Grants are awarded to develop the careers of specific individuals, in line with program goals, and are not transferable.
- The successful Grant awardee must take the lead role in conducting and progressing the Grant research.

2.5 Funding use

Grant funding may be used for the following eligible project costs:

- Awardee salary costs, including standard on-costs (leave loading, superannuation contributions, worker's compensation contributions and payroll tax), are eligible expenses. Where Grant funding is used for salary costs, the following conditions apply:
 - The total Queensland Health full-time equivalent (FTE) for the awardee including any Grant-funded component, must not exceed 1.0 FTE.

- The salary rate used for the Grant-funded portion must not exceed the rate the awardee would receive in their substantive clinical position.
- Salary costs for other dedicated Grant research/technical staff, including post-doctoral research staff.
- Project costs directly related to the proposed program of research including consumables and genomic testing, sequencing and bioinformatics costs directly required for the research.
- Travel costs, for the awardee only, that are essential to the Grant research project as outlined in the application (excluding relocation) up to \$8,000 in total for awardee's located in the metro and coastal areas and up to \$10,000 in total for awardee's based out of regional, rural, or remote health facilities. This includes economy class travel only, reasonable accommodation and per diem expenses, and conference registration in accordance with Queensland Health travel policies.
- Equipment costs directly related to the proposed research may be funded up to a maximum of \$75,000 from the Grant, including maintenance. Grant funding may be combined with other funding sources toward the purchase of equipment.
- Only eligible expenditure incurred on or after the commencement of the research project can be claimed.
- Publication costs for the primary publication arising from the research project.

Items not eligible for funding include:

- Institutional on-costs above standard salary on-costs.
- Institutional overheads and operational costs, including general facility and accommodation related costs.
- Travel and conference attendance costs for dedicated research project staff, other than the awardee as outlined above.
- Costs associated with non-Grant projects/programs of the administering or partner organisations.
- Salary costs related to the non-Grant activities of the awardee or other dedicated research project staff.
- Costs associated with administrative support staff.
- Contract research for services that can be performed by the Applicant or administering organisation.
- Computers and laptops, unless highly specialised and essential to the project.
- Costs incurred outside of the duration of the Grant.

Where the funds provided by the Grant do not cover the total cost of the research, it is the responsibility of the awardee to ensure that sufficient funding is available to demonstrate the success of the project. This must be described in the application.

2.6 Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will guide the Review Panel's assessment of applications for this Grant:

Mandatory selection criteria	Weighting
1. Applicant track record and potential	
Strength of - research outputs (publications, grants, invited speaker, awards and prizes, patents, supervision and mentoring) in the research area. - clinical/health impact of research (contributions to improved clinical practice, policy change and/or better health outcomes).	20%
2. Research project and potential	
Research methodology and approach	20%
Potential to improve health outcomes	20%
Partnerships, collaboration and/or consumer engagement	20%
Translation and implementation pathway	20%
Additional priority criteria	Additional weighting
Applications may receive additional weighting where they demonstrate one or more of the following: - The Applicant identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person. - The proposed research will benefit First Nations peoples and communities and involve meaningful engagement, partnership or co-design with First Nations communities or organisations. - The Applicant is based at or partnering with a regional, rural or remote Queensland health facility or service*. - The proposed research addresses health needs, access to care or health inequities experienced by regional, rural or remote communities.	+ 5% + 5% + 5% + 5%

Cash or in-kind contributions to the Grant from the administering or other partner organisation/s will be highly regarded.

*Note: * Regional facilities are generally considered to be Cairns and Hinterland HHS; Central Queensland HHS; Darling Downs HHS; Mackay HHS; Townsville HHS; West Moreton HHS; Wide Bay HHS. Rural and Remote facilities are generally considered to be Central West HHS; North West HHS; South West HHS and Torres and Cape HHS. Health facilities listed on the Rural and Remote Health Facilities map are considered rural and remote facilities: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/engagement/networks/rural-remote/rural-facilities/map>*

2.7 Mentorship supplement eligibility, funding conditions and use

Mentors are invaluable and strongly encouraged for researchers who are building their research skills and experience. Mentorships help to build research capability and mentee profile through guidance, support, and a shared commitment to achieving career progression.

A Mentorship Supplement of up to \$10,000 is available to support the development of a mentoring relationship for eligible applicants. To be eligible for the Mentorship Supplement, the Applicant must:

- Identify as an Aboriginal person and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and/or
- Be based at a regional, rural or remote Queensland Health facility or service.

To be considered for the supplement, a proposal for a mentorship is required. The Mentorship Supplement funding must directly support the goals of the proposed mentorship.

Applications will be considered against the strength and feasibility of the proposal to achieve the objective of the Mentorship Supplement, to support the fostering of a successful mentorship relationship between an eligible researcher and a more experienced researcher.

An eligible researcher and their chosen mentor should work together to develop a proposed mentorship plan suited to their needs which demonstrate a clear plan for mentee research capability and career development and reflect a strong focus on the mentor-mentee relationship.

Mentorship plans may include, by example:

- The goals and anticipated outcomes for the mentorship, the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the mentor and mentee.
- Details of any planned activities, contact time and frequency, training, or support structures for the mentee's research capability development.
- The suitability of the chosen mentor to undertake the role, which may include information on their relevant area of expertise, their track record and past mentoring experience.
- Proposed expenditure of the supplement fund.

The Mentorship Supplement funding must directly support the goals of the proposed mentorship. Funding may be used for reasonable costs to optimise the supportive relationship between the mentor, and the mentee and costs need to be clearly identified in the mentorship plan.

This may include costs related to:

- Facilitating mentor/mentee contact: funding for impactful contact time between the eligible researcher and the mentor, comprising stipends/honorariums or reasonable travel costs.
- Targeted skills development: funding may be used for attendance at workshops/training, site visits or other opportunities, where this is an identified area of need, and this supports the overall goals of the mentorship and development of the eligible researcher.
- Career networking: funding may be used for attendance at conferences, symposia, or professional events where this supports the overall goals of the mentorship; for example, the mentor can facilitate introductions to build and expand the eligible researcher's career network.

If funded, the mentorship plan will be reflected in the Agreement and reported against as part of the Fellowship obligations.

3 Application process

It is the administering organisation and the Applicants' responsibility to read and familiarise themselves with these Funding Guidelines and all other documents referred to within these Funding Guidelines.

Applicants should allow enough time before the grant funding closing date for the relevant delegate to review and sign the application.

Applicants must return a completed Genomics Research Grant 2026 Application form (available [here](#)) before 11:59pm AEST, Monday 7 December 2026. The application should be submitted as a single, consolidated, bookmarked PDF file using the naming convention **Surname_Firstname_Genomics 2026 application.pdf** and include, in the following order:

- Completed and signed application form
- A reference list (if required)
- Applicant publications list
- Letters of support

Late applications will not be accepted.

The application cannot be revised after submission. However, Applicants must advise the Department of any changes that are likely to affect eligibility.

If an Applicant's circumstances change after submission of an application for a Grant, the Recipient must notify the Department immediately.

Applicants may withdraw an application at any time by notifying the Department in writing at QH_Fellowships@health.qld.gov.au.

All costs and expenses incurred by Applicants in any way associated with the preparation and submission of an application will be borne entirely and exclusively by the Applicant.

No Applicant will be entitled to claim compensation or loss from the Department for any matter arising out of the application process, including but not limited to, any failure by the Department to comply with the Funding Guidelines.

The Department will not provide advice to Applicants or administering organisations on the competitiveness of an application at any stage during the application and assessment stages.

Following the assessment process for merit-listed applications, and with the Applicant's prior consent, the Department may share the Applicant's name and project title with key funding partners for the purpose of identifying additional supports or potential funding.

3.1 Letters of support

The application **must** include letters of support from the administering organisation and partner organisation/s. The Applicant's employing Health and Hospital Service (HHS) or other publicly funded healthcare facility must be either the administering or a partner organisation.

Each letter of support (maximum 2 pages per letter) must include:

- Details of the clinical and/or research strengths of the organisation, and the alignment of the proposed Grant and Grant research activities with these strengths.
- Support for the Grant, including any cash and in-kind commitments.
- Letters from HHSs or other publicly funded healthcare facilities (whether acting as administering organisation or partner organisation) must also confirm the Grant awardee's current employment arrangements and the awardee's proposed employment arrangements for the duration of the Grant, having considered any clinical service delivery implications. Applicants who hold formal conjoint appointments between a Queensland HHS and a Queensland research institution or university, including those where the academic partner is the employer, must provide confirmation of support confirming the HHS's financial contribution to the conjoint appointment and the clinical elements of the role.
- Each letter must be formatted on organisational letterhead and signed by the relevant person with appropriate authority to support the application and any commitments. For a HHS, the letter should be signed by the Chief Executive or other appropriately authorised delegate. *Please note: The Department cannot provide advice on who has authority to sign – please liaise directly with your administering and partner organisation/s for advice.*

Failure to comply with the letter of support requirements will make an application ineligible.

4 Assessment process

The applications will be assessed by Department staff for completeness and eligibility. The Department has the right to disqualify applications that are not in keeping with the Grant Funding Guidelines or clearly non-competitive, and to provide advice to the Review Panel.

Applications may be excluded at any time during the selection process, including under the following circumstances:

- the application contravenes or is inconsistent with the Grant Funding Guidelines and associated documentation
- the application was not submitted through QH_Fellowships@health.qld.gov.au
- the application includes any false or misleading information
- the application is incomplete or late
- if the Applicant attempts to give or offer any inducement, gift, or reward, which could in any way influence the Department's actions in relation to an application.
- if the Applicant, or a person on their behalf, attempts to contact members of the independent review panel in relation to the assessment of their application or the peer review process.

Applications will be assessed under a competitive, merit-based process against selection criteria by an expert review panel, which will provide recommendations on Grant award recipients to the Department. However, the Department of Health has absolute discretion in making the final decision on awarding recipients.

The Department will advise each Applicant in writing of the outcome of their application. No information will be released verbally.

The outcomes are final. The Department will not enter into any oral or written correspondence about selection decisions.

Limited feedback can be provided to Applicants who request this in writing from the Department. Feedback will only be provided if the written request is received within three months of Applicants being advised of the outcome.

4.1 Confidentiality and privacy

The Department of Health ('Department') is collecting your information in order to process your grant application. Personal information collected by the Department is handled in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009. The personal information provided by you may be disclosed to the individuals and entities listed in your application for verification purposes. Your personal information will not be disclosed to other third parties without consent, unless the disclosure is authorised or required by or under law. If personal information is not provided, the Department will be unable to assess your application. For any questions regarding this collection notice, please contact the Fellowships and Grants team via email QH_fellowships@health.qld.gov.au. For information about how the Department protects your personal information, how to access or correct your own personal information, or how to make a complaint about a breach of the privacy principles and learn how we deal with such a complaint, please refer to the Department's [Privacy Policy](#).

5 Contractual arrangements

If successful, an Administering Organisation ('the Recipient') to which the funding is paid must be confirmed.

The Recipient must be a Queensland-based agency that has an Australian Business Number and is registered for GST. It must be a HHS, universities and research institutes. A University that is incorporated interstate but has a campus in Queensland is not considered a Queensland-based agency for the purposes of the Grant. There can be only one Recipient for each Grant.

The Grant is offered in accordance with the conditions specified in the Agreement, which is an agreement between the Recipient and the Department.

In signing the Agreement, all parties agree to the conditions contained in the Agreement and its Schedules, including that research complies with relevant laws, guidelines and statements.

The Recipient and the Department do not enter into a binding legal relationship unless and until a subsequent Agreement is executed between the Department and the Recipient.

Please note that the Agreement terms and conditions will not be negotiated or altered on an individual basis.

5.1 Dissemination and publicity

Grant Awardees must acknowledge the Queensland Government's funding in all relevant published material, media releases and public statements.

Grant Awardees should actively promote their research, provide broad research information if required, and attend media/promotion events if requested.

It is expected that the Grant Awardees will make time available during the Grant duration to publicly present their research findings or other outputs to audiences including the Department, the Queensland public health system and external researchers.

Grant Awardees must not make any public announcement or advertisement in any medium in relation to the application process or outcome without the prior written approval from the Department.

6 Further information

A Frequently Asked Questions document is available at

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/research-reports/research/researchers/grants-support/>

Further information or specific queries regarding the Grant, which are not covered in this document or the Frequently Asked Questions document, should be directed, via the administering organisation (Recipient), to:

Health Services Evaluation, Research and Translation
Department of Health
Email QH_Fellowships@health.qld.gov.au

Please direct all queries regarding eligibility to your administering organisation for advice as the Department of Health is unable to provide eligibility rulings to Applicants prior to the submission deadline. Research Offices or equivalent may contact the Department for clarification of the Funding Guidelines on behalf of Applicants.