Health Research South

2017/18 Grant for Health Service Delivery Research

Applications are invited from staff employed by Southern District Health Board (Southern DHB), in collaboration with members of the Dunedin School of Medicine (DSM) staff to support research initiatives aimed at improving health services delivery within the Otago-Southland region, and aligned with Southern DHB priorities. The duration of funding will be up to 24 months, with an anticipated project start date by 1 July 2018. Requests for funding in the range of $10,000 to $50,000 for the first year, extendable to two years to a maximum of $100,000 depending on satisfactory progress will be considered.

Please note the assessment criteria and application information below, which provide further detail on the intent and purpose of this initiative.

Eligibility
The applicant of the research proposal must be a Southern DHB staff member who has a direct involvement in the delivery of health services within the DHB and who, in the context of their work, has identified opportunities for improvement. It is an expectation that this person would collaborate with and assemble a team of people with appropriate scientific expertise and, together with that team, formulate the research design, methodology, and final research team composition. While the DSM is the anticipated research partner, academic support may be sourced from elsewhere within the University of Otago (UoO) if that is more appropriate.

Salary recovery
The awarded funds are to be expended only on direct costs incurred by the research study. This may include the cost of support staff, however, no component of this awarded grant can be used to offset the salary of an existing senior Southern DHB or DSM staff members conducting this research, or to support stipends for summer research, Masters or PhD students.

Service Approval
All proposals require the written consent and support of
  the Southern DHB General Manager (or other relevant Director) in the area within which the research is taking place AND
  the Head of Department of any participating member of the DSM.

Assessment
Applications for the Health Delivery Research Grants will be considered by a panel convened by the Health Research South Board. They should be submitted according to the attached format, and comprise:

  Applicant and project leader details, project title, and lay summary
  Research Proposal including a budget table;
  Strategic Alignment (please refer to the attached Guidelines)
  Track Record of the Team
  The CV of the applicant and project leader using the NZ Research, Science and Technology (RS&T) Curriculum Vitae Template.
  Endorsement from the Southern DHB General Manager (or other relevant Director), including a statement on how the proposal will favourably alter health delivery within the SDHB. This statement will form part of the evaluation.
The assessment criteria against which applications will be evaluated are contained with the Guidelines, and an application template is attached. It is recommended that all applicants / project leaders consult with staff of the Health Research South office as part of preparation for submission.

**Application Submission:**
- Final date of submission: **Friday 23rd February 2018.**
  - (Although applications close in February, it is important that development of the proposal begins immediately.)
  - Please forward six double-sided stapled copies plus one single sided un-stapled original along with an emailed electronic version to:

Ruth Sharpe, Clinical Research Advisor,
Health Research South
1st Floor Dunedin Hospital
Tel 64 3 470 9032 (Hospital extension 59032)
Email ruth.sharpe@otago.ac.nz
2017/18 Grant for Health Service Delivery Research
Guidelines for Applications

Background

Currently the Southern DHB has proposed substantial changes to health delivery over the Otago-Southland region. This proposal is aimed at facilitating research that aims to inform or evaluate these changes, or indeed any aspect of health services delivery. The intention is to directly align with the knowledge gaps and priorities either of the Southern DHB or of DHB funded clinical service providers in the region. The grant is modelled on the Health Research Council’s Investment stream “New Zealand Health Delivery” and is designed to seed approaches and methodologies that could form the basis for applications addressing this initiative.

Proposal Structure

Applicant: A prime feature of this initiative is that the funded research arises from, and is directly relevant to, clinical service delivery within the Southern DHB. The applicant for this award will be a person who has a primary focus on delivery of clinical services, with strong backing from their General Manager, Nursing/Midwifery and/or Allied Health Director. It is acknowledged that the time commitment that the applicant can devote to the research may be limited but nevertheless, the role that this person has in identifying and promoting the clinical utility of this work remains important.

Research team: Construction of a robust and valid research design will be a prime requirement for the awarding of this grant. To support this, the research team may be assembled from across the Southern DHB but it is desirable that appropriate expertise will be sourced and recruited from partner institutions, most specifically staff of the DSM and/or wider University of Otago. To facilitate the assembly of the research team and proposal, close and early engagement with Health Research South is recommended.

Level of support: The Award will be for $10,000 to $50,000 for the first year, extendable to a second year with funding up to a total of $100,000 for the entire project, depending on satisfactory progress and continued alignment with declared objectives.

Criteria for Award of a Grant: The prime criteria determining the successful award of a grant will be:

1. The practicality and feasibility of the scientific plan
2. The potential to produce evidence that results in realistic and immediately applicable changes for health services delivery in the Southern region.
3. The potential for expansion of the research into a larger programme that can form the basis for application to a larger funding organisation like the HRC that invest in Health Delivery Research.
4. The extent to which the research team make-up is appropriate to the project
5. The potential for published research output(s) in the form of peer reviewed papers.
**Scope of Study:** The scope of research to be conducted in this initiative is closely aligned to that described in the HRC’s document on Health Delivery research [HRC NZ Health Delivery Investment Signal](#).

Key elements of the HRC strategy that describe the research targeted by this initiative include:

- All research that can contribute to a primary outcome of improved health service delivery over the short-to-medium term
- A wide range of health services delivery improvements are within scope, such as advancements in productivity, performance, organisation, sustainability, cost-effectiveness, equity and quality, and efficacy of care and support.
- Includes the full range of health services delivered by DHB-funded organisations
- Research on innovations (such as technologies, tools, and devices) is included if likely to impact on clinical practice, health services, service provision, or health systems in the short-to-medium term.
- To be considered in scope, clinical trials of new or existing interventions (such as new treatment regimens, technologies, diagnostic aids, and information management systems) must demonstrate that they are intended for the health benefit of the New Zealand population and that study protocols and/or interventions have been adapted to New Zealand populations or conditions.
- Research objectives and methodology must be oriented towards identifying opportunities for, and approaches to, change and improvement (rather than solely focusing on describing existing systems/issues). Proposals must identify and demonstrate how the research findings are likely to make a difference, have utility, or produce tangible deliverables within five years of the contract commencing.
- The research methodology should include a strong component of service-user, clinical, health provider, support worker, community, or population collaboration, and/or partnership.
- The methodology should include appropriate processes and steps to support the uptake of research findings. Evidence of strong collaborative and strategic alliances with health service providers is mandatory.
- Research proposals should demonstrate meaningful consideration of health equity issues and the specific health and healthcare needs of Māori and Pacific peoples.
2017/18 Grant for Health Service Delivery Research
Application Format

Please use the following application format, use 12 point font, and keep body of application (sections C to E) to within 3 x A4 pages (1500 words approx)

A. Applicant and Project Leader Details
For the applicant and the project leader (if they are different) the following should be supplied:
   Name;
   current position, and FTE for duration of project;
   name of department, phone number and e-mail address.

B. Project Details
   title of research project and specific area of study
   time frame of the study in months;
   total funds being applied for excluding GST;
   lay summary (100 words) about the proposed research and its outcomes;
   details of applications to other funders relating to this project, current status of the application(s) and description of any overlap.

C. Research Proposal
   the gap in the evidence and why is it strategically important to address it (brief);
   the overall design of the study and methods to be used;
   evidence of statistical and economic evaluation of the grant to ensure it is configured to deliver relevant and meaningful conclusions
   facilities available and where the project is to take place;
   timeline for the completion of milestones (including ethical approval and clinical research approval) associated with the study
   budget table (see example below) clearly showing:
   o Salaries (duration and proportion of time to be spent on the project), and
   o Consumables/expense.

D. Alignment with SDHB priorities
Please include statements specifically addressing the following:
   Explicit expression of support from the relevant General Manager (or other relevant Director) within the Southern DHB indicating the value and utility of the proposed study;
   Reference to any specific examples of published priority documents or circulars (if relevant)
   Explanation of how the project will build to a more substantial research endeavor (e.g. HRC grant);

E. Structure and Track Record of the Wider Team
Provide the names of co-investigators or all other researchers with a time commitment to the project along with:
   their relevant experience, and
   indication of their active role in the project.

F. CVs of Applicant & Project Leader
Please use the New Zealand RS&T Curriculum Vitae Template
Available from http://www.otago.ac.nz/research/forms/
**Reporting**

Please note, on completion of this study a report will be required with emphasis on outputs and what this work led to for service delivery within the SDHB.

Applications in which page/word limits are exceeded will not be considered.

An example budget table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salaries (for support staff)</th>
<th>Year one only</th>
<th>Year two if any</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research assistant (20 hrs p/w for 12 months)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$26,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Working Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working Expenses</th>
<th></th>
<th>$600</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photocopying (Info and Consent forms 100 participants)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory tests (Reagents and test tubes)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel costs</td>
<td></td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Equipment (minor equipment only)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>$1,200</th>
<th>$1,800</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blood glucose meters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total excluding GST**                                                                 | $43,800