

Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Indigenous Professional Development Grant 2027 Guidelines

Closing date: 24 November 2026

Enquiries: For general queries please contact: shawn.kelly@unimelb.edu.au

Indigenous academic and professional staff are now invited to apply for the competitive 2027 MDHS Indigenous Professional Development Grant.

What is the MDHS Indigenous Professional Development Grant for?

The MDHS Advancing Health 2030 strategy aims to transform Indigenous local and global health outcomes. To bring Indigenous health research, education and development to the fore, harnessing the power of our expertise. To achieve this, we need to promote, develop, and support Indigenous careers in research, education, professional roles, and leadership. The Indigenous Professional Development Grant is designed to support the careers of Indigenous academic and professional staff across all schools and research institutes, centers, and departments of the faculty.

This grant will fund professional development activities that contribute to career growth and advancement through education, training and leadership enhancement. Designed for flexibility, the grant supports a diverse range of activities. Applicants are encouraged to consider how the grant can best support their career with a focus on how activities will be underpinned by the Advancing Health 2030 strategic themes: collaboration, innovation, and nurture.

Both professional and academic staff are encouraged to apply.

What funding is available?

The MDHS Indigenous Professional Development Grant offers up to \$9,000 (for international) or up to \$6,000 (for domestic) to support staff for one or more projects involving an individual to undertake career development activities, commencing February 2027 to end of 2027.

The grant can be used to cover a variety of costs, e.g. travel and accommodation to present at conferences, pay for the cost of a course, travel to visit a collaborator and to plan a paper, or do a piece of work for a community organisation, etc.

Due to an increase in interest, the 2027 grant application process may be highly competitive. We recommend ensuring your application meets appropriate criteria.

Activities not supported

Grant funds cannot be requested to support the following items:

- Purchase of capital assets



- Attendance at a conference unless an abstract has been accepted (We acknowledge that application and abstract/ post acceptance timelines may not always align with the grant cycle, and flexibility will be applied in such cases)
- Research projects unrelated to professional development

What are the grant timelines?

Stage	Date
Grant opens for applications	13 October 2026
Application submission deadline	24 November 2026
Applicants notified of outcomes	Mid-December 2026
Grant period commences	Early February 2027

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible for this program, an applicant must:

- Identify as an Indigenous Australian (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander)
- Have a current salaried (continuing, full-time, part-time, fixed term or casual) appointment with the faculty at the time of application submission and throughout the assessment period
- Commit to sharing your professional development experience through regular updates, photos, and an end-of-year report. Sharing your story and learnings is a key part of this grant.
- Recipients of the 2026 international award are not eligible to apply for 2027 international award (i.e. two years in a row) however they are eligible for the domestic award.

Application submission process

- Applicants are required to submit application form via email to shawn.kelly@unimelb.edu.au

Referees and endorsement

As part of your application, applicants will be required to provide the details of two (2) referees (including your current supervisor), who may be contacted by the assessment panel for independent advice on the application.

Referees should be familiar with and able to speak to the skills, capability and career development goals of the individual applying to this scheme and be familiar with the proposed activities included in the application.

Confidentiality

Information provided by applicants via this scheme, including personal information, will be treated with due care and confidentiality. In disclosing this information, applicants should be aware that it will be provided to members of an assessment committee solely for the purpose of assessing their application.



Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed in line with the following criteria:

Nurture

How the development initiative supports career development and the impact on community

Collaboration

How the activity enhances connections and work with community (this can be local, global or both)

Innovation

How the activity supports innovation (in teaching, research or professional activity)

Notification of application outcomes

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application, including whether their application was successful, unsuccessful via the email address supplied on the application form.