

# 2025 Innovation Seed Funding Grant Guidelines

## Overview

The National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care and supports the Australian government's National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability. The Centre aims to get people and organisations to collaborate to improve health care for people with intellectual disability.

The Centre's priorities are to:

- Show national leadership in intellectual disability health
- Improve health services, so they can meet the needs of people with intellectual disability
- Improve research about intellectual disability health and ensure that research and data is used to inform and improve health care for people with intellectual disability
- Ensure that people with intellectual disability, their families, disability workers, and health workers can all access high-quality health care resources

The Centre is led by a Consortium of 9 organisations that includes universities and medical research institutes, advocacy organisations, and health services. The Consortium organisations are UNSW Sydney (administering organisation), Centre for Disability Studies, Council for Intellectual Disability, Down Syndrome Australia, First Peoples Disability Network Australia, Queenslanders with Disability Network, University of Melbourne, The Kids Research Institute

Australia, and the Mater Group through the Queensland Centre of Excellence in Autism and Intellectual Disability Health.

The purpose of the Innovation Seed Funding Grants is to support:

- Innovative projects in intellectual disability health that align to the Centre's priorities
- Inclusive projects that have people with intellectual disability and their families in meaningful roles
- Collaboration in intellectual disability health

### Focus Areas

For the 2025 Innovation Seed Funding Grants, the Centre has identified *four focus areas* that it would like to see projects align to. These are:

- Mental health
- Primary and preventative health
- Scope or evaluate new models of care
- Care pathways, including transitions in care or complex care needs

The Centre is open to a broad range of projects in intellectual disability health. Eligible activities may include but are not limited to:

- Research and evaluation activities, including the use of Commonwealth data assets.
- Health promotion activities, including advocacy and health literacy.
- Health and care workforce education and training activities, including resource creation.

The priority populations in the work of the Centre are people with an intellectual disability who also:

- Are First Nations
- Come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Live in regional and remote areas
- Are LGBTQI+
- Have contact with the justice system or at risk
- Are experiencing homelessness
- Have a complex disability

The Centre encourages applicants to identify relevant priority populations in their application, but this is not a requirement for eligibility. Projects across all age ranges are encouraged, from children and younger people, adults, and older adults.

### Eligibility

Applications must:

- Indicate how they align to at least one of the four focus areas noted above and which of the Centre priorities the project best aligns to.
- Include people with an intellectual disability and/or their families.
- Not include Centre Consortium organisations and staff as lead applicants, partners, or project team members.
- Be able to be completed within the 12-month timeframe.
- Include an Easy Read version of their submission.

### Funding

A total of \$400,000 is available for the 2025 Innovation Seed Funding Grants to support between 5 to 8 grants of \$20,000-\$80,000 each according to merit. Eligible expenses include direct project costs such as salaries, knowledge exchange activities, workshop and partner meeting costs, providing support for people with an

intellectual disability to participate. Ineligible expenses include indirect or infrastructure costs and covering retrospective costs.

The funds must be spent in accordance with the budget proposed in the grant application for activities in Australia only. Grants are non-renewable and must be completed within the timeframe for which the funding is granted. No additional funding will be provided to complete the project. Any unspent funds must be returned.

All projects funded will be required to complete a written six- and twelve-month progress report which are due as per the milestone table below. The Centre reserves the right to reallocate funding if applications do not meet a minimum quality.

## Application Evaluations

First, applications will be reviewed for completeness and adherence to submission requirements. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements or word limits will be deemed ineligible for review. Eligible applications will then be shortlisted for strategic alignment to the Centre priorities.

Shortlisted applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of a member of the Centre Learn and Lead Group, the Lived Experience Lead, Manager - First Nations Strategy, and two external reviewers. The Centre Team Leads will provide expert reviews to the review committee.

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

#	Criteria	%
1	<p>Quality of the project plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects that propose an innovative approach</li> <li>• Projects that are feasible within the timeframe</li> <li>• Projects that have a strong project team</li> </ul>	30%
2	<p>Inclusion of people with intellectual disability and families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects with budgets that accommodate inclusion needs</li> <li>• Projects with people with intellectual disability and their families in meaningful roles</li> </ul>	30%
3	<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects that have a plan for how they will share and use their findings to inform the future of intellectual disability health</li> <li>• Projects that are scalable</li> <li>• Projects that have the potential to attract further competitive or project funding</li> </ul>	30%
4	<p>Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects that maximise engagement with other organisations</li> </ul>	10%

## Timeline

Milestone	Deadline
Applications Open	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Applications Close	5pm AEDT Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Eligibility check and shortlisting	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025
Applications sent to review committee	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Review committee recommendations made to Centre Director	By Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Notification to successful applicants	By Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Project commencement and disbursement of funds	By Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Six-month progress report due	By Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Final report due	By Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2026

## Support

If you are looking for information about Easy Read documents please refer to the [Australian Government Style Guide](#) and [Inclusion Australia's Fact Sheet: What is Easy Read?](#)

Please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the Centre website prior to completing an application.

Please direct all questions to [nceidhgrants@unsw.edu.au](mailto:nceidhgrants@unsw.edu.au). The Centre will endeavour to respond within three working days. Questions received through other channels (e.g., phone or other Centre emails) or received after Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 will not receive a response.

#### Submission and outcome

You must use the template that has been provided to complete your application. Applications should provide all the requested information, not exceed the word count and use Arial size 12 font. Only information provided in the application will form the basis of the review process. The maximum email size with attachments is 25MB.

You will receive a confirmation email. Due to the anticipated volume of applications, individual feedback will not be provided to applicants.

Thank you for your interest in the National Centre of Excellence  
in Intellectual Disability Health Innovation Seed Funding  
Grants.

