

The Anika Foundation/SMHR ECR Seed Grants

Terms and Conditions

1. Purpose

The 2025 Anika Foundation/SMHR ECR Seed Grants aim to support early career researchers (ECRs) to undertake high-quality research projects and pilot studies, strengthen their track record, and build capability in competing for external funding.

Three \$20,000 grants will be awarded, one for each of the following research streams:

- Stream 1: Research in Australian First Nations adolescent depression and/or suicide prevention
- Stream 2: Research in adolescent depression and/or suicide prevention
- Stream 3: Research on any topic related to mental health

Grant funding will be awarded for one year: July 2025–June 2026.

2. Eligibility requirements

- 2.1 Lead applicants must be members of SMHR.
- 2.2 Applicants must be based at a university or Medical Research Institute in Australia or New Zealand for the duration of the grant.
- 2.3 Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of Australia or New Zealand. Co-Investigators can have any country of origin.
- 2.4 Applicants must have been awarded a PhD (or equivalent qualification as per NHMRC guidelines) within five years of the closing submission date (28/02/2025), exclusive of periods of career disruption.
- 2.5 Projects submitted for Stream 1 and 2 must address the designated research areas of either adolescent depression and/or suicide prevention (covering ages 10 to 19 years).
- 2.6 Lead applicants are not eligible to apply for an ECR Grant if they are currently the lead Chief Investigator (CIA) on a successful Australian Research Council (ARC), National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), or Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) grant.

3. Timeline of key dates

Applications open: Monday 2nd Dec 2024

Applications close: Friday 28th Feb 2025, 5pm

Outcomes announced: Thursday 1st May 2025

Grant start: 1st July 2025

Grant end: 30th June 2026

Final Report due: 31st July 2026

4. Assessment criteria

All applications will be assessed and ranked by a selection committee of experts in mental health research and lived experience, a First Nations representative and a Board Member from the Anika Foundation.

The following selection criteria and strategic considerations will be applied:

- a) Research project quality, including feasibility, methods, outcomes, and alignment to adolescent depression and/or suicide prevention research if applying to Stream 1 or 2 (50%)
- b) Expected social/economic/cultural/environmental benefits of the research (20%)
- c) Likely impact on the ECR's career development and their competitiveness in securing future competitive external funding, indicated by the applicant's track record and stated plans to secure funding in the future (15%)
- d) Relevance of the research to people with lived experience of mental health issues and involvement of people with lived experience in the research (15%)

5. Terms and conditions

- 5.1 The grant will be awarded for one year, ending 30th June 2026.
- 5.2 Three grants of \$20,000 each will be awarded in the areas of Australian First Nations adolescent depression and/or suicide prevention, adolescent depression and/or suicide prevention, and any topic related to mental health.
- 5.3 Applicants are limited to submitting one application under this scheme per year.
- 5.4 All finance claims must be submitted by the end of the 2025 financial year.
- 5.5 Applications must be submitted using the application form provided.
- 5.6 Applicants must be the lead researcher on the grant, with the aim of enhancing their ability for independent research and external funding.
- 5.7 Written supervisor approval must be provided for the application. A brief statement of support should be submitted with the application form, containing the applicant's name, the stream they are applying for, project title, and details of any in-kind or financial support the supervisor will provide if the application is successful.
- 5.8 The grant holder is responsible for the project, its concept, the strategic decisions called for in its pursuit, and for the communication of the results.

- 5.9 The grant holder will be the contact person for all administrative matters to do with the project.
- 5.10 The grant holder must ensure that the research is conducted in accordance with the relevant University policies, including compliance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018) and regulatory frameworks for human research ethics, health and safety and intellectual property.
- 5.11 It is an expectation of this grant funding that publications arising from this grant will acknowledge The Anika Foundation and SMHR as the research funders.
- 5.12 A final report is required to be submitted to the SMHR Executive Committee via louise.farrer@anu.edu.au by 31st July 2026.

6. Application

The application will consist of an application form and supplementary documents to be emailed as described below.

- The application form to be completed and emailed to: louise.farrer@anu.edu.au
- Applicant CV- maximum three pages (attached to application form)
- Supervisor statement of support (max ½ page) (attached to application form)

7. Budget

- 7.1 The total funding amount that applicants can apply for is \$20,000.
- 7.2 The Anika Foundation is a registered not-for-profit organisation.
- 7.3 The award will fund:
 - Direct research project costs, (personnel, equipment, travel, participant expenses, stationery etc), and
 - Dissemination activities such as collateral, conferences and open access publications.
- 7.4 The award will not fund:
 - The applicant's own salary.
 - Costs not directly related to the research project.
 - Funds that duplicate or supplement another current internal or external funding.
 - Non-specialist equipment provided by the applicant's institution, such as desktop computers or laptops.

Definitions:

Term	Notes/ Definition
Adolescent	Research should focus on the prevention of depression and/or suicide risk in individuals aged 10 to 19 years.
Career Disruption	Interruptions that can be claimed when calculating the effective years of scholarly research opportunity post-PhD (or equivalent qualification) include: Disruption due to international relocation Parental leave Caring responsibilities (with reduced research fraction) Disability Medical or mental health conditions Unemployment Part-time employment or fractional research FTE Community obligations, including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural practices and protocols.
Lead Chief Investigator (CIA) on a successful ARC, NHMRC, MRFF, or HRC grant.	Researchers who are CIA on any NHMRC, ARC, MRFF, or HRC grant are ineligible. Those who are listed as investigators on those grants but are not CIA, are eligible to apply.
Competitive external funding	Research grants and awards that are funded by organisations other than the applicant's institution and awarded on merit. Examples include Australian Rotary Health grants, NHMRC, MRFF, HRC and Perpetual IMPACT grants. These do not include individual or corporate donations.
ECRs	Early Career Researchers. Up to five years postdoc as at 28 February 2025, exclusive of career disruption.
Suicide prevention	This encompasses any/all suicidal thoughts and or behaviours, including self-harm with and without suicidal intent.