

Alcohol and Other Drugs System Reform Research Grant Program – Sector Briefing Q&A

The below Q&A reflect the Alcohol and Other Drugs System Reform Research Grant Program Briefing Session, 4 February 2026, and any relevant questions submitted to contracts@qmhc.qld.gov.au or ellen.marks@qmhc.qld.gov.au. Questions may be submitted until 16 February 2026.

Please note: the closing date and time for this grant is 2pm 17 March 2026 (AEST)

1. Are there specific requirements for the Primary Investigator (PI) to be considered at the senior level? Where can this information be included in our application?

The grant guidelines do not specify detailed criteria for a PI to be considered at the senior level. Generally, “senior” refers to researchers who have demonstrated substantial experience in their field, including:

- A track record of leading similar research projects
- Publications in peer-reviewed journals
- Experience in managing research teams

Applicants are encouraged to provide sufficient evidence of the Primary Investigator’s seniority and capability to lead the proposed project. This can be provided through the SmartyGrants portal under:

- In section 7, Criteria Responses, Selection Criteria 3: *the research team demonstrates the capability to successfully deliver the initiative*, or
- In section 9, Supporting Documentation- as an attachment if the Applicant wishes to provide a more detailed response.

If any further clarification is requested from the review panel, an applicant may be invited provide a response.

2. We are a national organisation with a Queensland footprint – can we apply as the lead applicant? What is the pathway for a national organisation to apply

To be eligible as the lead applicant, organisations must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the guidelines, including being a Queensland-based organisation. As such, national organisations with a Queensland footprint are not eligible to apply as the lead applicant.

However, the Commission strongly encourages national organisations to participate in the grant round as project partners or collaborators. Partnerships between Queensland-based organisations, as the lead applicant, and national organisations, as partners/collaborators, are welcomed.

3. What is the recommended size of the Chief Investigator (CI) team? Would partners need to be CIs too?

There is no prescribed or recommended size for the CI team. Applicants should propose a research team that is appropriately sized and structured to effectively deliver the project, taking into account its scope, complexity and required expertise.

While partnerships with peak bodies, industry, and other organisations are strongly encouraged, partners are not required to be listed as a CI. Partners may be involved in a range of ways, including as collaborators or advisors, in a way that best suits the nature of the partnership and the project objectives.

In designing the research team, considerations may include whether the proposed structure supports the feasibility and sustainability of the research, and how it contributes to achieving the objectives of the grant.

4. *Is primary research data collection mandatory, or will systematic reviews, for example, be accepted?*

Research approaches including systematic reviews may be eligible, provided they are clearly aligned with the intent of the program and demonstrate strong translational value for the Queensland context.

The key considerations for eligibility and competitiveness are that the proposed research:

- Produces findings that are directly relevant and applicable to Queensland policy, system reform, or practice settings
- Demonstrates a clear pathway for translation into action, decision-making, or implementation within Queensland
- Is not a duplication of existing work, but instead offers new synthesis, analysis, contextualisation, or application that meaningfully advances understanding in the identified area.

5. *Can research activities be funded where other funding sources also contribute to the broader program of work?*

Under section 5.3 *Funding Exclusions*, research that is already funded through another source (including another Queensland Government organisation) is not eligible. Applicants must not seek funding for the same activity or cost under more than one funding source (sometimes referred to as “double dipping”).

Where an applicant holds existing funding, eligibility will depend on a clear and defensible delineation between:

- Activities and costs supported by existing funding, and
- The distinct activities and associated costs proposed under this grant.

Commission funding must be sought only for new and discrete research activities that are not otherwise funded.

To support eligibility and assessment, applicants should clearly outline:

- what activities (and associated costs/expenditure) are being undertaken with existing funding, and what new activities are proposed with Commission funding, and their associated costs.
- the need for additional funding; what can be achieved, that would otherwise not be achieved, with the additional funding. This information is important to support eligibility and value-for-money considerations during assessment.
- any risks and mitigation strategies related to the other funding and the interdependence with activities you are proposing.