



Australian Nursing and  
Midwifery Federation  
(SA Branch)



University of  
South Australia



# Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre

## 2018 Seeding Grant Guidelines



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## Overview

In 2017, the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre applied to the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) to fund two Seeding Grants of \$12,000 for eligible nursing and midwifery researchers based within the three tertiary institutions (University of South Australia, Flinders University and The University of Adelaide). These Seeding Grants are designed to:

1. Expand the nursing and midwifery research capacity of South Australia
2. Increase research output for nursing and midwifery
3. Create opportunities to seed fund research projects with future external funding merit
4. Align to the strategic plan of the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre

## About the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre

The Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre is a partnership between two South Australian organisations, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) and the University of South Australia, to address the challenges that nursing and midwifery face nationally and internationally, as a modern and continually evolving profession.

The Centre is a first for South Australia and is strategically placed to develop strong local, national and international interdisciplinary collaborations to maximise the impact of its research in a variety of healthcare settings.

The Centre will focus on research to advance the nursing and midwifery profession in the areas of population and public health, health systems, workforce planning and reform, safety and quality, clinical practice, patient outcomes, and education and professional development, to inform strategies for:

1. extending the capacity and capabilities of nurses and midwives to build a resilient, sustainable and collaborative workforce,
2. health system planning and resourcing, and
3. clinical care and outcomes.

The Centre will pave the way for the translation of new research discoveries to better equip nurses and midwives and the broader healthcare system to provide optimal care for the community.

**Vision:** A translational nursing and midwifery research centre that empowers optimal health and welfare of the community

**Mission:** To lead high impact nursing and midwifery research, and the application of evidence into practice within the healthcare system for the benefit of communities and society

## Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre Research Themes

The Centre's research themes are focused on the role and value of the nurse and midwife in healthcare and the community. The goal of each theme is to research an important aspect of the nursing and midwifery profession to further the evidence base and translate research findings into practice and policy.



### Who we are

**Theme goal:** to profile the nursing and midwifery workforce, including those factors that contribute to or are barriers to a healthy and prosperous career

**Context:** Research is required that endeavours to expand our understanding of the nursing and midwifery workforce and the context in which they work. This will inform data-driven strategies to increase on-the-job performance, satisfaction, retention and professional development, as well as describe a comprehensive and predictive picture of nursing and midwifery in Australia for future workforce renewal and planning. Research is also required that maps the needs of disadvantaged populations against the health system's capacity for meeting these needs, both within the workforce, as well as the physical environments, services, and networks that support the workforce. This will allow for the development of targeted intervention strategies that have greater potential for sustainable change.

## What we do

**Theme goal:** to advance health systems, clinical practice and policy to ensure the role of the nurse and midwife in health care is contemporary, optimised and meets best practice

**Context:** Being the largest healthcare workforce, nurses and midwives are critical to the success of this evolving health system, and so identifying, testing, implementing and evaluating appropriate adaptations to the nurse or midwife roles, Scope of Practice and resource allocation models are required to ensure health system changes are founded on a robust evidence base. In addition, developing a strategic understanding of when, where and how to best utilise nursing and midwifery-led Models of Care has the potential for significant cost-savings over traditional Models of Care, and in-so-doing, allowing for the redistribution of healthcare resources towards other cost-effective health initiatives that mitigate reliance on high-cost, acute care services.

## The difference we make

**Theme goal:** to utilise system innovation and new technologies to progress person-centred care and optimise the interactions nurses and midwives have with the community

**Context:** Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs) provide health services with evidence-informed recommendations that support clinical practice and guide practitioner and patient decision-making. BPGs are effective for standardising practice of clinical care, yet further research is required on how to successfully adapt and apply BPGs to a local context in order to maximise implementation and sustainability. In addition, a key component of BPGs is supporting patient-centred care (a person's own perceptions and review of their health status, including their quality of life, physical, social and emotional functioning and capacity to meet their goals). However, we are yet to establish standardised ways of monitoring and reporting patient-centred care across health care settings. Innovative ways of routinely collecting these data are required that meets the needs of multiple stakeholders.

## Our future impact

**Theme goal:** to shape a future of optimism and opportunity for nursing and midwifery through the intersection of clinical practice, technology, education and research

**Context:** The nursing and midwifery profession can take advantage of technological innovations and new platforms to improve care, and address gaps in access and equity. This involves considering new techniques, new equipment, new treatments and new services, and their consequent impact on the health system, health workforce and patient populations. To support this, developing and sustaining a learning culture, and one that provides clinicians with the understanding, skills and opportunities to embrace research and evaluation is dependent on all staff understanding its value and benefit to the quality of care. However, given the gradual shift towards more complex cases and increasing clinical demand, integrating research and evaluation into routine care and maintaining a culture of learning among staff requires strong leadership, and organisational and structural support.

## Aim of the Seeding Grant

The Seeding Grant is designed to support early and mid-career research academics to undertake novel research in the area of nursing and midwifery that:

- has the potential to attract future larger grants funding
- support non-professorial level researchers to build a successful research career
- has translational potential
- has system innovation or disruption potential

## Eligibility Criteria

To achieve the aims of the grant, as well the strategic direction of the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre, applications must:

- Demonstrate how the research aligns to one of the four Research Themes of the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre
- Describe how external stakeholders have been involved in and will benefit from the research
- Demonstrate potential to attract future funding

In addition, the following eligibility criteria will apply to the project team:

1. The Lead Chief Investigator (CI) must be a staff member of one of the three universities and working in Nursing and Midwifery research
2. The CI must be employed by the University for the duration of the project
3. At least one Investigator must be from outside the University setting (e.g. government, industry, consumer group)
4. The applications must have been reviewed by an appropriate stakeholder / stakeholder group, and be accompanied by a written letter of support

Note the following exclusion criteria apply:

- Given that the funding is to support career growth opportunities for non-professorial academics, the Lead CI cannot be at Level D or higher
- Staff members of the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre are not eligible to apply

## End-user and Industry Engagement

It is an intention of these grants to support and promote translational research. In order to achieve this, it is important that intended beneficiaries of and stakeholders in the research are engaged early in its design and for the duration of the project.

To facilitate this process, it is a requirement of the grant that an appropriate stakeholder / stakeholder group is listed as part of the application and that they provide an accompanying letter of support for the Project.

## Funding and Invoicing

A budget of up to \$12,000 is available per project. In addition, research assistant support will be provided by the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre (approximately 1 day per week per Project) to provide non-specialist assistance (see 'Use of the Research Assistant').

Examples of budget items supported include:

- Essential field research expenditure
- Research assistance (outside of the use of the research assistant provided)
- Equipment (and its maintenance) and consumables required
- Publication and dissemination of Project research outputs
- Essential specialised IT equipment and software/apps
- Essential travel costs including economy travel costs for domestic and/or international travel and accommodation
- attendance at forums/conferences/workshops to engage external partners and develop collaborative opportunities

Examples of budget items **not** supported include:

- Costs not directly related to the Project
- Professional membership fees
- Education fees for the professional development of CIs
- Salaries and/or on costs, in whole or in part, for CIs
- Offsetting teaching/marking responsibilities of CIs by funding lecturing/tutoring personnel
- Severance/ termination pay for staff or research personnel

A budget must be detailed and uploaded as part of the Seeding Grant application. The Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre reserves the right to seek further clarification regarding the budget as per the Assessment Process and Conditions of Award.

An example budget template is provided at the end of this document (Appendix A).

An invoice will be required prior to release of funds (see 'Conditions of Award' below).

## Leveraged Funding

Leveraged funding that will contribute to the direct research costs is not a requirement of the Seeding Grant. However, leveraged funding can be sought and reported as part of the budget where the total cost of the project exceeds \$12,000.

If leveraged funding is achieved this must be evidenced by a letter of support from the funding source.

## Project Timeframe and Reporting

Project timeframe:

- The Seeding Grant timeframe is for 1 year
- The anticipated commencement date is 1 February 2018

Reporting:

- The Lead CI will be required to submit a brief six month Project Progress Report including budget expenditure. A report template will be emailed to the Lead CI at five months from date of commencement.
- At the completion of the project, the Lead CI will be required to submit a Project Final Report and budget acquittal statement that outlines what has been achieved, how funding has been expended and what are next steps for the research. A report template will be emailed to the Lead CI at one year from date of commencement.

## Use of the Research Assistant

A research assistant, employed by the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre, will be available to support each project (approximately 1 day per week). The time of the research assistant can be used to progress specific components of the research (e.g. literature reviews, data entry, survey design, data management, or manuscript support).

It is the responsibility of the Project team to decide if and how they would like to engage the research assistant. Applications are not required to specify this component.

It is important to emphasise that this resource is made available to support the progress of the Project, and therefore the research assistant cannot be expected to have prior knowledge of the topic. The Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre reserves the right to intervene if the expectations placed on the research assistant are outside of capacity or capabilities (e.g. excessive demand on time, require specialist knowledge).

## Seeding Grant Application Process

**All applications will need to be submitted via an online application form.** The following documents will need to be prepared and uploaded as part of this process:

1. A Project Budget
2. A copy of the Lead Chief Investigator's CV (maximum 4 pages)
3. A letter of support from Project end-users or industry

A link to the application form can be found on the Centre's webpage under the heading 'Seeding Grants': <http://www.unisa.edu.au/sansominstitute/rbrc>

A pdf copy of the application form is also provided. Applicants are encouraged to download a copy as part of preparing their application.

**Applications close 20 November 2017, 9:00am ACDT.**



## Seeding Grant Assessment Process

Applications will be judged on their alignment with one of the Centre's Research Themes (see page 4) and likelihood of delivering a successful outcome using the following assessment criteria:

- Project quality 20%
- Research innovation 20%
- End-user informed and engaged project 20%
- Interdisciplinary research team 20%
- Potential for further funding 20%

A Seeding Grant Review Panel with representation from the three universities, consumers and the health sector will be constructed to review all eligible applications.

The Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre team will assess all applications received for compliance against the eligibility and funding criteria prior to being presented to the Review Panel. If ruled ineligible, the Lead CI may be offered the opportunity to amend and address any compliance or budget issues. The Review Panel will meet following the close of applications, and outcomes will be communicated to the Lead CI shortly thereafter, as well as posted on the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre website.

The two successful applicants will meet with Review Panel members to present their Project.

## Conditions of the Grant

1. Successful projects that receive Seeding Grant funding will be required to invoice the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre via their appropriate Research Administration Office.
2. The Lead CI will be responsible for monitoring the Project expenditure, and for liaising with the concerning the payment of accounts. (Refer to the section Funding Available for items supported and not supported)
3. The research team must conform to the Administering Institution's policies on Research Ethics, Governance, Safety, and Export Controls requirements.
4. Where projects involve the collaboration of Industry Partners or other Institutions, it is the recipient's responsibility to ensure that legal agreements regarding Intellectual Property and Commercialisation have been executed prior to the commencement of project.
5. Equipment items funded under this award shall remain the property of the University of South Australia, and shall be available for use by other members of the University once the project is completed.
6. Funding will be released once Ethics, Governance, Safety, Export Controls and/or Legal requirements have been met (if applicable).
7. Funds should be expended within 12 months of receiving funds. Any balance of funds remaining will be recovered.
8. Any significant changes to the project, or project team, must be communicated to [rbrc@unisa.edu.au](mailto:rbrc@unisa.edu.au)
9. Reporting:
  - a. At six months, the Lead CI will be required to provide a Progress Report, completed on the template provided.
  - b. At conclusion of the project the Lead CI will be required to provide a Final Report and Acquittal Statement, completed on the template provided.

## Contact for Further Information

Should you have any enquiries regarding the Seeding Grant please contact:

Professor Marion Eckert  
Director, Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre  
08 8302 2129  
[rbrc@unisa.edu.au](mailto:rbrc@unisa.edu.au)

Closing date for enquiries is **15 November 2017, 5:00pm ACDT.**

Applications close **20 November 2017, 9:00am ACDT.**

## Appendix A: Budget Template

Budget Item	Grant Amount \$	Leveraged Amount \$	Total Amount \$
Personnel			
Equipment			
Services			
Travel			
Other			
Total Budget	\$	\$	\$