

Volunteering WA

Research Grant Program 2023-24

Volunteering WA (VWA) wishes to acknowledge the Board for their commitment and support and thank members of the Research Committee for their assistance in establishing this program.

Objectives

- Facilitate connections between researchers, VWA and their members and stakeholders
- Enable VWA to gain evidence and find answers to pertinent research questions
- Facilitate students / Early Career Researchers to engage with VWA and VIOs
- Grow Western Australia's capacity for volunteering research

Funding availability

- Up to \$20,000, ex-GST
- Funding may be allocated to one or more projects within the same round
- Funding may contribute in whole or in part to a project
- All Western Australian based researchers are eligible to apply

Submissions

- Research proposals are sought on **any other matter that contributes to our understanding of volunteering and how to advance the sector, in Western Australia.**

Submissions should address the essential criteria outlined in Attachment 1 and be sent to meredith@volunteeringwa.org.au by 5pm on Friday 29 March 2024.

Timetable

6 Feb 2024	Volunteering WA opens Grant Program 2023-24
29 Mar 2024	Submissions close
April 2024	Submissions assessed, possibility of meeting with shortlisted proposal(s)
May 2024	Successful projects announced, subject to contracts
From Jun 2024	Projects commence
By June 2025	Projects to be completed and final reports presented

Assessment

Projects will be assessed on the criteria in Attachment 2. The assessment panel will recommend any shortlisted project(s) and may hold a follow up meeting prior to recommending the final project(s) for funding.

The assessment panel will include:

- One representative from VWA Research Committee
- One representative from Volunteering WA
- One volunteering sector representative.

The final decision will be made by the CEO of Volunteering WA, subject to contractual agreement. Volunteering WA reserves the right to not award any funding, subject to projects meeting minimum criteria for selection.

Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Volunteering WA Research Grant Program 2023-24.

Please contact Meredith Blais, Executive Manager Policy and Research at Volunteering WA if you have any queries at meredith@volunteeringwa.org.au or on 0400 564 054.

Attachment 1

Volunteering WA Research Grant Program

– Essential criteria to be addressed in application

Word and page ranges are provided as suggestions, however applications that include sections that have exceeded the upper bounds of the ranges will not be considered.

Please use at least 11-point font, single spacing, and minimum margins of 2.5cm. Graphical information is welcome but not a requirement.

Title of project

Key research question to be addressed

Approach (300 words total)

- Proposed approach
- Timelines
- Risk management
- Pathway to future research or research collaborations

Research methodology (250 words total)

Investigators (1 page for each team member – if a student investigator will be involved but the student is not yet identified, there is no need to submit details for that investigator)

- Name
- Email
- Current title
- Institution
- Qualifications
- Key research outputs (up to three citations)
- Evidence of experience in the translation of research into practice (250 words maximum)
- Evidence of capacity to complete the project within the timeframe (~25 words)
- If supervising a student researcher, experience with supervision (~25 words)

Budget (0.5 page)

- Small table showing items and costs
- Include contributions from other parties
- Highlight any additional funding not yet secured

Summary of project and benefit to VWA (250 words)

- Why is this research of value to VWA and its members?
- Volunteering WA will make research available through its website. Please briefly outline any other plans for dissemination.

Attachment 2

Assessment criteria

1. Investigators

Potential score 20

- a. Evidence of successful peer-reviewed research dissemination, and involvement of early career researchers.

No evidence from team and no early career researcher involvement	Evidence from team or early career researcher involvement	Evidence from team and early career researcher involvement
0	2	6

- b. Evidence of a track record of research translation

No evidence of investment in research translation activities	Some evidence of investment in research translation activities	Clear commitment to investment in research translation activities
0	2	4

- c. Evidence of capacity to deliver within funding period

No evidence of capacity to deliver	Some limitations / concern regarding capacity to deliver	Clear evidence of capacity
0	2	4

- d. Evidence of past successful collaborations with industry (e.g. VWA) or commitment to a future collaboration

No evidence past or potential future collaboration	No evidence of past collaboration but evidence of successful collaborations with other organisations	No evidence of past collaboration but evidence of successful collaborations with other orgs AND clear evidence of commitment to future collaboration	Clear evidence of past successful collaboration
0	2	3	4

- e. Does this project involve research students (e.g., Honours, Masters, internship, higher degree by research)?

No	Yes
0	2

2. Project Quality & Feasibility

Potential score 60

- a. How likely does it seem that the project is going to answer the proposed question? Consider the methodology and proposed approach to answering the research question.

Almost certainly will not	25:75 (probably will not)	50:50 (maybe, maybe not)	75:25 (probably will)	Almost certainly will
0	5	10	15	20

- b. How feasible is the project, given the timeframe and proposed budget?

Not feasible	Some aspects may fall short	Very feasible
0	10	20

- c. To what extent have project risks been identified, with appropriate mitigations put in place?

Inadequate assessment / high residual risk	Moderate residual risk	Low residual risk
0	5	10

- d. To what extent will this research project facilitate ongoing research?

This will almost certainly be a 'one-off'	This could lead to further research, including collaborations if parties are motivated	This will likely lead to ongoing research, including research collaborations
0	5	10

3. Budget

Potential score 20

- a. Assuming the project goes to plan, to what extent does it represent value for money to VWA?

Not at all	A little	To a moderate extent	To a large extent	A great deal
0	5	10	15	20

Overall

Potential score 100