

# NATIONAL SENIORS Productive Ageing Centre

## Guidelines for Applicants

### **Introduction**

The National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre (NSPAC) is committed to undertaking consumer oriented research into ageing with a focus on the needs, role and productivity of seniors in the community. NSPAC is seeking expressions of interest from qualified researchers to assist in the development of the productive ageing agenda via collaborative research projects.

Productive ageing within the context of this research agenda is organised around five key dimensions with potential topics for research including, but not limited to the following:

- Dimension 1: Adaptable workforce*
- Dimension 2: Enterprising communities*
- Dimension 3: Resourcing the new retirement*
- Dimension 4: Learning and exchanges between generations*
- Dimension 5: Sustainable environments*

For further details on these topic areas, please consult the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre Research Agenda document *Dimensions* which is available on the website at [www.productiveageing.com.au](http://www.productiveageing.com.au) .

Further, research is expected to adhere to the organizing principles of the Centre's productive ageing research program which are:

- *Consumer focus:* the Centre's distinguishing feature is its commitment to quality research informed by the lived experience of seniors, 50 and over.
- *Research policy linkages:* research collaborations are designed to develop linkages between Centre researchers, collaborative researchers and policy developers, both private and public sector. Outcomes of research projects are expected to identify key policy implications, be widely disseminated and be used as a basis to develop shared understanding between researchers and policy makers.
- *Strategic to national ageing research and policy agenda:* the NSPAC's research agenda is consistent with the national ageing research agenda.
- *Diversity:* research is to be responsive to the heterogeneous nature of the seniors demographic and reflective of gender, cultural and regional differences.
- *Partnership:* the Centre operates from a reciprocal partnership perspective resulting in mutually beneficial outcomes for all participants.
- *Cross disciplinary perspectives:* productive ageing is not confined to any single disciplinary area and projects should aim to develop linkages across traditional research areas.
- *Inclusive of current research:* projects which extend existing research are encouraged as well as those that propose the development of new areas of research interest.



National Seniors



Australian Government  
Department of Health and Ageing



University of the  
Sunshine Coast

## ***Categories of Assistance***

Assistance is available in the following categories to further this research agenda:

- Research projects
- Matching grants
- Research student support

### **Research Projects**

Research projects fall into two categories: large and small. Small research projects are limited to applications of up to \$5,000 and would be expected to contribute towards a pilot study, literature review or exploratory research.

Large grants of up to \$25,000 are available for significant projects. These projects would be expected to develop new knowledge and lead to publication in accepted academic outlets.

### **Matching Grants**

Applications are also sought to extend existing projects via the use of matching or top up grants. Examples of this style of funding would include, but are not limited to:

- matching an internal university grant (eg Faculty based grant) for a project related to productive ageing;
- topping up an industry grant eg from alternative funding via professional associations; or
- complementing an existing study to develop a sub-report on the 50+ respondents.

In these cases the NSPAC may match all or part of the grant to assist in extending the project. For clarification on eligibility contact the Head of Research ([research@productiveageing.com.au](mailto:research@productiveageing.com.au))

### **Research student support**

Developing the capacity for research into productive ageing into the future depends on attracting emerging researchers. Limited financial and in-kind support is available to students whose dissertations focus on issues related to productive ageing as previously outlined. Assistance for research students is available in the following categories.

#### *Scholarship top up:*

\$5,000 per annum for a max of 3 years is available to full time research higher degree students (PhD and Masters) on a recognized scholarship whose research addresses one of the priority areas of productive ageing.

#### *Honours students:*

Honours students are the traditional recruitment ground for research higher degree candidates. Limited funds of up to \$2,000 per student are available. While each case will be judged independently, this money must be used either to conduct the research or to present the findings of the research at a relevant refereed national conference.

Applicants may also apply for in kind assistance such as access to members for research, use of office or assistance in data collection.

#### *Other student research*

Where RHD students are not on a scholarship but are researching in a relevant area, assistance in-kind and/or financial may be available on a case by case basis depending on the topic and quality of research.

### ***Ethical Clearance***

Where ethical clearance is required by the applicant's institution, it is the responsibility of the applicant to comply with their institutions requirements.

### ***Intellectual Property***

Under the terms of the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre's funding arrangements with the Commonwealth government

10.1 Any Intellectual Property rights and title to, or in relation to, the Project Material will vest, upon creation, in the Participant (NSPAC).

and

10.2 The Participant grants to the Commonwealth a perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free and licence fee-free, world-wide, non-exclusive licence (including a right of sub-licence) to use, copy, modify and exploit the Project Material.

Further details on intellectual property arrangements, ownership and storage of data, joint publications and acknowledgements can be obtained by contacting the Head of Research, National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre ([research@productiveageing.com.au](mailto:research@productiveageing.com.au))

### ***Application Process***

Applications should be made on the relevant NSPAC application form. Page limits and criteria are given on the forms. Applications which do not adhere to these requirements will not be considered.

Details on the criteria for assessment of applications are given in Attachment 1.

### Attachment 1: Assessment Criteria

<b>Assessment Criteria Projects</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
<b>Research Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity of objectives</li> <li>• Strategic relevance to the dimensions of productive ageing</li> <li>• Relevance of the research to policy development</li> <li>• Contribution to the development of new knowledge</li> </ul>	30
<b>Methodology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriateness of proposed method to achieving objectives</li> <li>• Justification of method</li> <li>• Timeline for conduct of research</li> </ul>	30
<b>Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justification of budget in light of proposed method</li> </ul>	15
<b>Track Record</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key researchers and their role in this project</li> <li>• Publication and research record</li> </ul>	15
<b>Quality of the Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed outcomes</li> <li>• Consistency with NSPAC organizing principles</li> </ul>	10

<b>Assessment Criteria Grant Application Assistance</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
<b>Investigator Details</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior record in developing successful grant applications</li> <li>• Early researchers potential for success based on other research outputs</li> </ul>	30
<b>Research Grant Details</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic relevance of the proposed project in light of the NSPAC research agenda and national ageing agenda</li> <li>• Grant details and justification for applying to the targeted scheme</li> </ul>	40
<b>Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justification of budget items</li> </ul>	30

<b>Assessment Criteria Student Assistance Scholarship Top Up</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
Dissertation Topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic relevance of the proposed project in light of the NSPAC research agenda and national ageing agenda</li> <li>• Anticipated contribution to new knowledge</li> </ul>	40
Track record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and academic achievements to date</li> <li>• Evidence of scholarship</li> <li>• Stage of research</li> </ul>	20
Referees Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisor (proposed supervisor)</li> <li>• Academic reference other than supervisor</li> <li>• Personal reference</li> </ul>	40

<b>Assessment Criteria Student Assistance Other</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
Dissertation Topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic relevance of the proposed project in light of the NSPAC research agenda and national ageing agenda</li> <li>• Anticipated contribution to new knowledge</li> </ul>	20
Track record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and academic achievements to date</li> <li>• Evidence of scholarship</li> <li>• Stage of research</li> </ul>	20
Referees Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisor (proposed supervisor)</li> <li>• Academic reference other than supervisor</li> <li>• Personal reference</li> </ul>	30
Assistance Sought <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justification of any budget items</li> <li>• Justification of in kind support demonstrating a clear link between the success of the project and access to resources</li> </ul>	30