National Research Program (NRP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1.	**WHAT'S ARE THE NEW IDEAS GRANTS BEING OFFERERED IN 2027?**
	Arthritis Australia is offering two new funding opportunities in the 2027 National Research Program: • Arthritis Australia Accelerator (Triple A) Innovation Grant • Arthritis Australia Joint Impact – Lived Experience Priority and Translational Research Grant
2.	**HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR THE IDEA GRANTS?**
	Each grant provides up to $100,000 over two years.
3.	**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE IDEA GRANTS?**
	The grants are open to researchers across Australia at all career stages. Arthritis Australia encourages applications from individuals and teams with bold, innovative ideas.
4.	**IS SUBMISSION OF AN ABSTRACT NECESSARY WHEN APPLYING FOR AN IDEA GRANT?**
	Yes. All applicants must submit an abstract before progressing to a full application. This helps inform the composition of the review panel.
5.	**WHAT IS THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) PROCESS FOR PROJECT GRANTS AND GRANTS-IN-AID?**
	The EOI is a streamlined first stage of the application process for Project Grants and Grants-in-Aid. It allows applicants to submit a brief overview of their proposed research before being invited to submit a full application. Applicants are required to complete an online form including details of the research project proposal, planned consumer involvement, budget and chief investigator(s).
6.	**WHY HAS THE EOI PROCESS BEEN INTRODUCED?**
	The EOI process was introduced to reduce the burden on applicants and reviewers by streamlining the initial application process and ensuring that only the most competitive proposals proceed to the full application stage.
7.	**WHO NEEDS TO SUBMIT AND EOI?**
	All applicants intending to apply for a Project Grant or Grant-in-Aid must first submit an EOI.
8.	**HOW ARE EOIs ASSESSED?**
	EOIs are reviewed by a sub-group of the Grants Assessment Committee, made up of scientific, clinical, and consumer representatives.
9.	**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SUBMIT AN EOI?**
	EOIs will be assessed, and shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full application. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their EOI by 1st July 2026. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full application for a Project Grant or Grant-in-Aid, with more detailed information about the proposed research.
10.	**TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH**
	Applicants are asked to explain in detail how their project will produce a benefit to health consumers e.g., improve quality of life for patients with musculoskeletal disease or advance knowledge in clinical areas where there is therapeutic uncertainty.
11.	**WHAT FIELD OF HEALTH RESEARCH DOES ARTHRITIS AUSTRALIA SUPPORT?**
	Arthritis Australia supports all areas of research relevant to arthritis, rheumatic or other musculoskeletal conditions. Arthritis Australia also supports the career development of scientists and clinical investigators committed to research into arthritis and allied disorders by offering scholarships and fellowships.

12. WHAT OTHER TYPES OF RESEARCH FUNDING DOES ARTHRITIS AUSTRALIA PROVIDE?

Arthritis Australia provides:

- **Scholarships**: for young medical and science graduates to undertake thesis studies into arthritis and related disorders at recognised universities. These scholarships provide research training to Doctorate or Masters level and are designed to develop the intellectual and technical expertise required for a career involving laboratory and/or clinical investigation. Scholarships are intended, in general, to support basic and clinical research training within Australian research units and as a precursor to more advanced study in Australia and overseas. Scholarships are for one year and may be renewable for three years upon re-application in further grant rounds, depending on progress and funding priorities.
- **Fellowships**: for post-doctoral work or following recently completed rheumatology advanced training. Available for research programs both overseas and in Australia.

13. DOES ARTHRITIS AUSTRALIA FUND RESEARCH OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA?

In addition to the ARA Fellowship, Arthritis Australia offers a number of overseas awards.
For specifically funded overseas awards please refer to Our Grants page.

14. HOW ARE APPLICATIONS ASSESSED?

The Grants Assessment Committee provides expert review and assessment of the annual applications submitted to Arthritis Australia for research scholarships, fellowships, project grants and grants-in-aid.

Each year, approximately 10 individuals with appropriate research credentials, experience and current standing, and two health consumers are invited to join the Grants Assessment Committee.

At the full Grants Assessment Committee, each application is carefully assessed by three spokespersons including a consumer. When the committee reaches consensus, the applications are ranked in order of merit and recommendations for funding are made to the Arthritis Australia Board.

Consumer and community involvement in research is expected and therefore should be included in grant applications and will be assessed.

To read more about the review process open the 'National Research Program Grant Guidelines' document located on our Key dates & how to apply page.

15. WHAT IF I TRANSFER INSTITUTIONS DURING MY AWARD?

If an investigator changes institutions during the grant award period, they are required to provide a letter from the new institution stating that they will be working on the same project and must include the date the grant transitions to a new institution. The investigator must also provide an updated certification page signed by the new head of department and administering institution. If there are any unused funds by the original institution, it is their responsibility to return these to Arthritis Australia.

16. CAN I HOLD MORE THAN ONE FELLOWSHIP IN ONE YEAR?

As success in the NHMRC funding program is one of the goals of Arthritis Australia's research strategy, applicants submitting a research proposal which is subsequently awarded NHMRC funding in the same calendar year, will no longer be eligible to receive funds from Arthritis Australia for this proposal. Similarly, recipients cannot hold more than one fellowship in any given year and will no longer be eligible to receive funds from Arthritis Australia should they be successful at receiving another fellowship e.g., from the RACP.

17. CAN I REQUEST AN EXTENSION FOR MY PROJECT?

Requests from current grant recipients may be submitted to Arthritis Australia for no-cost extensions in writing (Emails should be sent to researchgrants@arthritisaustralia.com.au on Institution letterhead-

	with cc reference to a supervisor or Team research leader). The request will be forwarded to the CEO of Arthritis Australia for approval. The period of the extension request must not exceed 12 months.
18.	**HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED IF MY APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL?**
	Applicants are notified in writing of the success or otherwise of their application in late November, following the Research Grants Assessment Committee meeting. **The Grants Assessment Committee** reserves the right to re-categorise applications and will determine if, for instance, a 'Project Grant' application can be awarded with partial funding as a 'Grant-in-aid' instead. They may also consider applications across various categories e.g. scholarships and fellowships. **For specifically funded awards please refer to Our Grants page.**
19.	**WHO CAN APPLY FOR ARTHRITIS AUSTRALIA RESEARCH FUNDING?**
	Awards are available to Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia. Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants may only be held in universities, hospitals, or recognised research institutes. Applications from Researchers of non-Australian citizenship are welcome, as long as the application lists the lead researcher is an Australian citizen or permanent resident. There may be other grant-specific eligibility criteria such as membership of the Australian Rheumatology Association. Refer to Our Grants page on the Arthritis Australia website for details.
20.	**HOW CAN RESEARCH FUNDS BE USED?**
	Research funds may only be used as direct costs for the specific purpose noted in the application. Scholarships and Fellowships are intended to support the researcher while they undertake thesis studies and post-doctoral research work respectively.
21.	**I'M INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THE PROJECT GRANT AND THE GRANT IN AID FOR THE 2027 ARTHRITIS AUSTRALIA GRANT ROUNDS. IS THERE A LIMIT ON HOW MANY APPLICATIONS I'M ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR?**
	There is no limit on how many EOI applications you are allowed to make. However, applicants will not be awarded more than one grant in the same category whether Project Grant or Grant in Aid. Please note that only successful EOI applicants may submit a full application for a Project Grant and Grant-in-Aid. The application may be moved to a different category if deemed appropriate by the Grant Assessment Committee.
22.	**I AM INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR AN ARTHRITIS AUSTRALIA RESEARCH GRANT. I WAS A RECIPIENT OF AN ARTHRITIS AUSTRALIA GRANT IN AID IN A PREVIOUS YEAR. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT IN AID IN 2026?**
	Yes, you are still eligible to apply for a Grant in Aid in 2027 provided the eligibility criteria for a Grant in Aid i.e., new investigators* or allied health researchers, excluding physiotherapists unless they meet the criteria of a 'New investigator'. *(defined as within five years of receiving their PhD)
23.	**WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF INVESTIGATORS ALLOWED ON A TEAM?**
	There is no limit to the number of investigators allowed on a team.
24.	**CAN WE JUSTIFY THE ROLE OF EACH INVESTIGATOR IN THE TRACK RECORD SECTION?**
	Yes, you are allowed to justify the role of each investigator in the track record section.
25.	**ARE NON-AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS ELIGIBLE TO BE PART OF THE PROJECT TEAM?**
	Non-Australian citizens can be part of the project team. However, the lead investigator must be a permanent resident or citizen.
26.	**IF I WISH TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION ON THE RESULTS OF MY APPLICATION, HOW DO I DO THIS?**
	Your inquiry should be directed to researchgrants@arthritisaustralia.com.au

	At this stage, we regret that we are unable to provide feedback or assessment scores for applications. The provision of individualised feedback is not within the scope of the grants assessment process, and the Arthritis Australia Grants Assessment Committee unfortunately does not have the capacity to generate tailored feedback for each applicant. Please be assured that all applications are carefully considered against the published assessment criteria and reviewed by the Committee through a rigorous process.
27.	**CAN'T FIND THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION?**
	If you require further information or clarification, please email researchgrants@arthritisaustralia.com.au