

Guidelines

The Northern Territory Research and Innovation Board provides support for the development of research and innovation that benefits the economy, environment and society of the Northern Territory.

The Board administers the Research and Innovation Grant program on behalf of the Northern Territory Government. The government funds the Research and Innovation Fund which facilitates the Research and Innovation Grant program.

Secretariat support for the Board, the Grant Program and the Fund, is provided by the Department of Business and Employment.

Proof of Concept Grants represent an acknowledgement by the Board of the fact that some research and innovation projects require funding in the initial stage/s of their development if they are to optimise their potential benefit.

Proof of Concept Grants offer initial funding for the establishment of projects conducted by individuals or small teams of collaborators.

The primary objective of the Research and Innovation Grant program is to support, on a competitive basis, quality projects with modest budgets, to be carried out by applicant/s able to demonstrate a high level of research and innovation potential. Applicants may wish to demonstrate the potential that their project has for achieving successful outcomes by providing an overview of completed projects and/or by reference to the expertise, experience and qualifications of members of the project team.

A proof of concept grant will allow the applicant/s the opportunity to discover with reasonable speed and at a relatively low cost whether their project has the potential to be expanded into a larger-scale research project with good prospects of success. Proposals of a speculative or novel kind are particularly welcome but should be accompanied by a plan that demonstrates theoretical or practical potential. The Board will look favourably on applications for such grants that articulate pathways to more ambitious projects (in terms of both scale and budget) that have the potential to attract funding from Northern Territory and Australian Government funding programs or from the private sector.

Applications for Proof of Concept grants will normally be considered by the Board during its annual August/September meeting, during which the Board assesses applications for Research and Innovation grants. However, applicants who are working to extremely tight timeframes and whose projects may be jeopardised by having to wait for the next Grant round may wish to discuss their potential application with the Board's Executive Officer. The Executive Officer will seek advice from the Chair of the Board as to whether the Board will consider the application out-of-session.

Procedure for Application

Applications are not guaranteed support. Allocation of funds will, however, depend on the quality and number of applications received in any given year. Applications for projects that have a timeframe of up to and including one year are particularly encouraged. Funding for subsequent years will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

The funding offered will be based on the following criteria:

- 1 The quality of the project proposed and track record of the applicant/s relative to opportunity
- 2 The likelihood that the provision of funding will lead to success in attracting research and

3 innovation income to the NT

4 The extent to which the provision of funding will underpin an existing research strength or contribute to the development of an emerging area of research strength in the Northern Territory (see *Backing Territory Research – Research Priorities for the Northern Territory 2008-15* (http://www.nt.gov.au/business/documents/grants/Research_Priorities_Executive_Summary_A4.pdf))

Funding from the Board for a project will not normally exceed \$10,000. Expenditure of grant funds is expected to occur within 12 months of the award. It should be noted that travel costs will not be supported.

Applicants are advised that **one year** after the final allocation of funds, they will be asked to submit a written report on the outcomes resulting from the support provided and a follow-up short report in the following year if requested.

Applications

Applications must be made on the appropriate form, which is available on the Northern Territory Department of Business and Employment's website at: <http://www.nt.gov.au/innovation>

The application should be submitted to Ken Harkin, Executive Officer of the Northern Territory Research and Innovation Board, no later than 4pm on 31 July 2009

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Upon securing financial assistance, grant recipients will be required to sign a Funding Agreement detailing rights and obligations.

What are my obligations once I receive notification of support for my project?

Grant recipients will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement which outlines obligations for the award of grants including reporting schedules. Progress reports at six monthly intervals with full reporting and acquittal at the conclusion of the project will be required.

Funding of a project may cease where it becomes clear that stated objectives can not, or are not likely to be met.

Grant recipients may also be called upon to provide presentations to the Board during or at the conclusion of their project. This is an opportunity to provide feedback on the program and to showcase the outcomes of your efforts.

Do I need to be a resident of the Northern Territory?

Applicants who will reside and conduct their work in the Northern Territory will be given preference in the selection process.

Timeframe

The Board will consider funding of projects for up to three years.

GST

Grants provided from the Northern Territory Research and Innovation Fund will be GST inclusive. It is recommended that applicants factor this into their budgets.

Indexation

The total grant will be agreed to prior to commencement of the project. Payments will not be indexed to adjust to any CPI movement during the course of the project. Payment schedules will be outlined in the Funding Agreement.

Intellectual property

Where an application seeks a net grant of less than \$100, 000 all intellectual property will be retained by the applicant, or as per any prior arrangement made between the applicant and the Board. Where the applicant seeks a grant in excess of \$100, 000 the grantor retains the right to negotiate intellectual property rights with the applicant prior to a decision on making an award.

The allocation of intellectual property ownership needs to be settled prior to the Board's final decision on awarding a grant.

Commercial-in-confidence information

For projects involving commercial-in-confidence issues, sensitive information need not be included in the application if the information that is provided (e.g. less technical or less specific information) is considered adequate for the Board to judge the merit of the application and potential or likely benefit to be realised from the grant.

All applications submitted as part of the grant process will be treated sensitively and considered on a commercial-in-confidence basis. Applicants should seek professional advice if they are concerned about issues relating to disclosure.

Acknowledgment and promotion

Publication of progress reports, results and other promotional reports should acknowledge support from the Northern Territory Research and Innovation Board and Fund and the Northern Territory Government.

The Board and the Northern Territory Government retain the right to report on the achievements and other non-confidential matters associated with supported proposals to promote the value of the Northern Territory Research and Innovation Grants program.