

GLOWS Grant Program 2024-26

Scholarship Guidelines

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1. Introduction

About Lowitja Institute

Lowitja Institute is Australia's only national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health research institute named in honour of its Patron, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG. It is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation working for the health and wellbeing of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through high impact quality research, knowledge exchange, and by supporting a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

Established in January 2010, Lowitja Institute operates on key principles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, a broader understanding of health that incorporates wellbeing, and the need for the work to have a clear and positive impact.

Lowitja Institute Members Community

Our vibrant and engaged Members Community is integral to creating research outcomes that centralise and amplify the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We welcome applications from individuals and organisations to join us as we continue to work towards realising [Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue's](#) vision.

Lowitja Institute offers a range of benefits to our valued Members Community which include connection, support and workforce development opportunities. We run events and professional development workshops throughout the year and provide access to a wide range of learning and educational resources.

To learn more about our Membership Community, and to apply for Membership, please visit our [website](#). There are no fees to join.

Lowitja Institute's Research Agenda

Lowitja Institute's research is built on key priorities identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We aim to produce high-impact research, tools and resources that will have positive health outcomes for Australia's First Nations. Lowitja Institute facilitates engagement between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, tertiary education, medical research institutions, government, and partner organisations to maximise the impact of research, knowledge, and innovation. Importantly, Lowitja Institute drives our research agenda by ensuring that the research we commission is led and owned by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

We also engage with our Indigenous family around the world, facilitating networks and collaborations that improve the health and wellbeing of First Peoples globally.


Our research methods have been refined over more than 20 years. See our [Research page](#) on our website for more information.

Lowitja Institute's Research Agenda is underpinned by a rigorous approach to research that adheres to Lowitja Institute's research principles of:

- ⌚ Beneficence – to act for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the conduct of our research
- ⌚ Leadership by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- ⌚ Engagement of research end users (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities, policymakers, other potential research users)
- ⌚ Development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research workforce
- ⌚ Measurement of impact in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health.

Lowitja Institute's Research Agenda 2024–26 aims to achieve positive health and wellbeing benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across four key themes:

1. **Self-determination** – this theme seeks to uphold historical, contemporary and future truth-telling as a fundamental process for the decolonising of health and



wellbeing policy and practice. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the right to regain control to lead research and decision-making processes to contribute to social transformation throughout generations.

2. **Sovereignty** – this theme seeks to acknowledge the political and intellectual sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It upholds sovereignty in the political discourse including determining the agenda, the creation, governance, control, and protection of knowledge.
3. **Cultural determinants** – this theme seeks to recognise the importance and relatedness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural determinants which includes our knowledge systems as integral part to strong health and wellbeing.
4. **Racism** – this theme recognises the ongoing legacy of colonisation and the impacts on health, and healthcare delivery and access. It seeks to uphold Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to culturally safe systems free of racism through privileging community-led solutions to policy development and implementation to health service management and delivery, research, education and training, to improve health system quality and safety.

About the GLOWS Grant Program 2024-26

The Guiding Local Opportunities for Wellbeing (GLOWS) Grant Program 2024–26 offers scholarships and research grants to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations and their partners for work relating to HIV and viral hepatitis over the next three years. In partnership with [Gilead Sciences](#), Lowitja Institute aims to further increase health equity, address disparities that continue to drive disease transmission, and work towards elimination of HIV and viral hepatitis in all of our communities.

The GLOWS Grant Program 2024–26 aims to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, researchers, and organisations, to transform their ideas into aspirations that meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a decolonised and intersectional approach to grants.

The GLOWS Grant Program 2024–26 aims to support initiatives that align with at least one of the following funding priorities:

- **Prevention and Education:** Reforming and reinvigorating prevention strategies in HIV and viral hepatitis, whilst navigating racism and structures that act as barriers to disease prevention and education.
- **Individual and community agency:** Supporting Indigenous-led organisations to strengthen skills, capabilities and infrastructure and ensure the ongoing sustainability of HIV and viral hepatitis services. Additionally, create opportunities to support individual personal development and agency to encourage the next generation of leaders and mentors.
- **Reformed Health Care:** Dismantling structural barriers to improve access to HIV and viral hepatitis prevention and care services and building culturally safe and respectful environments for Indigenous people to navigate care.

In the first year of the program, five different grant types will be offered. These include large and medium projects, focused on providing opportunities for research and community programs aimed at addressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community needs. The program will also include incubator, seeding or demonstration grants, scholarships, and education grants. Funding tiers will range from \$800,000 over two years, to seeding grants and scholarships of \$55,000 and \$25,000.

GLOWS Scholarship streams

1. GLOWS Scholarships

The aim of GLOWS Scholarship funding is to offer supplementary financial support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate and postgraduate students wanting to develop their skills and knowledge on how to increase health equity and address disparities that continue to drive the transmission of HIV/viral hepatitis within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, through studies that would support their entry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research workforce.

Lowitja Institute has identified the following undergraduate and postgraduate programs available in the required focus:

- Bachelor of Public Health

- Bachelor of Public Health and Public Health Promotion
- Bachelor of Medicine
- Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Infectious Diseases Intelligence
- Master of Infectious Diseases
- Master of Epidemiology

If you would like to propose a program not listed above, please email the details of your proposed course to Glows@lowitja.org.au prior to submitting your application.

SCHOLARSHIP VALUE, DURATION AND REQUIREMENTS

- ⌚ The GLOWS Scholarship value is up to \$25,000. The amount awarded will be assessed against criteria including assessment of alignment with the GLOWS program objective.
- ⌚ The number of GLOWS Scholarships available may vary.
- ⌚ The value of GLOWS Scholarships may vary. The full scholarship value may be pro rata depending on timing of grant payments and duration of study.
- ⌚ The maximum period is up to one-year duration and funds are paid directly to the recipient.
- ⌚ Acceptance of the scholarship is subject to the recipient and Lowitja Institute accepting and agreeing to all conditions set out in the GLOWS Scholarship Contract and Agreement.
- ⌚ Continuation of funding during the tenure of the scholarship is dependent on the recipient maintaining satisfactory progress in the relevant program in which they are enrolled, and meeting key deliverables stipulated in the GLOWS Scholarship Contract and Agreement.
- ⌚ If you have been awarded a scholarship offer as part of the GLOWS application process, you cannot defer the scholarship offer.

2. GLOWS MAE Scholarship

The aim of the GLOWS MAE Scholarship is to attract and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to undertake a Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology (MAE) or a Masters of Epidemiology. The objective of this scholarship is to support an MAE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholar placement with an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service.

Lowitja Institute has identified the following program available in the required focus:

Course	Location	Details
Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology	Australian National University (ANU)	Further program information can be found here
Masters of Epidemiology	The University of Melbourne	Further program information can be found here
Masters of Epidemiology	Western Sydney University	Further program information can be found here
Masters of Science (epidemiology)	The University of Melbourne	Further program information can be found here
Master of Medicine (Clinical Epidemiology)	The University of Sydney	Further program information can be found here

If you would like to propose a program not listed above, please email the details of your proposed course to Glows@lowitja.org.au prior to submitting your application.

SCHOLARSHIP VALUE, DURATION AND REQUIREMENTS

- ⊖ The GLOWS MAE Scholarship value is up to \$55,000 the amount awarded will be assessed against criteria including, but not limited to, alignment with the GLOWS program objective.
- ⊖ The number of GLOWS MAE Scholarships available may vary.
- ⊖ The maximum period is up to one-year duration and funds are paid directly to the recipient.

- ⌚ The value of GLOWS Scholarships may vary. The full scholarship value may be pro rata depending on timing of grant payments and duration of study.
- ⌚ Acceptance of the scholarship is subject to the recipient and Lowitja Institute, accepting and agreeing to all conditions set out in the GLOWS Scholarship Contract and Agreement.
- ⌚ Continuation of funding during the tenure of the scholarship is dependent on the recipient maintaining satisfactory progress in the relevant program in which they are enrolled and meeting key deliverables stipulated in the GLOWS Scholarship Contract and Agreement.
- ⌚ If you have been awarded a scholarship offer as part of the GLOWS application process, you cannot defer the scholarship offer.

2. Before starting your application

Applicants are encouraged to ensure they have read the guidelines carefully to develop a thorough understanding of the scholarship application process and requirements. Before you begin your application, please ensure:

- ⌚ applicants meet all eligibility criteria.
- ⌚ you address each of the application questions and upload all required documentation.
- ⌚ you review the application timeline as there will be no application extensions available.

An application may be considered ineligible and excluded from further consideration if it does not meet all eligibility criteria as set out in the following GLOWS Program conditions of award including:

- ⌚ *GLOWS MAE Scholarship Conditions of Award 2024*
- ⌚ *GLOWS Scholarships Conditions of Award 2024*

How to apply

You will need to complete and submit your application through our [SmartyGrants online application portal](#).

The SmartyGrants online portal requires frequent saving to keep your application as up to date as possible. It is recommended that every 10 minutes you save your submission and refresh the application portal. Once you have submitted your application, the system will send you an automated email including an application number and copy of your completed application form. If you do not receive this email, you have not submitted your application correctly.

See the [Help Guide for Applicants](#) and [applicant FAQ's](#) for further information on how to use the SmartyGrants portal.

GLOWS Scholarship application timeline

Our scholarship application timeline is as follows:

Date	Task
29 April 2024	Round 1 applications open
24 May 2024	Round 1 applications close
Early June 2024	Assessment review and approval of applications
End of June 2024	Successful and unsuccessful applications notified
End of July 2024	Recipient acceptance of scholarship and funds released

3. Selection criteria and assessment process

The GLOWS Program Scholarship scheme is an open and competitive process. The assessment process is designed to ensure research excellence and rigour, as well as privilege Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives through high-impact research. The process includes:

- ⌚ Once the funding round closes, applications will undergo internal assessment for eligibility.
- ⌚ All eligible applications will progress to peer review by a panel, comprising of senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, Lowitja Institute staff and board members.
- ⌚ Applications will be scored and ranked based on the assessment criteria.
- ⌚ Recommendations for funding will be considered and approved by Lowitja Institute Board of Directors.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing via email. It is important to note, all successful applications will have **10 business days** from their email (including public holidays) to respond to Lowitja Institute advising of acceptance of scholarship funds by signing the Scholarship Agreement. If a successful applicant does not meet this deadline, the next ranked successful applicant will be contacted in a second round of notifications to be awarded the scholarship funding. Lowitja Institute encourages all applicants to adhere to these timeframes as there will be no exceptions or extensions available if grant funds are not accepted within the allocated timeframe.

Please note, Lowitja Institute's Board of Directors will have final sign-off of all Awardees and will consider the recommendations of the assessment panel in making a decision. Lowitja Institute may request advice or clarification from applicants at any time during the assessment process.

Any unsuccessful Round 1 grant applications (current grant application) are eligible to reapply, for future Round 2 and Round 3 grant funding periods in 2025 and 2026. Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria are welcome to apply for both the GLOWS Scholarship stream and the GLOWS MAE Scholarship stream.

Eligibility criteria

To submit your application for a GLOWS Program Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- ⌚ Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

- ⌚ Enrolled full time as a domestic student in an eligible course.
- ⌚ Applicant is eligible for the chosen program and has commenced studies or can commence studies in the next study semester, following award of scholarship.
- ⌚ Ability to demonstrate how requested area of study is related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing and aligns with the GLOWS program objective, to increase health equity and address disparities that continue to drive the transmission of HIV/viral hepatitis within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Who is not eligible to apply?

Lowitja Institute will not accept applications from the following:

- ⌚ Individuals and consultants.
- ⌚ Non-Aboriginal groups or organisations.
- ⌚ For-profit organisations, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.
- ⌚ Federal and state government agencies and bodies.
- ⌚ Public schools or universities.
- ⌚ Unincorporated Aboriginal organisations or groups.
- ⌚ Organisations that have not met project requirements, including acquittal, and reporting for grant funding received from Aboriginal Affairs NSW in the previous two years, and Auspice organisations.

What can scholarship funds be used for?

Funding provided through the GLOWS Program must be spent on costs that are directly associated with the requirements of the Scholarship. These activities include education-related expenses such as:

- ⌚ university tuition fees

- ⌚ textbooks and supplies
- ⌚ computer and software costs
- ⌚ living expenses including accommodation costs.

Timeframes for release of scholarship funds will be detailed in the Scholarship Contract and Agreement and agreed upon by all parties.

Application requirements

- ⌚ Submission of a fully completed application form in SmartyGrants with required evidence.
- ⌚ Provide Confirmation of Aboriginality or Torres Strait Islander descent. This must include the common seal and signed by the chairperson of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Council, or an incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation, in whose area the person lives or has previously lived.
- ⌚ Provide proof of enrolment in eligible program.
- ⌚ Provide proof of additional funding or scholarships they are in receipt of in relation to the chosen course (if relevant).
- ⌚ Provide a letter of support from either their employer or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community member making brief comments against the selection criteria.
- ⌚ Provide a letter of support from either their current university lecturer or course convenor making brief comments against the selection criteria.
- ⌚ Demonstrate how area of study is related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing and aligns with the GLOWS funding priorities.
- ⌚ Provide supporting comments against selection criteria, demonstrating alignment to funding priorities.

Selection criteria

- ⌚ Describe your professional experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health (300 words max).
- ⌚ Describe your personal and professional goals and aspirations in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health (300 words max).
- ⌚ Describe how completing the chosen program of study contributes to your professional development and future goals (300 words max).
- ⌚ Describe how completing the chosen program of study will benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing (300 words max).

Assessment criteria

Scholarship applications are assessed against the following criteria:

Assessment criteria	What is Lowitja Institute looking for?	Weighting
⌚ Has not received a scholarship/grant previously	⌚ Written confirmation that applicant has not received a scholarship or grant previously.	5%
⌚ Applicant is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⌚ Applicants will be required to provide Confirmation of Aboriginality or Torres Strait Islander descent.⌚ This must include the common seal and signed by the chairperson of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Council, or an incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation, in whose area the person lives or has previously lived.	30%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are eligible for the chosen course and has commenced studies or can commence studies in the next study semester, following award of scholarship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants to provide proof of enrolment in relevant studies. Applicants to provide proof of additional funding or scholarships they are in receipt of in relation to the chosen course (if relevant). 	30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can demonstrate how area of study is related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing against one or more of the funding priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide supporting comments against selection criteria, demonstrating alignment to funding priorities. 	35%

4. Application support

If you require any assistance in completing an application for a GLOWS Program Scholarship, please contact Lowitja Institute via email at Glows@lowitja.org.au