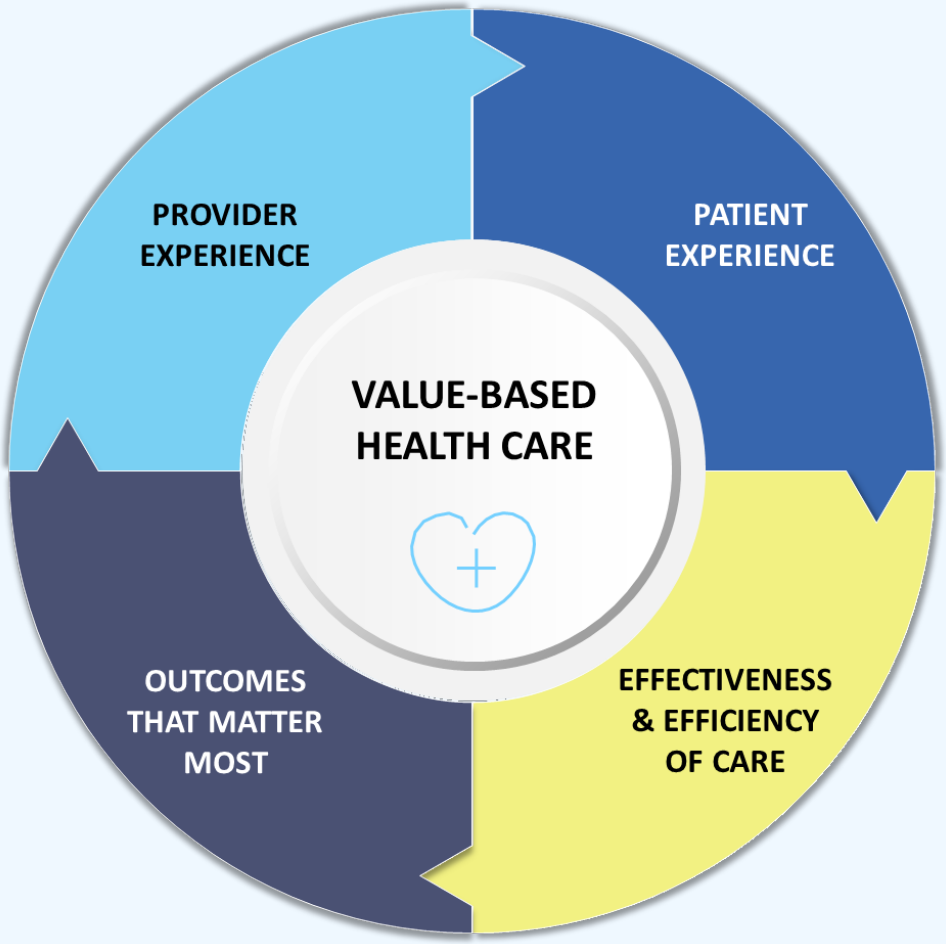
Value-based Healthcare Innovation Grants Guidelines

April 2024



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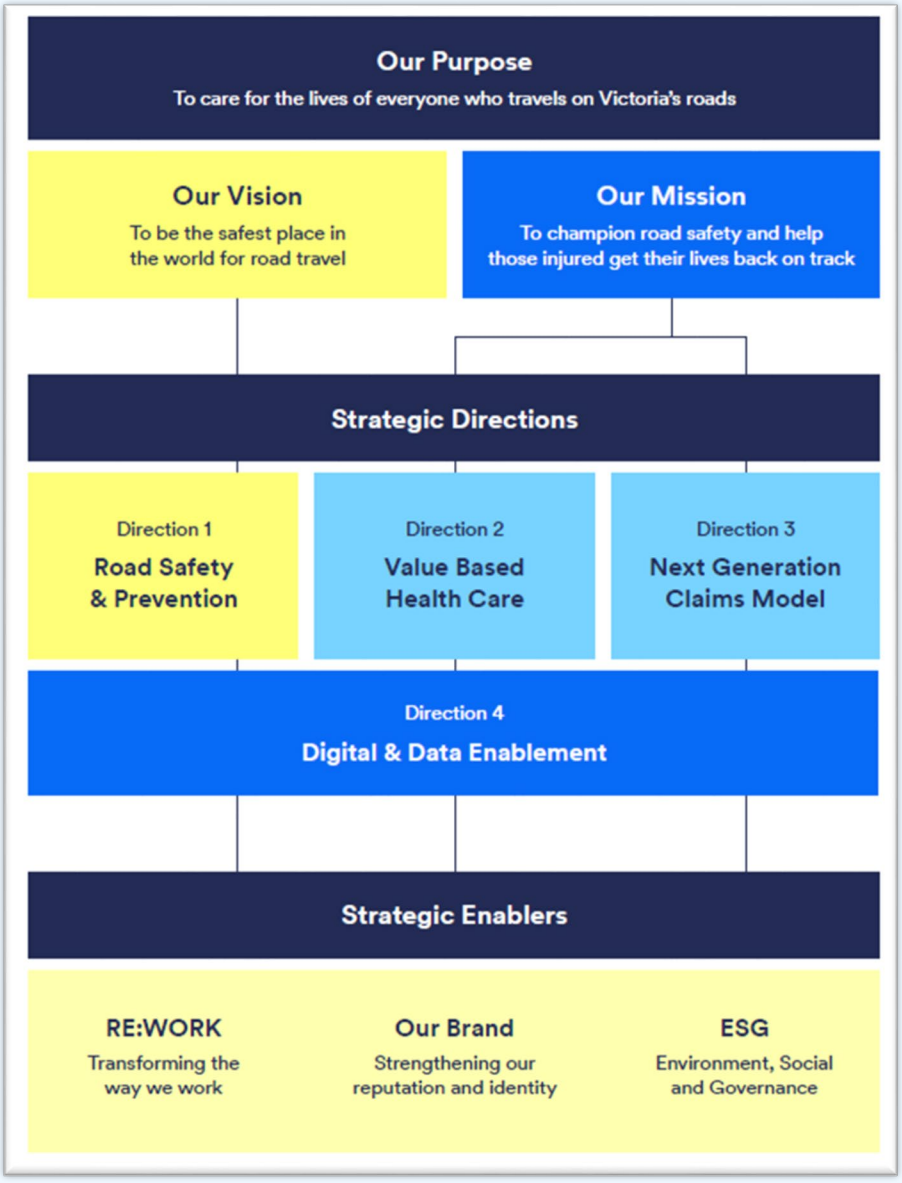
TAC's Strategic Direction

The TAC is a Government-owned enterprise, established under the *Transport Accident Act 1986* to reduce the social and financial cost of transport accident injuries to the Victorian community. The TAC's key functions are to prevent accidents and support those who have been injured on our roads. The TAC's commitment to having a positive impact on the lives of our clients, their providers, and every Victorian road user is exemplified by our purpose statement.

The TAC is currently revising its corporate strategy however our purpose will endure as the driving force for the TAC Strategy – to care for the lives of everyone who travels on Victoria's roads now, and into the future. Value-Based Healthcare (VBHC) remains a core program of work to achieve strategic success by improving client outcomes. VBHC is an opportunity to focus on a client's individual needs by improving the outcomes that matter to them. It's also an opportunity to focus on recovery, rehabilitation, return to work and social participation in a more efficient and cost-effective way. At the TAC, supporting clients to achieve the best health outcomes possible is at the core of everything we do. We acknowledge that what constitutes getting 'life back on track' is unique for each client.



What is Value-based Healthcare?

Value-based Healthcare is a patient-centric approach that seeks to support the delivery of health outcomes at a sustainable cost. There are four key principles underpinning VBHC:

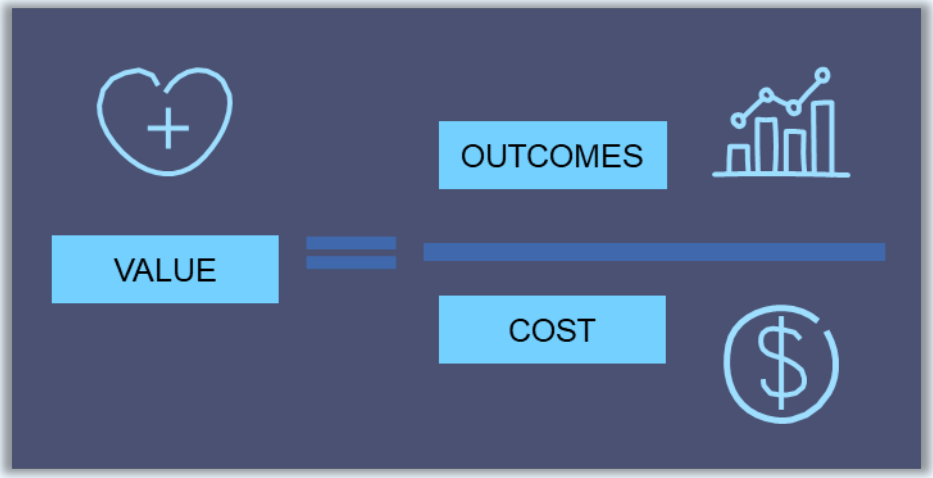
1. The outcomes that matter to the patient
2. The patient's experience of care
3. The provider's experience of care
4. The effectiveness and efficiency of care

Value-based Healthcare gives patients more say in their treatment options and empowers them to identify and achieve the goals that matter most to them.

Providers communicate and work closely together in integrated multidisciplinary teams, with the patient at the centre. Patients who have similar needs, injuries or conditions are identified. The provider team then designs and delivers solutions to address those needs through the delivery of high value interventions and outcomes. They measure the health outcomes and costs for each patient and use that information to drive ongoing improvements.

As a result, the patient achieves the desired outcomes and has a better experience of care. This translates into a better experience for the provider as well – with higher levels of job fulfilment stemming from better-informed and more-satisfied patients.

With this focus on outcomes, collaboration and data sharing, a Value-based Healthcare approach ultimately delivers care more effectively and efficiently, with greater value for cost.[1]



To inform your application the TAC strongly encourages viewing these resources for more information on VBHC:

- TAC website https://www.tac.vic.gov.au/providers/working-with-the-tac/vbhc
- Australian Centre for Value Based Healthcare https://valuebasedcareaustralia.com.au
- World Economic Forum The Moment of Truth for Healthcare Spending

[1] Porter, M.E. et al. (2014). Value-Based Health Care Delivery, Harvard Business School.

TAC Value-based Healthcare Innovation Grants

WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM?

The TAC funds healthcare services that facilitate rehabilitation and recovery after a transport accident to help clients' get their life back on track. Consistent with the TAC's strategic direction, the TAC is offering innovation grants funding to encourage health service providers to make shifts towards VBHC.

AIMS OF THE PROGRAM

The grant program aims to incentivise health service providers to implement innovative projects that embrace the principles of VBHC. We are looking for projects that address an area of priority for people with transport accident injuries and will build capability in developing integrated care pathways, using risk screening and outcomes data to inform clinical decisions and improve care, and measure the efficiency of care.

WHAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

This grant program offers grants of up to $150,000 (ex. GST).

WHEN DOES THE GRANT ROUND OPEN?

Applications Open	Applications Close	Assessment	Notification	Execute Funding Agreement	Project Delivery Timeframe
Wednesday 15th April 2024 9:00am	Friday 31st May 2024 5:00pm	June – July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	Within 15 months (Delivered by 20th December 2025

Eligibility

WHO CAN APPLY?

To be eligible for funding you must be Victorian based, financially viable and one of the following health service related provider groups:

1. Hospitals – includes pre-hospital clinics and surgeons
2. Rehabilitation services – includes inpatient and outpatient services
3. Post-hospital services – includes early discharge and post-acute care type services
4. Primary health care services – includes General Practitioners, Primary Health Networks and community based Allied Health services
5. Pain management service providers
6. Disability service providers

7. Peak Bodies*
8. Professional Societies*

*Must be collaborating with a setting from 1 – 6.

Applicants out of Victoria will need to demonstrate they are collaborating with a Victorian partner.

Applicants must nominate a Chief Investigator who will be responsible for submitting the application, conducting the project, and reporting as required under the Funding Agreement.

The TAC will accept multiple applications from a single organisation, however each application must nominate a different Chief Investigator to lead each project and the projects must be inherently different.

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Ineligible professionals, services and programs	Reason(s)
▪ Individuals who are not a health service related provider ▪ Academic researchers without dual appointment at an eligible health setting	This grant program targets healthcare.
▪ Service providers who are members of the TAC Clinical Panel	To avoid any perception of bias or conflict of interest.
▪ Recipients (Chief Investigators) of the 2023 VBHC grant round	To maximize benefit across the Victorian healthcare system

Applications may also be considered ineligible if the following requirements are breached:

- It is incomplete or fails to answer all questions
- Duplicates previous research or current research in-progress
- A person is nominated as Chief Investigator on more than one application
- Not submitted by the designated closing date and time
- Not submitted on the SmartyGrants platform

WHAT PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED?

Funding will be prioritised for small-scale projects that align with helping TAC clients get their life back on track. You are invited to submit an application for projects that:

- Address at least two of the principles of VBHC
  Highly desirable. Projects targeting the effectiveness and efficiency of care.
- Demonstrate innovation in health care; the project creates a new or significantly changes an existing method, process or service[2]
- Focus on known gaps in services such as better integrating care following surgical procedures and solutions to support mental health

[2] Taylor, S.P. (2017). What Is Innovation? A Study of the Definitions, Academic Models and Applicability of Innovation to an Example of Social Housing in England. Open Journal of Social Sciences, 5, 128-146.

- Use existing evidence, outcomes data sets, codesign and information technology platforms to improve care pathways and better integrate care
- Consider social determinants of health such as the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse populations, or people living in rural or remote areas

Applications to fund the project *in part* and *in full* will be accepted.

Successful applicants must comply with relevant legislation[3] and professional standards[4] to ensure the research is ethical, conducted with integrity and scientifically sound.

Applicants should carefully consider the following list to ensure their project is *feasible*:

- Project duration – Is your scope achievable within the 15 month timeframe?
- Likelihood of delays – Have you built contingency time into your project schedule? (e.g. to mitigate for delayed ethics approval and/or slow recruitment).
- Sample size – Is it informed by data and realistic? A smaller sample size is a better fit for the 15 month timeline.
- Project procedure – Have you phased your procedure in chronological order? Phases provide structure, natural milestones for tracking purposes and will help you identify if project activities can be achieved on time.

Projects that won't be funded include:

- Projects requesting access to and use of TAC data
- Interstate projects that do not involve a Victorian health service related provider
- Projects that have already taken place
- Secondary research of any kind
- One-off events such as workshops, expos and conferences
- Professional development of staff, including training
- General fundraising projects
- Projects that are more appropriately funded through existing operational budgets

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

Visit the Value-based Healthcare Innovation Grant Program page on our TAC website for an overview of the projects funded from the 2022 and 2023 grant rounds.

Website: Value-based Healthcare Innovation Grant Program

[3] The Privacy Act (1988) and National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2018).
[4] Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018).

Using the funds

APPROVED EXPENSES

Funding can be used for the following project expenses:

- Key personnel - Salary contributions for supporting project management roles, consultants (e.g. researchers), experts (e.g. statistician) and consumers. Must match the roles and responsibilities of the position and reflect the time commitment.
- Equipment - Essential to the project. For example, language translation, transcribing, access to specialist archives / databases, specialized information technology software and/or devices (e.g. live scribe pens), and outcome measurement tools. Individual items of equipment must not exceed $5,000.
- Travel - Essential to the project. For example, vehicle mileage and accommodation for data collection.
- Other direct research costs – Ethics approval costs, venue hire and hospitality costs for workshops associated with data collection.

Applicants are required to justify the budget.

PROHIBITED EXPENSES

Expenses that won't be funded within this program include:

- Infrastructure and capital works
- Professional membership fees
- Professional development courses
- Conference registration fees
- Cleaning services
- Anything not directly related to the project

How to apply for funding

PRE-APPLICATION SUPPORT

To assist you in preparing your application the TAC is providing 30 minutes of pre application support per applicant in the months of April and May. An information webinar will be convened. It is recommended you take advantage of this support by contacting the Research & Evaluation team by email research@tac.vic.gov.au

APPLICATION FORM

The application form can be downloaded in PDF or Word format from the TAC website at tac.vic.gov.au/about-the-tac/community/grants/vbhc. All sections must be completed. All funding amounts referenced in the application form are to be in Australian dollars and exclusive of GST.

Applications are to be submitted and managed online through SmartyGrants, a grants management platform. Please contact the Research & Evaluation team by email research@tac.vic.gov.au should you need technical support.

After your application is submitted you will be given a link to your project.

Assessment

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The TAC adopts an open, transparent and objective assessment process which consists of the following stages:

1. Eligibility - each application is assessed against the eligibility criteria. Applications must adhere to eligibility standards outlined in 'Who can apply?' on page 4. Ineligible applications will not progress past this stage.
2. Assessment – each eligible application is individually reviewed and assessed against the defined assessment criteria. This assessment is undertaken by a panel of subject matter experts from the TAC.
3. Recommendation – all assessments are compiled into a recommendation report and the final decision is made by the TAC.

During the assessment process the TAC may negotiate grant amounts. The outcome of these negotiations will impact the success of the application.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

All eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	Description
1. Impact on VBHC 40% weighting	The application outlines: A need and innovative solution substantiated by relevant evidence that is directly relevant to the aims of this grant program. The potential contribution of the project on VBHC and TAC client outcomes.
2. Capability and capacity 25% weighting	The application demonstrates: Nominated key personnel have the breadth of skills and expertise, and access to resources to successfully deliver the project.
3. Project methodology 25% weighting	The application outlines: A sound and appropriate design and method to address the need, aim and objectives (e.g. best-fit). Considers participant recruitment, data management, ethics, privacy and governance. Appropriate milestones, deliverables and feasible timelines. Involvement of TAC clients, consumers and/or significant others in shaping the project.
4. Value for money and risk 10% weighting	The application outlines: A realistic project budget with well justified project expenses. Co-contributions and in-kind support. A sound risk management plan.

NOTIFICATION AND FEEDBACK

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application and provided feedback via email no later than ten weeks after the closing date. Refer to the table on page 4 to view key dates.

Successful Applicants

FUNDING AGREEMENT

All successful Applicants will be required to sign a Funding Agreement before the project commences. The Funding Agreement template sets out the TAC's Standard Terms and Conditions and is available on the TAC website. Applicants must review the Funding Agreement template prior to submitting an application to ensure they can comply with the terms and conditions, as the TAC is unable to accept any amendments.

PROJECT PLAN

All successful Applicants will need to develop a Project Plan. The Project Plan will detail the aims, objectives, methodology, deliverables and payment schedule (excluding GST). The TAC will transpose information from the Application into the Project Plan template to make the complicated simple. Successful Applicants will be required to complete any unpopulated sections of the Project Plan template and facilitate execution. The completed Project Plan will be incorporated into and from part of the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement.

PROJECT DELIVERY

All project activities must be completed within 15 months of the Funding Agreement commencement date unless otherwise agreed to by the TAC.

REPORTING

Reporting is required to monitor project progress and ensure projects are delivered as agreed. All reporting requirements will be integrated into the Project Plan. We acknowledge not all projects are the same, however as a minimum applicants are expected to provide the following:

- Progress meetings - quarterly basis
- Progress Report – midway
- Outcome Report – conclusion of project activities and includes a financial acquittal for all expended funds (excluding GST)
- Presentation of findings – conclusion of project activities

TAC project management reporting templates will be made available to assist with consistent reporting.

PAYMENTS

The payment schedule for each successful project will be outlined in their Project Plan. Payments are triggered by the execution of the Funding Agreement and the receipt and acceptance of project reports. The standard payment schedule includes:

- Project Initiation – execution of the Funding Agreement (50%)
- Progress Report #1 –Midway (20%)
- Outcome Report – within 15 months of commencement (30%)

Contact us

For further information, or to discuss a project idea and application email the Research & Evaluation team research@tac.vic.gov.au