

The National Centre for Clinical Research
on Emerging Drugs

NCCRED Fellowship Program

Information and application process

May 2019



National Centre for Clinical
Research on Emerging Drugs

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In partnership with



ST VINCENT'S
HEALTH AUSTRALIA



NCETA



NDARC

National Drug &
Alcohol Research Centre



Australian Government
Department of Health

Table of Contents

1. Purpose of the Fellowship Program.....	5
2. Introduction and Background of NCCRED.....	5
3. The Fellowship Program.....	6
3.1. Partnerships.....	6
3.2. Project.....	6
4. Fellows.....	7
4.1. Selection Criteria.....	7
5. Outcomes.....	7
6. Application.....	8
6.1. Application Details.....	8
6.2. Application Process.....	8
7. Application Timeline for the 2019-2020 NCCRED Clinical Research Fellowship.....	9
8. Contact.....	9

1. Purpose of the Fellowship Program

NCCRED is establishing a multidisciplinary mentoring and training program, the NCCRED Clinical Research Fellowship. In the inaugural year, one to three Research Fellows will be selected from a competitive application process. Applications, and selection for interviews, will be overseen by the NCCRED Methamphetamine and Emerging Drugs Clinical Research Network Working Group (WG). The program is aimed to engage clinicians in research and will fund clinicians for a defined period of time to undertake a research project.

The NCCRED Fellowship will be advertised on the NCCRED website, and a newsletter will be forwarded to all registered stakeholders, who will also be invited to forward information to any interested colleagues.

2. Introduction and Background of NCCRED

The National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs (NCCRED) has been established as a national entity to support clinical treatment and build clinical research capacity within the Australian alcohol and other drugs services sector with an emphasis on responses to users of methamphetamine and emerging drugs of concern.

The Centre was formed as a consortium between St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA); The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA, Flinders University); The National Drug Research Institute (NDRI, Curtin University); and The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC, The University of New South Wales).

NCCRED has a Board of Management that includes an independent chair, and nominees from the four consortium members: NDARC; NCETA; NDRI; SVHA; an alcohol and other drug non-governmental organisation peak body; the NCCRED Methamphetamine and Emerging Drugs Clinical Research Network (see section 6.5.1); a consumer organisation; a State/Territory government local health service; and an indigenous organisation. A representative of the Australian Government Department of Health is also invited to attend meetings of The Board. The Board meets at least four times annually. An executive committee of The Board consists of the independent chair and the Consortium Partner Organisations.

NCCRED is funded by the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health as part of the Government's National Ice Action Strategy.

3. The Fellowship Program

The NCCRED Fellowship program has been developed in partnership with NCCRED staff, the WG and NCCRED's Board of Director with the aim to build capacity across the drug and alcohol sector.

3.1. Partnerships

The candidate will be partnered with a senior clinician-researcher at a participating clinical site (the "Mentor"). The partnering clinical site will receive \$5,000 of funding for the Research Fellow's placement. These partnerships will be sought out and established based on the candidate's location/preference i.e. if the candidate has an already established partnership and research site and/or may already have a defined project. The candidate may choose to undertake research at their place of employment, however locations and projects must be agreed to by The NCCRED Director and The NCCRED Chair. If the candidate does not have a defined research project or site, this may be conceptualised with the NCCRED team. Where possible the Research Fellow's experience will fold in with other NCCRED activities (e.g. NCCRED funded research).

NCCRED will contribute to the Research Fellow's salary to the equivalent of 0.5 full-time (FTE), whereby they replace half of the candidate's salary for the 1-year fellowship term. That is, the Fellowship represents a 0.5 FTE commitment for 12 months. The candidate will be required to negotiate / make arrangements with their primary employment institution / organisation to release them for the 0.5 FTE that they will be undertaking the fellowship. The candidate and mentor will negotiate how this is structured. In addition, research fellows will be provided with \$10,000 in funding support towards their research project (i.e. research resources). This is in addition to the \$5,000 of funding for the Research Fellow's placement received by the partnering clinical site.

3.2. Project

A research project will be identified in collaboration between the Research Fellow, the Mentor, the NCCRED Director and the Chair of the NCCRED Board. This is an iterative process that will be informed by the Research Fellow's experience, interest, and career aspirations. The mentor may suggest a project / location, or the candidate may provide suggestions. That is, the candidate can begin the Fellowship with a research project in mind, or they can develop this in collaboration with the Mentor. However, locations and projects must be agreed to by The NCCRED Director and The NCCRED Chair. Other NCCRED programs (e.g. NCCRED-lead Clinical Trials or funded projects) that are

implemented nationally, may also be considered for hosting or incorporating fellows; particularly given geographic limitations or preferences. Where possible, folding fellowships into other NCCRED programs will be encouraged or facilitated.

The Mentor, and the NCCRED staff, will provide support and guidance to the Research Fellow throughout their 1-year fellowship. The NCCRED Clinical Research Lead will have regular meetings with the Research Fellow (by telephone or in person) to track progress and identify any issues pre-emptively.

4. Fellows

Fellows can be of any multidisciplinary background (e.g. Nursing, Allied Health, Medical), and fellowships will be open to practising clinicians in the Alcohol and Other Drugs sector. Candidates should meet the below selection criteria

4.1. Selection Criteria

- 1) Current AHPRA registration or qualified as a multi-disciplinary clinician.
- 2) Clinician providing services in the area of Alcohol and Other Drugs (can include inpatient, outpatient or non-governmental services, etc.)
- 3) Should not currently be completing a fellowship program with another organisation.

5. Outcomes

The outcomes of the fellowship for the Research Fellow after their 1-year fellowship term may include:

- Writing a literature review on the chosen topic / project focus
- Development of a research proposal
- Conducting clinical research (as defined in the chosen and agreed-upon project)
- Drafted a first-author manuscript based on the project's results
- Attendance at the APSAD or equivalent conference
- Participated in the active learning network / journal club activities at the clinical site
- Presented at the NCCRED National Symposium

It is anticipated that the NCCRED Fellowship program will provide Fellows with the practical skills required for undertaking clinical research (from concept to publication). This will translate into the Fellow returning to their home organisation as a more confident consumer of research and ready to operationally facilitate their own research or participate as a site for other clinical research studies.

6. Application

Interested candidates will submit an electronic application to a UNSW hosted email address.

Applications close 11:59pm Sunday 30th June.

6.1. Application Details

The application will consist of:

- The applicant's curriculum vitae (CV)
- Response to the selection criteria
- Brief Bio which should include
 - Your clinical role and experience (in brief)
 - What do you seek to gain from the NCCRED Clinical Research Fellowship?
This can include research and career objectives (max 400 words)
 - Do you have any areas of research or clinical interest that you would like to focus on in the NCCRED Fellowship? (max 400 words)
 - Preference for location of Fellowship (City and State)
 - Preference for buy-back period (i.e. 6 months FTE, PTE equivalent over xx months, preferred days of the week, etc.)
 - Do you have any history doing any research clinical or other? It is not mandatory for applicants to have an extensive research background.
- 2 letters of reference
 - One letter should provide a reference for the applicant's clinical experience and expertise
 - One letter should provide a character reference
- 1 letter of support
 - This should be from the applicant's direct reporting supervisor/manager, and should indicate that the unit, service and organisation are supportive of the applicant receiving a Fellowship, and an acknowledgement that this will require the applicant be released from clinical duties for the duration of the fellowship (negotiable for FTE or PTE 6-12 months).

6.2. Application Process

Following an interview process (a sub-committee of the WG) and selection, the successful candidate/s will meet with the Director of NCCRED and the Chair of the NCCRED Board to determine the scope of the fellowship, including the project and location.

The candidate/s will undergo a 1-week FTE induction program. The induction content will be delivered by NCCRED staff, and academic and clinical staff at the partnering consortium organisations. The induction curriculum will include:

- ICH-GCP
- The Australian Research setting
- HREC applications and oversight
- Public institution governance application and oversight
- Research Methodology
- Basic statistics to read and understand research
- EndNote referencing software
- Research databases and library tools

7. Application Timeline for the 2019-2020 NCCRED Clinical Research Fellowship

Key dates	Process / step
15 May 2019	Applications open
30 June 2019	Applications close
01 July 2019	NCCRED Director review of applications
02 July 2019	WG review of applications
03 July – 10 July 2019	Interview period (Methamphetamine and Emerging Drugs Clinical Research Network Working Group sub-committee)
11 July 2019	NCCRED Board of Directors meeting – to review Working Group sub-committee recommendations for appointment
15 July 2019	Acceptance notification
25 July 2019	Deadline for acceptance
01 Feb 2020 (rolling – not fixed)	Fellowship begins

8. Contact

Applicants who would like to discuss the NCCRED Fellowships further, or to submit an application, should contact:

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 NCCRED
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 Phone: 02 9385 0151