

# Strengthening Health Systems

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Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD)

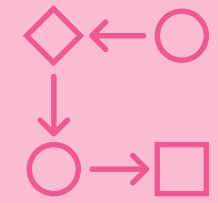
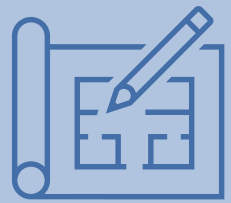
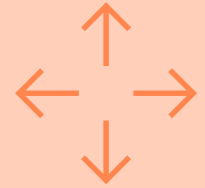


**GACD**

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CHRONIC DISEASES  
AN ALLIANCE OF HEALTH RESEARCH FUNDERS

Find out more  
about GACD  
here or search  
[www.gacd.org](http://www.gacd.org)





### Q and A session

A chance to ask us any burning questions

### About GACD

A run through of who we are and what we do

## GACD SYSTEMS Call Information session

### Resources

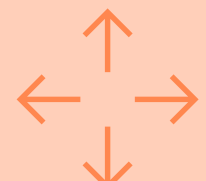
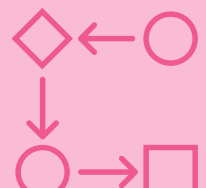
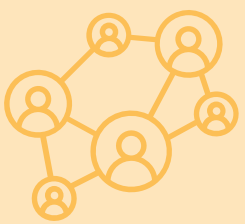
A look at some of the resources available to help you craft your application

### Systems call

A quick overview of the call, funders taking part and remit

### How to apply

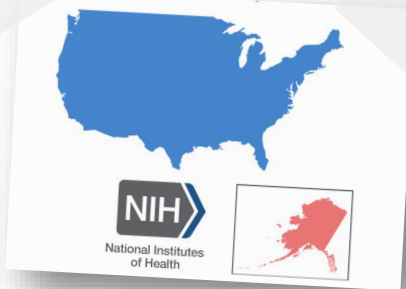
Including a quick run through how to use the portal for the joint call



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# GACD – an alliance of funders

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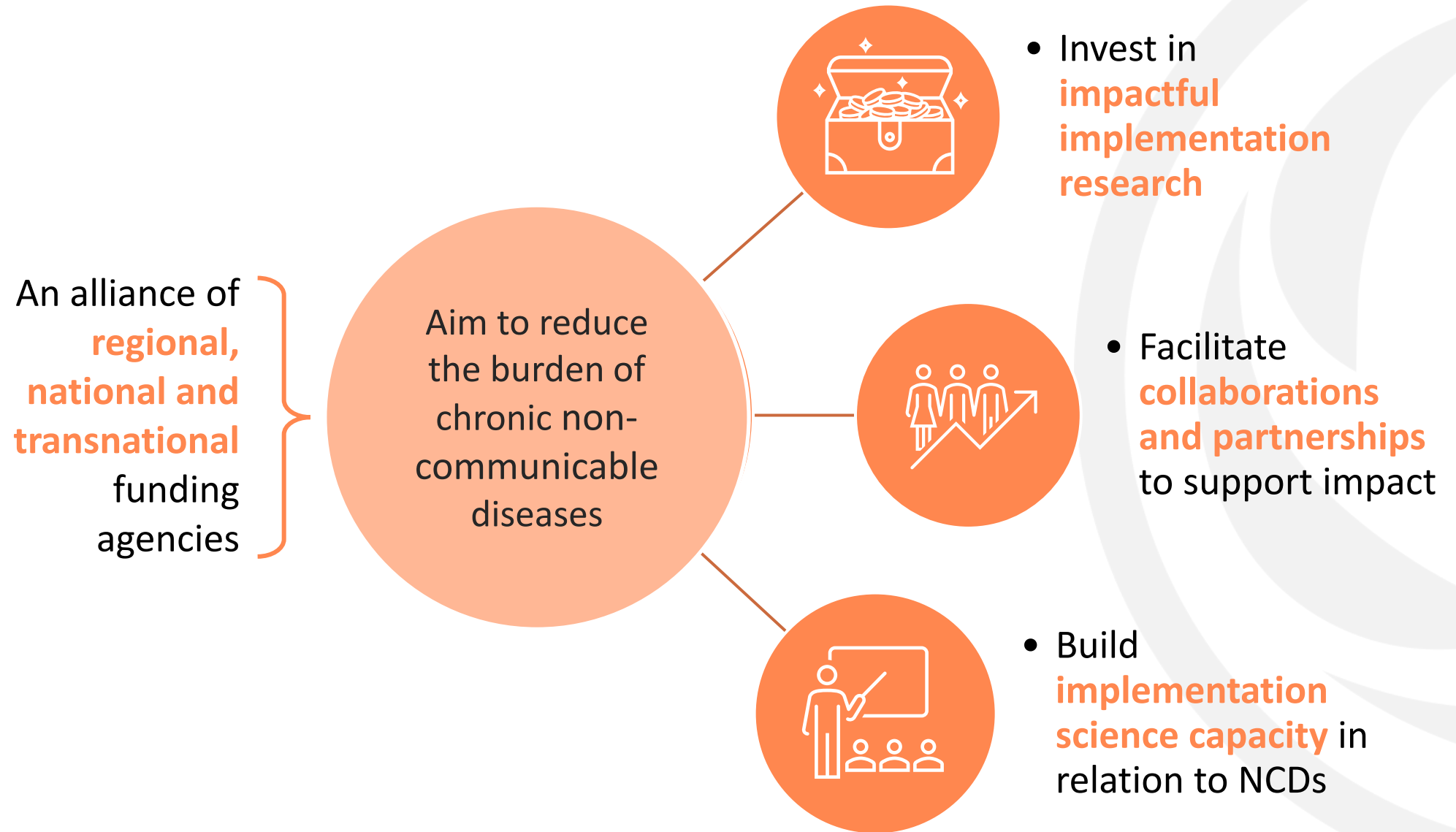


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# About GACD



2012

2025

Hyper-  
tension 

Diabetes

Lung  
Diseases

Mental  
Health

Scale Up

Cancer

Life Course

Healthy  
Cities

MLTC

Implementation research targeting strategies aiming to **strengthen health systems** to tackle non-communicable diseases



<https://www.gacd.org/research/projects>



 **Mental Health**

 **Scale Up**

 **Cancer**

 **Life Course**

 **Healthy Cities**

 **MLTC**


**COMPLETED PROGRAMMES**

Hypertension  
Diabetes  
Lung Diseases

**GACD  
Research  
Network**

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# About the Health Systems funding call

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- Funding model
- Funders taking part
- Remit
- Applying to the joint call

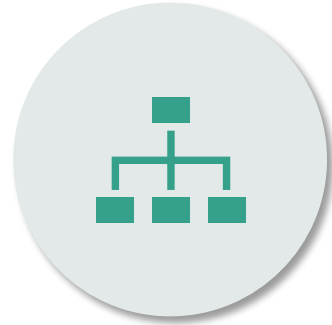
# The GACD funding model



Common call text



Funders choose  
to take part

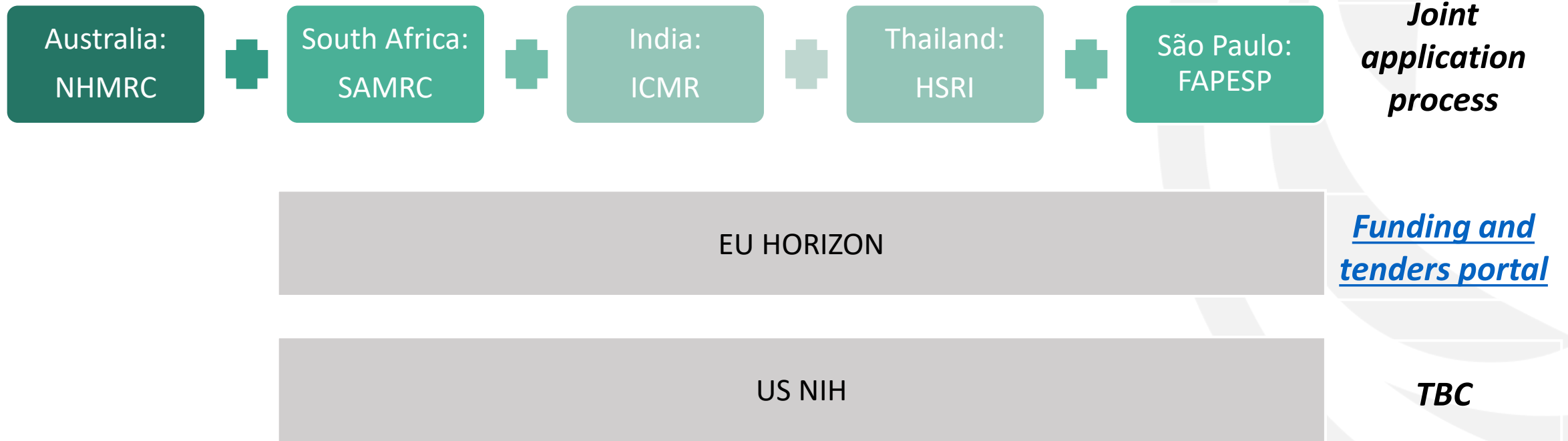


Joint or  
independent calls



Funders make  
final awards

# Funding agencies participating in the tenth call



[Horizon Cluster 1 Health info day- Thursday 22 May](#)

# Joint Process – Joint funding

## Who

- All funders taking part in the Joint application process

## How

- One application select all relevant funders

## Things to consider

- Members of the leadership team must be eligible to apply
- Some funders only offer joint funding

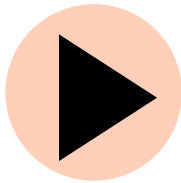
# Remit

- Implementation research addressing strategies for **strengthening of health systems** to improve **equity** in high quality care and health outcomes and reduce the prevalence and impact of **NCDs** in **low- and middle-income countries** and/or in **underserved populations** experiencing health disparities such as Indigenous populations, in high-income countries.

# Expected impacts

- Expand availability of care for patients with NCDs
- promote equitable health outcomes
- promote the early prevention, risk reduction, and timely diagnosis of NCDs
- decrease the fragmentation of care
- Patient centred approach
- Reduce health inequities
- Implementation Research capacity building
- Contribute to UN SDG 3.4
- Improve quality of life across the life course and extend healthy life expectancy
- Provide evidence and recommendations to national programmes and policies

# Joint process - timeline



**1 April 2025**

Joint Call Application Portal  
Open for Stage 1 applications



**May 2025**

Review Panel  
nominated



**16 June 2025**

Stage 1 applications  
deadline



**10 September 2025**

Stage 1 outcomes.



**10-11 December 2025**

Joint Process Review  
Panel meeting



**27 November 2025**

Stage 2 reviews  
deadline



**22 October 2025**

Stage 2 applications  
deadline.



**March 2026**

Funding Awarded

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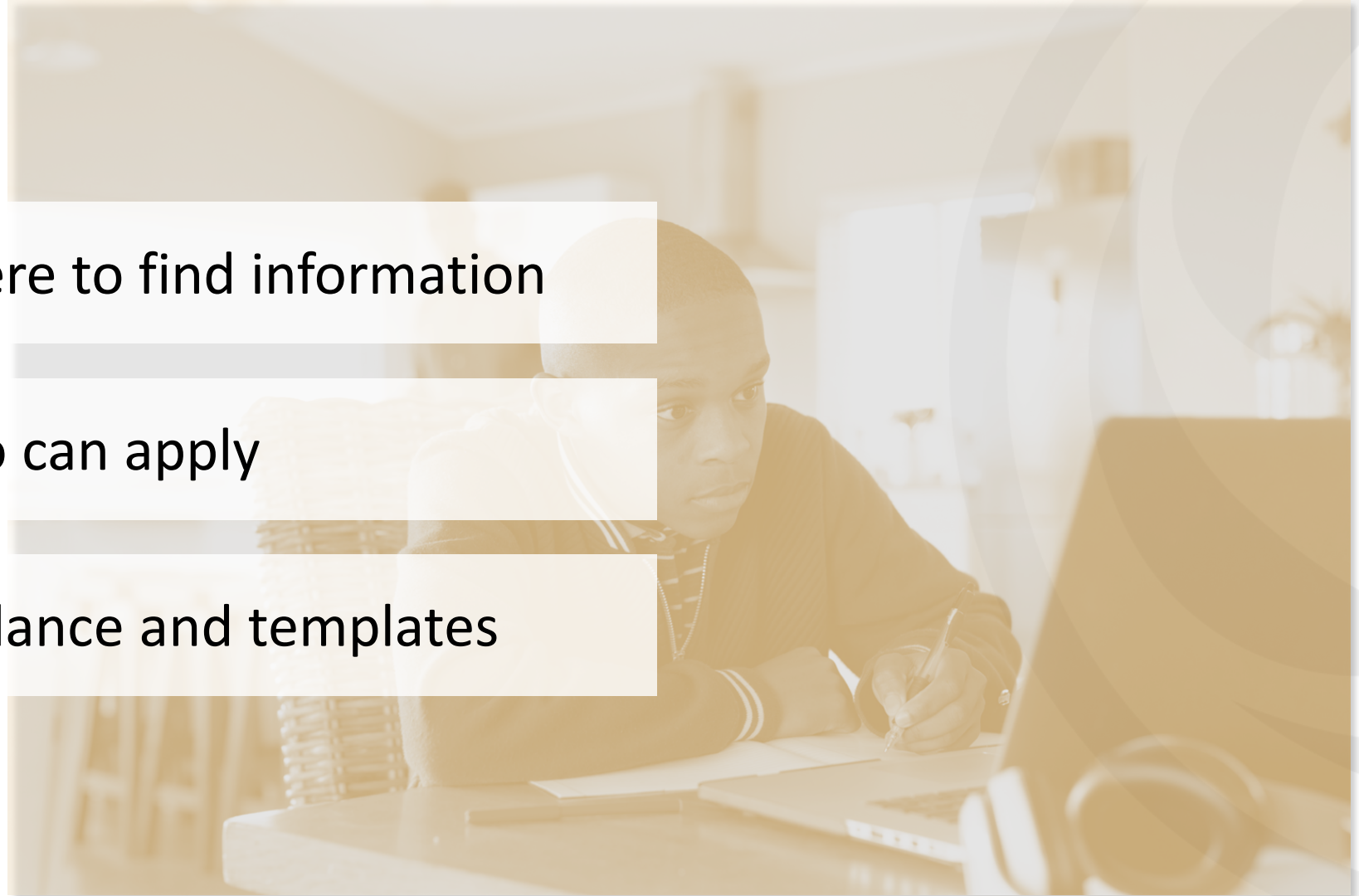
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## How to apply

- Where to find information
- Who can apply
- Guidance and templates



# Where to look?

## Joint Call

- [GACD webpage](#)
- [Joint call webpage](#)
- [Joint application portal](#)

## Parallel Calls

- [Fogarty webpage - NIH](#)
- [EU Funding and Tenders portal](#)
- [Horizon info days](#)

You can also follow GACD on [LinkedIn](#) or [Bluesky](#)

# Application process for the joint call

## Stage 1

- Shorter proposal form
- Peer review
- Feedback and outcomes provided



## Stage 2

- Full length proposal form
- Only invited applicants can apply
- Feedback and outcomes following panel meeting

# Who can apply?



The Principal Investigator must be a researcher



The team must include:

- Expertise in implementation research
- Early career researchers



The team must be multidisciplinary



The project must demonstrate engagement of relevant stakeholders

# Guidelines and templates



SYSTEMS call  
application guidance



Frequently asked  
questions



SYSTEMS call  
application template



Agency specific  
information



## Application form for the GACD SYSTEMS joint call

You cannot save your application as you go, so please prepare all the relevant materials offline and submit them together when you are ready.

- Only proposals submitted via the online portal will be considered.
- The Principal Investigator should submit the proposal on behalf of the study team. The other project partners should not submit a separate proposal.
- Applicants applying for joint funding from two or more funding agencies will only need to submit one application.
- **All applications must be submitted in English.**
- **Applications to FAPESP must also be submitted through the SAGE system.**
- **The deadline for first stage applications is the 16 June 2025 (18:00 CET)**

SYSTEMS call joint application portal: <https://airtable.com/app8rZprip75sb4Tg/pagHNjSxeTuewtng2/form>

## Applicant details

Name of principal investigator \*

Affiliation of principal investigator \*

Country of residence of principal investigator \*

+ Add country

Email address of principal investigator \*

Names and affiliations of co-investigators

## Funding agency details

Primary funding agency \*

Additional funding agency/ies

## Project details

Full project title \*

Country/ies where the project will take place \*

Total budget requested (USD) \*

Start date \*

Project duration (months) \*

Abstract \*

Maximum 500 characters, including spaces

Lay abstract \*

Maximum 500 characters, including spaces

## Uploads

Please upload all of your completed forms in support of your application. [All templates and guidance can be downloaded from the GACD call webpage.](#)

### Applicant details\*

Please upload your completed project participant table.

⬇ Drop files here or [browse](#)

### Proposal form\*

Please upload your completed proposal form; the template can be found on the GACD call webpage. Please ensure you have read and understood the application guidance.

⬇ Drop files here or [browse](#)

### Letters of support\*

Please upload your letters of support here. Please ensure that you have a signed, dated letter of support from the host institution of the principal investigator

⬇ Drop files here or [browse](#)

### IREC form (NHMRC applications working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples only)

Applicants proposing to undertake research which specifically relates to the health of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must address NHMRC's Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria

⬇ Drop files here or [browse](#)

## Ethical approvals

Have you received ethical approval? \*

Yes

No

Ethical considerations \*

Please describe the ethical considerations arising from this research and any steps you have taken towards reducing the risk to participants, in particular vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. Please ensure you address:

- Societal considerations
- Any direct and/or indirect harm that may come to participants/third parties (e.g. working with vulnerable groups).
- Environmental concerns
- Any other concerns you can think of, that may be harmful to anyone else.

## Final checks

### Privacy policy \*

Please confirm that you agree to your application data being shared with staff from the GACD Secretariat, GACD member funding agency staff, and peer reviewers. Your personal data will not be used for any purpose other than the application management and peer review.

### Consent \*

Please confirm that you have the consent of all parties listed as project participants to submit this proposal.

### Accuracy \*

Please confirm that all information that you have provided is truthful and accurate.

### Checklist \*

Please check off each required upload to ensure that you have submitted all of the required documents

Project participants form

Proposal form

Letters of Support

IREC form (NHMRC applications only)

 [Clear form](#)

[Submit application](#)

## GACD research projects based in Australia

In addition to research in LMICs, research that relates to the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia is eligible for NHMRC funding under the 10th GACD Strengthening Health Systems funding call.

NHMRC has requirements and processes designed to ensure that research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is of the highest scientific merit and is beneficial and acceptable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

# NHMRC applicant resources

[Road map 3: A strategic framework for improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health through research](#)

[Keeping Research on Track II](#), which is a companion document on how the values and principles outlined in the [Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders](#) can be put into practice in research.

## NHMRC's *Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria*

GACD applications which include research effort and/or capacity-building activities related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health must address NHMRC's *Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria*:

1. Community engagement
2. Benefit
3. Sustainability and transferability
4. Building capability

# Peer review of applications involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research

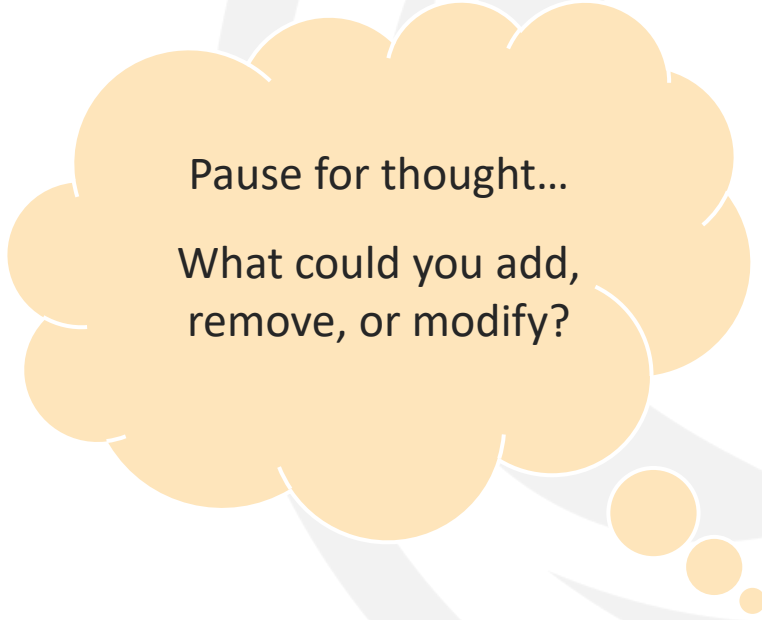
**Stage 1:** Relevant applications complete the *Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria* questionnaire available on the GACD 'how to apply' webpage. Application IREC responses provided to GACD peer reviewers for consideration against the GACD assessment criteria.

**Stage 2:** Relevant applications respond to the *Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria* within the NHMRC Sapphire application. NHMRC coordinates an evaluation of the IREC responses by a reviewer with specific expertise in Indigenous health research. The reviewer considers the benefits of the proposed research and whether the research will be undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner.

The evaluation of IREC responses will be provided to the GACD joint international peer review panel. The evaluation does not give a numerical score but will be taken into consideration by the panel in the overall assessment of the application against the GACD assessment criteria.

# Planning your application: starter checklist

- Plan everything!
- Download all the templates from the GACD website
- Take a look at the portal and familiarize yourself with it
- Organise your letters of support
- Check your study design and sample size
- Think like a reviewer- what can you do to improve your proposal?



Pause for thought...  
What could you add,  
remove, or modify?

# Resources

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- GACD resources

- Learning resources

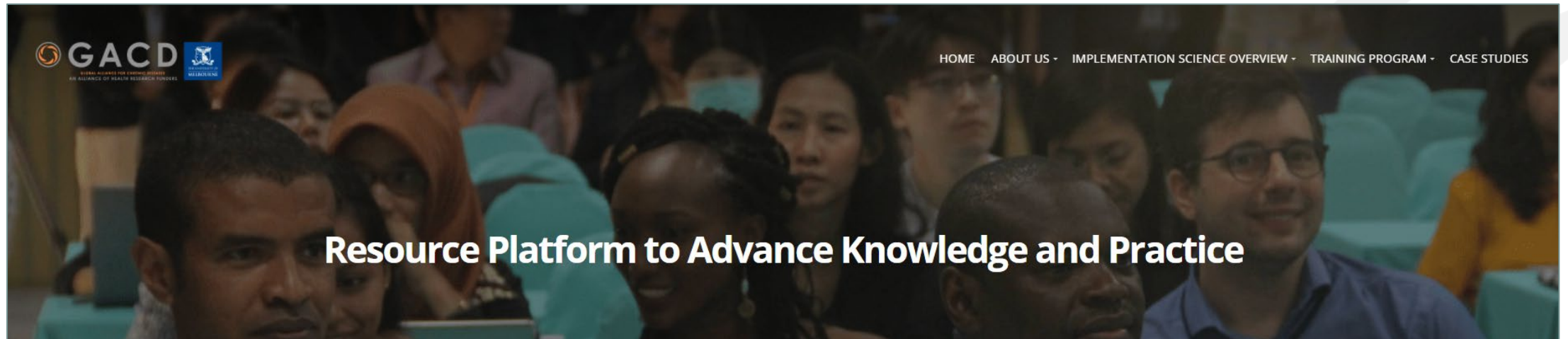
- Engaging expertise

# GACD Application Guidance

## Guidance for applications to GACD calls

- GACD proposal Guidance
- Specific considerations when applying to GACD
- GACD proposal evaluation criteria
- Top tips for writing proposals and responding to peer review comments
- And some links to information on Horizon Europe and the NIH

# GACD Implementation Science e-Hub



- Fully open access
- Self-paced programmes
- Real life examples of implementation science for tackling NCDs
- A resource hub, including other external tools and guidance

<https://implementationscience-gacd.org/>

# GACD Stakeholder engagement collection



- **Introduction:** to stakeholder engagement with recommended reading from our 'Getting started with implementation research' page.
- **e-Hub Programmes:** expert-led videos and downloadable materials from both the Fundamentals and Advanced Programmes, covering foundational principles and advanced strategies for scaling interventions and influencing policy.
- **Resources and toolkits:** key resources, frameworks, and top tips to guide stakeholder engagement efforts.
- **Case studies:** real-world examples and GACD-funded impact stories to illustrate effective stakeholder collaboration in diverse contexts.

# Questions?

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- Please put your questions in the chat box
- We will add popular questions to the FAQs on the call webpage
- Any questions not answered, please email [funding@gacd.org](mailto:funding@gacd.org)

# GACD Strengthening Health Systems Call - key considerations

- Implementation research
- Stakeholder engagement
- Strategy for measuring implementation research outcomes and real-world effectiveness outcomes
- Equitable workloads and partnerships
- Embedded capacity strengthening
- Sustainability!