

Q-COMP research funding guidelines

Purpose of the guidelines

These guidelines will assist research grant applicants who are considering applying for a Q-COMP research grant by providing information and advice on how to apply for a research grant and what criteria must be met.

Background

Q-COMP is the Worker's Compensation Regulatory Authority in Queensland. The Queensland workers' compensation scheme is founded by state legislation and it is intended to:

- maintain a balance between providing fair and appropriate benefits for injured workers or dependants and ensuring reasonable cost levels for employers
- ensure that injured workers or dependants are treated fairly by insurers
- provide for the protection of employers' interests in relation to claims for damages for workers' injuries
- provide for employers and injured workers to participate in effective return to work programs
- provide for workers or prospective workers not to be prejudiced in employment because they have sustained injury to which the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* or a former Act applies
- provide for flexible insurance arrangements suited to the particular needs of industry.
- Returning injured workers to appropriate work in a timely and sustainable way is a primary objective of the Queensland workers' compensation scheme.

This research initiative exists to provide assistance to eligible organisations or individuals in performing applied research projects focused on furthering the objectives of the workers compensation scheme. Applicants will be required to present a clear statement on why the research is needed, how it will impact on scheme objectives and/or their industry and how the research outcomes will be used after completion.

Objective

Q-COMP research grants are intended to assist with research aimed at improving the scheme by furthering the scheme objectives.

Priorities for funding

While Q-COMP will consider any funding proposal aimed at furthering the scheme objectives it will especially allocate funds for research based around the following priorities:

- improving workplace based return to work opportunities including workplace accommodations which assist workers with permanent impairments to perform the essential functions of a job and retain employment

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- encouraging effective employer and worker communication and education on the return to work process
- improving return to work outcomes in small to medium sized businesses
- developing real return to work opportunities for injured workers who are unable to return to work with their pre-injury employer.

The Q-COMP research committee may also set research priorities from time to time.

Who should apply

All applicants will need to have the necessary expertise, resources and capacity to undertake and manage the research project. It is expected that applicants will have an established research and publication history.

How to apply

Complete an application form and submit appropriate documentation to Q-COMP via mail or electronically.

All applications must be received by the advertised closing date as listed on the Q-COMP website—any applications received after the closing date and time will not be accepted.

Costs

All costs incurred in making the application are at the expense of the applicant.

How will the requests for grants be assessed

The Q-COMP Board makes funding decisions upon recommendation by the Q-COMP research committee. From time to time the committee makes recommendations about the areas of priority for research grant funding.

At present the following matters are relevant in deciding an application for funding:

- Is the research project directly aimed at investigating, developing, implementing or improving a matter consistent with the scheme objects and intentions?
- Is the research project in an area identified as a present priority within the scheme?
- Is the research concept and methodology sound?
- Are budget costings detailed and fully justified?
- Has the research project attracted funding from another source?

We will write to all applicants with the outcome of their application. Successful applicants will be required to complete and sign a research funding agreement before any funds are allocated.

Duration

Funding arrangements are negotiable and grants are available for a range of periods of time.

Collaboration

We are pleased to be a co-funder of research and invite applications where substantial funding is already available and where top up funding is sought.

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Conditions of application and grant

Applicants should ensure they understand the conditions under which funding is provided and be aware that grants may be terminated if any conditions are breached. The following should be noted:

- Grant payments will not be made until a funding agreement between Q-COMP and the Applicant has been executed.
- The Applicant must actively undertake the Research Project to meet their responsibilities outlined in the Agreement in a diligent and competent manner and within the time frame stipulated.
- The Research Project should be conducted in accordance with the Research Objectives and Concept outlined in the Application.
- The Applicant must spend all funds under the Agreement substantially in accordance with part 7 of the Application.
- The Applicant must notify Q-COMP in writing in a timely manner if any of the Principal Researcher or any employees named in the Application become unavailable to work on the Research Project as set out in the Application.
- The Applicant must advise Q-COMP in a timely manner of any and all actual and potential conflicts of interest of parties involved in the Project which may influence the Project.

The Final Report may be made publicly available by Q-COMP, including but not limited to Q-COMP placing a copy of the Final Report on its website. Q-COMP will not be responsible for published findings anywhere else other than its website.

There are specific deadlines for progress reports, final reports and financial reports.

There are specific requirements for insurance cover and indemnity.

The funding agreement vests intellectual property rights in the Applicant but grants a non-exclusive royalty free licence to Q-COMP to use the Project Intellectual Property for any purpose.

The Applicant must observe the Queensland Government Information Privacy Principles with respect to any personal information the Applicant may collect or have access to in connection with the Research Project.

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More information

All documentation about Q-COMP research funding grants is available on www.qcomp.com.au. Please ensure that the applicant and relevant parties have read the research funding agreement prior to submission of an application—if your request is successful this agreement will become the legal binding contract.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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