

Australian Vision Research (AVR) Grants Round 2024-2025

KEY DATES:

1 February 2024

Publication of grants criteria on AVR's website

15 March 2024

Opening for grants submission via AVR's portal

30 April 2024

Closing for grants submission

November 2024

Successful grants announced at AVR AGM

January 2025

Funding commences after acceptance of award terms and conditions

What we are looking for

Grants will be available to ophthalmologists, trainee ophthalmologists or for work being done in University Departments (or equivalent) of Ophthalmology or Ophthalmic Research Institutes.

At least one member of the investigator team must be a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmology and a member of AVR.

If the investigator is applying from overseas, the majority of the project work should be conducted in Australia with both the investigator and the project being administered through an Australian institution.

In 2023, the board of AVR approved \$586 095 for allocation towards 10 projects for 2024. The amount of money available each year varies, **currently AVR will consider funding individual grants for up to \$60,000 for a period of one year.**

AVR encourages pilot projects that will produce data to enable subsequent submissions to other bodies for larger grants as well as projects which have clearly defined aims that can be achieved in the one year of funding. Again, grants are available for a period of one year.

Each grant is peer reviewed by experts in the field before a final decision is made by the AVR's Research Advisory Committee. AVR has procedures to manage conflicts of interest. The decision by the Research Advisory Committee is final.

Successful project funding will be announced at the AVR Annual General Meeting to be held in late 2024.

Funding commences from January 2025 only after acceptance of the AVR's award terms and conditions and the provision of ethics approval. Grant recipient funds are expected to be expended within a year from commencement.

Eligibility and important reminders

1. Applicants must register an account via the AVR online portal and applications must be submitted via the AVR online portal.
2. Successful grant applicants (that is anyone listed on the grant application as an investigator) in the previous year are prohibited from applying this year unless they were supervisors on a priming grant.
3. An investigator may be included only on one AVR submission each year.
4. At least one investigator in the team must be a current RANZCO and AVR member.
5. Each submission page must be saved prior to final submission.
6. Once the application is submitted, it cannot be edited.
7. Successful applicants are expected to assist with reviewing grants in the next round.
8. Funding will not be available for travel to conferences.
9. AVR will consider funding individual grants for up to \$60,000 for a period of one year.
10. Any grants not meeting the formatting requirements set out in these instructions will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered.

Priming grant scheme

We are continuing with the 'Priming Grant' Scheme this year. The Priming Grant has been established to encourage applications from RANZCO Fellows and AVR members who are in the early stages of their clinical-research career.

To be eligible for a 'Priming Grant', the principal investigator:

1. Must be within the first 5 years of obtaining their RANZCO Fellowship or higher degree (after taking into consideration career disruption), and a member of the AVR.
2. Should not have received prior funding from AVR.

Other researchers may be named on the investigator team; however, each investigator may be included on **only one AVR submission each year**. Priming Grants will be reviewed, considered, and scored in accordance with all other proposals. Provided eligible grants are submitted, at least one proposal will be funded in this category each year. More than one priming grant may be funded each year.

All investigators named on a Priming Grant must also provide a CV.

Researchers interested in applying through the Priming Grant scheme may also discuss their proposal with a member of the AVR Research Advisory Committee, prior to their submission.

This discussion provides the applicant the opportunity to seek direction about their research idea, and the formulation of their proposal. If you are interested in receiving this informal, and non-binding pre-submission feedback, you must contact us at least 21 days prior to the submission deadline, with the heading Grant Pre-submission, via email:

info@australianvisionresearch.org

If successful...

Successful investigators are required to provide a half page final report on the project, including a lay description by 30 June 2026.

The report should include:

1. Details of any publications arising from this research with links to the actual publications.
2. A final budget indicating how funds were expended (Failure to do this may have a negative bearing on future applications).
3. Investigators will also be asked to provide updates on results and funding arising from the research at intervals after the one-year period. These updates will be used to promote AVR through various media and also to assess and demonstrate impact of grant funding.

It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure provision of this documentation. In submitting an application for funding, it should be expected that the title or other relevant information may be submitted to other bodies associated with the AVR, and participation in publicity activities e.g., photos, interviews, updates for publication in newsletters may be requested.

Other information and expectations

Research Integrity: We're committed to responsible research

The Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia trading as Australian Vision Research is committed to complying with the highest standards of ethics and research integrity.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) statement and guidelines outline what is expected from everyone engaged in research. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research-policy/ethics-and-integrity> <https://www.ahmrc.org.au/>

By submitting your application, you agree to abide by these standards.

AVR Marketing and Branding

- Successful applicants are required to acknowledge AVR and, where applicable, the sponsors / donors of the awarded grant, on any publication and presentation including by using the AVR Logo or mentioning AVR project funding as appropriate.
- In order to support AVR's presence online and improve the investigators' Altmetric Score (www.altmetric.com), investigators and their institutions are required to acknowledge AVR when marketing their research and subsequent research.

Ethics Approval

- All projects involving experimentation on humans or animals require approval of the Ethics Committee of the appropriate institution.
- A signed completed Institutional Ethics Committee approval form must be submitted before any funds will be distributed to successful recipients.

Application Information

Applications will only be accepted through the AVR Grants Portal by the due time and date, with attachments in the correct format as indicated below.

No applications will be accepted after 11:59 pm, AEST time on Tuesday 30th April 2024.

Any applications that do not comply with the application guidelines will not be considered.

Attachment Summary

The following attachments should be saved as PDFs, using font Times New Roman size 12:

1. **PDF1:**
CV's of the principal investigator and team members (2 pages max per team member)
2. **PDF2:**
Project background and detailed research plan, including specific aims or hypotheses and significance of the project (5 pages max)
3. **PDF3:**
Quotes for single-item equipment over \$5,000

All points below must be answered accurately in your application, failure to do so will lead to the application not being considered.

What the application form will ask

Name of chief investigator +/- co-investigator(s)

Indicate RANZCO and AVR members of the research team.

Institution

University Department or Ophthalmic Research Institute and contact details of grants/research administrator, including address to which correspondence should be directed.

Location of the work

Please state where the work will be carried out and what facilities will be available. Confirmation of these details may be requested by AVR.

A short title of the project

A lay title and description of the project

Up to a maximum of 280 characters (to be used in social media)

Funding amount requested

Background and a detailed research plan - [PDF Attachment](#) -

Please provide a maximum of 5 pages plus an additional page of references. Specific aims or hypotheses and significance of the project should be included (Times New Roman size 12)

Is your proposal a re-submission to AVR?

If the answer is Yes, please indicate what year you applied for funding for the same or similar project and comment on changes made, particularly in light of the feedback received from the Research Advisory Committee.

Timeline for the project

Grants are for one year commencing January 2025. Given the committee's desire to fund projects with defined outcomes over the funding period, it is in the investor's interest to clearly define what will be achieved in the one year for which funding is provided.

Nature and extent of resources already available

Please outline any supplemental funding for this project

Budget

- Please provide a full breakdown of the **budget**. This includes salaries, administrative or on-costs, travel and equipment.
- A detailed justification for each component of the budget is required.
- GST should not be included.
- Funding will not be available for travel to conferences.
- Salaries should be calculated, with appropriate on costs, from the applicable NHMRC or university pay schedule. The pay schedule used for such calculations should be indicated and detailed.

- For equipment, single items over \$5,000 should be accompanied by a quotation. - **PDF Attachment**

Particulars of applications made, or to be made, to other bodies for assistance for this project

- Please list all applications made or to be made for this project
- The Research Advisory Committee reserves the right to confirm details of other funds provided or applied for. AVR in its award letter, asks successful applicants to advise AVR if they have, or will receive, funding support for the same, or similar project, from elsewhere.
- If the same project, or one for which there is substantial overlap, in the opinion of the Research Advisory Committee is successful in receiving additional funding, AVR reserves the right to be provided with a copy of the successful project application in order to make an assessment of whether AVR will withdraw its funding commitment. The opinion of the Research Advisory Committee is final.

External reviewers

The application will be sent out for external review prior to being considered by the Research Advisory Committee.

Are there any external reviewers you do not wish to assess your application?

If the answer is **Yes**, please list, any reviewers you do not wish to assess your application.

Consideration by External Bodies

Do you consent to have your proposal being considered by external funding bodies including potential commercial partners?

Declaration of Commercial Interest

Please detail any intellectual property including patents or commercial companies, which are already directly involved with your proposal. AVR does not require any commercial royalties to be paid; however, in the event of future commercial success AVR would be grateful for a donation commensurate with the amount of seed funding received.

Are you applying for the AVR Priming Scheme?

If the answer is **Yes**, please list any members of the AVR scientific grant review panel whom you discussed your proposal with.

Qualifications and experience of the chief investigator and co-investigators - PDF Attachment

- A **two-page CV for each investigator listing the track record of research, including the five best publications over the last five years**, clearly indicating those publications where AVR has contributed funding towards the work. Only published papers or those accepted for publication should be included.
The same font size (12) as in the main grant proposal should be used for the CV. Any more than two pages will not be considered and all pages from the third page of the CV will be removed.
- Include the **contribution that will be made by each investigator** to this project (Half a page maximum).
- Include a **list of grants received from all sources** in the last five years with the grant title and names of investigators.