

# Western Health Nursing & Midwifery Denise Patterson Workforce Research Grant 2025

## Introduction

Western Health is committed to providing Best Care to our community, and to provide Best Care we need the best nurses and midwives working within contemporary and innovative models of care.

Workforce research in nursing and midwifery is crucial to inform policy, improve healthcare delivery, and ensure that there are enough qualified professionals to meet the needs of our community.

The Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery is seeking applications from Western Health staff for grant funding to undertake dedicated nursing and/or midwifery research with a focus on workforce.

The **\$10,000 Denise Patterson Workforce Research Grant** is open to a nurse or midwife to undertake a research project that has a focus on the nursing and/or midwifery workforce.

Workforce research may include, but not be limited to:

- Addressing current and predicted workforce shortages
- Adapting to changing healthcare environments
- Developing more efficient models of care with economic impact
- Improving recruitment and retention
- Innovative models of care enhancing Best Care and safety
- Promoting equity and diversity
- Training and education needs
- Workplace health and staff well-being
- Workforce planning and resource allocation

This is an exciting opportunity for nurses and midwives to be innovative, lead research, and undertake a project that informs the Nursing & Midwifery workforce policy development at Western Health into the future.

## Terms of grant

All research must comply with Western Health's Research ethics and governance policy, and with the National Health and Medical Research Council statement. Ethics approval is not required to apply for the grant, but if successful, must be gained before the commencement of any research.

## Support

Nurses and midwives are invited to seek support and advice from the Chair of Nursing, Professor Rochelle Wynne or the Chair of Midwifery, Professor Linda Sweet, and their teams.

For an application Template and further information please go to: [Research Week and Research Grants - Nursing & Midwifery \(wh.org.au\)](https://www.wh.org.au/research-week-and-research-grants-nursing-midwifery)

## Application guidelines

Applications of no more than 2,000 words are invited and must include the following:

- Research team details
- Background/literature review identifying the gap in the current evidence (why this research is needed)
- Aims/Objectives/Hypothesis and Rationale for the proposed study
- Methods: study design, setting for the study (or studies if a review), the participant sample (number and type), the treatment or intervention, the outcome(s) measures, procedure, and a data analysis (quantitative or qualitative) plan need to be described
- Timeline
- Budget

## Selection criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess applications:

- **Value to Western Health:** Will the proposed study add value to Western Health and have a positive impact on the nursing and/or midwifery workforce in the future?
- **Research team:** Do the team have sufficient skills and expertise to undertake the proposed study?
- **Study justification and aim:** Has a research gap been justified and is the aim important and achievable?
- **Research Plan:** Is the study design feasible and appropriate to meet the aims and research question?
- **Feasibility:** Are the goals concrete and achievable? Are there sufficient resources to undertake the study?

## Submission

Applications must be submitted by email to [WHDeakinPartnership@wh.org.au](mailto:WHDeakinPartnership@wh.org.au)

Application close **14<sup>th</sup> November 2025** and the successful applicants will be announced during the Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards event in December 2025.