MONASH PARTNERS

STRATEGIC TRANSLATION AND RESEARCH (STAR) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026

STAR Fellowship for First Nations Research
EOI FOR APPLICANTS

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: Wednesday 8th April 2026, 5pm

Background

About Monash Partners

Monash Partners is a partnership of researchers, health professionals, consumers and the community that innovates for better health outcomes. This purpose is driven by the collective expertise and commitment of our partners: **Alfred Health, Monash Health, Monash University, Peninsula Health, Eastern Health, Cabrini Health, Burnet Institute, Hudson Institute and the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute**, and our associate partners: **La Trobe University, Latrobe Regional Hospital and Outcome Health**.

Through our strategic priorities, CONNECT I SUPPORT I IMPACT; we are striving to deliver improved population health outcomes, higher value care, improved health equity, and improved experiences for patients, families and members of the healthcare workforce. Supporting early and mid-career researchers through the Strategic Translation and Research (STAR) Fellowships is a cornerstone of Monash Partners SUPPORT priority. This initiative reflects our commitment to strengthening health research and accelerating research translation to improve the health of our community.

Aim

To support early-to-mid-career clinician academics in developing career pathway and leadership capabilities for health impact, while also building toward securing independent researcher funding.

What does the STAR Fellowship program offer?

- A pathway to combine research with clinical care in a Monash Partners health service.
- Protected research time, funded for one year to a maximum of $60,000.
- Networking, training and mentoring opportunities through Monash Partners.

Eligibility

The nominated project must have a focus on improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities by a health care professional who identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Applicants must:

- Have an academic and/or clinical appointment within at least one of our Partner organisations
- Open to all health disciplines, however applicants must hold a current registration in a health discipline
- Have completed a PhD within the last 7 years.
- For doctors, if your PhD was completed during training, you must have finalised speciality medical training within the past 4 years.
- Be on a trajectory to independent research funding
- Not be receiving other funding for research salary (e.g. NHMRC Investigator Grant, Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellowship or Scholarship etc)
- Have a supervisor with a current primary research appointment at a Monash Partners academic partner.
- Have agreement from their Head of Department to be released to undertake the research project within the specified timeframe and agreement to provide appropriate infrastructure and support.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed by the following criteria:

- Publications relevant to this application (20%)
- Research impact (30%)
- Research and/or discipline leadership and collaboration across Partners (20%)
- Research proposal (30%)

STAR Fellow commitments

If successful applicants agree to:

- Submit a Final research Report to Monash Partners.
- Be an active participant in the Monash Partners Implementation Science Network, including sharing learnings and lessons with other STAR Fellows to support collective impact.
- Allocate up to $5,000 of the funds from Monash Partners to attend Implementation Science training, support conference attendance to present abstracts and posters and the cost of research publications as appropriate. Examples of Implementation Science programs are listed on Monash Partners website, https://monashpartners.org.au/disciplines/health-services-research-and-implementation/ to assist the selection of training that best aligns with their needs and project goals (i.e. up to $5000 can be used for Implementation Science training from the total $60,000 allocation over 1 year).
- Advocate and communicate for Monash Partners in their organisation.
- Use the Monash Partner STAR logo and acknowledge Monash Partners on all emails, presentations and papers related to this research.

Application Process

- Applications due by **5pm on Wednesday 8th April 2026.**
- Please submit your application using the attached template, along with a copy of your CV.
- Monash Partners team will coordinate a peer review.
- Final endorsement by Monash Partners Executive Director and members of Executive, managing conflict of interests.
- Successful applicants advised by late April, 2026.
- Fellowships to commence no later than 1 June 2026 and must be completed within 12 months and by June 2027.

If your application is successful, your name and project title will be included on the Monash Partners website.

Enquiries

For queries about the program, please contact: Lingzhi Ruan, Monash Partners' Program Manager - lingzhi.ruan@monash.edu

Submission of Application

Application to be completed using the attached template (Word or PDF format), with your name included in the file name and submitted via email with a copy of your CV to Lingzhi Ruan (lingzhi.ruan@monash.edu) by **5pm, Wednesday 8th April 2026.**

You will receive an email confirmation within 2 business days; please contact Lingzhi Ruan if you do not receive a confirmation email.

1. APPLICANT DETAILS

Surname	
First Name	
Contact Phone no.	
E-mail Address:	
Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Straight Islander origin?	☐Yes ☐No
Completion date of PhD OR Clinical Fellowship Training	Month: Year: **Please note eligibility criteria*
Current Position and FTE	**Please note eligibility criteria*
Monash Partners Organisation Employed by (current or planned)	
Academic appointment (current or planned)	School: Department:
Head of Department name and contact details	Name: Position: Email Address:
Academic Supervisor	Name: Position: *To be eligible, applicants must have a supervisor with a current primary research appointment at a Monash Partners academic partner.*
Title of Project	

FELLOWSHIP SYNOPSIS

MY CAREER VISION

Maximum 100 words

SYNOPSIS OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR FELLOWSHIP

Please describe the issue, significance of issue to the health service, and planned approach using plain language (i.e. not scientific). This description may be used on websites.
Maximum 250 words

2. TRACK RECORD (70%)

PUBLICATIONS RELEVANT TO THIS APPLICATION (20%)

Up to 5 publications and explanation for the nominated publications (quality, contribution to science and relevance to the research proposal)

RESEARCH IMPACT (30%)

Research impact in knowledge, health, the economy or society. Researchers can demonstrate impacts in a single category or across multiple areas.

To assist in describing the intended impact of your research, please refer to the Monash Partners Research Impact Categories.

Maximum 250 words

RESEARCH / DISCIPLINE LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION ACROSS PARTNERS (20%)

Demonstrated leadership in one or more of the following activities:

- supervision, mentoring, training
- contribution to peer-reviewed publications or grant applications
- contribution to public advocacy, community engagement
- non-research contributions
- conception and direction of a research project or program
- Policy & professional leadership
- Institutional and team leadership

Maximum 250 words

RELATIVE TO OPPORTUNITY OR CAREER DISRUPTION STATEMENT (ADD IF RELEVANT)

Relative to Opportunity means that peer reviewers will assess an applicant's track record of research productivity and professional contribution in the context of their career stage and circumstances, by taking into consideration whether the applicant's productivity and contribution are commensurate with the opportunities available to them.

3. RESEARCH PROPOSAL (30%)

BACKGROUND, RESEARCH AIM, OBJECTIVES, HEALTH SERVICE ALIGNMENT, METHODS, EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND EXPECTED CAREER PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES
Include an explanation of the problem to be researched and the relevant population, how the research aligns to health service priorities in clinical care, planned methods for research and translation into the healthcare setting, the proposed outcomes and impact of the work and anticipated career progression benefits of the fellowship. Maximum 1500 words

4. CO-INVESTIGATORS

Name	Current appointment	Organisation	Role in project	Contact details

5. APPROVAL

The relevant health service Head of Department must support this application to provide appropriate infrastructure and support and agreement to release the applicant to undertake the research project in the specified timeframes.

HEALTH SERVICE, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT APPROVAL	
Position:	Name:
Signature:	Date:

ACADEMIC ORGANISATION APPROVAL	
Position:	**Name:**
Signature:	**Date:**