

DRLP Intake 2 Application Form

Form Preview

2026 NDRP Disability Research Leadership Program Fellowships - application form

About the funding

The National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP) has established the Disability Research Leadership Program to recognise and support emerging and early-career researchers with disability.

The 2026 NDRP Disability Research Leadership Program Fellowships is a two-year program that provides flexible support for postdoctoral researchers with disability whose research aligns with [NDRP's Research Agenda](#) and [NDRP's guiding principles](#).

Duration of Funding: Two years

Salary Contribution: \$110,000 per annum toward salary and on-costs. Host institutions are expected to top up where the fellow's appointment level requires it. *Research and professional development funding:* Up to \$60,000 per fellow over two years, with a minimum of 25% (at least \$15,000) spent on professional development.

For part time (minimum 0.5 FTE) fellows, funding will be prorated. Total Program Budget: \$1,750,000. This is a total funding allocation; the number of fellows funded may vary depending on the number of full-time/part-time fellows selected. Further details and the Application Guidelines can be found on the DRLP Fellowships information page: [DRLP Fellowships](#)

Before you begin

This form is for eligible postdoctoral researchers with disability applying for an NDRP Disability Research Leadership Program Fellowship.

The information you provide in this application form will help us understand your research, your career goals, and how this program would be helpful to you.

Before completing this application, please make sure you have:

- read the application guidelines, FAQs and other [supporting documents on the NDRP website](#),
- checked if you are eligible (contact NDRP if you have questions),
- read the [NDRP Research Agenda](#) and [NDRP Principles](#),
- prepared an updated curriculum vitae (CV) (maximum 4 pages), [a template](#) is provided
- obtained a letter of support from your nominated supervisor or mentor confirming their support at a host institution, [a template](#) is provided

Submit your application by 5.00 PM Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) 21 September 2026.

We will not accept late applications.

SmartyGrants times out after 20 minutes of inactivity. We recommend regularly saving your application as you work on it.

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Contact us

Before contacting us, please make sure you have carefully read the Program Guidelines and that you have checked the Frequently Asked Questions on our website.

If you cannot find the answer you need, email: info@ndrp.org.au

Remember to quote the application number below for all enquiries related to this application.

Application Number

This field is read only.

The identification number or code for this submission.

Eligibility criteria

* indicates a required field

Confirm your eligibility

Information about the eligibility criteria and definitions is available in the [Application Guidelines and the FAQs](#). If you are unsure about your eligibility, we encourage you to contact the NDRP team before submitting your application.

To be eligible for the Disability Research Leadership Program you must:

- Be an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Be a person with disability.
- Have submitted your PhD prior to the date of application and meet all requirements for its award by 20 October 2026.
- Be within seven years of having completed your PhD at the time of application (noting that career breaks, disability-related disruptions, carer responsibilities, or periods outside academia will be considered when calculating this period).
- Have a proposed research project with objectives and outcomes aligned with the NDRP Principles and Research Agenda and contributing to improving the lives of people with disability.
- Have a nominated supervisor or mentor willing to support the fellowship application at a host institution; and provide a letter from them confirming this support.
- Not be in receipt of another postdoctoral fellowship that provides a salary contribution covering the same period as this fellowship, unless that funding is solely to top up the fellow's salary to their required level of appointment.
- Give consent to being identified as a recipient of the DRLP Fellowship in public communications about the program.
- Commit to engaging in the program activities and the evaluation of the DRLP Fellowships.

Please note: At this stage, you do not need to provide confirmation from the host institution that it is willing to employ and supervise you and top up your salary if required. We will only request this confirmation if your application is successful.

I confirm that I have read the eligibility criteria and that all the statements above are true and correct. *

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☐ Yes

About you and your PhD

* indicates a required field

Your Details

Please provide your details. All fields marked with * must be completed.

First Name *

Last Name *

Phone *

Must be a number.

Please include area code for landlines.

Email *

Please indicate your accessibility requirements for when we communicate with you about this application (Optional)

- ☐ Auslan interpreter
- ☐ Audio description
- ☐ Live captioning
- ☐ Easy Read materials
- ☐ Transcript
- ☐ Screen reader friendly materials

Choose as many as are relevant.

How would you like us to contact you? *

You can choose to share a little more about yourself to help NDRP understand the diversity of applicants. *

- ☐ Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- ☐ From a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- ☐ LGBTQIA+
- ☐ Live in a regional, rural or remote area
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Your PhD status

Has your PhD been conferred? *

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- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

PhD Conferral

Date your PhD was conferred *

Must be a date.

PhD Completion

Have you met all requirements for the award of your PhD? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Date that you met/will meet all requirements for the award of your PhD *

Must be a date.

Further Information about PhD Completion (Optional)

If you would like to share further information about circumstances you would like taken into account when calculating your eligibility period, such as career breaks, disability-related disruptions, carer responsibilities, or periods outside academia; please include this information in the question below. This helps us determine your eligibility for the program and is not part of the panel assessment, which is based on your responses to the assessment criteria questions.

Anything further you'd like us to know about the timing of your PhD completion? (Optional)

About Your PhD

Your PhD Title *

Briefly describe the topic of your PhD *

Where did you complete your PhD? *

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In which Faculty, Department, School or Research Group did you complete your PhD?

PhD Supervisor Name *

PhD Supervisor Email *

PhD Supervisor University *

PhD Supervisor Faculty, Department, School or Research Group (Optional)

Other funding or fellowships

Do you currently hold, or have you been offered, another postdoctoral fellowship or funding that includes a salary contribution? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Other Funding Details

If yes, does it cover the same period as this Fellowship? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Please briefly describe the funding, source, purpose, dates involved and the amount *

Your CV

Templates for supporting documents can be found on [the NDRP website](#).

Upload your CV (max 4 pages, PDF or Word doc) *

Attach a file:

Your Nominated Host Institution and Supervisor/Mentor

* indicates a required field

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Nominated Host Institution

Let us know which institution you're intending to be hosted at for this Fellowship. This doesn't need to be finalised or confirmed for the application, confirmation is only required later if your application is successful. You'll need a letter of support from a nominated supervisor or mentor willing to support your application at this institution.

Host institutions must meet the following requirements to be eligible to administer the fellowship:

- have a current Australian Business Number (ABN)
- have documented organisational and financial policies and procedures
- have a business and/or strategic plan
- have an annual report
- have insurances, including public liability insurance and professional indemnity
- comply with all relevant state/territory and Australian legislation and standards relevant to the project including working with children requirements
- not be named in the "Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme" list of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (www.nationalredress.gov.au)
- have in place existing policies and systems that comply with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, or have these through a formal partnership with an organisation on the project team that does have these in place.

Host Institution Name *

Host Institution Primary Address *

Host Institution Australian Business Number ABN *

Host Institution Phone Number (Optional)

Must be a number.

Must be an Australian phone number.

Host Institution Website (Optional)

Must be a URL.

Must be a URL.

Nominated Supervisor/Mentor

Nominated Supervisor/Mentor Name *

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Nominated Supervisor/Mentor Position/Title *

Nominated Supervisor/Mentor Email *

Nominated Supervisor/Mentor Institution *

Letter of Support

Upload your letter of support from your nominated supervisor/mentor (PDF or Word doc) *

Attach a file:

Only one letter of support is required to be uploaded. The letter is written by a supervisor/mentor for your proposed research. If you have more than one academic supervisor, you can choose who provides this letter. The letter should confirm support for participation in the program (template available on the NDRP website)

About Your Proposed Research Project

* indicates a required field

Provide a name for your research project

Your title should be short but descriptive. Maximum of 250 characters.

Project Title *

Must be no more than 250 characters.

Provide a short description of your research project

Maximum: 100 words

Include a brief summary your intended research project: what issues will it address, what you intend to do (methods) and intended outcomes.

Short project description *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Which disability cohort or cohorts does your research centre on?

Maximum: 100 words

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Please specify:

- Disability type or experience
- Age group (if relevant)
- Cultural, gender or other identity characteristics (if relevant)
- Geographic focus (if relevant)

Examples:

- Adults with physical disability living in rural NSW
- Older CALD women with disability
- Cross-disability community members in metropolitan areas
- People with intellectual disability
- Children with disability aged 0-8 years
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability
- Cross-disability (all disability groups)

The examples above are provided for guidance only. They do not indicate preferred or priority cohorts.

Please identify the focus disability cohort or cohorts for the proposed research project. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Fellowship engagement

The Fellowship can be undertaken full time or part time (minimum of 0.5 FTE). Funding is provided over two years, with the Fellowship salary contribution prorated for part time arrangements.

This question helps us understand your intentions to assist with our planning, it's not a final commitment and does not influence the panel assessment of your application. You'll have the chance to confirm your arrangement later if your application is successful. If you're not sure yet, please select "Unsure".

Do you intend to undertake this fellowship full time or part time? *

- ☐ Full Time
- ☐ Part Time
- ☐ Unsure

At what FTE do you intend to undertake this Fellowship? (Optional)

If part time, what FTE do you intend to undertake the Fellowship at?

This helps us understand your intentions to assist with our planning. It's not a final commitment and does not influence the panel assessment of your application. You can leave it blank if you're not sure yet. You'll have the chance to confirm your arrangement later if your application is successful.

Please note the Fellowship requires a minimum FTE of 0.5.

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FTE means the proportion of a full time role. A full time load is 5 days a week (1.0 FTE).

For example: 0.6 FTE = 3 days a week
0.5 FTE = 2.5 days a week

Intended Part Time FTE (Optional)

Selection criteria 1

* indicates a required field

Connection of your proposed research to the NDRP Principles and Research Agenda

Up to 600 words.

What is your research about? How does it align with the [NDRP Principles](#) and [Research Agenda](#)? What changes are you trying to achieve for people with disability?

Outline in your application:

- What is the research project you are proposing to undertake during the fellowship, and what will you aim to complete or deliver by the end of the fellowship period?
- How does your research align with the NDRP Principles and Research Agenda, and what are the potential benefits for people with disability? How could your work contribute to policy, practice or programs?
- How will you ensure your research will be co-designed and produced by people with disability? Tell us how people with disability have helped to shape the proposal so far, and the roles they will hold during the project.
- How will you share the findings of your research with people with disability and the wider community?
- How will your nominated supervisor or mentor support you to undertake this research?

Go to the [Program Guidelines and Assessment Matrix](#) for more information about how to respond to this question.

What is your research about? How does it align with the NDRP Principles and Research Agenda? What changes are you trying to achieve for people with disability? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 600 words.

Selection criteria 2

* indicates a required field

Potential impact of the program on you and your career

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Up to 500 words.

How would participation in a DRLP Fellowship support your research? What impact would it have on your career development?

Outline in your application:

- How will participating in this program support your career progression and address any barriers you are currently experiencing in progressing your research career?
- How do you plan to use the research and professional development funding to support your research and professional goals? (Provide a high-level overview of the types of activities or supports you would like to use the funding for.)
- How would you use the experiences from this program to continue contributing to disability-led, inclusive research in the future?

Go to the [Program Guidelines and Assessment Matrix](#) for more information about how to respond to this question.

How would participation in the Fellowships support your research? What impact would it have on your career development? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 500 words.

Selection criteria 3

** indicates a required field*

Experience and readiness to make the most of this opportunity

Up to 400 words.

What experiences and skill do you bring to this program? How are you prepared to take full advantage of the opportunity?

Outline in your application:

- Describe your experience and commitment to building a career in disability research, including relevant research outputs to date such as publications, presentations, reports or community engagement work. We recognise that outputs look different for different researchers and that disability can affect research outputs.
- What skills and perspectives will you contribute to the program and the community of practice?
- What will you do to make the most of the program and engage with the opportunities available?

Go to the [Program Guidelines and Assessment Matrix](#) for more information about how to respond to this question.

What experiences and skills do you bring to this program? How are you prepared to take full advantage of the opportunity? *

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Word count:

Must be no more than 400 words.

Other supporting information

Other information you would like to provide to support your application
(Optional)

Up to 300 words.

Is there anything else you would like us to know that supports your application? For example:

- Any additional experiences or achievements that you have not had a chance to mention in the other criteria and think would strengthen your application.
- Any future goals not mentioned elsewhere that you think are relevant.

**Is there anything else you would like us to know that supports your application?
(Optional)**

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Privacy agreement and certification

*** indicates a required field**

Privacy policy

It's important to us that you understand how your personal information that you have shared in this form will be used in the application process.

Please click the link below to read our privacy policy.

<https://www.ndrp.org.au/about/privacy-policy>

Please confirm that you have read and understood the NDRP privacy policy *

- ☐ Yes, I have read and understood
- ☐ I do not understand the privacy policy

We will contact you to discuss if you have not understood the privacy policy

Certification

Please verify your contact details and confirm the certification statement.

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Applicant Name *

First Name

Last Name

Phone *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email *

Must be an email address.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the statements made within this application are true and correct. I understand that if this application is successful, I will be required to accept the terms and conditions of the agreement provided by the NDRP. *

☐ I agree

Final steps

Feedback about this application process

You are nearing the end of the application process. Before you review your application and click the SUBMIT button please take a few moments to provide some feedback.

Please indicate how you found the online application process.

- ☐ Very easy
- ☐ Easy
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Difficult
- ☐ Very difficult

Do you have suggestions for improvements and/or additions to the application process or form that you think we need to consider?**How did you find about the NDRP's Disability Research Leadership Program Fellowships?**

- ☐ NDRP social media
- ☐ Other social media
- ☐ NDRP newsletter
- ☐ From my supervisor
- ☐ From a friend or fellow student
- ☐ Other:

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Submission

The next page will prompt you to review your answers before submitting. Once you submit your application, you will receive an email confirmation.