

Stream Six Questions and Answers

Please note that these Q&A's should be read in addition to the information provided in the *Information for Applicants*.

- Q1 Does addressing the “What do we know about ..?” question require identification of relevant international literature?
- A1 Yes, a systematic review of the relevant black and grey literature is required. For the black literature, identification of the international literature is relatively straight forward. The international grey literature is more difficult to identify and groups should consider whether it is necessary to locate. The national grey literature will be important and are likely to be highly relevant.
- Q2 Does “What are the possible options?” require an evaluation of current activity? Or is the entire process a literature search?
- A2 We are not asking for new evaluations to be done. The first part of the Stream Six process is to systematically review the existing literature. The second part of the process, which will occur through consideration of the grey literature, meetings with key informants and through the research program components involving the meetings in Canberra, will address the “What are the possible options?” question. This part considers carefully the context into which the options will be deployed in order to ensure that the options are grounded in Australian reality. So the entire process is not a literature search. Stream Six involves systematic review of the literature and research program components to develop policy options.
- Q3 How broad or specific do you want the proposals to be in terms of focus within the topic area?
- A3 Applicants are requested to identify what they see as the key research questions relating to their chosen topic area. It is important to note that APHCRI is interested in system level questions relating to primary health care organisation, funding, delivery and performance. It is appropriate to consider giving a particular focus to a proposal. The focus should be demonstrably guided by national policy relevance. The research questions proposed by successful Stream Six spokes will be considered and possibly refined during the research program components.
- Q4 Were the questions provided as part of the topic area narratives meant to be prescriptive?
- A4 The questions were not meant to be prescriptive. The narratives and questions were written to give applicants a clear sense of why APHCRI has chosen the particular topic and what specific focus APHCRI is looking for within each topic. Again, it is important to note that these questions may be refined during the research program components.
- Q5 How much background information about the topic area should I put in my proposal?

- A5 Providing background material and a literature review about the topic area is not necessary. Address the headings provided in the *Information to Applicants*.
- Q6 If we were looking at a particular topic area but from different perspectives (eg. topic area 1, one perspective looking at career attractiveness of general practice the other career attractiveness of nursing in general practice) would we provide two separate proposals? The relevant databases and key informants could be different, but there might be overlap.
- A6 This is a judgement applicants will need to make. If there is significant overlap, one proposal would make sense. If the topic areas are sufficiently different two separate proposals should be submitted.
- Q7 Can you elaborate on expertise/track record required by Chief Investigators relating to workforce policy development, economic analysis and systematic reviews?
- A7 Chief Investigators do not necessarily need to have qualifications or appointments in the areas of health policy or economics. However, they will need to demonstrate a track record of high-level engagement in policy debate and a sophisticated understanding of economic issues in primary health care. It is also unrealistic to expect that every team will include someone who has published a systematic review in the peer reviewed literature. However, the CI team will need to demonstrate capacity to undertake high-level, systematic syntheses of the relevant literature using the Stream Six approach.
- Q8 How much expertise are the Chief Investigators expected to have?
- A8 APHCRI programs are not focused on those at an early stage in their careers. It is expected that the Chief Investigators will be senior people involved in policy, service design/provision, research and economic analysis.
- Q9 What is the person with experience in economic analysis expected to do?
- A9 Primary health care reform must take account of economic issues. Knowledge and skills in economic analyses of primary health care reforms are required in order to: a) understand and interpret the existing literature from an economic standpoint, and b) inform the development of future policy options. Members of the CI team are expected to have between them the requisite knowledge and skills.
- Q10 How will international or national collaboration be viewed?
- A10 International or national collaboration that is strategically relevant to the topic area will be favourably received. However, it is important that applicants demonstrate the coherence and relevance of expertise contained within the research team.
- Q11 Can you have more than four Chief Investigators?
- A11 The *Information to Applicants* indicates that you should have between two to four Chief Investigators. If you wish to include additional Chief Investigators, you will need to justify the role they would play and the expertise they would bring to the team.

Q12 Can you advise if associate investigators can be included in Stream Six proposals?
There is a section in the application form that allows for associate investigator details to be entered but there is no mention of associate investigators in the guidelines.

A12 Yes, associate investigators can be included in Stream Six proposals.

Q13 How will policy advisors be engaged in Stream Six?

A13 The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing will be engaged in the research program components and related processes. They will contribute to the refinement of the research questions, and debate about current and future policy options.

Q14 Are all of the research team expected to attend the research program components in Canberra, or just the Chief Investigator A?

A14 At least one Chief Investigator per Spoke is expected to attend each of the research program components in Canberra, though more can attend if desired. It does not necessarily have to be Chief Investigator A who attends. Substitutes for the CIs will not be acceptable.

Q15 Who are the members of the ERC?

A15 The names of the ERC members will not be released, however the ERC has two international members and two national members. For additional information relating to the appointment of ERC members please refer to:
http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Staff/aphcri_erc.php

Q15 What feedback will be provided to applicants?

A15 APHCRI hub staff will be removed from the assessment and decision-making processes. The Research Advisory Board, based on the recommendations of the ERC, will determine the feedback that is provided. Applicants will not be informed of their scores against individual selection criteria.

Q17 Can the signed hard copy of an application be submitted after the electronic copy has been received?

A17 No, an application will not be considered unless we receive the signed hard copy by the closing date. An application that has not been endorsed by its lead Institution cannot be forwarded to the ERC for review.

Q18 What will the final report look like?

A18 The final reports will be in the form of a 1:3:25 document.

Q19 Can you please advise how many copies of the final report are required?

A19 One electronic PDF copy and one hard copy will be required.