RES-ON Research Funding Program

➢ **Application Form**

Closing Date: 3 November 2023
➢ **Recipients announced: 15 December 2023**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PROGRAM

The RES-ON research funding program provides small or seed funding to recognise and progress early stage ideas with **translation potential to improve health services delivery** in South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD). The goal of the RES-ON research funding program is to support researchers in launching or progressing ideas that create better value in health services in SESLHD. The program also provides the opportunity for researchers to gain exposure, support and mentoring from SESLHD and its research and academic partners.

Projects must have a demonstrated potential for delivering value in healthcare. This includes the pilot and development of methods, treatments, policies, devices, technology and systems to optimise the design, conduct and outcomes of healthcare and health and medical research. Applicants must submit a complete application form, including Head of Department endorsement, for review by a panel from the SESLHD Collaborative Research Committee. The recipients(s) of the RES-ON research funding program will be awarded up to $10,000 from the SESLHD Collaborative Research Committee to enable progression of the research.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must have:

- The ability to demonstrate employment at SESLHD, or that employment is partnered in SESLHD.
- The research project team can consist of up to 5 members, with 80% representation from SESLHD, including the project lead.
- Head of Department endorsement of the application form. This confirms that resources are available to support the project through ethics and governance review and approval, backfill and/or dedicated time to support project delivery, project mentoring and support for implementation and translation.
- Agreed to these terms and conditions and forwarded the completed, signed application to Rina.Ward@health.nsw.gov.au by 5pm, Friday 3 November 2023.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- This grant will be distributed to the applicant's department cost centre.
- Previous recipients and projects funded by the RES-ON research funding program are eligible to apply in all funding rounds.
- The applicant must be able to demonstrate employment at SESLHD.
- Coaching and support will be provided as required from the recipient's department, as per the endorsement of the application. Additional support may be offered to applicants by the SESLHD Collaborative Research Committee.
- Funding is provided to progress development of the research towards research translation as described in the application. Projects may continue beyond the timeline described in the application.
- The assessment of applications and decisions of SESLHD in awarding funds in the RES-ON research funding program will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Applicants disclose any information at their own risk; there is no intellectual property protection application for projects.
- SESLHD reserves its rights with respect to ownership of intellectual property resulting from commercialisation or other uses of the project in proportion to its direct and indirect contributions, in line with the *NSW Health Intellectual Property Policy PD2005_370* or equivalent policy document.

TENURE
- The RES-ON research funding shall be tenable for 12 months from the commencement date of the research project.
- The applicant must have commenced or will commence their research by 15 January 2023.
- A request to defer payment of the award will only be considered subject to approval from the Chair, SESLHD Collaborative Research Committee.

FUNDING
- The RES-ON research funding program provides up to $10,000 in funding to be utilised in the development of research that is considered to have value in translation into better value healthcare.
- Funds will not be provided directly to the applicant but will be allocated to an appropriate departmental SESLHD cost centre.
- Recipients will receive 50% of the awarded amount within 30 days of grant announcement, allocated to their department's cost centre. The remaining 50% will be paid upon submission of the final report, or as per agreed milestones and deliverables as stated in the Letter of Award.
- Unused funds will be returned to the SESLHD Collaborative Research Committee.
- If the project requires funding greater than the awarded amount, it is the responsibility of the applicant to secure any required ongoing funding.
- SESLHD retains the right within its absolute discretion to terminate all or part funding and/or approval of any supported projects at any time.
- Inability to deliver on project reports may result in funds being withheld.
- The applicant must seek and provide evidence of authorisation from the relevant facility manager to ensure the purchase, hire or lease of any equipment can be accommodated and meets local Work Health and Safety requirements.

DELIVERABLES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
The recipient(s) of the RES-ON research funding will:
- Deliver the research activities described in their application within the specified timeframe.
- Provide a final report to the SESLHD Collaborative Research Committee, reporting on the progress, milestones, finances, publications, barriers and outcomes of their project. This includes providing details of expenditure of funds provided.
- Participate in the development of media releases and reports in collaboration with SESLHD.
- Present on their developments at a SESLHD Collaborative Research Committee meeting within 12 months of receiving the award.
- Present on their developments at the subsequent St George and Sutherland Hospitals Annual Medical Research Symposium or other events, at the invitation of the SESLHD Collaborative Research Committee.

TERMINATION
The recipient(s) of the award will be terminated:
- On resignation or withdrawal of their application. This includes cessation or transfer of employment outside of SESLHD.
- On completion of the project or 18 months from project commencement, whichever is earlier.
- Before this time if, after due enquiry, the Chair, SESLHD Collaborative Research Committee concludes that the applicant has not carried out the development of their research with competence and diligence or in accordance with Federal and NSW Health Policy or fails to maintain satisfactory progress, or has committed serious misconduct.

APPLICATION FORM

Please complete this application form for the RES-ON research funding program. A panel will review this application, preferring clear and concise details. Applications must comply with specified word limits and forwarded to Rina.Ward@health.nsw.gov.au by 5pm, Friday 3 November 2023. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Ms Rina Ward on 0439 479 393 or Rina.Ward@health.nsw.gov.au.

Section 1: RES-ON Project Description

1. RES-ON Project Short Title (max 60 characters):

Y-Quit Vaping

2. RES-ON Project Title:

Y-Quit Vaping: Exploring Youth Mental Health Consumer's Vaping Behaviours

Former RES-ON application? Yes/No: No.

3. Area of Research or Academic Discipline:

Physical Health and Mental Health

4. List 4 keywords:

Mental Health, Vaping, Youth, Addiction

5. Intended commencement date:

01/12/23

6. Brief lay description of your RES-ON research project (100-300 words):

Describe the aim of the research, the need or case for change, how it is original, how it will change things. Provide overall background and context of your research and define the specific hypothesis to be tested. Briefly outline the methods that will be used.

Background: Severe mental illness is associated with a significant disparity in life expectancy, resulting in premature mortality compared to the general population, primarily due to preventable physical health issues. Notably, over 60% of individuals with serious mental illness are smokers. Young people with psychosis have a higher prevalence of nicotine use than their age-matched peers. A shift towards nicotine consumption via vaping among young people is also observed anecdotally among SESLHD (South Eastern Sydney Local Health District) mental health consumers. While NSW Health has strategic policies to address smoking, no data on vaping rates in SESLHD mental health consumers exists.

Intervention: Conduct an observational cross-sectional survey among all SESLHD youth mental health consumers to assess their vaping history, current practices, and nicotine addiction. Qualitative interviews will invite participants to share their perspectives on vaping. This intervention will be led by a translational research project officer with support from the Keep Quitting in Mind team, a dedicated mental health smoking cessation unit in SESLHD.

Aim: The primary goal is to determine the prevalence of vaping and nicotine addiction in SESLHD youth mental health consumers. A secondary objective is to understand the motivations, perspectives, and barriers mental health consumers face concerning vaping.

Originality and Case for Change: No existing studies or government reports have identified vaping rates among youth consumers in public mental health services in NSW. Limited research delves into the motivations for vaping and barriers to quitting among this population through qualitative analysis. Locally, the impact of this research would provide context and need for specific vaping interventions for SESLHD youth mental health consumers. Additionally, this research will serve as a foundation for future interventions and policy development to address the rising vaping rates in this group and inform treatment guidelines.

7. Desired outcomes and impact (max 150 words):

*What will be developed in **this** component of the project? What is the current evidence in the area and how does the project build on it? What will be the potential final outcomes of your idea and how will this improve patient outcomes or positively impact the health system?*

In this project component, we will develop an observational cross-sectional survey to assess vaping history, current practices, and nicotine addiction among SESLHD youth mental health consumers. Qualitative interviews will gather insights into vaping motivations and paterns. This research represents a significant advancement in the field, as limited studies exist on vaping rates in Australian public mental health services; most research focuses on cigarette smoking, lacking in-depth qualitative analysis of vaping-specific motivations and quitting challenges.

The research aims to achieve two key outcomes: first, it will offer valuable data on vaping prevalence and nicotine addiction in young people, enabling targeted interventions and policy development for this public health issue. Second, by understanding the motivations behind vaping, the project can shape more effective smoking cessation strategies, potentially enhancing young people's outcomes and reducing the state's healthcare system's burden by preventing vaping-related health issues and comorbidities.

8. Scale and translation (max 150 words):

Translational research takes findings from research studies and seeks to translate them to real-world community or health settings. Describe how your project will be translated into service provision and benefits for SESLHD patients and staff, as well as alignment with SESLHD priorities. How many people will this benefit in SESLHD, NSW and Australia? If your project is successful, what is necessary for the findings and outcomes to be fully translated and scaled into practice or commercialised? Demonstrate this is possible.

This project offers substantial benefits to SESLHD youth consumers, aligning with SESLHD and NSW Health priorities. Addressing the health disparity in individuals with severe mental illness by reducing smoking and vaping is a core component of the Mental Health Commission's Strategic Plan (Action 6.2.6). It aligns with SESLHD's Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Smoking and Harm from Smoking 2014-2017, designating consumers with complex mental health concerns as a priority group for preventative strategies.

This project can significantly impact SESLHD patients by providing data-driven insights for targeted interventions and policy development, enhancing their physical and mental health. Its potential benefits extend beyond SESLHD, influencing mental health services across NSW and informing health policies and interventions nationally.

As a key implementation partner, Mindgardens has the resources and stakeholder engagement to promote the research findings beyond SESLHD to NSW Health and federal government policy advocates, amplifying the project's impact and outreach.

9. Partners and stakeholders (max 150 words):

Who are your key partners and stakeholders? Applications demonstrating inter-disciplinary and inter-departmental collaboration will be highly regarded. Please list who you will work with during the development phase as well as those you will consult with once the project is complete. Please note who you have already communicated with. How will partners support the project? What cash or in-kind support will be provided?

-In the developmental phase, we will collaborate with clinician's of SESLHD's Keep Quitting in Mind and Keeping the Body in Mind Programs, which currently provide clinical smoking and physical health interventions but require research support.

-Mindgardens, affiliated UNSW researchers, will help design the cross-sectional survey, ensure methodological soundness, and support intervention rollout and evaluation.

- SESLHD Mental Health Service Physical Health Committees and working groups will actively support project implementation and consumer survey participation.

-SESLHD Population and Community Health is a key sponsor, providing expertise in smoking/vaping intervention delivery to guide rollout, promotion, and engagement.

-Mindgardens' Lived Experience team will aid in intervention design and consumer engagement based on lived experience principles.

-After the project, we will consult with NSW Health for wide-reaching dissemination. Mindgardens will provide resources for post-data collection evaluation and promotion, ensuring the project's outcomes benefit a diverse range of stakeholders

10. Feasibility, Implementation and Sustainability: timeframe and budget (max 100 words):

*How long will it take to develop **this** component of your project? Please outline a simple timeline for the project, identifying the key milestones. What is the total amount of funds requested for this component of your idea and how will this be spent? Successful applicants will need to provide a completed budget.*

Month 1-2: Initiation phase, including ethics approval, research design, and stakeholder engagement.

Month 2-8: Survey rollout, consumer engagement, and qualitative interviews, involving data collection and gathering insights.

Month 9-10: Data analysis, evaluation, and the initial write-up of research findings.

Month 11-12: Final evaluation report preparation and submission for publication in an academic journal, followed by promotion to key government organisations.

The total funds approximating $10,000 requested for this project component will primarily support a dedicated research officer who will drive the survey data collection and consumer interviews. In-kind additional support will be provided by Mindgardens research officers.

11. Sponsorship (max 100 words):

Has funding previously been obtained for this project? Do you currently have sponsorship for your research? Who are the target sponsors who would potentially be interested this research and its translation?

This project has not received prior funding. It will benefit from additional in-kind support provided by Mindgardens, involving research officer assistance for project strategy, guidance, and evaluation.

Key executive sponsorship for to assist in intervention success include SESLHD Population and Community Health and SESLHD Mental Health Service.

Potential future target funding sponsors for this research and its translation include SESLHD Executive Mental Health Service, NSW Health, and the NSW Mental Health Commission, as they have a vested interest in addressing the health disparities faced by individuals with severe mental illness and reducing smoking and vaping rates in this population.

Section 2: RES-ON Project Contact Details

1. Coordinating applicant details

Full name	Dr Hamish Fibbins
Position	Translational Research Lead, Mindgardens Neuroscience Network, SESLHD
Department or Service	Strategy Innovation & Improvement and SESLHD Mental Health
Academic Discipline	Psychiatry and Mental Health
Head of Department	Lisa Altman (SI&I) and Chris Hay (Mental Health)
Phone	9348 0871
Email	Hamish.fibbins@health.nsw.gov.au
Other organisation or affiliations	Discipline of Psychiatry and Mental Health, UNSW Sydney

2. RES-ON research funding project team details:
Please list the co-investigators or other key people involved in your RES-ON research project (name, title, and organisation).

Prof Jackie Curtis, Executive Director, Mindgardens Neuroscience Network and Clinical Lead, Youth Mental Health SESLHD

Dr Marianne Gale, Director, Population and Community Health, SESLHD

Bernadette McGuigan, Tobacco Treatment Specialist, SESLHD Mental Health Service

Dr Patrick Bolton, Physical Health GP, SESLHD Mental Health Service

Dr Scott Teasdale, Research Fellow, UNSW Sydney

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE

☐ The applicant hereby agrees to abide by the Terms and Conditions of the RES-ON research funding program.

☐ The SESLHD Head of Department accepts responsibility, and confirms resources are available to:
1. Progress ethics and governance review to completion

2. Provide backfill and/or dedicated time to support project delivery
3. Provide project mentoring to ensure effective project progress
4. Provide financial and non-financial resources required for implementation and translation

Applicant:

Full Name	Dr Hamish Fibbins
Position	Translational Research Lead, Mindgardens Neuroscience Network, SESLHD
Department or Service	Strategy Innovation & Improvement and SESLHD Mental Health
Signature	*HFibbins*
Date	30/10/23

Head of Department (Strategy, Innovation and Improvement): Mindgardens SESLHD Directorate

Full Name	Lisa Altman
Position	Director
Department or Service	Strategy, Innovation and Improvement
Signature	
Date	2/11/23

Head of Department (Mental Health): Directorate of Project Rollout

Full Name	Chris Hay
Position	General Manager
Department or Service	Mental Health
Signature	
Date	3 November 2023