

Applied Research and Innovation Project Prospectus Round 2





A multi-stakeholder approach to applied research for the care economy involving TAFE, government, industry, and community.

This project is funded by the Victorian Government.

Contents

Introduction3

Section 1: Vision and Mission4

Section 2: Why Partner in Round 2?.....5

Section 3: Research Program Focus and Scope.....6

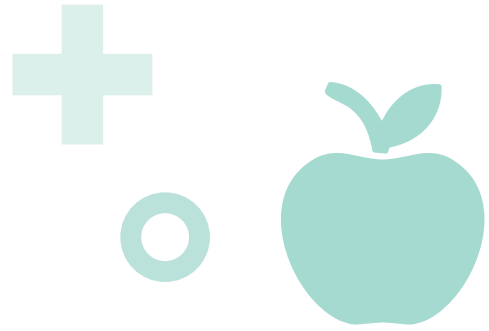
Section 4: Project Timeline.....7

Section 5: Capability Building and Knowledge Dissemination8

Section 6: Governance and Management.....9

Section 7: Contact.....10





Introduction

Welcome to the Applied Research and Innovation Project Prospectus for Round 2. This document provides a comprehensive overview of the funding opportunity, inviting Victorian TAFEs and their Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) partners to collaborate on applied research projects addressing critical challenges within the Care Economy.

Supported by Victorian Government funding, the Holmesglen Centre for Applied Research and Innovation is driving a new approach: mandating genuine, co-designed partnerships between researchers and industry. Round 2 places a specific focus on achieving fast, demonstrable impact and developing the next generation of TAFE researchers, particularly Early-Career researchers.

Please use this Prospectus in conjunction with the Application Guide, Grant Application Form, and Budget Proforma to prepare your submission.



Holmesglen Institute

Centre for Applied Research and Innovation

Supported by funding from the Victorian Government, Holmesglen's Centre for Applied Research and Innovation will offer TAFEs and industry partners the opportunity to collaborate on research projects addressing challenges within the Care Economy. Ultimately, this initiative embodies our grand vision to promote broader partnership between Victorian TAFE applied researchers and industry, driving innovation and sustainable solutions within this crucial sector.

These collaborative projects aim to:

- Strengthen the research capability and capacity of the Victorian TAFE sector, with a focus on early-career researcher development.
- Foster meaningful Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) partnerships.
- Conduct applied research to address the needs, challenges, and opportunities within the Care Economy.
- Enhance education and training across the sector.

Section 1: Vision and Mission

Our Vision

Our vision is to position TAFE as a cornerstone of the applied research and innovation ecosystem, driving impactful change and progress across the Care Economy.

By fostering a supportive and collaborative research environment, we aim to:

- **Empower VET applied researchers to work in partnership with TAFE Network providers, educational institutions, industry, and community organisations.**
- **Enhance the quality and diversity of applied research, addressing real-world challenges and opportunities within the Care Economy.**
- **Deliver tangible innovations that advance industry practices, enrich community outcomes, and elevate teaching and learning programs across the VET sector.**

This vision underscores TAFE's pivotal role in shaping a dynamic, forward-thinking research landscape that meets the evolving needs of society.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide the structural support and resources necessary to establish a robust applied research program that drives innovation within the Care Economy. We will:

- **Develop and sustain an enabling research infrastructure that fosters collaboration across TAFE Network providers, industry, educational institutions, and community organisations.**
- **Build applied research capability within the TAFE sector, equipping researchers with the tools and skills needed to address emerging challenges and opportunities.**
- **Support the development of impactful, evidence-based solutions that strengthen industry practices, improve community outcomes, and enrich educational experiences.**
- **Promote a culture of innovation, ensuring that applied research becomes an integral component of the VET sector's contributions to the Care Economy and beyond.**



Section 2:

Why Partner in Round 2?

The Applied Research and Innovation Project Round 2 offer unique benefits, particularly for TAFE project teams to partner Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the care economy.

Benefit	How Round 2 Delivers
Access to Unique Problem Solving	Engage in a highly targeted, applied research project (up to \$100,000 value) that directly addresses a specific operational problem or innovation gap within your SME, without incurring the full cost.
Focus on Partnership	TAFE to partner with SME(s) to co-design, pilot, and validate new solutions, services, or protocols in a controlled, evidence-based setting before scaling implementation across your organisation.
Build Staff and Organisational Capacity	Leverage the project to access professional development opportunities for your staff, fostering the growth of research skills and expertise in a real-world setting.
Strengthen Vocational Education and Training	Directly influence VET curriculum and training by ensuring that research initiatives align with critical industry needs, enhancing the long-term impact of TAFE programs and the future Care Economy workforce.
Enrich Student Learning	Contribute to meaningful learning experiences by involving students and early-career researchers in activities that develop their analytical and critical thinking skills, preparing them for the future workforce.

SMEs (Small to Medium Enterprises)



Section 3:

Research Program Focus and Scope



Research Program Requirements

Our core aim is to cultivate true industry partnerships by having TAFE researchers actively involve SMEs in the research lifecycle. Every project must follow an applied, outcomes-driven approach. Round 2 places a specific emphasis on achieving fast, demonstrable impact derived from a robust, reciprocal relationship with a Small to Medium Enterprise.

Potential Research Areas

Research projects must address a challenge or opportunity within the Care Economy, including, but not limited to: Aged care, Allied health, Disability support, Early childhood education and care, and Social housing. Additional areas include workforce innovation, skills and qualifications development, and service delivery improvements.

Project Formation and Collaboration (The Co-Design Approach)

The formation of research projects must clearly articulate:

- **Engagement with the Mandatory SME Partner:**
The project's core challenge or opportunity must be co-designed and identified in consultation with the mandatory SME partner.
- **Applied Problem Solving:**
The proposal must demonstrate how TAFE's expertise will be leveraged to develop a practical, applied solution that is immediately relevant to the SME.
- **Formulation of Project Outcomes:**
The proposal must focus on tangible outcomes (e.g., prototype, training module, refined process) that deliver immediate benefits to the SME.



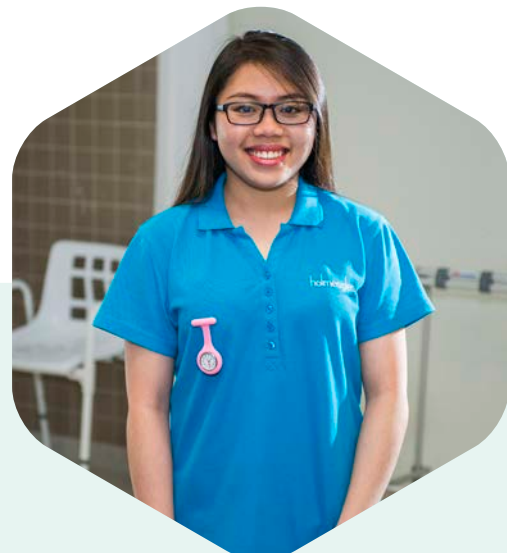
Section 4: Project Timeline



This indicative timeline spans a full 12-months (12 months being the maximum duration), ensuring adequate time for research and final reporting. The final project duration is contingent on the scope, complexity, and funding requested, with the official start date set upon the execution of the funding agreement.

Phase	Milestone Description	Indicative Timeline	Key Deliverables
Phase 1: Mobilisation	Project Start-up, Ethics, and Detailed Work Plan	Month 1	Signed Research Agreement, Ethics attained, Detailed Work Plan co-signed by SME.
Phase 2: Research and Development (R&D)	Data Collection, Analysis, and Solution Prototyping	Months 2 – 6	Mid-Point Progress Report, SME Milestone: Prototype/Draft Solution Tested.
Phase 3: Validation and Refinement	Testing, Refinement, and Implementation Planning	Months 7 – 10	SME Milestone: Solution Refined and Ready for Implementation, VET Knowledge Transfer Artefact Developed.
Phase 4: Finalisation and Closure	Final Reporting, Knowledge Transfer, and Project Closure	Months 11 – 12	Final Project Report and Financial Acquittal, SME Milestone: Final Handover of Practical Outcome.

SMEs (Small to Medium Enterprises)

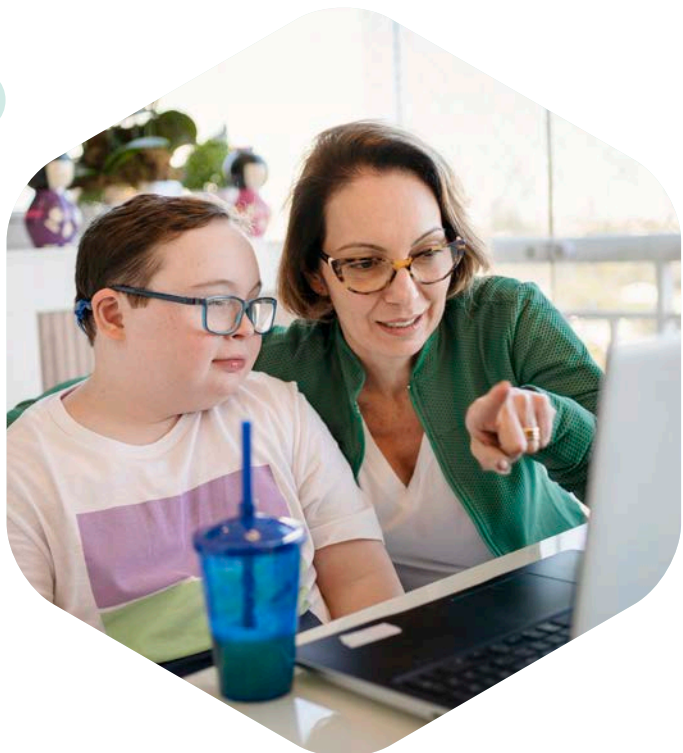


Section 5:

Capability Building and Knowledge Dissemination

A core objective is to develop the capabilities of TAFE Applied Researchers, especially the Early-Career researcher.

- **Community of Practice (CoP):**
A facilitated Applied Research CoP will be established for peer support and knowledge exchange.
- **Training and Workshops:**
Initiatives focus on proposal writing, methodology, ethics, and data analysis.
- **Digital Dissemination:**
Includes potential opportunities to feature in the Applied Research Podcast Series 'InnovateED: Voices from Vocational Education' - showcasing TAFE Applied Researchers and SME partners - along with a dedicated ARI webpage for project resources and success stories.



Section 6:

Governance and Management

The Applied Research and Innovation Project is overseen by a robust governance structure designed to ensure alignment with its strategic objectives, drive accountability, and maximise long-term impact within the Care Economy.

Governance Framework

This governance framework provides clear oversight, accountability, and guidance to support effective decision-making, resource allocation, and stakeholder engagement.

The structure will:

- Establish a robust management framework to oversee project activities and ensure alignment with the program’s vision and mission.
- Facilitate collaboration between TAFE providers, industry partners (specifically SMEs for Round 2), government agencies, and community organisations.
- Ensure transparent and equitable processes for funding allocation and project selection.
- Monitor and evaluate project outcomes to assess.

Body	Composition	Core Responsibilities
Holmesglen Executive Oversight	Executive Director, Education and Applied Research.	Provides ultimate strategic direction and sign-off, ensuring alignment with TAFE sector and government priorities.
Steering Committee	Executive Director, Education and Applied Research; Dean Higher Education and Applied Research; Dean Faculty of Health Sciences and Community Studies; Director, Centre for Applied Research and Innovation; and Project Manager.	Provides operational leadership, monitors overall program performance, and approves all internal policies and procedures.
Research Project Advisory Committee (RPAC)	Representatives from the OTCD, VSA, Victorian TAFE Institutes, and Care Economy industry and community organisations.	Reviews and assesses project proposals against the assessment criteria, providing final recommendations for successful applications.
Management Team	Responsible for operations, project coordination, reporting, and communications.	Oversees day-to-day operations, administers the grant process, provides support to research teams, and manages all compliance and reporting.

Section 7: Contact

The Holmesglen Centre for Applied Research and Innovation is available to assist your organisation in preparing a research application for this competitive round.

Please ensure you read the Application Guide, complete the Grant Application Form, and use the Budget Proforma provided when submitting your proposal.

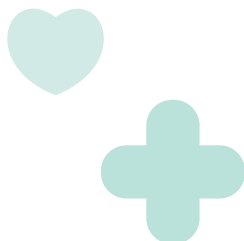
If you would like to know more, including assistance with clarifying the SME partnership requirements or understanding the Early-Career TAFE researcher criteria, please contact:

The Holmesglen Centre for Applied Research and Innovation

E: appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au

T: + 61 3 9564 1886

www.holmesglen.edu.au/about-us/research/centre-for-applied-research-and-innovation/Applied-Research-and-Innovation-Project





Holmesglen Institute

Applied Research and Innovation Project Prospectus - Round 2

holmesglen.edu.au

© Holmesglen Institute of TAFE, November 2025.
Holmesglen is the trading name of Holmesglen Institute of TAFE
RTO: 0416. IHE: PRV12129. CRICOS Provider Code: 00012G.



In the spirit of reconciliation, Holmesglen recognises and celebrates the Traditional Owners of the lands throughout Victoria and beyond on which we educate and train. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge our emerging leaders.