

2025 Deborah Lehmann Research Award in Paediatric Infectious Diseases

The Kids Research Institute Australia's Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines & Infectious Diseases (WCVID) has established the Deborah Lehmann Research Award in Paediatric Infectious Diseases (DLRA) to acknowledge the significant contribution that Emeritus Clin A/Prof Deborah Lehmann AO has made to paediatric infectious disease research, particularly towards reducing childhood morbidity and mortality rates in Australia and the Pacific Region and capacity building of many young researchers across the infectious diseases field.

The DLRA is a funding mechanism to support the training and development of early- to mid-career researchers (EMCR) or higher degree by research (HDR) students (Master of Research (MRes), Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), or professional doctorate) or who are either nationals from the Pacific Region (working in or outside their home countries) OR who are First Nations of Australia and/or Aotearoa New Zealand, or from one of the main Pacific ethnic groups in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Up to AU\$30,000.00 will be awarded each round. The successful applicant(s) must expend the award within 3 years of receipt.

Eligibility

All criteria must be met for an application to be assessed:

- Applicant is an EMCR or HDR student
- Applicant is a Pacific Region national OR First Nations of Australia/Aotearoa New Zealand, or Pacific People in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Proposal in line with WCVID objectives

Document checklist

All documents must be included for an application to be assessed

- Complete application form
- WCVID supervisor/collaborator letter of support
- Proposed supervisor (if not within WCVID) letter of support
- 2-page CV

Scoring Guide

Applicants will be scored on the items listed below (proposal, CV, and potential).

Applicants will receive a final score out of 50.

Proposal

<p>Scientific quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal has objectives that are well-defined, coherent, and strongly developed Proposal addresses the significance of the proposed research Proposed research project is in line with the objectives of the WCVID 	10
<p>Feasibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration that the required expertise, tools and techniques are present in the relevant research environment(s) Demonstration of a well-considered and justified budget Demonstrated support from proposed institute Demonstrated support from WCVID supervisor/collaborator 	10
<p>Capacity building & sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is likely to build research capacity within the region (e.g., enhance local skills and knowledge, develop researchers and/or research platforms) Project is likely to enhance collaboration with or within the WCVID Applicants external to the WCVID, project is likely to build strong collaborative opportunities with the WCVID 	15

Total 35

CV

<p>Employment experience in research/academia relative to opportunity. If the applicant does not have experience in research/academia, employment experience in fields outside of research/academia (relative to opportunity) may be assessed.</p>	5
<p>Research achievements (scholarships, awards, publications, presentations, etc.) relative to opportunity</p>	5

Total 10

Potential

<p>Research potential based on the evidence provided including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMCR/student's research history and track record Potential translatable impact of the EMCR/student's project Statement from the EMCR/student's supervisor(s) and/or collaborator 	5
--	---

Total 5

Overall score: 50