

career recovery grants

statement of support

Introduction

The **veski** inspiring women career recovery grants are designed for female mid-career leaders or emerging leaders in STEM in Victoria to provide vital and timely support via short-term flexible funding to boost research & help restore pre-pandemic competitiveness.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has compounded pre-existing gender inequality. Reduced work hours and work disruptions due to home & caring responsibilities have disproportionately affected women, threatening to wind back the hard-fought gains to achieve gender equity.

The **veski** inspiring women recovery grants will provide 12 months funding of up to **\$50,000** to boost research outputs and increase competitiveness when applying for future funding from major funding bodies.

Applications are sought from female mid-career leaders or emerging leaders in STEM who experienced a disproportionate increase in caring responsibilities during the pandemic, severely affecting planned research outputs; and who can maximise and attain multiple benefits through the use of the funding to get their research back on track.

Full details of the grants are provided in the application guidelines, available from the **veski** website: veski.org.au/career-recovery-grant

Important notes

The **veski** inspiring women career recovery grants selection panel is seeking an honest assessment of the applicant via a Statement of Support from the Victorian academic or research institute and signed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research or Head of Institution pertaining to:

- The quality of the candidate and demonstrated outstanding achievements leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting outcomes relative to opportunities;
- Demonstrated leadership including evidence of supporting and fostering an inclusive culture of innovators;
- The extent to which the grant will assist the candidate in gaining short-term impacts, helping to restore the candidate's pre-pandemic competitiveness in their field following career disruptions experienced during COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns;
- A commitment to match 50% of the total **veski** grant funding as a cash contribution; including details of sufficient in-kind support to enable the proposed outcomes of the grant; and
- The details of the candidates employment during the grant, including current FTE.

The candidate is further assessed on a confidential Referee Report.

Submissions

Thank you for agreeing to provide a Statement of Support. A Statement of Support forms an important part of the assessment process.

veski inspiring women career recovery grant applicants have been advised to contact the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research or Head of Institution, at their Victorian academic or research institute to request a signed Statement of Support.

Applicants are responsible for the submission of the Statement of Support via the **veski** Awards Force platform, by 5.00pm [AEST] on **Wednesday, 30 June 2021**.

- Please note receipt of the Statement of Support is time critical to the assessment process.
- The Statement of Support must be a maximum of one A4 page and provided on institution letterhead.
- The Applicant is required to submit their application by **Monday, 21 June 2021**, ahead of the date for the submission of the Statement of Support.

The selection panel will, with absolute discretion, select the proposed **veski** inspiring women career recovery recipients on the basis of the key criteria. The panel's recommendations will be submitted to the **veski** board of directors for endorsement.

If you have any queries concerning the **veski** inspiring women career recovery grants program, please contact:

Email: veski@veski.org.au

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