



Bicentennial Foundation

Westpac Social Change Fellowship

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Westpac Social Change Fellowship?

The Westpac Social Change Fellowship is an opportunity to invest in your capability, knowledge and networks with a view to helping you bring to life your innovative initiative for positive social change in Australia.

2. How many Fellowships will be awarded each year?

There will be up to 10 Fellowships awarded each year.

3. What is the value of each Fellowship and who receives the funds?

The Fellowship will provide an individual with up to \$50,000 in funding. The value will vary depending on the applicant's proposed Development Plan. The funds are provided directly to the Fellow for their Development Plan. The funding will also include \$4,500 for a 4-month Leadership Program which all 2019 Social Change Fellows will complete together.

4. What is the duration of the Fellowship?

The duration will depend on the proposed Fellowship Development Plan, but all approved activities must be completed by December 2019. The Development Plan may be conducted on a part time or full time basis. Any overseas travel must be conducted in a single block.

5. Who can apply?

We are looking for people from all walks of life, who are committed to making a difference and are eager to build on their own capabilities so they can maximise their potential to bring their initiative to life. To be eligible to apply, applicants must be:

1. an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident;
2. over the age of 18; and
3. have an existing innovative initiative to address a clearly defined social need in an Australian community at a local, state or national level.

You are required to complete an [eligibility questionnaire](#) before commencing an application.

6. What kind of initiative do I need to be working on to qualify for a Fellowship?

Your initiative must be a new approach to address a clearly defined social need in an Australian community at a local, state or national level.

The following initiatives and uses of funds are specifically excluded from the Fellowship:

1. initiatives for the benefit of communities outside of Australia;
2. tertiary qualifications and/or course fees;



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3. initiatives that promote religion, animal welfare or change in law, government policy or practice are not eligible;
4. medical research; and
5. funding of the actual initiative, capital items, refurbishments, organisations, sponsorships or fundraising activities.

7. Do you provide funding for initiatives?

No. The Fellowship provides funding only to individuals for personal development and learning.

8. Do I need to have started work on my initiative?

Yes, your initiative needs to be more than just an 'idea'. You need to be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the social problem you are trying to solve and that you have engaged and obtained the support of the community benefiting from your initiative.

9. Can I use the funds to gain overseas work experience?

Yes, if the overseas experience will directly support the development of capabilities required to deliver your initiative in Australia.

10. Can I submit more than one application in a year?

An applicant may only submit one application per year.

11. If successful, can I defer the Fellowship?

No. Recipients will be notified in December 2018 and the approved Fellowship Development Plan must be completed by December 2019.

12. Can I apply in the future if I am unsuccessful?

As long as you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for a Westpac Social Change Fellowship in future years (up to 4 four times). We generally advise applicants seek advice on their application before applying again to determine their readiness to reapply.

13. Do I, or the people who benefit from my initiative, need to be a Westpac customer?

No, provided you meet the eligibility criteria, we welcome applications from people from all walks of life working on initiatives that benefit Australian communities.

14. Do I need academic qualifications to apply for a Fellowship?

No, the Westpac Social Change Fellowship is not associated with academic pursuit.

15. My initiative supports communities overseas. Am I eligible to apply for a Westpac Social Change Fellowship?

No, your initiative needs to strengthen communities and help people in need in Australia.



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16. Can I use the Fellowship to cover (or partially cover) the course costs at a University or educational institution?

No. Funding will not be provided for tertiary qualifications or course fees.

17. Are there any countries that cannot be included in a Fellowship Development Plan?

Travel to countries with a Level 3 (Reconsider your need to travel) or Level 4 (Do not travel) rating by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade are not to be included in a Development Plan. Countries Alert Levels are listed on the smartraveller.gov.au website. <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Index>

18. Will Westpac Bicentennial Foundation provide Fellows with taxation advice?

Fellows are responsible and encouraged to seek taxation advice regarding their individual circumstances. Westpac Bicentennial Foundation makes no representation or warranty in relation to the taxation implications of any funds provided by the Foundation to a Fellow.

19. Will Westpac Bicentennial Foundation provide Fellows with travel insurance?

Fellows must be covered by appropriate health and travel insurance (including coverage for existing conditions) for the duration of their project. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement to be executed between the successful Fellow and Westpac Bicentennial Foundation, insurance expenses related to the project may be covered within the Fellowship funding.

20. Will the Westpac Social Change Fellowship cover travel for my spouse, partner or dependent(s)?

No. Fellowship funding will only cover costs for the Fellow.

21. Salary Allowance whilst participation on a Fellowship

In the event that you expect to lose at least 50% of your total household gross family income while you are away, and your dependents will not be accompanying you during any part of your Fellowship, you may be eligible for a Salary Allowance. This amount will be payable to you directly and included in the total value of your Fellowship. Please refer to our [Salary Allowance Policy](#).

22. When can I apply and when do applications close?

Applications open on Wednesday 11 July 2018 and close at midnight (AEST) on Monday 20 August 2018.

23. How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted through Westpac Bicentennial Foundation's online application system to be considered valid. This online system is accessed via the Westpac Social Change Fellowship webpage. You will first need to complete an [eligibility questionnaire](#), after which if eligible you will be provided access to the portal to submit an application.



Before submitting your application please ensure you have checked your answers and supporting documents as applications cannot be re-submitted or amended after submission.

24. What supporting documentation is required?

Applicants are required to submit the following documentation with their online application. Applications received without the below mentioned supporting documentation, will not be considered by the Foundation.

- A two page version of your current Curriculum Vitae so that we understand your capabilities, experience and achievements, submitted as a PDF.
- A recent headshot.
- You will also be required to list a Community and Expert Reference in your application. References will be contacted for those applicants who reach the National Panel.

25. What is required to be a strong applicant?

You must be able demonstrate:

- Why your initiative is an innovative approach to the social issue you are seeking to address;
- The support of the community that will directly benefit from your idea;
- That you have the commitment to deliver the initiative;
- How your Development Plan, funded by the Fellowship, will build your capability to deliver your initiative.

26. What makes a good application?

A good application takes time to develop. Please be aware many of the sections have specified word limits. A number of questions also contain guidance to assist you in formulating your response.

27. How do I determine my funding request?

As part of your application, you need to provide a high level estimate of the cost of your Development Plan. Please use the ATO for guidance around per diems, incidentals and accommodation for travel as part of your Fellowship. If your application is successful, the Foundation will work with you to complete your detailed Development Plan which will include a detailed travel itinerary, schedule of activities and cost. The final funding amount will be determined at this stage.



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28. What could be some common reasons for unsuccessful applications?

- The application does not fall within our eligibility criteria.
- It is not clear as to the social need you are seeking to address.
- It is unclear how your initiative will address the social need.
- There is a lack of evidence of community support for your initiative.
- The request is to fund a project, organisation, sponsorship, capital works or major equipment.
- The application form is incomplete or has been completed incorrectly.
- The proposed Development Plan does not adequately address how the Fellowship will develop your skills, knowledge and networks needed to accelerate your growth as a social innovator.

29. How do I know if the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation has received my application?

Once you have submitted your online application, you will receive an acknowledgement email confirming that your application has been received. This email will include your application number.

30. When will applicants find out if they are successful?

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by late September. Those who progress to the Regional Panel stage will be invited to complete a video interview. Those who progress from the Regional Panel onto the National Panel will be advised mid-October. The 2019 Westpac Social Change Fellows will be notified mid-December following a meeting of the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation Board.

31. I missed the application window, can I still apply?

No, late applications will not be accepted.

32. Can I get feedback on my application if I am unsuccessful?

Individual feedback will be provided to those who reach the Regional or National Panel stages. Unfortunately the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation is unable to provide individual feedback to other applicants, but we will provide top level feedback and suggestions.

33. I am having technical problems with the online application system, who can I contact?

Please contact our team on westpacscholars@westpac.com.au

34. I need more help with my application, who can I contact?

If you need help with your application please email westpacscholars@westpac.com.au and we will get back to you as soon as possible.