

# AUSTRALIAN UNITY FOUNDATION

## Australian Unity Heritage Fellowship Application Guidelines

For further information please email: [foundation@australianunity.com.au](mailto:foundation@australianunity.com.au)

### **Introduction**

Australian Unity is a national healthcare, financial services and retirement living organisation providing services for more than half a million Australians. Australian Unity's history as a trusted mutual organisation dates back 170 years. The company currently has some 300,000 members nationwide, including 10,000 members who have been with us for more than 50 years.

Australian Unity's antecedent organisations received a number of bequests from members for the purposes of supporting education initiatives of the organisations' members. Much of these funds have been distributed in small amounts over the decades to support the secondary or tertiary education of successful applicants. Recognising this heritage, in 2010, the Australian Unity Limited board decided to create annual Australian Unity Heritage Fellowships to assist individuals undertaking post-graduate research. The Australian Unity Limited board has delegated the Australian Unity Foundation to approve applications for the grants. It is expected that these grants will be in the order of \$50,000, including GST where relevant, each.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Australian Unity Heritage Fellowships is to support innovative and worthwhile post-graduate research with a theme of health, ageing, financial security or wellbeing.

Funded research will seek to propose solutions to the challenges facing Australia's ageing population and the rise of chronic disease or investigate ways to improve community wellbeing. It is not anticipated that the Fellowships will support specific medical research.

Australian Unity is particularly interested in research undertaken in association with relevant community groups.

## **General Information**

### *Research Topics*

The research must reflect the purpose of the Heritage Fellowships and result in outcomes that will have practical applications and provide a clear benefit to society generally, and the population affected by the research issue in particular.

### *Eligibility*

Fellowships are open to members of Australian Unity Limited and their immediate family only\*. They are available to both experienced and early career researchers to build on the current body of knowledge or to investigate new research ideas. It is not intended the grant will be used to 'top up' other research funding or support students who should be funded from academic sources.

Australian Unity employees and their immediate families are not eligible to receive grants.

*\*Australian Unity members are defined as persons listed on the Australian Unity Limited's register of members.*

### *Timelines*

Proposals for research grants will be called for in the first half of each year. The deadline for receipt of proposals is the end of July each year. Funding will be announced by 31 October of the applicable year.

### *Ethics Approval*

The applicant must ensure that, before the research commences, and during the full grant period, all the necessary ethical, legal and regulatory requirements in order to conduct the research are met, and all the necessary approvals have been obtained.

### *Fellowship Conditions*

The terms and conditions under which funding is provided are set out in the document Australian Unity Heritage Fellowship Conditions, which can be obtained from this website.

## **Application Process**

### *How to Apply*

Applicants must complete an Australian Unity Heritage Fellowship Application Form and send two copies to;

Australian Unity Heritage Fellowships  
The Australian Unity Foundation  
114 Albert Road  
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Applicants must also attach the signed Conditions form and letters of support from two referees and the telephone numbers of those referees to their application.

#### *Closing Date*

The deadline for receipt of proposals for the next Fellowship is 5pm on Friday 29 July 2011.

#### *Selection Criteria*

Applications for funding will be assessed against the following criteria;

- The importance and relevance of the project to the purpose of the Australian Unity Heritage Fellowships
- The extent to which the proposed research will have practical application and provide clear public benefit to the community
- The soundness and appropriateness of the methods proposed
- The potential for the project to offer new insights or developments
- The ability of the researchers to carry out the work; reasonableness of the budget request; and feasibility of the timeline
- An appropriate approach to disseminate results/findings as widely as possible

#### *Selection Process*

Australian Unity Limited has delegated the administration of the Fellowships to the Australian Unity Foundation board. The board will assess all applications against the selection criteria and is expected to award one Fellowship each year.

#### *Notification*

All applicants will be advised of the outcome by 31 October 2011.