

NSW CVRN 2026 Professional Development Awards

Application Guidelines

Important Information

Please ensure you have read the instructions carefully before completing the application form. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

2026 Key Dates

The NSW CVRN has recently moved to a continuous, rolling application process for the Professional Development Awards. Applications can therefore be submitted at any time throughout the year, with peer review cycles occurring multiple times per year. 2026 review cycles can be viewed in the table below.

	Cut-off	Review	Notification
Review 1	20 July 2026	Late July 2026	Early August 2026
Review 2	15 October 2026	Mid October 2026	Late October 2026

Introduction

The **NSW Cardiovascular Research Network (CVRN)** invites applications for its 2026 Professional Development Awards. This initiative supports early to mid-career researchers (EMCRs) in advancing their skills and networks within the cardiovascular research field. This guide provides essential information for applicants.

The CVRN is a cross-institutional, multidisciplinary Network established to enhance and support cardiovascular research (including diabetes, stroke and renal disease) in NSW through collaboration, innovation and increased research funding. The NSW CVRN comprises researchers across NSW-based universities and major cardiovascular research institutions. There are currently over 650 individual members of the NSW CVRN: 25% Senior Researchers and 75% Early and Mid-Career Researchers. Together, they span the entire research spectrum, from basic to public health, and related disciplines such as biomedical engineering and bioinformatics. Since 2008, the CVRN has been a successful partnership between the Heart Foundation, the NSW Office for Health and Medical Research and member organisations.

Award Overview

The **NSW CVRN Professional Development Award** provides funding to assist our EMCRs (0-10 years post PhD, excluding career disruptions) with costs associated with attendance at a research conference or workshop and/or participation in professional development or a training course. Professional development or training courses could include topics such as training in specific research skills, media and communication, or grant/journal article writing. The aim of the Award is to enable EMCRs to enhance their career progression and build professional networks through the dissemination of their research and develop their research and professional skill base.

Funding: The NSW CVRN Professional Development Award aims to assist EMCRs in their professional growth and research dissemination offering successful Applicants:

- up to **\$1,500 for national conferences and training courses**
- up to **\$3,000 for international conference attendance and training**

Please note: depending on total funding requested and number of applicants, smaller amounts may be awarded.

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must:

- Be an Early to Mid-Career Researcher within 10 years post-PhD completion, excluding career disruptions, and demonstrate any valid career disruptions if applicable. Applicants must be below A/prof level.
- Be undertaking research in the field of cardiovascular disease and related conditions.
- Be employed at a [NSW CVRN Member Organisation](#).
- Be a member of the NSW CVRN (membership is complimentary – [click here to join the NSW CVRN today](#)).
- Be an invited speaker or have an accepted conference abstract or be registered for a relevant professional development/training course in 2026. *Note: Confirmation of acceptance or registration is not required at the application stage but is necessary for reimbursement.*

- Have not received a NSW CVRN Professional Development Award in 2024, 2025, or a previous round in 2026.
- Preference will be given to applicants who:
 - have not received a Professional Development Award before
 - have been invited to give a talk at their nominated conference
 - have no other sources of funding they can use for attendance at their nominated conference or course.

Application Process

Submit your application via the online **Application Form**, including a CV (max 2 pages) and relevant documentation and details of your conference presentation or course by the closing date.

Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

Assessment Criteria: Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with the Award's objectives.
- Potential impact on the Applicant's professional development and career.
- Relevance to cardiovascular disease, including stroke, diabetes or kidney disease.
- The Applicant's track record and CV.
- Preference will be given to applicants who:
 - have not received a Professional Development Award before
 - have been invited to give a talk at their nominated conference
 - have no other sources of funding they can use for attendance at their nominated conference or course

Award Conditions: Award recipients must acknowledge the support of the NSW CVRN support in all related presentations, publications or media engagements, and any social media posts relating to the professional development activity (please tag the NSW CVRN). A brief report must be submitted post-event and Award recipients may be required to contribute to the NSW CVRN's media and marketing communications. Recipients are responsible for ensuring appropriate insurance coverage for travel and participation in activities funded by the Award.

Reimbursement and Reporting (please read carefully as this could affect payment of your award):

Award funds are reimbursed post-event upon submission of:

- a brief report – a template will be provided;
- expense evidence and proof of payment - for example, invoice and receipts for the conference or training course registration, receipts for flight, travel and accommodation; and
- a financial statement issued by the Award recipient's employing institution – a template will be provided.

The Award will be paid as a one-off lump sum payment to the Award recipient via the institution nominated as their place of employment. Please discuss your application with your Institution's Research Unit to ensure compliance with internal protocols and funding conditions.

Receipts must be as close to the proposed budget as possible. Major deviations from the budget submitted in the application form may not be reimbursed. Flights must be economy class or equivalent.

Reimbursements must be arranged within three months of conference attendance/course completion. Reimbursements not arranged within this time may be forfeited.

Privacy, Legal and Ethical Considerations:

- **Privacy:** All applications will adhere to the current NHMRC Guidelines under Section 95 of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). All applications will be treated confidentially and will only be viewed by assessors, review committees, and NSW CVRN personnel.
- **Intellectual Property:** Applicants retain all rights to their intellectual property.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Applicants and reviewers are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest.

Funding from the Tobacco Industry: *The individuals, research groups or research institutions associated with a NSW CVRN grant or award shall not accept any money by way of research grants, consultancies or sponsorships from the tobacco industry or persons connected with the tobacco industry. This includes direct funding, as well as advertising, sponsorship, gifts or loan of goods or services, or funding by any other means.*

Tobacco Industry means any organisation or individual involved in the growth, preparation for sale, sale, shipping, advertising and distribution of tobacco and tobacco-related products, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, loose tobacco, and e-cigarettes.

Contact and Further Information

For more information about the NSW CVRN and the Professional Development Award, please visit our [website](#) or contact our support team via email at cvrn@heartfoundation.org.au