Background
The Victorian Nurse Practitioner Project (VNPP) provides a policy focus and funding to develop and implement Nurse Practitioner (NP) roles in public health services. In past publication rounds, grants were offered to support the publication of papers/presentations that explored NP implementation issues such as NP service planning, change management, internship and the transition from candidate to NP.

In 2014/15 Nursing and Midwifery Workforce will support papers/presentations that use NP specific outcome measures that demonstrate the effectiveness of the role and resulting patient outcomes.

For more information about the VNPP go to the Nursing in Victoria website at: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/furthering/practitioner

VNPP Publication Grants
In 2014/15 Nursing & Midwifery Workforce will provide NP Publication Grants of up to $4,000 to encourage and support health services to produce papers for publication in peer reviewed industry and professional journals or for presentation at professional or industry conferences.

These grants are offered to support the publication of papers/presentations that have a clear focus on exploring NP role sustainability and the quantifiable benefits to both organisations and patient outcomes that result from NP role implementation. Papers that focus on integration into the multidisciplinary team, barriers to practice or the expansion of the role into new domains will be considered.

Papers predominantly focusing on NP service-planning, change management, internship issues, and transition from candidate to practitioner, will not be supported.

Eligibility
The grants are available to any public health service that has conducted (from 2004 or later), or is currently conducting, NP implementation activities funded by the VNPP.

Previous recipients of VNPP Publication grants are eligible but preference may be given to first time grant applicants as part of the selection process.


Selection criteria
Successful applicants will demonstrate the following criteria:

- the funded VNPP project deliverables (for example, funded model development and/or candidates) have been completed or are demonstrably nearing completion, such that a substantive set of findings can be published.
- the abstract describes an exploration of the effectiveness of the NP role, using NP specific outcome measures to support this contention AND/OR the methods used to ensure the sustainability and expansion of these roles, into new domains
- intention to submit the paper for publication in relevant peer reviewed journal or present at a professional or industry conference within next 12-18 months
- the applicant’s Director of Nursing has endorsed the application
- a budget in line with eligible costs is proposed (refer to “Eligible costs”)
- agreement to provide a copy of the proposed publication or conference paper to the Department of Health (DH) prior to its external submission
- agreement to acknowledge Government’s VNPP support for both project and publication grant as part of final paper or presentation, and
• agreement to forward a final version of the published article or conference presentation (or evidence of acceptance of paper for publication) to Nursing and Midwifery Workforce, Department of Health.

Selection process
Applications will be assessed against the above selection criteria and the Department’s decision is final.

Eligible costs
The grant is open to publicly funded health services and payment will be made via a transfer of funds. The grant funds can be used for a number of activities, which include, but are not limited to:

• staff salary (for example, backfill to research and/or write paper)
• expenses incurred in preparing the paper for publication, for example, editing, proof-reading, production of diagrams, maps or graphic material, posters
• travel and accommodation directly connected with the process of writing for publication, or attendance at conferences or workshops to facilitate paper presentation

Grants are not available to fund the purchase of equipment (including IT software or components).

Failure to meet grant conditions
Grant recipients are required to have successfully submitted a paper for publication in a relevant peer reviewed journal or have presented at a relevant professional or industry conference within 12-18 months of receiving the grant. If grant applicants are unable to fulfil this requirement they must contact the Department within 12 months of having received this funding to discuss how grant monies can be acquitted.

Submitting your application
Applications (using the VNPP Publication Grants Application Template) should be sent electronically to: Dan.Schiftan@health.vic.gov.au

Applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of their application.

Please Note
Nursing and Midwifery Workforce have responded to irregular demand by moving away from the practice of publication rounds, now making this funding available upon request. This in no way reduces the competitive nature of this funding as these publication grants are bound by a limited budget. For this reason please ensure your application is of a standard that demonstrates all selection criteria and is able to be presented within the documented grant conditions.