



**Australian Government**

---

**Wine Australia**

**Wine  
Australia  
for  
Australian  
Wine**

# **Incubator Initiative Guidelines for Regional Partners**

**March 2018**

---

## **Wine Australia**

Industry House, cnr Botanic and Hackney Roads, Adelaide SA 5000

PO Box 2733, Kent Town SA 5071

Tel: + 61 8 8228 2000

Fax: + 61 8 8228 2066

Email: [research@wineaustralia.com](mailto:research@wineaustralia.com)

Website: [www.wineaustralia.com](http://www.wineaustralia.com)

## Background and purpose

The Incubator Initiative was piloted by Wine Australia with The University of Adelaide in 2014–15. The program, which funded five projects, demonstrated both potential value to the Australian wine sector and benefits to early career researchers. Further information on the projects can be found [here](#). Aligning a similar Incubator Initiative with the Regional Program serves three main purposes:

- an opportunity to undertake regionally tailored research to answer a 'local' research question
- provision of funding for short-term projects to assist early career researchers to move into grape and wine research or to build upon the experience of researchers already in the sector, and
- provides a greater research link with regions.

The Incubator Initiative is a three-way partnership between Wine Australia, regional associations and research organisations where:

- Wine Australia provides the framework and funding support
- regional associations provide relevant 'research questions', in-kind support and the target audience for extension of findings, and
- research organisations provide scientific rigour, resources and funding support to assist and develop their staff.

The Incubator Initiative will be funded separately from the Regional Program, but the programs will work together side-by-side. While the Regional Program can operate without the Incubator Initiative (as it has done in the past), the Incubator Initiative requires strong collaboration and consultation with the Regional Program partner from the outset to ensure that research findings are suited to be extended via the Regional Program.

## Eligibility and funding

The Incubator Initiative is open to early career researchers working for an Australian-based research organisation. Early career is defined as having five years or less of research experience (on any subject) since completing or submitting a PhD or Master's degree.

Each applicant can apply for up to \$20,000 (exc. GST) per annum from Wine Australia. The amount requested must be at least matched by a co-contribution from the research organisation (cash and/or in-kind). This commitment must be secured by the researcher prior to lodgement of the application.

The total amount will provide support for research-related costs including salary (and on-costs) for the applicant, operating expenses (e.g. consumables, laboratory analysis etc.), project-related travel (car hire, fuel, airfares etc.) and capital items.

Successful projects will be initially funded for up to 12 months. An application may be submitted to continue successful projects, in subsequent funding calls.

## Application process

The initial step for each Regional Program partner is to identify research questions suitable for an Incubator Initiative project. The research topic should align with the *Wine Australia Strategic Plan 2015–2020*, clearly address a regional issue and have the potential for extension of findings through the Regional Program.

Researchers will be in contact with Regional Program partners during the application period (March–April 2017) and some discussion will be required to better understand the research question. However, it should be noted that the researcher bears primary responsibility for writing and submitting the application.

The following timeline is proposed for 2018–19:

February 2018	Regions provide outlines of potential Incubator Projects to Wine Australia with their Annual Operational Plan 2017–18 concepts. Wine Australia Program Managers provide feedback to Regional Program partners.
March 2018	Call for funding applications for Incubator Initiative (led by Wine Australia). Information for applicants will include list of potential projects identified by Regional Program partners. Researchers will contact Regional Program partners directly to discuss and develop the research projects.
April 2018	Incubator project applications due to Wine Australia.
May 2018	Assessment of projects completed by assessment panel consisting of Wine Australia management and Regional Program partners. Successful applicants contacted, contracts finalised and issued.
1 July 2018	Incubator projects commence.
30 June 2019	Incubator projects end. Final project report due to Wine Australia and Regional Program partners.

### **Incubator Initiative project assessment process**

Wine Australia will take the lead in the evaluation of project proposals, but Regional Program partners are welcome to be involved in the assessment process. In 2018–19, Wine Australia will support a maximum of one project per Regional Program cluster. Researchers and Regional Program partners are advised that key criteria must be met in order to attain financial support for an Incubator Initiative project. This is a competitive process and projects will be assessed for individual merit and compared against other proposals in each application call cycle. Topics must be aligned with priorities identified in the [Wine Australia Strategic Plan 2015–2020](#).

All applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- a) Was there sufficient consultation and collaboration with a Regional Program partner in development of the proposal?
- b) Does the proposal clearly address the research question?
- c) Is the project feasible as defined in the research plan?
- d) Is the proposal good value for the scale of investment?
- e) How innovative is the proposal?
- f) Does the applicant have a good track record?
- g) Will the proposal benefit the professional development of the applicant?

- h) What is the likelihood of the project delivering material suitable for extension and adoption through the Regional Program?
- i) Is the plan for extension adequate?
- j) Will the proposal benefit the wider grape and wine community?

## **Reporting**

The research findings, implications and recommendations will be summarised in a written report submitted to Wine Australia. In addition, a verbal report will be delivered to the Regional Program partner and a final financial reconciliation submitted by the researcher. All three components of the final report for 2018–19 projects are due by the project end date of 30 June 2019.

The written report should be suitable for both Wine Australia and the Regional Program partner and will be published on the Wine Australia website. It should detail what extension material has been prepared and how the material could be delivered to the participating region. Any subject matter expert should be able to deliver the findings from the research, based on the content of the report. Funding for actual delivery of any extension material will not occur as part of the Incubator Initiative and instead will occur through Regional Program funding in subsequent year(s).

A reporting template and guidelines can be found [here](#).

## **Further information**

If you require further information or guidance on the Incubator Initiative, please contact Sharon Harvey (Wine Australia) on [sharon.harvey@wineaustralia.com](mailto:sharon.harvey@wineaustralia.com) or (08) 8228 2000.