

Research Grant Program 2024

Information briefing
22 February 2024



The VBA respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water upon which we rely. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal peoples and communities to Victorian life.

We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards equality of outcomes and an equal voice.

Agenda

- 1 VBA's role and regulatory approach
- 2 Research at the VBA
- 3 Application, selection and award
- 4 Q&A
- 5 Next steps



Your host: Meredith Burnet
Principal Research Advisor

VBA'S ROLE AND REGULATORY APPROACH





What we do

Provide oversight of practitioner capability through registration and licensing

Monitor industry compliance with standards through proactive inspections and audits

Use enforcement powers to achieve compliance and acts in the public interest

Apply intelligence, data and **research** to better inform our regulatory strategy and approach

Use and share our technical knowledge to improve the regulatory system, and support practitioners in the delivery of positive consumer outcomes



Our regulatory approach

The VBA regulates the building and plumbing industries to improve consumer outcomes

- We prioritise our resources and regulatory effort on those areas which pose the greatest risk of harm to consumer outcomes
- We use all of our regulatory powers and tools to support safe and compliant consumer outcomes

Harms are problems that cause detriment to the community, or that undermine the VBA's intended regulatory outcomes.



RESEARCH AT THE VBA





Research objectives

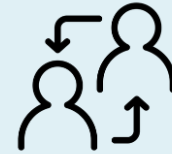
The VBA has a statutory function to conduct and promote research relevant to the regulation of the building and plumbing industries in Victoria



1. Identify harms or regulatory gaps in the built environment



2. Use research insights to inform programs that improve consumer safety and the way we regulate



3. Collaborate with stakeholders to enhance practitioner competencies and maximise outcomes for community



4. Support government initiatives to drive industry improvement and innovation



Research Grant Program

We support research by Australian universities that contributes to and fosters a better understanding of issues relevant to the regulation and performance of the building and plumbing industries in Victoria.

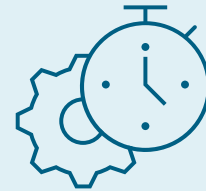
Objectives



Impact



Excellence



Efficiency



Connection



Previous grant recipients

2021



Dr Mark Dewsbury
University of Tasmania

[Assessment of mould growth risk in regulatory compliant 6 Star and 7 Star new homes in Victoria.](#)



Associate Prof. Rebecca Yang
RMIT University

[Pre-normative research on the fire safety of solar building envelopes.](#)



Dr Nicole Johnston
Formerly at Deakin University

[Investigating passive fire protection defects in residential multi-owned properties.](#)

2022



Associate Prof. Arianna Brambilla
The University of Sydney

[Improving building envelope resilience to moisture damage.](#)



Prof. Peter SP Wong
RMIT University

[Proof of concept for the development of a Virtual Reality platform to reduce non-compliant building and plumbing work.](#)



Prof. Shan Shanmugananthakumar
Swinburne University of Technology

[Investigation of water leakage in residential apartment \(concrete\) balconies.](#)



Grantee reflections and insights

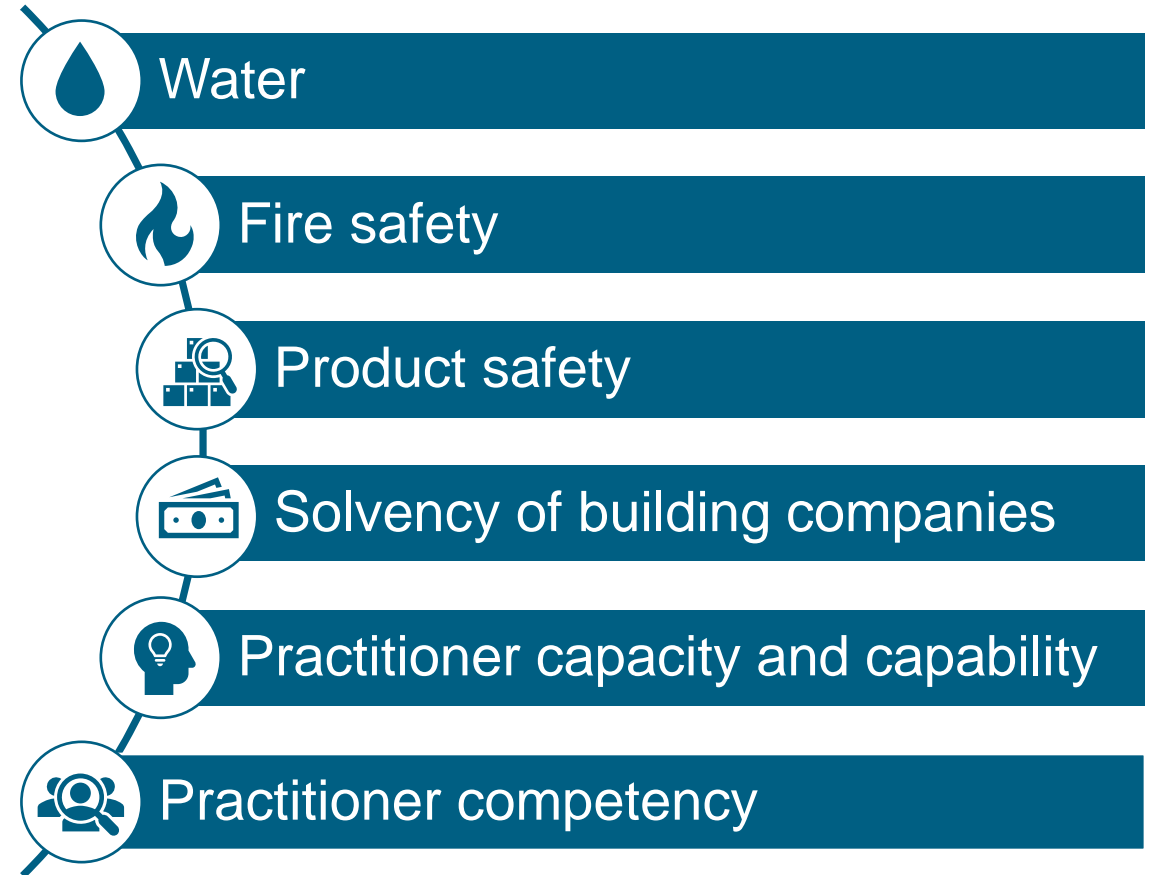


2024 focus

In 2024 we invite applications for research that focuses on:

- 1 addressing one or more of the VBA's six [regulatory priorities](#)
- or
- 2 addressing new or emerging **harms** from products, materials, practices or technologies.

Regulatory Priorities

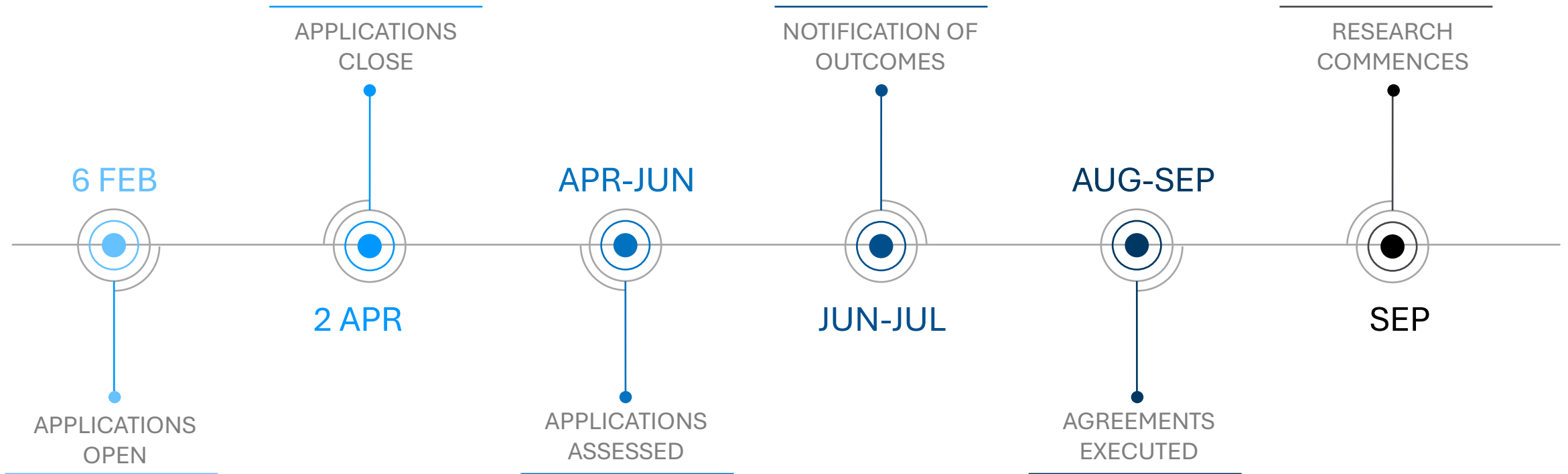




APPLICATION, SELECTION AND AWARD



Schedule





How to apply

1. Download [application form](#) from VBA website
2. Complete application form electronically
3. Submit application form by email (research@vba.vic.gov.au) before midnight on **Tuesday 2 April 2024**

The screenshot shows the top section of the application form. It features the VBA logo and the title 'Research Grant Program 2024 Application Form'. Below this, there is a section titled 'How to submit your application' which includes instructions on how to complete the form electronically and the submission deadline of Tuesday 2 April 2024. A 'Checklist' section follows, listing 11 parts of the application form that need to be completed, each with an unchecked checkbox.

VBA VICTORIAN BUILDING AUTHORITY

Research Grant Program 2024
Application Form

How to submit your application

Please complete your application electronically using this application form.

Applications must be submitted by email to research@vba.vic.gov.au by **midnight on Tuesday 2 April 2024**. Late applications, and applications in alternative formats, will not be considered.

Visit the [VBA website](https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/about/research/research-grant-program) (<https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/about/research/research-grant-program>) for further information about the Research Grant Program.

Checklist

Before you submit your application, please check that you have completed the following sections of the application form:

- ☐ **Part A:** Applicant Details
- ☐ **Part B:** Research Overview
- ☐ **Part C:** Research Deliverables
- ☐ **Part D:** Research Methodology
- ☐ **Part E:** Research Personnel
- ☐ **Part F:** Research Partners
- ☐ **Part G:** Budget
- ☐ **Part H:** Risks and Mitigation Strategies
- ☐ **Part I:** Confidentiality and Publication
- ☐ **Part J:** Conflicts of Interest
- ☐ **Part K:** Applicant Declaration and Signature



Selection criteria

1

Strategy

Addresses VBA's regulatory priorities, or new/emerging harms from products, materials, practices or technologies.

2

Collaboration and innovation

Informed by genuine industry collaboration, and/or data or information from diverse sources.

3

Methodology and resourcing

Methodology is clear, transparent, appropriate and achievable.

Appropriate resources available. Budget is sufficient to procure the resources.

4

Research translation and impact

Has measurable real-world impact.

Can inform and improve the building and plumbing industries and consumer outcomes.

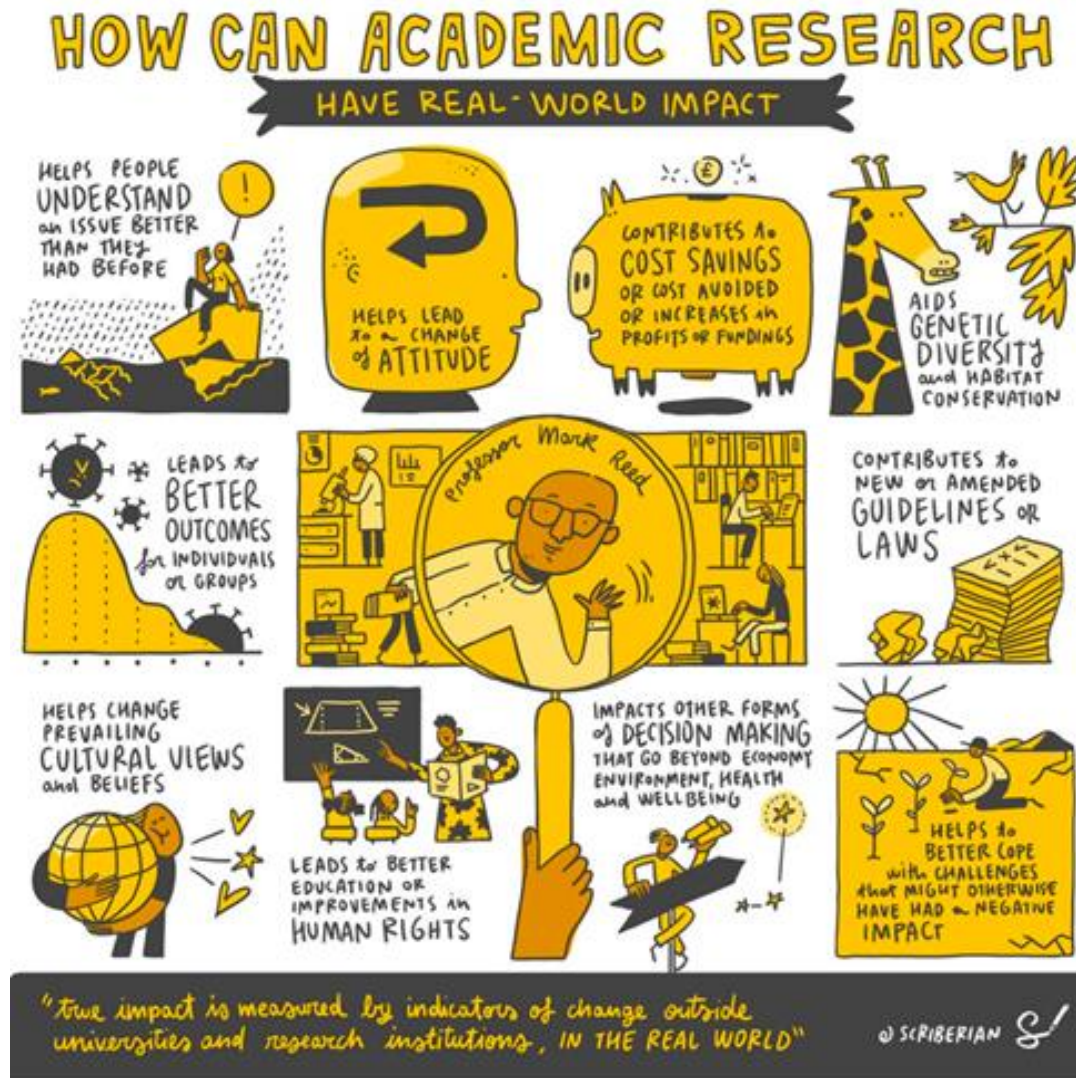
5

Value for money

Represents value for money for the VBA.



Research translation and impact



Regulatory policy and guidance changes are driven by research that evidences how the proposed change will benefit the community

Ensure your application demonstrates how your research can be translated for real-world impact



Award of research grant



Q & A

Grant amount

How much funding is available?
Is there a cap per grant?

- No cap set for individual grants
- VBA may offer to partially fund research
- VBA will look favourably on university co-contributions
- VBA is open to supporting projects with contributions from other partners (financial and non-financial)
- Represents value for money for the VBA



Research duration

Is there a time limit for completing funded research?

- Timeframe should be commensurate with scale and complexity
- Want to see return on investment within a reasonable time
- Consider staged approach and deliverables
- Will require regular progress reports
- Release of funding dependent on milestones being met



Permitted use of funding

Are there restrictions on how grant funds can be used?

- Intended for contribution to salary of researchers, data collection costs etc
- Not intended for:
 - previously completed research activities
 - research funded through other sources
 - already purchased resources, or purchase of resources the institution should provide
 - core organisational operating costs
 - procuring private sector to conduct the research



Intellectual Property

Does the VBA propose to own any IP associated with the research?

- The VBA seeks to use the insights from the research. We are not seeking to own them.
- See template Funding Agreement on the VBA's website



Past applicants

I previously applied for a VBA Research Grant – can I apply again?

- Yes!
- Past applicants are eligible to apply
- Please use the 2024 application form
- Proposals must seek to provide new insights or information to what is already publicly available.



In-kind support

What type of in-kind support can the VBA provide?

- Open to proposals on a case-by-case basis
- May include:
 - access to regulatory experts and technical specialists
 - access to case studies or data (subject to confidentiality requirements)
- Will include VBA review and feedback on draft papers/reports



Publication and media

What approach is taken to release completed research?

- The VBA proposes a collaborative approach to the release of research
- A joint release is likely to amplify the impact of the research delivered under the grant.



VBA feedback

Can I discuss my research proposal with someone at the VBA?

- General questions can be submitted by email to research@vba.vic.gov.au
- We will not provide feedback on research ideas or proposals before final decision
- We will provide feedback to successful and unsuccessful applicants after final decision (if requested)



Q & A



Next steps

- Post-webinar survey
- Visit [Research Grant Program 2024](#) on the VBA website
- Email enquiries to research@vba.vic.gov.au



Thank you