



PETAA Research Grant 2016

Initial Information and Statement of Intent

AIM & BACKGROUND

The Primary English Teaching Association Australia makes available an independent, competitive research grant to support research into primary years teaching and learning in English, language, and literacy. The PETAA Research Grant (PRG), for an amount up to \$75,000 annually, is awarded after independent, competitive tender, to suitably qualified researchers or research teams to undertake research. The aims of that research will be to help teachers access, develop, and trial a range of effective pedagogical approaches to teaching English, language and literacy in primary schools, and to make decisions about the selection of content, resources and assessment that are informed by Australian school-based research.

Applicants are advised to develop their research proposals in collaboration with school-based educators to ensure current challenges in literacy education facing practitioners are taken into account.

The Research Grant will enable PETAA to continue to *provide leadership and expertise in English and literacies across the curriculum that will develop the professional knowledge and practice of an increasingly diverse primary school educational community.*

The PETAA Research Grant Advisory Group is led jointly by Professor Peter Freebody and Professor Barbara Comber and will include the PETAA President, Associate Professor Robyn Cox, PETAA Director and teacher, Imogene Cochrane and other leading academics and teachers.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMELINES

2016	1 February Initial information and Statement of Intent (SOI) applications available and open 1 March Statement of Intent applications close 1 April Successful SOI applicants notified and requested to submit full submission for the PRG 1 June PRG Submissions close 22 July PRG awarded/successful research team announced
2016/ 2017	Conduct research project
2018	1 February Completion and delivery of research report 1 February – 1 August Dissemination and publication of research

ELIGIBILITY

PETAA invites collaborative proposals from suitably qualified and experienced researchers who meet the following eligibility criteria. Applicants must demonstrate the following that:

1. they are current members of PETAA
2. the research is framed in the Australian context
3. the research project's major product/s will be delivered within 18 months after the grant is awarded
4. the researcher/s have proven research experience in working with classroom practitioners and school-based partners in research projects
5. the ability to design and conduct an rigorous inquiry, including, as appropriate, a mix of both quantitative and qualitative research methods
6. evidence of the ability to disseminate research findings to appropriate audiences
7. a clear understanding and appreciation of a range of different pedagogical approaches to teaching English and literacy in primary schools
8. there is no conflict of interest by undertaking the PETAA-funded research.

RESEARCH AREAS

It is essential that the research fulfils PETAA's mission of supporting primary school educators to focus on the teaching and learning of English, language and literacy, while providing expertise that develops the professional knowledge and practice of an increasingly diverse primary school educational community.

To help maximise the potential of the outcomes for the PETAA community, the following areas of research have been designated as a focus for the PRG 2016.

- Diverse learners
- Indigenous literacy
- Interacting with texts in the early years

STATEMENT OF INTENT (SOI)

(3000 words max)

In submitting a SOI, the research team needs to provide a convincing, well-reasoned project preview that addresses the three key elements on which the SOI will be judged:

1. What is this proposed project about and why is it worth doing?

Name and describe the project by clearly articulating the importance of the proposed research for the teaching and learning of English, language and literacy and why it should be undertaken. Summarise its main focus and aims. List the major research questions and how the findings will advance understanding and practice in literacy education.

2. How will the researchers successfully achieve the project's outcomes?

Describe the context(s) in which the project will be undertaken. State clearly the approach and methods that will be employed in order to answer the research questions. List the sources of data and collection procedures and the types of analysis that will be conducted.

3. How can the research project contribute to improving pedagogy while fostering sustainable relationships between school-based partners and researchers?

It is PETAA's vision that the PRG will directly contribute to building and fostering long-term, mutually beneficial relationships between research communities and school-based partners. Explain how your proposed research project will not only be in keeping with this vision, but will also develop the capacity of classroom practitioners to engage with research to improve their practice. PETAA aspires to award PRGs to research teams that incorporate teachers as active participants in designing the research, rather than being recruited by researchers – and thus creating a true collegial investigation. Include comment on how the research project and the emergence of new learning partnerships will help generate genuine change to meet the English and literacy teaching and learning challenges taking place in primary classrooms.

This SOI should also make clear to the Research Advisory Group that the following elements of the research design have been considered:

- The overall purpose and scope of the proposed research and how it aligns with the designated areas of research
- Significance and relevance of the research
- Rationale for the research
- Methodology outline encompasses a mix of both quantitative and qualitative methods
- Research findings which have the potential to be portable, scalable and adaptive
- The extent to which it will support PETAA's Mission of supporting primary school educators in the teaching and learning of English, language and literacy across the curriculum.

When considering the audience of this application, applicants should consider that members of the PETAA Research Grant Advisory Group, who will be reviewing each SOI, are well-informed readers who have an understanding in the area of research relevant to this grant.

Research teams' SOIs that are identified to best respond to the stated elements above will be invited to submit a full application, including budget lines and financial accountability statements. Full PETAA Research Grant submission guidelines and a proposal template will be available in April 2016.

SUBMITTING A STATEMENT OF INTENT

Please send submissions to the PETAA Research Grant email address: research@petaa.edu.au

Queries or questions pertaining to the PETAA Research Grant should also be directed to this email address.

View [PETAA's Strategic Plan](#)

Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA)

PO Box 3106, Marrickville Metro, NSW 2204, Australia

Tel: (02) 8020 3900 | Email: info@petaa.edu.au | PRG Email: research@petaa.edu.au

Website: www.petaa.edu.au