

## VNI NEUROTRAUMA COMMUNITY CONFERENCE SUPPORT SCHEME APPLICATION GUIDELINES

### Purpose

The Victorian Neurotrauma Initiative (VNI) will offer up to ten (10) conference support awards to the community affected by neurotrauma to attend brain and spinal cord injury research conferences and forums in order to promote networking and collaboration between the neurotrauma community and researchers.

### Who is eligible to apply?

- Individuals who have experienced a traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- Individuals who have experienced a spinal cord injury (SCI)
- Individuals who care for people living with a TBI or SCI
- Members of advocacy organisations representing individuals with either a TBI or a SCI

### Funding available

The VNI will contribute a maximum of \$1,000 plus GST per research conference towards the cost of travel, accommodation, registration and incidentals for each approved application. If an individual requires a carer to accompany them in order to attend an event, up to \$1,500 plus GST may be requested. If separate applications are submitted, by an individual and their carer to attend the same event, each may apply for \$1,000 plus GST VNI funds must not substitute pre-existing funding sources. All conferences/forums must take place before 30 April 2011.

Payments will be made immediately following approval by VNI and may be prior to an event or conference taking place.

### Application deadlines

Applications can be sent in at any time; we aim to distribute the awards across the community as widely and evenly as possible. Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible. An individual or organisation may receive a maximum of one award per financial year.

### Selection Criteria

Applicants will be selected for a conference support award based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of conference or research forum to the applicant and their peers
- Relevance of the conference to brain or spinal cord injury research
- Potential for the applicant to share conference experience with others either through presentations, articles in newsletters, or other networks.
- Potential to benefit the Victorian neurotrauma research community

### How to apply

1. Complete all sections of the attached application
2. Send the completed application to the contact details listed on the application

\* Receipt of your application will be confirmed via email or telephone within 5 business days. Questions can be directed to Lisa Pitre, Development Manager, Victorian Neurotrauma Initiative (VNI) on 5225 6251 or [lisa\\_pitre@vni.com.au](mailto:lisa_pitre@vni.com.au)