

Strategic Project Grant Guideline

The Leukaemia Foundation are committed to investing in research that improves the lives of Australians living with blood cancer.

The Leukaemia Foundation's Strategic Research Project grants are designed to drive transformative change in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship outcomes of people affected by blood cancer.

Purpose

These strategic grants support clearly defined, high-quality research that address pressing and complex questions in blood cancer with a direct line of sight to improving patient outcomes.

These grants aim to:

- Drive high-impact discovery and translational research that advances new approaches to preventing, detecting, and treating blood cancers.
- Address critical gaps in knowledge that limit clinical decision-making, patient care, or long-term survivorship outcomes.
- Accelerate progress in underexplored or underfunded areas of unmet need, directing investment to research where breakthroughs could significantly improve outcomes.
- Support bold, innovative investigations that may not fit within traditional funding pathways but hold strong potential for transformative discoveries or rapid translation into practice.
- Generate robust evidence that informs clinical guidelines, models of care, and health system decision-making, improving the quality, accessibility, and effectiveness of blood cancer care.

By prioritising scientific excellence, translational relevance, and a clear benefit to patients and families, these grants ensure the most promising and forward-thinking research receives the focused support it needs to deliver tangible, real-world impact. The outcome is not only the generation of new knowledge but the acceleration of its application-helping to shape a future where every person with blood cancer can access the best possible care and live well beyond their diagnosis.

Project Focus:

Projects can focus on any subtype of blood cancers and at any stage of the disease course (e.g. diagnosis, treatment and care, and survivorship). These grants are focussed on targeting areas of unmet need and driving translational research to inform clinical care and health system decision-making to provide tangible benefits to patients and their quality of life.

Examples can include:

- *Advancing next-generation diagnostics for earlier, more accurate detection,*
- *Developing and trialling personalised treatment approaches to improve safety and efficacy,*
- *Designing and testing innovative models of care that address inequities in access,*
- *Embedding implementation science to ensure evidence-based practices are adopted widely and sustainably.*

Eligibility

Projects must:

- Align with at least one of Leukaemia Foundation's strategic research priorities
 - Implementation Science
 - Prevention, early detection and diagnostics
 - Therapies and treatment
- Address critical gaps in knowledge or target underexplored or underfunded areas of unmet need in blood cancer detection, treatment, or care.
- Demonstrate a clear line of sight to improving outcomes for people affected by blood cancer, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, or quality of life.
- Include consideration of equity in blood cancer care where appropriate, including improving outcomes for underserved or priority populations.
- Include meaningful engagement with relevant stakeholders and consumers.

Lead Applicants must:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia
- Hold academic, clinical or research appointment at an eligible administering institution (e.g. Australian university, hospital, health service, or research institution), with institutional support for the duration of the project
- Hold a PhD or demonstrate equivalent research experience relevant to the proposed project.
- Demonstrate a track record appropriate to career stage and opportunity, reflecting their capacity to successfully deliver the proposed research.

- Demonstrate that the investigative team collectively has the expertise, experience, and access to infrastructure required to undertake the proposed project.
- Submit no more than one application as Chief Investigator.

Proposals

Applicants must address the following in their proposals:

- Project title
- Summary of project
- Background
- Alignment of project with Leukaemia Foundation research priorities
- Research design and methodology
- Stakeholder engagement
- Research significance
- Expected outcomes and future impact potential
- Project timeline and budget
- Track record and team experience
- Letter of support from affiliated institution or health service

An application form will be available to download from the relevant grant opportunity webpage on the [Leukaemia Foundation website](#).

Submitting a proposal

Proposals must be submitted using the Leukaemia Foundation grant application form and emailed to research@leukaemia.org.au before the closing deadline. Please clearly identify the grant type (Strategic Research Project grant) and your name in the subject line.

Application open and closing dates are published on the [Leukaemia Foundation website](#).

Assessment Process

Proposals will firstly be reviewed for eligibility by the Leukaemia Foundation and then assessed by an external expert review panel who will score proposals against the selection criteria. Final funding decisions are made by the Leukaemia Foundation Board.

Selection Criteria

Project selection criteria include:

- Significance and strategic alignment
- Innovation and transformative potential / Implementation approach and scalability (for implementation science focussed proposals)
- Research quality
- Translation and patient impact
- Track record and team capacity

Budget and Financial Management

Funding of \$200,000 per project over 2 years will be provided to successful applicants.

The Leukaemia Foundation will enter into a funding agreement with the Administering Institution using the standard Leukaemia Foundation Research Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

The recipient and host institution must agree to the specific conditions outlined in the MoA, including but not limited to:

- Publication of the successful applicant, institution and project title on websites, publications, media releases and other reports/publications by the Leukaemia Foundation.
- Participation in media and stakeholder activities
- Acknowledgement of Leukaemia Foundation funding in any publication or presentations arising from the funded work.

Grant funds must be spent solely on the approved research project. Funding will not cover any institutional overhead costs.

Examples of costs that will be funded:

- Salary support for research assistants, support officers/managers, or consultants for research-related activity
- Costs associated with consumer reimbursement and remuneration
- Direct research costs

Examples of costs that will not be funded:

- Publication fees
- Professional memberships/subscriptions
- Travel costs
- Indirect research or infrastructure costs

Reporting Requirements

Annual reporting of progress is required. For a 2-year project, this includes:

- A mid-project progress report, accompanied by an annual income and expenditure statement (certified by a Finance Officer)
- A final report at project completion, accompanied by a final income and expenditure statement (certified by a Finance Officer).

For any further questions, please contact our Research Team via email at research@leukaemia.org.au