



## Funding Policy

The Children's Cancer Foundation was established in 1992 to improve the welfare of children and adolescents with cancer by funding clinical, research and family support programs. The funding priorities of the Foundation are to ensure every family gets the best possible and complete support needed through treatment, and to support childhood cancer research to develop new clinical treatments and improve the health outcomes of children with cancer.

The Foundation accepts applications for projects that assist in bringing the highest standards in diagnosis, treatment, clinical research and family support to children and adolescents with cancer. All programs, projects and services initiated by the Foundation are designed to either enhance or create new opportunities thereby ensuring that there is no duplication or overlap of resources and services.

The Foundation does not receive government funding, and does not engage in general public raffles or telemarketing. The Foundation relies on donations, sponsorship, grants from partner philanthropic organisations, and revenue from its annual fundraiser, **The Million Dollar Lunch**, to sustain its project funding.

### What we fund

The Foundation supports the following areas of funding:

- Clinical and Translational Research, including leadership salary support
- Laboratory Equipment
- Clinical Care
- Clinical Trials
- Family Welfare and Support.

### Co-funding

The Foundation seeks to leverage its philanthropic support against a cash commitment from project host institutions. With the collective goal of improving outcomes for childhood cancer patients, independent philanthropic funding teamed with partner contributions can catalyse larger streams of funding and bring forward the pace of change. The model of co-funding also ensures there is no long-term reliance on philanthropy for staff employment. Applications that propose a cash contribution from a health service, research institute or other organisation will be favourably received.

### Funding Categories

#### Clinical Research Leadership

Attracting the world's best oncologists to lead clinical care and build a translational research program is a strategic priority of the Foundation. Research leadership funding supports the salary costs of 'protected' research time for medical oncologists to develop significant research programs. These projects form part of a long-term strategic partnership with hospitals and research institutes (up to 10 years).

*Co-funding:* The Foundation will fund protected research time salary, with the hospital funding clinical salary, and other partner organisations providing research seed funding, supplementary research salary funding and meaningful and quantifiable in kind contributions (other than access to research space or facilities).



### **Clinical and Translational Research**

Priority is given to research projects, which – if successful – will provide immediate improvements in the quality of life of children and adolescents with cancer.

The Foundation does not provide long-term funding of an individual investigator's research. Rather it sees two roles for its funding:

- 1. Seed funding** – funding work that will allow investigators to generate preliminary data and demonstrate the feasibility of a larger study to attract competitive grant funding more oriented towards long-term funding, such as competitive schemes of the NH&MRC or the Cancer Council. These projects will generally be 3-5 year's duration;
- 2. Filling research gaps** – funding projects which are of significance for children and adolescents with cancer but which fall outside the funding parameters of traditional funding bodies. These projects will generally be relatively short-term in nature.

*Co-funding:* Applications that propose a cash contribution from a health service, research institute or other organisation will be favourably received.

Examples of projects that may be funded:

- a. Research projects with potential to translate into better diagnostic tests, targeted therapies, new or better-tolerated treatments, increased survival rates for children and adolescents with cancer;
- b. Research projects or research resources (e.g. biobanks) which encourage collaboration between hospitals and research institutes, and which link into state, national or international initiatives;
- c. Projects which attract and retain highly skilled research personnel to build a successful translational research program and help build a critical mass of childhood cancer research;
- d. Partnership research projects involving collaboration and financial commitment from a combination of government agency or funding body, university, hospital, research institute, commercial company (e.g. pharmaceutical), or philanthropic foundation.

### **Laboratory Equipment**

The Foundation supports the purchase of laboratory equipment to facilitate innovative research in childhood cancer.

*Co-funding:* Generally, the Foundation contributes up to 50% of the total cost towards the acquisition of a major item of laboratory equipment. An equipment grant is subject to the host institution providing a matching grant of the amount requested and raising the balance (if any) of the full cost of the equipment. The equipment becomes the property of the host institution and its ongoing maintenance and repair becomes the responsibility of the host institution. The Foundation may consider wholly funding laboratory equipment or participating in an external competitive grant partnership. All equipment purchased by the Foundation will require a permanent label recognising the Foundation's support.

### **Clinical Trials**

Clinical trial participation has significantly improved the cure rate for children's cancer in the past 20 years, with those children enrolled on clinical trials receiving the best evidence-based treatment and achieving the best outcomes. The Foundation recognises that the current strategies for the prevention, diagnosis and management of childhood cancer will improve if clinical trials are accessible to all childhood cancer patients, regardless of the cancer type.

The Foundation supports clinical trial staff (research nurses, clinical study coordinators). Our aim is to provide fund short-term capacity building of clinical trials units to meet the needs of all children and to allow the clinical trial unit to become self-funding through increased patient enrolment fees. The



Foundation may also fund investigator-led clinical trials for children and adolescents which introduce an innovative therapy not currently available in Australia.

*Co-funding:* may be required depending on the term of staff appointment and scope of the funding application.

### **Clinical Care**

Priority is given to clinical care that (a) cannot be funded from government hospital budgets; or (b) which enhances the clinical service funded by the hospital; or (c) responds to a short-term need due to increased patient loads. The Foundation does not provide long-term funding of an individual clinical position or a clinical program. The Foundation does not fund core hospital clinical positions that are the responsibility of government.

*Co-funding:* The Foundation may require co-funding from the hospital and a commitment to moving the position to the hospital operating budget within a specific time frame. Under this model the Foundation contribution commences in Year 1 at 75% of salary costs, reducing to 50% in year 2, and 25% in year 3, on condition that the role becomes a permanent position funded by the hospital operating budget thereafter.

Examples of projects that may be funded:

- a. Clinical care projects which promote consistently high standards of clinical care within Australian hospitals treating children with cancer;
- b. Clinical care projects that enable a health service to build capacity and respond to increased patient intakes or treatment complexity;
- c. Clinical care projects to help children manage stress and develop coping strategies during hospitalisation.

### **Family Welfare and Family Support**

Childhood cancer deeply impacts the family unit. Priority is given to projects that address the psychosocial, emotional and educational needs of children and adolescents with cancer and their families.

Examples of projects that may be funded:

- a. Patient and family education/information initiatives or resources;
- b. Projects to enhance the patient experience while in hospital as an inpatient or outpatient;
- c. Projects to assist children continue their primary or secondary education during cancer treatment;
- d. Projects that assist children and their families to cope with psychological issues associated with their treatment.

### **Funding Exclusions**

Examples of projects that will not generally be funded by the Foundation:

- a. Capital works, including renovations;
- b. Standard office equipment (e.g. computer, iPad, printer, copier etc.), software or office consumables or general hospital equipment (e.g. medical equipment or consumables);
- c. Conference travel or professional development;
- d. Projects where the lead researcher, clinical staff member or family recipients are based outside of Australia;
- e. Administrative staff.



### **Funding Conditions**

For all successful applications the Foundation will prepare a funding agreement for signature by the host institution(s). General conditions are outlined below:

- a. Funds to be used exclusively for the project as described in the approved application and not for any other purpose without prior written consent;
- b. On costs for staff salaries capped at 15%;
- c. Milestones will be set for major funding programs, research projects and clinical trials, with ongoing funding dependent on achievement of 6-monthly milestones;
- d. Funds not to be used for the payment of administration fees or levies by the host institution;
- e. Projects involving patients must have the appropriate ethics approvals, with the ethics approval letter submitted to the Foundation before funding can commence;
- f. Project to be completed in accordance with the timeline in the approved application unless otherwise agreed in writing;
- g. Funding for any project which has not commenced within 1 year from the date of the Foundation's letter of award period will be forfeited;
- h. Any change that may affect the recipient's ability to undertake or complete the project as described in the approved application must be notified immediately in writing to the Foundation;
- i. Acknowledgement to be given to the Children's Cancer Foundation for its support of the project in all publications, reports and marketing;
- j. Annual financial acquittal and outcomes report to be submitted by 31 July using the Foundation template;
- k. Unused funds to be returned to the Foundation.

### **Submission Process and Timeline**

Two funding rounds are generally held each year: the major funding round is aligned to the Foundation's financial year planning; the minor funding round allows the Foundation to respond to new projects or developments during the year. Applications in the minor funding round are by invitation only. Initial applications should be made via the Expression of Interest form available on the Foundation website or via request from [hello@childrenscancerfoundation.com.au](mailto:hello@childrenscancerfoundation.com.au). It is always advisable to discuss your application with the Chief Executive prior to submission. Short-listed applications are then invited by the Foundation to submit a full application.

### **Grants Committee**

The Foundation's Grants Committee is responsible for the review of the Expression of Interest applications, and the full applications. External advisors will provide project-specific advice on research applications. Recommendations from the Grants Committee are considered by the Board of the Foundation for a final decision.