



2026 Medical Research Grant Guidelines

About the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation

The Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation (the Foundation) is inviting applications for its 2026 Research Grant Program. This competitive funding supports high-quality, health-focused research projects that improve outcomes for the Tasmanian community.

For 2026, we are simplifying our research funding program to better support impactful, sustainable outcomes. Our previous grant categories will be replaced by a **flexible funding model, offering up to \$100,000 per grant** for projects running up to 18 months. This streamlined approach is designed to accommodate a broad range of research needs, foster meaningful improvements in healthcare and improve the health outcomes of Tasmanians.

In addition, we are proud to introduce the **Luke Cunningham Research Grant** — a dedicated \$25,000 grant established in Luke's memory. This special in memoriam grant will support research into brain cancer and honour Luke's enduring legacy.

Grant overview

- Grant funding ranges from \$5,000 to \$100,000 for each project
- Projects must be completed within 18 months, starting 1 January 2026.
- Applications open on Monday 11 August 2025

Who can apply

To ensure funding supports high-impact, locally relevant research, the following eligibility rules apply:

Applicant requirements

- The Chief Investigator A (CIA) must reside in Tasmania for the duration of the project.
- The project team must include at least one paid member of staff or formal appointment to the Royal Hobart Hospital and be actively engaged in clinical or health service delivery; that individual must be actively involved in the project and apply in their capacity as an RHH staff member.
- **Priority will be given to high quality projects primarily composed of staff from the RHH.**
- Applicant may be a PhD student.

Track record and accountability



- Applicants must not have any overdue reports or outstanding compliance matters with the Foundation.
- Researchers who have previously received Foundation funding must demonstrate timely completion of past projects, including endorsed extensions.

Limits on applications

- Each individual may:
 - Be the CIA on only one application across all new and existing Foundation grants.
 - Be named as a co-investigator on up to two additional applications in the 2026 funding round.

Funding priorities

To be eligible for funding, research projects must aim to improve the health outcomes of Tasmanians, in line with the Foundation's mission and priorities. Specifically, your project should:

- Address a health need in the Tasmanian community, with a focus on:
 - Chronic diseases and cancer
 - Brain disorders and mental health conditions
 - Aged care
 - A healthy start to life (i.e. maternal and child health)
 - Social determinants of health
 - Rare diseases
 - Improvements to health service delivery and outcomes
- Strengthen clinical research capacity at the Royal Hobart Hospital
- Foster collaboration across disciplines and between early-career and experienced researchers, including partnerships with other research groups, institutions or industry
- Will have clear and measurable impacts to patients in Tasmania, including:
 - Improvements in clinical care or health service delivery
 - Peer-reviewed publications
 - Follow-on funding from other larger funding schemes
 - New partnerships or industry collaborations
 - Patent applications or other innovations.

Funding conditions

- At least 80% of the research activity must occur in Tasmania, unless a compelling case is made
- The project must demonstrate a scientific approach to investigation in terms of its rationale, methodology, timeframe, innovation and feasibility,



- The proposal must identify adequacy of resourcing, either solely through this grant program, or through additional sources of funding/in-kind support
- Funds **cannot** be used for:
 - Institutional overheads or infrastructure levies
 - Attendance at conferences or workshops
 - Publication charges
 - Duplicating funding from other sources
- Funds can be used to support additional work or a new program as part of an existing larger project.
- Up to 50% of the budget may be used for equipment, where justified
- Note the University of Tasmania or Department of Health will not apply infrastructure fees, ethics fees or governance costs to successful applicants

Assessment criteria

All applications will undergo review and assessment by the Foundation's Scientific Research Advisory Committee, endorsed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Applications will be assessed on the following:

Criteria	Weighting
Research quality, including focus on significance, innovation and clear impacts	40%
Relevance to Tasmanian health needs	20%
Potential to strengthen clinical research capability at the Royal Hobart Hospital (priority given to research teams primarily from the RHH)	15%
Feasibility and capacity to enable research collaborations across disciplines and stages of career	15%
Justification of budget	10%

The SRAC endorses projects for a final funding decision by the Foundation's Board. All funding decisions by the Board are final.

Reporting and accountability

All successful applicants must:

- Enter into a funding agreement with the Foundation
- Submit a final report within three months of project completion
- Acknowledge the Foundation in all communications, publications and presentations
- Provide the Foundation with copies of all publications or conference proceedings
- Be available to participate in Foundation-led media, fundraising or stakeholder events, to help raise awareness of the impact of funded research.



How to apply

Applications must be submitted via the [Foundation's online grants platform](#).

Applicants should prepare their submission in consultation with research colleagues and, where applicable, their THS/DoH Business Manager or UTAS grants officers. This helps ensure the application properly addresses ethics approvals, budgeting, resource needs, and other support.

All applications must be endorsed by an authorised representative of the CIA's institution (e.g. Head of Department, School or Institute).

Important Dates

- Applications open: Monday 11 August 2025
- Applications close: Friday 19 September 2025
- Outcomes announced: Friday 12 December 2025
- Project start date: 1 January 2026

Need help?

If you have questions or need support during the application process:

- Speak with your THS Business Manager or UTAS Grants Officer
- Review the information from the [Department of Health's Research Ethics and Governance Unit](#)
- Speak with a member of the Foundation team at research@rhhresearchfoundation.org or phone (03) 6166 1319