2027 Early Career Research Grants

Full Application (Stage 2)

By invitation only | Priority Areas: Paediatric and Adolescent Cancers and Cancer Immunotherapy

Note for Applicants: This self-contained Full Application supports independent peer review. Applicants may reuse and expand Stage 1 material. The proposal must remain within the single AUD $100,000 / 12-month funding stream and an eligible 2027 priority area. Disclose material changes to Cure Cancer before submission. Eligibility may be reassessed before the award.

Application requirements

- Complete all sections and observe the stated word limits. Text above a word limit may be disregarded.
- Write clearly for expert cancer researchers who may not work in your exact subfield. Define specialist terms and acronyms.
- Up to two figures may be included in the Research Plan. Captions are excluded from the word limit if concise.
- Electronic signatures are accepted.
- The Administering Institution must be NHMRC-approved.
- The Chief Investigator must lead the project and commit at least 0.5 FTE to the proposed research.
- Cure Cancer's standard funding position is joint ownership with the Administering Institution of new intellectual property arising from the funded project. Detailed terms, and any proposed variation, will be negotiated with the institution and recorded in a funding agreement; any departure requires Cure Cancer's express written agreement.

Assessment criteria: Scientific merit and significance 35%; Applicant track record and career development 35%; Feasibility 20%; Consumer involvement 10%. Eligibility and priority alignment are assessed separately as pass/fail requirements. Full assessment scoring information available at curecancer.com.au

A. Applicant and grant details

Chief Investigator	*[Full name]*
Current institution	*[Institution]*
Email	*[Email]*
ORCID (optional)	*[ORCID]*
Date PhD requirements completed	*[DD/MM/YYYY]*

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Date clinical degree awarded (if applicable)	*[DD/MM/YYYY; report both qualifications if applicable]*		
Chief Investigator effort	*[FTE; minimum 0.5 FTE]*		
Cumulative CIA/PI-led research funding	*[AUD $ total across all dates; must be less than $300,000; exclude salary-only fellowship funding and awards solely as a co-investigator]*		
Priority area	**[ ]** Paediatric and adolescent cancer research	**[ ]** Cancer immunotherapy research	**[ ]** Both priority areas
Cancer type(s) / population	*[Brief description]*		
Amount requested	*[$]*		
Proposed duration	*[Months]*		
State / territory of research	*[State / territory]*		
Administering Institution	*[NHMRC-approved institution]*		
Research Office email	*[Email]*		
Host Institution (if different)	*[Optional]*		

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B. Peer review information

Research keywords *Maximum 50 words.*

Provide up to five keywords or short phrases that best describe the scientific field, cancer type, methodology and therapeutic area.

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[Enter response here]

Expertise required to review this application *Maximum 100 words.*

Describe the expertise a reviewer would need to assess the proposal well. Mention specialist methods or models only where relevant.

[Enter response here]

Head of Lab / Department or equivalent	*[Name and institution]*

Reviewer conflicts (optional) *Maximum 100 words.*

List any individuals or institutions with a direct conflict of interest that Cure Cancer should consider when assigning reviewers. Briefly state the basis of the conflict. Do not nominate preferred reviewers.

[Enter response here]

C. Research project

Scientific project title	*[Maximum 25 words]*

Project summary *Maximum 250 words.*

Provide a concise scientific overview of the problem, research question, aims, approach and expected outcome. This should orient a reviewer before they read the detailed proposal.

[Enter response here]

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Background and evidence gap *Maximum 350 words.*

Set out the relevant evidence, the gap or unresolved problem, and why the proposed research is needed now. Explain how it complements rather than duplicates existing work.

[Enter response here]

Aims and hypotheses *Maximum 200 words.*

State the specific aims and, where appropriate, hypotheses or research questions. Make clear how the aims relate to one another.

[Enter response here]

Research plan and methods *Maximum 800 words.*

Describe the study design, models or populations, methods, analyses, outcome measures and key activities. Include enough detail to allow reviewers to judge methodological quality and reproducibility. You may include up to two figures.

[Enter response here]

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Feasibility, risks and approvals *Maximum 300 words.*

Explain why the work is achievable within the proposed timeframe and budget. Address access to essential samples, datasets, platforms or expertise; key dependencies and risks; mitigation strategies; and the status of relevant ethics, governance or regulatory approvals.

[Enter response here]

Key milestones and decision points

Milestone / decision point	Timing	Expected output
[1]	*[Month]*	*[Output]*
[2]	*[Month]*	*[Output]*
[3]	*[Month]*	*[Output]*
[4]	*[Month]*	*[Output]*

Significance, innovation and potential impact *Maximum 300 words.*

Describe what is new or important about the work, the contribution it could make to the field, and how the findings could ultimately improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment or outcomes for people affected by cancer.

[Enter response here]

Alignment with the 2027 priority area *Maximum 200 words.*

Explain substantive alignment with paediatric and adolescent cancers (0–17 years at diagnosis), cancer immunotherapy, or both. For immunotherapy proposals, identify the immune-based therapeutic mechanism or approach rather than a general immunology connection.

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[Enter response here]

References

Include up to 12 key references. Use a concise, consistent citation style.

#	Reference
1	*[Reference]*
2	*[Reference]*
3	*[Reference]*
4	*[Reference]*
5	*[Reference]*
6	*[Reference]*
7	*[Reference]*
8	*[Reference]*
9	*[Reference]*
10	*[Reference]*
11	*[Reference]*
12	*[Reference]*

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D. Research team and environment

List the people whose expertise is important to delivery of the project. Do not include routine service providers unless their contribution is scientifically material.

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Name, title, institution	Expertise / project role	Estimated project effort
[Team member]	*[Role]*	*[% or description]*
[Team member]	*[Role]*	*[% or description]*
[Team member]	*[Role]*	*[% or description]*
[Team member]	*[Role]*	*[% or description]*

Research environment and support *Maximum 200 words.*

Describe available infrastructure, facilities and project support that make delivery feasible, together with mentorship, career development and institutional support that will help you establish research independence. Reviewers assess infrastructure under Feasibility and mentorship/career development under Track Record.

[Enter response here]

E. Proposed budget and other funding

Provide a single 12-month project budget directly attributable to this research, up to AUD $100,000. Institutional overheads and duplicate project costs are ineligible. Research-related travel and conference registration are capped at AUD $500 in total.

Project budget (12 months)

Category	Budget item / basis of cost	Amount ($)
Personnel	*[Description]*	*[$]*
Consumables	*[Description]*	*[$]*

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Category	Budget item / basis of cost	Amount ($)
Scientific services / equipment	*[Description]*	*[$]*
Consumer / community involvement	*[Description]*	*[$]*
Other direct project costs	*[Description]*	*[$]*
TOTAL		*[$]*

Budget justification *Maximum 250 words.*

Explain why the main costs are necessary for the proposed research. Identify any co-funding or in-kind support. Do not include institutional overheads or costs already funded elsewhere.

[Enter response here]

Current or pending funding relevant to this project

Disclose all current and pending grants, fellowships and other funding supporting the same or related work, including government, philanthropic, institutional and industry sources. Explain scientific and budget overlap, your role and what will happen if overlapping funding is awarded before the Cure Cancer grant starts.

Grant / funder and your role	Status & period	Amount	Overlap with this application
[Grant / funder]	*[Current / pending; dates]*	*[$]*	*[None or explain]*
[Grant / funder]	*[Current / pending; dates]*	*[$]*	*[None or explain]*
[Grant / funder]	*[Current / pending; dates]*	*[$]*	*[None or explain]*

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F. Applicant track record and career development

Research readiness and independence *Maximum 300 words.*

Explain why you are well placed to lead the proposed project. Highlight the experience, contributions, leadership and emerging independence most relevant to the work.

[Enter response here]

Career development *Maximum 250 words.*

Describe your career objectives over the next three to five years and how this grant would accelerate your development, independence, collaborations or capability.

[Enter response here]

Relative to opportunity (optional) *Maximum 250 words.*

Provide relevant career context so reviewers can assess your track record fairly, consistent with the NHMRC Relative to Opportunity approach. Include only circumstances that have materially affected research opportunity or productivity.

[Enter response here]

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Up to five key research outputs or achievements

Select up to five outputs most relevant to this proposal (publications, methods, data, trials, prizes, leadership and other outputs). List full authorship or the author list required to identify your position; explicitly describe your contribution. For collaborative outputs, do not imply sole responsibility or authorship.

Output / achievement	Significance, complete authorship/role and your contribution
[1]	*[Maximum 75 words]*
[2]	*[Maximum 75 words]*
[3]	*[Maximum 75 words]*
[4]	*[Maximum 75 words]*
[5]	*[Maximum 75 words]*

Full research funding record and fellowships (all funding sources, dates and investigator roles)

List all peer-reviewed research awards from government, philanthropy, institutions and industry, including awards before and after the qualifying degree date. Record each award's full amount and your role (CIA/PI or other investigator). The eligibility threshold counts the full value of awards held as CIA/PI, including the research component of fellowships, cumulatively. Co-investigator awards and salary-only fellowships must be disclosed but do not count towards the AUD $300,000 threshold. Include awarded, current and pending support, clearly distinguishing their status and any project overlap.

Award / funder (including fellowships)	Your role (CIA/PI/other)	Full award amount ($)	Years / status / research component
[Grant]	*[Role]*	*[$]*	*[Years]*
[Grant]	*[Role]*	*[$]*	*[Years]*
[Grant]	*[Role]*	*[$]*	*[Years]*
[Grant]	*[Role]*	*[$]*	*[Years]*

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G. Consumer involvement

Consumer involvement plan *Maximum 300 words.*

Describe how people affected by cancer have influenced the research question or design, and how they will be involved during the project and in interpretation or translation of findings. Identify who will be involved, the role they will play, and how participation will be supported or resourced. The approach should be meaningful and proportionate to the research. For paediatric cancer research, involvement may include parents, carers, young people or relevant advocacy groups where appropriate.

[Enter response here]

Confirmed consumer partner(s) / group(s)	*[Optional at submission; include role if confirmed]*

H. Lay summary

Lay project title	*[Maximum 20 words]*

Lay summary *Maximum 250 words.*

In language suitable for the general community, explain the problem, what you will do, and why the research matters. Avoid technical jargon. If funded, Cure Cancer may work with you to adapt this summary for donor and public communications.

[Enter response here]

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I. Certifications and declarations

Chief Investigator declaration

[ ] The information in this application is complete, true and correct, including an accurate account of author and grant-investigator roles.

[ ] I have read and will comply with the Cure Cancer Research Grant Guidelines for this round.

[ ] I commit at least 0.5 FTE to leading and conducting the proposed project and have disclosed overlapping or pending funding.

[ ] All named project team members and consumer partners have agreed to be included.

[ ] I understand Cure Cancer cannot fund work already supported by another award; material new funding must be promptly disclosed and may require a change, withdrawal or repayment under the funding agreement.

[ ] I consent to this application being shared with assessors and others involved in grant administration, subject to Cure Cancer confidentiality and conflict-of-interest processes.

Chief Investigator name	*[Full name]*
Signature	*[Electronic signature accepted]*
Date	*[DD/MM/YYYY]*

Head of Lab / Department or equivalent declaration

I confirm that the applicant has access to the research environment, infrastructure and supervision or support required to undertake the project, and that I have reviewed the application.

Name	*[Full name]*
Position / institution	*[Position and institution]*
Signature	*[Electronic signature accepted]*
Date	*[DD/MM/YYYY]*

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Administering Institution declaration

I confirm that I am authorised to act for the Administering Institution; the institution is NHMRC-approved; and, if awarded, the institution will negotiate and enter into a funding agreement with Cure Cancer covering intellectual property and grant administration.

Authorised signatory	*[Full name]*
Position / institution	*[Position and institution]*
Signature	*[Electronic signature accepted]*
Date	*[DD/MM/YYYY]*

Privacy

Information provided in this application may be used for assessment, grant administration, probity and reporting, and may be disclosed to independent reviewers and others engaged in those processes. Cure Cancer may publicise successful grants, including the researcher, institution, project title, funding amount and approved project summary, in accordance with its funding agreement and privacy obligations.

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