2027 Cure Cancer Early Career Research Grants

Full Application Scoring Matrix

Targeted Grant Round: Paediatric and Adolescent Cancers and Cancer Immunotherapy

Feasibility (20%)

GROUP	HIGHLY COMPETITIVE		COMPETITIVE		BELOW MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FUNDING
CRITERIA	**5 (OUTSTANDING)**	**4 (EXCELLENT)**	**3 (GOOD)**	**2 (ACCEPTABLE)**	**1 (POOR)**
FEASIBILITY (20%)	All aims are clearly defined, with a convincing plan, realistic milestones and budgets, excellent access to required facilities/data and well-managed dependencies. Highly credible delivery within 12 months.	Clear aims and a strong delivery plan, supported by appropriate infrastructure and expertise. Timeframe, budget and mitigation of important risks are convincing.	Most aims and milestones are credible within the time and budget; research facilities and access requirements are adequate. Some planning details or contingencies would improve confidence.	Some aims, milestones or resources are insufficiently evidenced. Material delivery questions remain, but could reasonably be resolved without redesigning the project.	Major weaknesses in aims, methods, required access or resourcing make successful completion within the 12-month award and budget unlikely. Risks are inadequately addressed.

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Scientific Merit (35%)

GROUP	HIGHLY COMPETITIVE		COMPETITIVE		BELOW MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FUNDING
CRITERIA	**5 (OUTSTANDING)**	**4 (EXCELLENT)**	**3 (GOOD)**	**2 (ACCEPTABLE)**	**1 (POOR)**
SCIENTIFIC MERIT (35%)	Exceptionally clear, compelling rationale and tightly connected aims. Highly rigorous, innovative and well-justified approach with strong prospects of generating important, trustworthy evidence and advancing cancer outcomes.	Well-supported rationale and clear aims. Robust and innovative approach with minor limitations; strong potential for useful evidence and meaningful contribution to cancer research or outcomes.	Sound scientific rationale and broadly appropriate aims and methods. Some novel or useful contribution is evident, though aspects of innovation, analysis or expected impact require clarification.	Plausible rationale and potentially worthwhile question, but uneven aim-method alignment, limited innovation or important ambiguities reduce confidence in quality or significance. The work remains potentially informative if weaknesses are addressed.	Weak or unjustified rationale; major conceptual or methodological flaws, little credible novelty or contribution, and low likelihood of generating robust, meaningful findings.

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Track Record and Career Development (35%)

GROUP	HIGHLY COMPETITIVE		COMPETITIVE		BELOW MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FUNDING
CRITERIA	**5 (OUTSTANDING)**	**4 (EXCELLENT)**	**3 (GOOD)**	**2 (ACCEPTABLE)**	**1 (POOR)**
TRACK RECORD AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (35%)	Compelling demonstration of applicant leadership and growing independence; outstanding achievements relative to opportunity. Exceptional mentorship, career development and institutional support for transition to independent research.	Strong evidence of leadership, readiness and excellent achievements relative to opportunity. Clear mentorship and career development benefits appropriate to the applicant's stage.	Good readiness and research achievements relative to opportunity, with credible mentorship and development support; the route to greater independence could be clearer.	Some evidence of readiness and achievements relative to opportunity, but limited demonstration of independent leadership or a weakly developed mentorship and career development plan.	Insufficient evidence of readiness or leadership relative to opportunity, and little credible mentorship or development plan to support the applicant's independence.

Consumer Involvement (10%)

GROUP	HIGHLY COMPETITIVE		COMPETITIVE		BELOW MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FUNDING
CRITERIA	**5 (OUTSTANDING)**	**4 (EXCELLENT)**	**3 (GOOD)**	**2 (ACCEPTABLE)**	**1 (POOR)**
CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT (10%)	Proposal clearly outlines how consumers have been meaningfully involved in the development of the proposal, and how they will be involved if funded. The proposed level and type of involvement are well integrated and proportionate to the nature and stage of the research.	Proposal details how consumers have been involved in the development of the proposal, and how they will be involved if funded. The proposed involvement is appropriate and proportionate to the research.	Proposal details how consumers will be involved if funded, but provides limited detail on how consumer perspectives informed development of the proposal. The overall approach is broadly appropriate but could be more clearly developed.	Limited mention of consumer involvement. The rationale for the proposed level of involvement is unclear.	Consumer involvement has not been adequately considered, or the proposed level of involvement is not appropriate or justified for the nature and stage of the research.