



ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The Kids' Cancer Project 2026/27 Childhood & AYA Cancer Project Grant

1. Overview

This Eligibility Guidance explains who can apply, what types of projects are eligible, and what is not eligible for funding under the 2026/27 TKCP Childhood & AYA Cancer Research Project Funding Round.

This document is intended to support applicants and research offices in determining eligibility prior to submission and should be read alongside the *Funding Guidelines* and *FAQs*.

2. Who Can Apply

2.1 Applicant Institution (Administering Organisation)

Applications must be submitted by an Australian research organisation able to administer research funding and enter into a formal funding agreement with The Kids' Cancer Project.

Eligible administering organisations include universities, medical research institutes, hospitals, and other recognised research organisations operating within Australia.

Projects must be primarily Australia-based. Where specialist expertise or services are required from outside Australia, this may be considered on a case-by-case basis where such services cannot reasonably be sourced locally.

2.2 Chief Investigator

The Chief Investigator (CI) is responsible for the overall leadership, delivery, and reporting of the project.

The CI must hold a formal appointment at the administering institution at the time of application and for the duration of the funding period.

An individual may only be listed as CI on one application per funding round but may be included as a collaborator on multiple applications.

2.3 Collaborators and Team Members

The Kids' Cancer Project strongly encourages multidisciplinary and multi-institutional research teams that bring together complementary expertise.

Collaborations may include basic and translational researchers, clinicians, implementation scientists, data specialists, health economists, and consumer or lived-experience partners.



Projects demonstrating genuine shared contribution across institutions, whether through time, expertise, resources or in-kind support, will be viewed favourably during assessment.

3. Project Eligibility

3.1. Focus on Eligible Cancers

Projects must address a childhood or AYA cancer, or a clearly defined molecular subtype, with less than 50% five-year overall survival.

This includes cancers traditionally associated with very poor outcomes, as well as rare tumour types or molecular subtypes meeting the survival threshold.

Applicants must provide a contemporary survival reference (e.g. peer-reviewed publication or recognised cancer registry report) supporting the <50% survival claim.

3.2. Alignment with Research Pillars

Projects must align with one of TKCP's three research pillars:

- **Discover:** Foundational & Preclinical Research
- **Translate:** Translational Readiness & Feasibility
- **Support:** Supportive Care & Survivorship

Each pillar has specific priorities and expectations, as outlined in the [2024-2029 Research Strategy](#).

3.3. Pathway to Impact

Projects must articulate a clear and realistic pathway to translation, implementation, or measurable impact.

This includes anticipated milestones, deliverables, and a description of how project outputs will be used beyond the funding period.

3.4. Consumer Involvement

All projects must include meaningful consumer or lived-experience involvement, appropriate to the nature and stage of the research.

Consumer engagement should be embedded across the project lifecycle and not limited to dissemination activities.

4. What This Funding Does Not Support

4.1 Project Types

The following project types are not eligible for funding under this scheme:

- Fellowships or salary-only awards
- Infrastructure, registry, database or platform-only projects



- Descriptive or exploratory research without a defined translation or implementation pathway
- Precision medicine programs without a clearly articulated downstream trial or clinical application

4.2 Cancers and Survival

Projects focused on cancers or subtypes with greater than 50% five-year overall survival are not eligible, unless a clearly defined poor-outcome subgroup is identified and justified with evidence.

4.3 Geographic Scope

Projects must be primarily Australia-based and demonstrate clear relevance to the Australian childhood and AYA cancer context.

Funding for third-party services or activities outside Australia may be considered only on a case-by-case basis where such services cannot be reasonably sourced locally or represent value for money.

5. How Eligibility Is Assessed

- Eligibility screening is undertaken prior to peer review.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not progress to assessment.
- Eligibility screening considers institutional eligibility, CI eligibility, cancer focus, survival evidence, pillar alignment, consumer involvement, and pathway to impact.
- Applicants will be notified promptly if their application is deemed ineligible.

6. Definitions*

Childhood Cancer: Cancer diagnosed in individuals aged 0–14 years.

Adolescents & Young Adults (AYA): Cancer diagnosed in individuals aged 15–25 years (as defined in the Australian Cancer Plan)

Low-Survival Cancer: A cancer or molecular subtype with less than 50% five-year overall survival, supported by contemporary evidence.

Interventional Project: A research project that involves the implementation and evaluation of a defined intervention, with pre-specified outcomes intended to improve clinical care, survivorship, or quality of life

*Aligns with Australian cancer reporting standards and is consistent with classifications used by Cancer Australia and Australian paediatric oncology services.

7. Contact

For questions about eligibility, priorities, or the application process, please contact:

research@tkcp.org.au