

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FY28 Col Reynolds Fellowship Funding Round

1. What is the focus of the FY28 Col Reynolds Fellowship Round?

The FY28 Col Reynolds Fellowship Round aims to support and develop talented Australian researchers, clinicians, nurses and allied health professionals working to improve outcomes for children and young people with cancer. Each Fellowship provides three years of support, including dedicated research time and career development opportunities, to help build a strong and sustainable childhood cancer research workforce. Fellows will also join The Kids' Cancer Project's (TKCP) growing research community, creating opportunities for collaboration, mentoring and knowledge sharing across disciplines.

2. How much funding is available?

TKCP intends to invest \$2.70 million in seven three-year Fellowships. The indicative distribution and maximum annual amounts (excluding GST) are:

- **Early Career Research (ECR):** three awards, up to \$180,000 per Fellow per year; normally 0.8–1.0 research FTE.
- **Clinical Research (Medical):** two awards, up to \$105,000 per Fellow per year; at least 0.3 research FTE.
- **Nursing & Allied Health Research:** two awards, up to \$75,000 per Fellow per year; at least 0.3 research FTE.

The number of awards in each stream is indicative and may vary subject to application quality and the total funding available.

3. What research areas are eligible?

Research must demonstrate a direct benefit to children or young people with cancer, including survivorship, and align with one of TKCP's three [2024-2029 Research Strategy](#) priority pillars:

- **Discover:** advancing understanding of childhood and AYA cancer biology.
- **Translate:** bridging research and clinical application or implementation.
- **Support:** improving care delivery, quality of life and survivorship outcomes.

Adult-only cancer research without a clear childhood or AYA application is not eligible.

4. Who can apply for an Early Career Research Fellowship?

Applicants must have a PhD awarded by the EOI closing date and no more than five years of post-PhD research experience calculated on a research-FTE basis, allowing for eligible career disruptions. Researchers transitioning from other disciplines may apply where they demonstrate relevant capability and a credible transition plan.

5. Can ECR applicants work part-time?

The ECR Fellowship normally supports 0.8–1.0 FTE dedicated research time. Requests for lower FTE or flexible working arrangements may be considered case by case, subject to justification and institutional support; salary funding must reflect the agreed FTE.

6. Who is eligible for the Medical Fellowship?

Applicants must have a recognised medical qualification, current Australian medical registration and a clinical appointment caring for children or young people with cancer or survivors. Specialist trainees may apply with supervisor endorsement and evidence of appointment continuity. A PhD is not mandatory, but a substantive research contribution is expected.

7. Who is eligible for the Nursing & Allied Health Fellowship?

Eligible applicants include nurses and allied health professionals such as psychologists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, exercise physiologists, social workers and speech pathologists. Applicants must hold the relevant professional registration or accreditation, where applicable, and have a clinical appointment or formal link to childhood/AYA cancer care or survivorship services.

8. How is research experience assessed for clinical applicants?

Medical and Nursing & Allied Health applicants should normally have no more than ten research-FTE years since their first relevant professional qualification. Research-FTE accounts for the proportion of time spent on research; the ten-year threshold is expressed as guidance rather than an absolute exclusion. Career disruptions, including parental or caring leave, illness, disability or other significant interruptions, will be considered. Applicants should briefly explain their impact; supporting documentation may be requested.

9. What protected research time is required?

Medical and Nursing & Allied Health Fellows must have at least 0.3 FTE protected research time for three years. Higher research FTE may be proposed if the associated salary and on-costs are covered by Fellowship funding and/or institutional contributions; the Fellowship funding ceiling does not increase. Appropriate release or backfill arrangements are required.

10. Can clinicians apply to the ECR stream?

Yes. Clinicians proposing 0.8–1.0 FTE research may apply for an ECR Fellowship if they meet all ECR eligibility requirements. Each applicant may apply to only one stream.

11. Do applicants need Australian citizenship or permanent residency?

No. Fellows must be based in Australia and have the right to work in Australia throughout the Fellowship. Applicants who are not citizens or permanent residents must provide evidence of their work rights as requested in the EOI.

12. Can a previous Col Reynolds Fellow apply?

Yes, if they meet the relevant eligibility requirements and have completed all previous reporting obligations. TKCP Fellowships cannot overlap.

13. How much detail is required in the EOI budget?

The EOI requires an indicative annual budget showing the funding requested from TKCP, itemised as salary, employment on-costs, research support and professional development. Shortlisted applicants will provide detailed budgets based on actual costs and proposed research FTE at Full Application stage. The total request must remain within the annual limit for the relevant stream.

14. What salary on-costs and other costs are eligible?

TKCP will fund salary on-costs up to 20% of the funded salary component. The Administering Institution must meet any additional on-costs or salary shortfall. Eligible research costs may include consumables, specialised equipment, software, research personnel and project-specific clinical trial costs directly related to the research. General institutional overheads, infrastructure levies and indirect administrative costs are not eligible.

15. Can Fellowship funding be used for professional development?

Up to \$15,000 per Fellow over three years may be allocated to approved professional development within the overall Fellowship ceiling. Activities may include research

methods or leadership training, structured mentoring, relevant conferences and research exchanges, including reasonable associated travel, accommodation and additional caring costs. Spending may vary between years and must not reduce agreed protected research FTE.

16. Can I hold other research grants or salary support?

Yes, but all current and pending funding must be disclosed, and the same research salary FTE cannot be funded twice. Institutional salary supplements and distinct project grants are permitted, provided there is no prohibited overlap.

17. How many applications can an institution nominate?

Each Administering Institution may submit up to seven EOIs: three ECR, two Medical and two Nursing & Allied Health. The cap applies to the institution as a legal entity, including its departments and campuses. Separately constituted affiliated hospitals, universities or institutes may each nominate within the cap if they administer the Fellowship.

18. What if I have joint appointments at multiple institutions?

Each applicant may be nominated only once. Applicants with joint appointments or affiliations must nominate a single Administering Institution, with the relevant institutions agreeing on the arrangement before submission. Duplicate nominations will not be accepted.

19. What institutional endorsement is required?

Every EOI must include a signed endorsement letter using TKCP's template. It must confirm eligibility, the proposed protected research FTE and clinical release arrangements where relevant, appropriate research infrastructure, mentoring and career development support, no duplicated salary support for the same FTE, and compliance with institutional nomination limits.

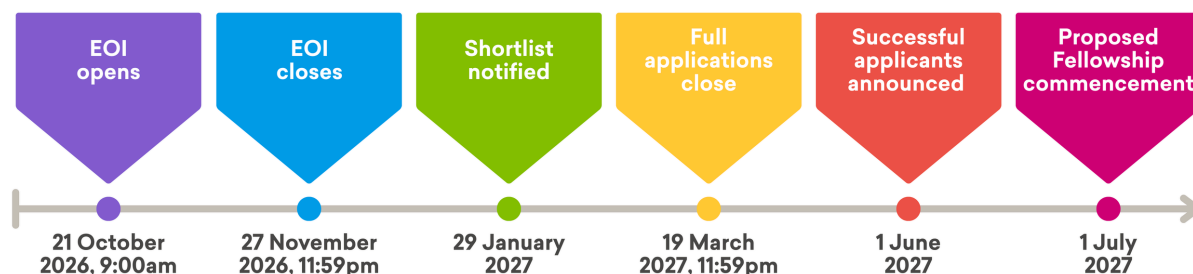
20. What is the application process?

The round has two stages:

- **Stage 1** – EOI: submit through SmartyGrants, including eligibility details, a two-page CV, research and career-development statements, a project outline, indicative budget and institutional endorsement.
- **Stage 2** – Full Application: shortlisted applicants will be invited to provide a more detailed proposal, career development plan and supporting budgets for review.

21. What are the key dates?

All dates are Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT) where a time is specified.



22. How are applications assessed?

Applications are assessed relative to career stage, discipline and research opportunity. EOIs are reviewed by at least two TKCP [Research Advisory Committee](#) (RAC) reviewers; full Applications by at least three. The RAC makes recommendations and the TKCP Board makes final funding decisions. Assessment criteria and stream-specific weightings are in the Funding Guidelines.

23. Can I use AI tools to prepare my application?

AI tools may be used for drafting or editing assistance, but applicants remain responsible for the accuracy, originality and integrity of all submitted material. The EOI asks applicants to declare and briefly describe any generative AI use.

24. What reporting and engagement are expected of funded Fellows?

Annual scientific and financial reports are required, together with a final report within three months of Fellowship completion. Fellows are expected to acknowledge TKCP funding and, where reasonable, participate in research communication, donor engagement and TKCP research community activities.

25. Where do I apply and who can I contact?

Applications must be submitted through the FY28 Col Reynolds Fellowship EOI in SmartyGrants. For questions about eligibility, research alignment or the application process, email research@tkcp.org.au. Refer to the Funding Guidelines for the full scheme requirements.