

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

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

1. What is the focus of this funding round?

The 2026/27 Project Grant Round focuses on **low-survival childhood and adolescent/young adult (AYA) cancers**, defined as cancers or molecular subtypes with **less than 50% five-year overall survival**.

This targeted approach ensures funding is directed toward areas of greatest unmet need consistent with TKCP's strategic priorities and long-term vision.

2. How much funding is available?

This is a project grant scheme.

The Kids' Cancer Project is investing approximately \$1.875 million in the 2026/27 Project Grant Round.

The Kids' Cancer Project will fund **five research projects**, each for up to three years, with funding of up to approximately AUD\$375,000 per project.

3. What research areas are in scope?

Projects must align with **one** of The Kids' Cancer Project three research pillars:

- **Discover:** Hypothesis-driven research that improves understanding of childhood cancer biology
- **Translate:** Translational or clinically focused research that supports future clinical application
- **Support:** Research that improves quality of life and care delivery for children with cancer by reducing the short- and long-term effects of treatment

Further details on the research pillars please refer to [The Kids' Cancer Project Research Strategy](#).

Further detail on priorities and exclusions is provided in the [FY 27 Eligibility Guidelines](#).



4. Who is eligible to apply?

Applications must be submitted by an **Australian research organisation** able to administer research funding.

Applicants must:

- Be based in Australia
- Hold Australian citizenship, permanent residency, or an existing entitlement to work in Australia for the duration of the project

Further eligibility requirements are detailed in the [FY 27 Eligibility Guidelines](#).

5. Are there limits on the number of applications per institution?

Yes.

- Each administering institution may submit **one application per research pillar**
- A maximum of **three applications per administering institution** will be accepted across the round

Institutions are responsible for coordinating any internal selection processes.

6. What cancers are eligible?

Projects must focus on a **childhood or AYA cancer (or molecular subtype)** with **less than 50% five-year overall survival**.

Applicants must include a contemporary reference, preferably published within the past three years, that supports the survival estimate for the cancer or molecular subtype under investigation.

7. What will *not* be funded this round?

The Kids' Cancer Project **will not** fund:

- Fellowships
- Registry, database or infrastructure-only projects
- Descriptive, exploratory or survey-only research



- Discovery projects without a defined translational pathway
- Precision medicine programs without a clearly defined downstream trial
- Projects focused on cancers with higher survival rates
- Projects conducted primarily outside Australia

Further eligibility requirements are detailed in the [FY 27 Eligibility Guidelines](#).

8. How detailed does my budget need to be at EOI and Full Application stages?

At the EOI stage, applicants are required to provide a high-level indicative budget that aligns with the proposed scope of work.

Applicants invited to submit a Full Application will be required to provide a detailed and itemised budget, including justification for all requested costs.

The budget submitted at the Full Application stage does not need to match the EOI budget exactly, and refinement is expected. However, the Full Application budget:

- Must not exceed the maximum funding amount available under the scheme, and
- Must remain broadly consistent with the scope proposed at EOI, with any substantial changes clearly justified.

9. Are indirect costs or overheads supported?

The Kids' Cancer Project will contribute to salary oncosts up to a **maximum of 20% of the funded salary component**.

Indirect costs, overheads and infrastructure charges beyond approved salary oncosts are not supported and must be provided by the administering institution as an in-kind contribution.

10. What is the application process?

The Kids' Cancer Project 2026/27 Project Grant Round will be conducted through a **two-stage application process**.

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI):

Applicants submit a short proposal outlining the proposed research concept and demonstrating eligibility, alignment with funding priorities, and team capability. EOIs must address the project rationale, research aims and approach, translational or implementation pathway, consumer involvement, and include a high-level budget.



EOIs are submitted via **SmartyGrants** using the published EOI application link: [Project Grants FY27](#).

Stage 2 – Full Application:

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a detailed proposal for peer review. Applicants invited to this stage will be provided with a **separate SmartyGrants link** for the full application following the EOI outcomes announcement.

11. What is the Outcomes Framework and how do I complete it?

Full Applications must align with The Kids' Cancer Project's Low-Survival Outcomes Framework.

Applicants will be required to nominate:

- Project outcomes aligned to the relevant TKCP impact pillar (Discover, Translate, Support or Build)
- Quantitative metrics linked to each outcome
- Defined project milestones

The outcomes and metrics selected at application stage will form the basis of annual and final reporting.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the [Low-Survival Outcomes Framework](#) and accompanying [Guidance Document](#) prior to completing the Full Application.

Additional guidance will be provided through a live information session. Details will be sent separately to applicants invited to submit a Full Application.

12. Will there be support for completing the Full Application?

Yes.

Applicants invited to submit a Full Application will receive further guidance, including access to a live information session outlining key requirements, including the Outcomes Framework.

Details of the session will be provided via separate correspondence to successful EOI applicants.

13. What are the key dates?



14. How are applications assessed?

All eligible applications are assessed through an independent peer-review process.

- Each application is reviewed by a minimum of two reviewers
- Reviews are conducted by The Kids' Cancer Project's Research Advisory Committee
- Funding recommendations are approved by The Kids' Cancer Project's Board

Assessment criteria are outlined in the [FY27 Funding Guidelines](#) with more information available in the [FY27 Assessment Rubric](#).

15. Will the Full Application be assessed independently of the EOI?

Yes.

The Research Advisory Committee will have access to both the EOI and the Full Application. The Full Application will be assessed on its own merits.

Applicants should expand on, rather than repeat, information provided at EOI and clearly explain any substantive changes to scope, methodology, team, budget or outcomes within the relevant sections.

16. Is consumer involvement required?

Yes.

All projects must demonstrate **meaningful consumer involvement**, appropriate to the type and stage of research. This may include involvement in study design, governance, implementation or dissemination.

17. Do I need to disclose use of AI tools in my application?

Yes.

Applicants may use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to assist in drafting or editing their application. However, applicants remain fully responsible for the accuracy, integrity and originality of the content submitted.

Use of AI tools must be disclosed within the application form, and the Chief Investigator must confirm responsibility for the final submission.

18. What reporting is required if my project is funded?

Funded projects must submit:

- Annual progress and financial reports provided by **1 August each year**
- A final scientific and financial report within three months of project completion

Reports must be submitted using The Kids' Cancer Project's online reporting templates. Continued funding is dependent on satisfactory progress and reporting.

19. What are the responsibilities of the administering institution?

Funding must be used for the **approved purpose and in accordance with the Funding Guidelines**. Failure to meet these requirements may result in funding being suspended or rescinded.

The **administering institution** is responsible for:

- Providing financial and governance oversight of the project
- Ensuring appropriate infrastructure, facilities and support are available for the duration of the project
- Covering all infrastructure and indirect costs from sources other than The Kids' Cancer Project's grant, unless otherwise agreed in writing
- Researchers and institutions are also required to comply with The Kids' Cancer Project's reporting, acknowledgement and engagement requirements, as outlined in the *Funding Guidelines*.

20. Are funded researchers expected to participate in The Kids' Cancer Project communications?

Yes, where reasonable.

Funded teams are expected to:

- Acknowledge The Kids' Cancer Project funding in all publications and presentations
- Provide short impact statements or testimonials
- Participate in The Kids' Cancer Project communications, donor engagement or public education activities when requested

Any public communication relating to the project should be coordinated with The Kids' Cancer Project.

21. What is The Kids' Cancer Project Research Alumni?

Chief Investigators funded through this scheme are considered part of The Kids' Cancer Project **Research Alumni**.

Alumni may be invited to:

- Participate in periodic promotional or advocacy activities
- Provide brief updates on research and professional outcomes every two years following project completion
- Attend The Kids' Cancer Project biennial Research Symposia, with Professional Development Workshops held in alternate years

22. Where do I apply?

All applications must be submitted via [SmartyGrants](#). Applications submitted by email will not be accepted.

23. Who do I contact if I have questions?

For questions about eligibility, alignment with the funding round, or the application process, please contact:

 research@tkcp.org.au