

## 2026 ANNUAL ROUND

### Request for proposals

Since 1971, Cure Kids has worked to support research on the health issues which impact the lives of children in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. For more than 50 years we have offered an annual opportunity for funding of high-quality paediatric research projects.

In 2026, Cure Kids again welcomes applications for original research projects by excellent investigators, which are designed based on good scientific methods and ethical principles, strengthened by collaboration with Māori, and which have the potential to contribute knowledge or develop new tools or methods that could improve child health.

Cure Kids will fund research anywhere along the pathway to impact, whether proof-of-concept, pilot, or translational studies. Proposals for research funding can encompass a wide age-range, from before birth up to the age of 18 years, and can include any type of high-quality research – from biomedical studies to health services research or Kaupapa Māori approaches. Please have a look at [our website](#) to see the range of studies we are currently funding.

We encourage you to apply if you have an idea for a project which will contribute to Cure Kids' mission. In 2026, we are offering Grants up to a maximum budget of \$130,000 over 3 years.

### Process

Cure Kids Annual Round is a single-stage process, managed through our online [grants portal](#). Applications open on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May and will close at 5pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2026.

Proposals should include as much information as possible within the wordcount, with particular attention to four assessment criteria: scientific methodology, capability of the research team, the principles of vision mātauranga, and potential to address the big health issues which impact the lives of children. Note that all four criteria are important, and that all reviews and assessments will be holistic.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:	Questions for consideration by applicant:
<b>SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE</b>	Is the scientific hypothesis or area of inquiry original? Is the research innovative? Are the design, methodology, and objectives appropriate for a scientific study? Is it feasible? Does the budget represent value for money? Is the research ethically sound and has it been reviewed by the relevant authority?
<b>RESEARCH CAPABILITY</b>	Do the Principal Investigator(s) and research team have the appropriate experience, expertise, diversity, resources, and network to deliver the study and its potential impact? Does the proposal clearly describe what each Investigator will contribute to the research? Will the research build capacity in NZ's health research sector by training a diverse group of researchers? Does it build on original research by NZ researchers, and will it sustain or develop the international standing, reputation, and credibility of NZ researchers?
<b>VISION MĀTAURANGA</b>	Does the proposal build on and advance Mātauranga Māori? Does the Research incorporate aspects of Māori culture through processes and protocols that embody principles such as manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, and kaitiakitanga? Will it advance wellbeing and combat inequities in health outcomes for tamariki Māori, or address issues that are significant to Māori whanau, hapu, or iwi? Have Māori been involved in the development of the research, and what ongoing partnership and engagement is planned?

	Is the research based on a holistic definition encompassing the wellbeing of the whole child, within their whanau, their community, and their environment?
<b>POTENTIAL IMPACT FOR CHILD HEALTH</b>	Could the proposal fill a gap in knowledge about the cause of a disease, improve care for children living with the disease, or lead to a new method to prevent, treat, or cure disease? Does it have the potential to transform child health, particularly in priority areas such as addressing inequity in health outcomes? Could the results be implemented in a feasible, affordable, and sustainable way? Does the research address a health problem that is unique or particularly important to children in Aotearoa NZ or the Pacific Islands?

Cure Kids has a Committee of Medical & Scientific Advisors who will assess all submissions. They will first select a shortlist of proposals. You will be advised by 3 September if your project has been shortlisted to be sent for independent peer review. The Committee will meet to finalise their recommendation, for approval by Cure Kids' Board in early December.

## How to apply

To make a submission, you will need to create an account in Cure Kids [grants portal](#), linked to your host institution.

[Click here to apply now.](#)

You can also find more information on eligibility criteria and other guidance on the researcher landing page of our website.

If you have any questions which are not answered by these pages, please contact us at [grantinground@curekids.org.nz](mailto:grantinground@curekids.org.nz).