

Cure Kids' Project Grant Application Guidelines

In order to submit a proposal, the Principal Investigator must first register in the Grants Portal as an applicant. Please note that applications should not be delegated to Research Office staff or junior members of the team. You may download the word version of the application to complete it collaboratively as the team, and upload it to the system when complete. However, the online form still needs to be completed by pasting answers into the relevant sections.

Eligibility of Principal Investigator(s)

The Principal Investigator(s) should be the researcher(s) with the main responsibility for design and preparation of the proposal, for overall management of the research project, for ensuring the integrity and protection of the data, for managing the roles of other researchers and contributors, and for delivery of the agreed outputs. If intellectual leadership of the research is shared, this role may be shared jointly between two Co-Principal Investigators. The Principal Investigator(s) should ideally be based in New Zealand for the majority of the term of the Grant, although exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis. [Note: Cure Kids does not require that the Principal Investigator must have NZ citizenship or residency, although this information is requested.]

The Principal Investigator(s) should be employed in an academic or research-related role at an institution which allows them to engage in independent research activities for the entire duration of the funding, to supervise other researchers, to collect, analyse, and interpret the data, and to publish the research results. In some cases, the Principal Investigator may be a knowledge user (i.e. someone employed to generate knowledge through research which can be used to make informed decisions about health policies, programmes, and practices, such as a healthcare practitioner, policy-maker, or educator).

The minimum formal qualification required is a graduate degree; most applicants are also expected to have a PhD. Proposals from less experienced Principal Investigators should normally include senior colleagues as Named Investigators. The proposal can include an unlimited number of Named Investigators, defined as people who make tangible contributions to the design, preparation, or delivery of research activities, or to the dissemination or implementation of results.

Cure Kids Professorial Chairs are not eligible to apply for Project Grants through the Annual Contestable Round, either as Principal or Named Investigators. However, Cure Kids Emeritus Advisors are eligible, since their salaries are no longer supported by Cure Kids.

The Application Form for Project Grants has been revised to incorporate the standard academic format for CVs in NZ, and to collect more information on all Investigators than in previous years (e.g. research speciality, gender, ethnicity, and collaborations beyond the list of Named Investigators). Collecting this information will enable Cure Kids to document and report on trends and patterns for investment in the research workforce in New Zealand.

Eligibility of Host Institution

If Cure Kids has not worked with their Host Institution in the past, it will not appear on the list of approved NZ-based Host Institutions. If the Principal Investigator's Host Institution is not on the list they will select 'Other' from the dropdown list and add the institution in.

Principal Investigators who are affiliated with research institutions which Cure Kids has not yet worked with have been asked to provide evidence that their chosen Host Institution has the necessary governance structures, financial processes, and research capacity to employ research staff, oversee the research, and administer the Grant Funds. This process needs to be done before a

grant can be awarded to the Principal Investigator. The aim of this due diligence is to ensure that Cure Kids only allocates funding to institutions which have sufficient capacity to:

- manage and administer Grant Funds to an auditable standard,
- ensure that the research is conducted to the highest ethical standards and complies with all applicable legislation and regulations governing health research, and
- support researchers to deliver the proposed research and its potential benefits for the health of children.

Once the Host Institution has been approved, its designated representative (e.g. Research Office staff) will need to review and approve the Principal Investigator's application, including the budget and outputs, and confirm acceptance of Cure Kids' standard Terms and Conditions for their Research Grant.

Subcontractors

If the Host Institution wishes to work with other research institutions or organisations to achieve part of the research, they must make this clear in the application. Grant money will only be paid to the Host Institution, so any payments to Subcontractors must be made by the Host Institution.

The Host Institution must use good procurement practice in purchasing goods or subcontracting services under this Grant. If the Host Institution subcontracts any of its obligations under this Arrangement, the Host Institution will continue to be fully responsible for research and delivering the research project and for any acts and omissions of its Subcontractors. The Host Institution must ensure that each subcontract obliges the Subcontractor to comply with these Terms and Conditions. From 2022 onwards, if overseas subcontractors are used, justification must be provided for why this work cannot be done within New Zealand. Applicants must also state what proportion of the Grant will be spent in New Zealand vs overseas, so that MSAC can take this into account.

Eligible Research

Cure Kids' mission is to fund research designed to transform the health and wellbeing of children in Aotearoa NZ and the Pacific Islands. Cure Kids aims to fund high-quality research, defined as systematic, original investigations by well-qualified and supported investigators, which are designed to contribute knowledge or develop new tools or methods, and which are based on good scientific methods and ethical principles.

Cure Kids is prepared to fund studies which have already been funded by another institution, but which need additional funding to complete or translate their results. Note that applicants must provide sufficient information to enable a decision to be made.

If a Principal Investigator has a current open Grant from Cure Kids, they may submit an application for further funding for a subsequent phase of the same research or for a completely separate research project. However, no Grant will be awarded to a researcher if they have an overdue Progress Report or Final Report. Each Principal Investigator can submit more than one application at a time, as long as each is unique.

Project Grants can take up to 3 years and a start and end dates must be specified in the application. All research projects must commence in the year following the Award Decision, unless a specific variation is requested and approved.

Proposals for research funding can encompass a wide age range including infants, children, and adolescents, from birth up to the age of 18 years (although exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis for research which includes older youth).

Cure Kids will fund research anywhere along the pathway to impact, whether proof-of-concept, pilot, or translational studies. The research should aim to advance understanding of the cause of a health issue; to improve care for children living with health challenges; or to attempt to prevent or cure a health condition. Proposals could include any type of high—quality research which will contribute to Cure Kids’ mission, from basic biomedical research to Kaupapa Māori approaches.

Host Institutions must ensure that research projects do not commence before all the required ethical approvals have been obtained (from an accredited Ethics Committee or Health and Disability Ethics Committee). Cure Kids will also attempt to adhere to the ‘Openness Agreement on Animal Research and Teaching in NZ’, developed by The Australia New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching.

Research Categorisations

As part of the Project Grant application form researchers are required to categorise their research area according to the below table.

CATEGORY	CONDITION
DEVELOPMENTAL and GENETIC DISORDERS	Congenital anomalies, genetic disorders, and rare diseases (e.g. fragile X syndrome, Batten disease)
	Learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia)
	Neurodevelopmental or behavioural disorders (e.g. epilepsy, autism spectrum disorders)
	Sensory disabilities (e.g. hearing, sight, amblyopia)
GENERAL HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE	Epidemiology
	Health services and systems
	Public Health
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, ALLERGIES, AND AUTOIMMUNE CONDITIONS	Allergies and immune system disorders
	Autoimmune conditions (e.g. rheumatic fever and heart disease, arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease)
	Bacterial Infections (e.g. Group A streptococcus, kidney, urinary tract)
	Gastrointestinal diseases (e.g. Rotavirus, Diphtheria)
	Respiratory conditions (e.g. Pertussis, Measles, Pneumococcal, influenza)
	Sexually transmitted infections (e.g. Human papillomavirus)
	Skin infections (e.g. varicella, measles, rubella, scabies)
LONG-TERM CHRONIC CHILDHOOD CONDITIONS	Abdominal and digestive disorders (including gastrointestinal diseases)
	Cancers
	Cardiovascular conditions and blood disorders (e.g. congenital heart disease, and arrhythmias)
	Endocrine and metabolic disorders (e.g. diabetes, liver or thyroid conditions, growth)
	Exposure to harmful substances (e.g. alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or environmental pollution)
	Injuries and related disabilities (e.g. accidents, poisoning, abuse)
	Non-communicable disease (e.g. hepatobiliary and pancreatic disorders)

	Obesity, underweight and nutritional disorders (e.g. low/ high birthweight, anaemia)
	Oral and dental conditions
	Respiratory conditions (e.g. asthma, wheeze, bronchiolitis, pneumonia, bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis)
MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH	Perinatal physiology and medicine
	Preterm birth
	SUDI, still birth
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING	Mood disorders, anxiety, behavioural, and emotional disorders (e.g. depression, eating disorders)
	Mental illnesses (e.g. hospitalisations, self-harm, suicide)

When completing a project grant application Cure Kids requires you to select the option from the below list that best describes the type of research you will be undertaking.

RESEARCH TYPE	DESCRIPTION
BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH	Research on human functioning, at the level of molecules, cells, organs, and whole body, and design of tools, techniques, vaccines, therapies or devices.
CLINICAL RESEARCH	Clinical studies in humans (e.g. randomised controlled trials) which aim to improve diagnosis and treatment of patients.
PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH	Research on the health of a population or sub-populations, including how social, cultural, environmental, occupational and economic factors determine health status.
HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH	Investigation of the efficiency and effectiveness of health professionals, technologies, and practices and policies within healthcare systems, including multidisciplinary studies of factors which affect access to healthcare, the quality and cost of healthcare, and ultimately health outcomes.
MĀORI HEALTH RESEARCH	Research which creates knowledge and interventions to improve the health and wellbeing of Māori communities, or research methodologies such as Kaupapa Māori.