

## 2025 Grant Round Overview

<b>Applications open</b>	<b>Thursday 6 June 2024</b>
<b>Applications close</b>	<b>Thursday 1 August 2024 5.00pm AEST</b>
<b>Outcomes advised</b>	<b>November 2024</b>
<b>Grants offered</b>	<p><a href="#">2025 Early- to Early-Mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) Seed Grants</a></p> <p><u><b>Aim of Seed Grants:</b></u> To generate new knowledge, kickstart innovative projects and provide a platform for emerging researchers to tackle evidence and implementation gaps in stroke care and excel in their stroke specialty. Seed Grants provide a platform for emerging researchers to gain grant successes and leverage these into further national and international funding, to strengthen evidence in stroke prevention, treatment and recovery, and grow researcher capacity.</p> <p><u><b>Grants offered:</b></u> EMCR researchers are invited to apply for Seed Grants of up to \$80,000 per grant, available for projects of up to 18 months, addressing (at least one of) Stroke Foundation’s research priority areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research in priority populations (as defined) in any stage of care.</li> <li>2. Translational and implementation research.</li> <li>3. Long-term community support beyond 6 months post-stroke.</li> <li>4. Long-term psychosocial recovery beyond 6 months post-stroke.</li> </ol> <p>Applications with a focus on priority populations are encouraged in <b>all</b> grant categories.</p> <p><a href="#">2025 EMCR Future Leader / Future Leader with Lived Experience Grants</a></p> <p><u><b>Aim of Future Leader Grants:</b></u> To develop leadership skills, increase potential for successful collaboration, build confidence and capabilities of emerging researchers, including those with lived experience, to contribute to stroke research.</p> <p><u><b>Grants offered:</b></u> EMCR researchers and people with lived experience are invited to apply for Future Leader Grants of up to \$5,000 per grant, for a stroke research development activity in 2025. <b>Applications for smaller amounts are encouraged.</b></p> <p>Applications with a focus on priority populations are encouraged in <b>all</b> grant categories.</p>

As the voice of stroke in Australia, we support researchers who work towards the next innovation in stroke prevention, treatment and recovery. Stroke Foundation has awarded grants to researchers for more than 17 years, ensuring new stroke knowledge can be explored and gaps in stroke care can be tackled. In total, over \$6.6 million in grant funding has been distributed to over 220 talented Australian researchers.

This Research Grant Application Guide outlines the overarching funding rules of Stroke Foundation Research Grants and should be read before completing an application form.

Applicants may apply and have the opportunity for award in each scheme where they meet the eligibility criteria. Successful applications will be funded from 2025.

Our aim is for diversity in the grants we award.

## Table of Contents

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1. Definitions.....	3
2. 2025 EMCR Seed Grants.....	4
3. 2025 EMCR Seed Grants Eligibility.....	5
4. 2025 EMCR Future Leader / Future Leader with Lived Experience Grants .....	6
5. 2025 EMCR Future Leader / Future Leader with Lived Experience Grants Eligibility .....	6
6. Eligibility Criteria in all grant schemes.....	7
7. Application procedure.....	8
8. Relative to opportunity and career disruption.....	8
9. Inclusive research.....	9
10. Submission deadline .....	9
11. Review process .....	10
12. Conditions of Research Grant Award.....	11
13. Contact for queries .....	11
14. Principles and practices .....	11
Appendix 1: Frequently asked questions .....	12

### Contact for queries

For any queries or further information, and/or help in making an application, please contact:

Stroke Foundation Research Coordinator, Michelle Adamson

Email: [research@strokefoundation.org.au](mailto:research@strokefoundation.org.au)

Direct phone: 03 9918 7215

We encourage people with lived experience to apply, so please contact us with any questions and/or ways that we can assist in the application process.

## 1. Definitions

Term	Description
Administering Institution	<p>An Australian University or Australian research body with recognised research governance practices, responsible for certifying and supporting the application and providing the basic infrastructure, oversight and accounting for the project.</p> <p>A peak national or state body in Australia representing consumer interests with recognised governance practices may also act as an Administering Institution for lived experience applicants.</p>
Career Disruption	A prolonged interruption to a Principal Investigator's capacity to work (e.g., medical condition, pregnancy, carer responsibilities).
Chief Investigator (CI)	Supporting research investigator team members.
Community	A broader term used to describe people relevant to the study, which may include health professionals, population groups and people with or without lived experience of stroke.
Early- to early-mid career researcher (EMCR)	An investigator with no more than 7 full time equivalent (FTE) years of research experience (post-graduation) as at the grant round close date.
Indirect Costs	<p>Infrastructure expenses incurred by an Administering Institution for the support of research, i.e., institutional fees and overheads.</p> <p>Stroke Foundation Research Grants do not provide funding for Indirect Costs.</p>
People with lived experience of stroke	Survivors of stroke, family members and carers of a person living with stroke.
Principal Investigator (PI)	The lead applicant named on the application.
Priority populations <sup>1</sup>	<p>Priority populations are those that are more likely to be affected by health conditions than the general population, resulting in a greater burden of disease and inequality in health outcomes. These populations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;</li> <li>➤ People living in rural, regional and remote communities;</li> <li>➤ Socioeconomically disadvantaged Australians;</li> <li>➤ People living with mental illness; and</li> <li>➤ People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.</li> </ul>
Relative to Opportunity	Consideration of an Investigator's track record and research contribution relative to their career stage and prior opportunities available (e.g., considering extended period of travel, clinical duties, teaching).
Sub-study	An add-on study to the main protocol, which asks a separate research question and includes new data collection or analysis from new or existing study participants.

<sup>1</sup> Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Health, *National Strategic Action Plan for Heart Disease and Stroke* (September 2020)  
2025 Research Grants Application Guide

## 2. 2025 EMCR Seed Grants

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**Aim of Seed Grants:** To generate new knowledge, kickstart innovative projects and provide a platform for emerging researchers to tackle evidence and implementation gaps in stroke care and excel in their stroke specialty. Seed Grants provide a platform for emerging researchers to gain grant successes and leverage these into further national and international funding, to strengthen evidence in stroke prevention, treatment and recovery and grow researcher capacity.

**Grants offered:** EMCR researchers are invited to apply for Seed Grants of up to \$80,000 per grant, available for projects of up to 18 months, addressing (at least one of) Stroke Foundation's research priority areas, as below. Our aim in this round is for diversity in the grants to be awarded. Applications with a focus on priority populations are encouraged in **all** grant categories.

### **2025 Research Priority Areas**

#### 1. **Research in priority populations (as defined) in any stage of care.**

Study areas include (but are not limited to):

- › Early recognition of stroke and emergency response (i.e., increased speed from recognition to diagnosis and treatment). This could include (but is not limited to):
  - › less common warning signs; and
  - › studies in all age groups or a specific age group, such as younger people and children.
- › Improving access to acute stroke services and specialist care; or
- › Developing and evaluating health services or pathways to improve stroke outcomes.

#### 2. **Translational and implementation research.**

Projects must specifically assess how to improve adoption or implementation of evidence-based treatments/processes, that have been shown to be effective, within health care or home settings. Only studies using a translational design, where the core component is implementation of existing evidence will be considered for funding. Studies to test or develop new or unproven treatments/processes, will not be considered for funding within this priority area.

Researchers are recommended to focus on areas where there is a strong clinical guideline recommendation but there is a known gap in care. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- › improved early access of reperfusion (increased % of patients receiving reperfusion within 60 mins); or
- › routine fitness training for those involved in inpatient or community rehabilitation; or
- › tailored information provision; or
- › embedding communication partner training in an acute stroke unit for staff and volunteers; or
- › better detection and management of atrial fibrillation.

#### 3. **Long-term community support beyond 6 months post-stroke.**

Projects must focus on improved connection to and delivery of community-based care for people living with stroke. Outcomes must be measured at least 6 months after a person's stroke. Settings and examples include (but are not limited to):

- › Community health services
- › Primary care
- › Interventions for improved continuity of care
- › Reduced social isolation
- › Support for childhood stroke

- › Support for post-stroke complications (in all age groups), such as (not limited to) epilepsy
- › Long-term outcomes from previously conducted pilot work.

#### 4. **Long-term psychosocial recovery beyond 6 months post-stroke.**

Projects must focus on psychological needs and emotional and social wellbeing for people living with stroke which may include the relationships with their family/carer. Outcomes must be measured at least 6 months after a person's stroke. Study areas include (but are not limited to):

- › Mental, emotional and social wellness
- › Recovery of cognition
- › Communication
- › Childhood stroke

### 3. **2025 EMCR Seed Grants Eligibility**

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1. Our Seed Grants focus on clinical, public health and health services research. Laboratory-based or pre-clinical research proposals are **ineligible**.
2. Principal Investigators must not be a previous Stroke Foundation Seed Grant recipient.
3. The research must be carried out in Australia.
4. The proposal clearly and directly addresses the nominated research priority area(s).  
Note: The response provided for Question 1.4 'Relevance and significance to the research priority area' is reviewed for eligibility for this criterion.
5. Proposals must demonstrate engagement and recognition of people with lived experience and/or community during the study design and/or ongoing conduct of the research. For this criterion, engagement that is safe, supportive, positive, and proportionate to the proposal is accepted.
6. Applicants have completed our module on [working effectively with people with lived experience](#).
7. The proposal's inclusion and exclusion criteria is justified. Consideration of, rationale and methods for inclusion across diverse groups, including people with communication impairments and priority populations, is provided. See Section 9 for more information.
8. The Seed Grant period is effective from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2026.
9. In addition to the above, see Section 6 for general eligibility criteria that applies in all schemes.

Preference for funding given for applications including some, or all, of the following criteria:

- › Innovative projects with considered diversity and inclusion methods and potential for national reach.
- › Studies to enable a research project to be developed such that it could be supported by a recognised grant-giving agency (e.g., NHMRC, MRFF) in subsequent years.
- › Applications with a focus on interdisciplinary collaboration.
- › Applications that follow the CONSORT<sup>2</sup> criteria; TIDieR guidelines<sup>3</sup>; and observational studies that follow STROBE<sup>4</sup> criteria.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.consort-statement.org/>

<sup>3</sup> Better Reporting of Interventions: Template for Intervention Description and Replication (TIDieR) Checklist and Guide Hoffman et al. BMJ 2014

<sup>4</sup> The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) Statement: Guidelines for Reporting Observational Studies von Elm et al. PLoS Med 2007

#### 4. 2025 EMCR Future Leader / Future Leader with Lived Experience Grants

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Aim of Future Leader Grants: To develop leadership skills, increase potential for successful collaboration, build confidence and capabilities of emerging researchers, including those with lived experience, to contribute to stroke research.

Grants offered: EMCR researchers and people with lived experience are encouraged to apply for Future Leader Grants of up to \$5,000 per grant, for a stroke research development activity in 2025. **Applications for smaller amounts are encouraged.**

Our aim in this round is for diversity in the grants to be awarded. Applications with a focus on priority populations are encouraged in **all** grant categories.

Examples of ways the grant may be used include (but are not limited to):

- › Travel (domestic and/or international) and associated costs to spend time in research facilities (e.g., a centre of excellence)
- › Formal mentoring programs
- › Leadership training
- › Research events, for example, conferences or courses for professional development, where specific development/capacity building components are incorporated and described (e.g., mentoring meeting).
- › Developing skills in co-design and working with people with lived experience.
- › Consultation and collaboration with priority populations.

#### 5. 2025 EMCR Future Leader / Future Leader with Lived Experience Grants Eligibility

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1. Future Leader Grants are open to all disciplines.
2. Applicants must not be a previous Stroke Foundation Future Leader Grant recipient.
3. Applicants based overseas are **ineligible**.
4. The Future Leader grant period is effective from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.
5. In addition to the above, see Section 6 for general eligibility criteria that applies in all schemes.

Applicants should consider some, or all, of the following criteria and guidance:

- › That you have started on the path, or aspire to be, a leader in stroke research. Applicants are encouraged to provide an example of when you have demonstrated a commitment and/or engagement in a leadership role or activity.
- › We particularly encourage applications by lived experience researchers and/or applications that include development/collaboration plans with lived experience contributors. Such applications should include budget to pay for time and out of pocket expenses for lived experience contributors.
- › The budget must be well justified.

Recipients are required and we encourage all applicants to complete the relevant modules on:

- › [Working effectively with people with lived experience](#); and/or
- › [Working with stroke researchers](#). More information is available on [EnableMe](#).

## 6. Eligibility Criteria in all grant schemes

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The following conditions apply in addition to specific eligibility criteria for each grant scheme. This should be considered foundational (but not exhaustive) criteria.

### 6.1. Applicants must meet the EMCR definition.

Consideration is given for career disruptions or other extenuating circumstances that have affected the applicant's time in research. Refer to Section 8 for more information.

### 6.2. The application must be supported by an Administering Institution.

For this criterion, the applicant should have a relationship with an Administering Institution (i.e., an Australian university or research body) to enable support for and oversight of the proposal, and if successful, fulfilment of the Conditions of Research Grant Award if successful.

### 6.3. The project timeline does not exceed the grant period.

The grant period is intended to include time for ethics approval. A proposal that is building upon existing work ('pre-work'), such as lived experience and/or community engagement in study design, pending or existing ethics approvals, can apply where all other conditions are met. Pre-work relevant to the proposal may be indicated in the project timeline, without altering the grant period's effective start date.

The project timeline should map how the research will be feasibly completed within the grant period, including final reporting to Stroke Foundation.

### 6.4. The budget must be justified and meet the grant criteria for funding.

1. **Eligible budget items** include (but are not limited to): personnel costs (research assistants, salary on-costs, casual help) lived experience remuneration, travel, consumables and small items of equipment or other assistance necessary to carry out a specific project.

› Where lived experience experts are involved, remuneration **must** be included in the project budget (e.g., sitting fees, coverage of expenses).

2. **Ineligible budget items** include (but are not limited to):

› Indirect Costs (i.e., institutional fees, infrastructure, overheads). These costs must be excluded from the application's budget.

› Proposals to fund equipment only are **ineligible**.

› PhD stipend top-ups

› Costs for dissemination of research results (i.e., conference registration/presentation of results, publication costs) are outside of the scope of Stroke Foundation's grant funding, which is to support a project to its completion (i.e., data collection, analysis and reporting to Stroke Foundation) within the grant period.

### 6.5. Proposals for additional funding for projects where Stroke Foundation is a current financial partner are ineligible for Stroke Foundation Research Grants.

› For this criterion, current financial partnership refers to a project where Stroke Foundation has budget allocated, or has contributed financially to work that is currently in progress.

### 6.6. Proposals for sub-studies of existing projects with significant funding.

If applicable, this is assessed case-by-case, taking into consideration:

- a. the amount and timeframe of the existing funding;
- b. what value the proposed work would add to the existing project; and
- c. justification for why the proposed work is outside the existing funding's scope.

Note: Existing funding that is less than the grant being applied for is generally considered acceptable in relation to this criterion. Applicants can seek assessment of this criterion during the grant round.

## 6.7. The application form template and instructions within are adhered to.

- › All required questions are answered fully and within the specified limit and format.
- › The institutional contact has a recognised role with the Administering Institution and is not the applicant.

## 7. Application procedure

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7.1. Application forms are available on the Stroke Foundation [website](#) from the opening of the round. The application form should contain all information necessary for assessment (i.e., no additional documentation). All details included must be current at the time of application. All applicants are required to use the application template and adhere to requirements as stated in the application form and outlined in the table below. Any applications not adhering to the template will be deemed **ineligible**.

Application format	Requirement
File format	Word or PDF are acceptable
Page size	A4
Page margin	1.7cm left and right margin, 2.5cm top and bottom margin
Page limits	As stated within the application form and no appendices.
Font	Arial Size 11
Line spacing	Single

7.2. Stroke Foundation may consider in-kind contribution to any proposed research project in accordance with its [Research Partnership Framework](#) and application process. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- › Where a research plan involves producing a tangible resource or product, partnership through housing or disseminating resources or products may be considered.
- › Synergy with a Stroke Foundation program opportunity/strategic project.

Note: No preference is given to applications that involve Stroke Foundation in-kind contribution. Assessment of research partnership applications is overseen by Stroke Foundation's Research Advisory Committee in accordance with governance protocols (e.g., transparency, fairness, conflict of interest management). Requests received outside of the timeframes specified in the [Research Partnership Framework](#) will not be considered for Stroke Foundation research grant rounds and Stroke Foundation cannot guarantee timely consideration within this period. Tier 1 support (e.g., endorsement/letter of support) is not applicable to applications in our research grant rounds.

## 8. Relative to opportunity and career disruption

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Stroke Foundation uses similar criteria to NHMRC for relative to opportunity and career disruption. Applicants should refer to this Application Guide and include all of these details in the relevant sections of the application form. Peer review consideration includes additional research outputs relative within the scheme's criteria.

Where career stage eligibility applies, we are looking to understand when an applicant's research career began, based on the time since the earliest research experience qualification date (e.g., PhD candidate, date of PhD award, medical school graduation, Masters or other graduation).

Consideration is given for applicants with career disruption or other extenuating circumstances that have affected their time in research. Table 1 below provides an example.

Applicants can seek assessment of EMCR qualification during the grant round, however timeframes for this assessment cannot be guaranteed. Assessment may be sought by emailing relevant details to [research@strokefoundation.org.au](mailto:research@strokefoundation.org.au). Assessment of eligibility criteria is undertaken in a blinded fashion.



**Table 1 example: Within 7 years FTE research experience (post-graduation).**

Appointment description	Start	End	Effective FTE
PhD awarded	20 December 2016	-	-
Full time research position	1 January 2017	31 December 2018	2.00
0.5 FTE research position due to child raising duties	1 January 2019	June 30 2022	1.75
Full time research position	1 July 2022	31 December 2022	0.50
Clinical position with 0.5 FTE for research	1 January 2023	30 June 2024	0.75
<b>Total FTE research experience</b>	<b>20 December 2016</b>	<b>30 June 2024</b>	<b>5.00 FTE</b>

## 9. Inclusive research

'Inclusive' is one of Stroke Foundation's guiding principles. Survivors of stroke, families, carers and the community are central to stroke research. In addition to our module on [working effectively with people with lived experience](#), we encourage researchers to refer to additional resources, such as:

- › [The MRFF's principles for consumer involvement in research](#)
- › [Consumers Health Forum of Australia and NHMRC Statement](#)
- › [Consumers Health Forum of Australia, Guidelines for Consumer Representatives](#)

Studies should endeavour to consider how relevant their study findings are to the broader stroke community – and whether study design can be enhanced to consider and include a wider range of individuals.

Where studies are focused on priority populations and/or inclusive of people who face barriers to equitable inclusion or access (e.g., people who have difficulty with language), study documentation should describe how the study rationale, design and methodology appropriately consider issues relevant to these groups.

In relation to people with aphasia (i.e., difficulty with language), applicants are encouraged to refer to:

- › ["Towards the Consistent Inclusion of People With Aphasia in Stroke Research Irrespective of Discipline"](#) (Shiggins et al., 2022), for methods to enable inclusion, including recommendations, resources, and guidance.
- › [The Aphasia Handbook](#) (Stroke Foundation and the Australian Aphasia Association, 2023)

## 10. Submission deadline

- 10.1. All applications must be fully signed and submitted via email to [research@strokefoundation.org.au](mailto:research@strokefoundation.org.au) by the closing date and time (Thursday 1 August 2024 5.00pm AEST). **Any applications received after the deadline will be deemed ineligible.** This ensures an equitable process for all applicants.
- 10.2. Submitted applications will receive a return email acknowledgement from Stroke Foundation. **Please ensure you have received this acknowledgement prior to the deadline.** For queries or to confirm receipt contact [research@strokefoundation.org.au](mailto:research@strokefoundation.org.au) or phone Research Coordinator, Michelle Adamson on (03) 9918 7215.
- 10.3. We understand that situations arise at the last minute that can cause delay. For this reason, we encourage submissions at least one day ahead of the deadline. Please be aware that Stroke Foundation will **not** allow

extensions and will **not** allow any applications after the deadline. This includes any IT issues that arise during the submission process. We recommend that you confirm with your research office the timing required for certification and the procedure for submission.

## 11. Review process

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- 11.1. Stroke Foundation’s research grant review process is robust and independent and focuses on impact and evidence. It adheres to a strict Conflict of Interest policy. The decision-making process is final and there is no appeal process.
- 11.2. The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) oversees the Stroke Foundation Research Program. All eligible applications are reviewed, scored and ranked by independent reviewers. Each funding scheme will be reviewed independently by reviewers allocated to the one scheme. Funding recommendations are based on the highest-ranking applications. The RAC’s deliberations for funding recommendations are undertaken in a blinded fashion and require Stroke Foundation Board approval.
- 11.3. When reviewing the applications, reviewers are asked to score against each of the criteria outlined in the Descriptors (available on the Stroke Foundation [website](#)):
- › Seed Grant applications are scored with a weighting of 40% for “Research Program” (scientific quality), and 20% for each of “Relevance” to the scheme, “Impact” and “Team Track Record”, by five independent reviewers.
  - › Future Leader Grant applications are scored with a weighting of 50% for “Leadership Development Plan”, and 25% each for “Relevance” and “Track Record and Leadership”, by five independent reviewers. Future Leader and Future Leader with Lived Experience applications will be allocated to separate reviewer groups.

The reviewers each receive the same number of applications and, after scoring them, are asked to rank each application. Within each scheme, all of the ranks from all of the reviewers are combined into one overall ranked list. The RAC is provided with a de-identified copy of each ranked list. These lists provide a basis for funding recommendations.

- 11.4. Grants offered within this round represent the full allocation of Stroke Foundation’s research grant funding pool as determined by the Stroke Foundation Board. Resubmissions, either in part or in full, are not considered outside of a grant round. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to reapply in the next round.
- 11.5. Stroke Foundation does not guarantee that an award will be made for each grant call. If there is no application judged by Stroke Foundation to fit directly within the criteria of the grant call, Stroke Foundation reserves the right to award no application.
- 11.6. Feedback from the independent peer review is available upon request.
- 11.7. Review timeline
- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| › Applications close:   | <b>1 August 2024 5.00pm AEST</b> |
| › Eligibility review:   | by 7 August 2024                 |
| › Peer reviewers declare conflicts of interest:                 | by 7 August 2024                 |
| › Applications assigned and sent to independent peer reviewers: | by 9 August 2024                 |
| › Peer reviewers assess and rank applications:                  | by 13 September 2024             |
| › RAC review de-identified ranked lists and recommend funding:  | early October 2024               |
| › Board approval of funding:                                    | late October 2024                |
| › Notification of outcome to applicants and reviewers:          | November 2024                    |

## 12. Conditions of Research Grant Award

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Stroke Foundation Research Grants are subject to Conditions of Award which are published to the Stroke Foundation [website](#) during the grant round. Conditions include but are not limited to the following:

- › Stroke Foundation Research Grants do not provide funding for Indirect Costs (i.e., institutional fees, infrastructure, overheads).
- › Successful applicants and their institutional contact will receive a Letter of Award and a copy of the Conditions of Award by email to advise the offer of award.
- › Funding for Research Grants will not be released to the nominated institution until all relevant documentation, particularly in relation to ethics approval, is lodged with Stroke Foundation as required by the Conditions of Award.
- › Any request to vary a grant in relation to the Conditions of Award must be submitted and approved by Stroke Foundation, using the Research Grant Variation Form.

## 13. Contact for queries

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For any queries or further information, and/or help in making an application, please contact:

Stroke Foundation Research Coordinator, Michelle Adamson

Email: [research@strokefoundation.org.au](mailto:research@strokefoundation.org.au)

Direct phone: 03 9918 7215

We encourage people with lived experience to apply, so please contact us with any questions and/or ways that we can assist in the application process.

## 14. Principles and practices

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Stroke Foundation's practices are consistent with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#), confidentiality obligations, legislation, privacy principles, ethical and publication requirements, which protects any IP in the application, the provision of sufficient detail for peer review and access to information provided within Stroke Foundation's Research Program for evaluation purposes. Stroke Foundation's organisational policies, including information and systems security, encompass the preservation of confidentiality, integrity and secure access to information that is required for Stroke Foundation to fulfill its mission and ensure continuous improvement of its work. We take all reasonable steps to ensure researchers are informed of the use of information that is provided to us.

## Appendix 1: Frequently asked questions

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### Grant Types

1. **How are the grant types decided?**

The Research Grant funding pool is reviewed and agreed annually by the Stroke Foundation Board based on the organisation's strategic objectives and financial performance.

The RAC consider a range of key inputs and are instrumental in determining the type, priority areas and number of grants in the funding round.

In recent years, our Seed and [Endowment](#) Grants have been offered annually.

### Career Stage

2. **Does career stage eligibility criteria only apply to the Principal Investigator?**

Yes.

3. **Is a PhD or a medical degree a pre-requisite to apply?**

No.

4. **Are PhD students eligible to apply?**

Yes.

5. **Is the time spent doing my PhD counted in my FTE time in research?**

No, we do not count the time of doing the PhD in the total of FTE years of research experience, rather, the time in research that has been accumulated either side of doing the PhD.

6. **Do I need to include my graduation certificate to prove my eligibility?**

No, simply state your graduation dates/details in the appropriate section of the application form.

7. **What evidence is needed to show experience in stroke research?**

Provide this in the track record statement on the application form. Any stroke related publications can be listed in the table for the 5 most relevant publications.

### Applying

8. **I'm having trouble choosing the priority area that best fits my project?**

Unfortunately, it is not for us to decide which category of priority that it best falls into. Many research projects do not fit fully into one priority and may span across a few different ones. You are welcome to choose more than one priority, but ensure that this is justified in Question 1.4.

9. **Am I eligible if stroke has not been my main area of research?**

Yes, this is based on your proposal meeting the eligibility criteria. However, one component of the scoring is track record. It is advisable to include team members/colleagues with experience in stroke research.

10. **Can a researcher be named on multiple applications?**

A researcher can be named as the Principal Investigator in one application per grant scheme, and in multiple applications (without limit) in each grant scheme as a Chief Investigator.

For example: The same person may apply for a Seed Grant and a Future Leader Grant. Applicants may be successful in each grant scheme in which they have applied.

11. **What format should applications be submitted in?**

Word doc is the preferred format for all research grant applications. PDF format is also acceptable.

**12. Who should check and submit the application i.e., Principal Investigator, or internal research grants office?**

Either the applicant or the internal research grants office can submit the application. It is important that you confirm this arrangement ahead of submission, as well as gain the emailed acknowledgement of receipt sent from Stroke Foundation following submission. You may wish to copy others into the submission email as well.

In the eligibility checklist at the end of the application forms, 'research office' is referring to the administering institution. The checklist is intended to assist applicants and research offices with compliance checking prior to submission. We strongly encourage, but do not require, the eligibility checklist to be completed prior to submission.

**13. Are copies of CVs and ethics required?**

No. The information in the application template will be sufficient and should not require any further attachments. If you are successful, ethics approval will be required then.

**14. Are references required in the Project Summary of the application form?**

Responses are acceptable without references in this part of the application form. However, anything based on prior work should be cited and then listed in the reference table.

## Research Team

**15. Is there any limit to the number of Chief Investigators included in the application?**

The limit is for 10 investigators in total to be listed, inclusive of the Principal Investigator.

**16. For the EMCR Seed Grants, can senior researchers or senior advisers of the stroke research be added as Chief Investigators?**

Yes, we encourage mentoring by mid-career and senior researchers and anticipate that the EMCR Principal Investigator is supported by an experienced research team.

**17. What if a Principal Investigator is transitioning from a different field of research to stroke (clinical) research?**

This is fine as long as the research meets the criteria. Details of the transition can be included in the Track Record Statement referring to "relative to opportunity". The same career stage rules apply regarding FTE years post-graduation, regardless of the research focus. For example, in the EMCR Seed Grant and Future Leader grant schemes, if the applicant has worked for 10 years in research, but only 3 years in stroke related fields, they are ineligible to apply.

## Grant funds

**18. Are grants subject to the GST of Stroke Foundation?**

Yes.

**19. Does Stroke Foundation cover indirect costs (i.e., institutional fees/infrastructure costs/overheads)?**

No, Stroke Foundation does not cover any of the above costs.

**20. Can grant funding be used for equipment, research assistant salaries, consumables and travel?**

Grant funds can be used for support personnel such as research assistants, lived experience remuneration, casual help, consumables, travel and small items of equipment or other assistance necessary to carry out a specific project. The project budget must be justified and meet the grant criteria for funding.

**21. Can on-costs be included as part of salary cost in the budget?**

Yes. On-costs are an unavoidable part of the salary cost and can be included in the project budget.

**22. Can severance pay be included in grant acquittals?**

No. We only include costs that support the actual cost of the project, and so severance pay would not be included.

## **International**

**23. Does Stroke Foundation award grants internationally?**

No, Stroke Foundation does not award grants to Administering Institutions that are outside of Australia.

**24. Is a project eligible if it is led by Australian researchers but data are collected internationally?**

The project could be considered if it also collected data for Australia or would benefit survivors of stroke in Australia.

**25. Can a researcher from another country be the Principal Investigator for a Seed Grant or Endowment Grant, but the research be completed at an Australian University?**

People from overseas can be a Principal Investigator in these schemes, but the research must be done in Australia and administered by an Australian institution. You should highlight your contribution and explain the practicalities of conducting the study.