

## **Maddie Riewoldt's Vision Centre of Research Excellence in Bone Marrow Biology**

### **2026 Grant Round Guidelines – Fiona Riewoldt Nursing and Allied Health Fellowship**

#### **About Maddie Riewoldt's Vision**

Maddie Riewoldt's Vision (MRV) is Australia's only not-for-profit organisation dedicated to Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes (BMFS). MRV is the remarkable legacy of the Riewoldt family, created after their daughter Maddie tragically lost her five-year battle with Aplastic Anaemia in 2015. MRV's vision is that BMFS are prevented, diagnosed, and treated with the best available medical care in Australia, and that patients and families receive the support they need. Its mission is to fund research that accelerates next-generation prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of BMFS, while improving outcomes and wellbeing for patients and families.

The Maddie's Vision Centre of Research Excellence in Bone Marrow Biology (CRE), established in 2018, is a national collaborative network driving innovation and impact in BMFS research. Its portfolio includes 36 projects across Australia, spanning clinical trials, grants-in-aid, fellowships, and critical infrastructure such as the Aplastic Anaemia and Other Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes Registry and the Australian Marrow Failure Biobank. Many projects involve international collaborations and have contributed to significant advances in understanding, diagnosing, and treating BMFS.

To continue strengthening and accelerating research outcomes, developing expertise, and improving patient and family care, MRV offers competitive grant rounds and fellowships. These funding opportunities support high-quality, collaborative research, foster the growth of researchers and clinicians, and enhance capacity across the national and international BMFS research community.

#### **Fellowship Overview**

In 2021, Maddie's Vision introduced the Fiona Riewoldt Nursing and Allied Health Fellowship, named in honour of Maddie's mother, to support research in the vital area of nursing and allied health care.

In Grant Round 2026, Maddie's Vision is delighted to once again offer this Fellowship to support a research project focused on nursing and/or allied health interventions and supportive care for patients and families affected by BMFS. The Fellowship aims to improve health outcomes and enhance patient wellbeing. Applicants are encouraged to submit projects that deliver tangible benefits for those affected by BMFS, including research addressing symptoms, daily functioning, and overall quality of life.

## Fellowship Details

### Timing

- Call for applications opens: 12 November 2025
- Applications close: 27 February 2026, 17:00 AEDT
- Shortlist/interviews (if required): Week commencing 4 May 2026
- Outcomes announced: Week commencing 11 May 2026
- Fellowship commencement: By July 2026 (deferral requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis)

### Funding

- Up to **AUD \$50,000 per annum**, for a maximum of three years
- Funding may be used to support salary or stipend (as appropriate to the applicant's employment or enrolment status), consumables, and other reasonable research costs
- Payments will be made in milestone-based instalments, in accordance with the final funding agreement.
- The following costs are not eligible:
  - Publication costs, equipment or support staff
  - Salary on-costs, such as employer superannuation contributions, workers' compensation, leave loading and other employment expenses
  - Indirect/overhead costs including infrastructure, utilities and administration
  - Costs arising from receipt of the fellowship, such as Continuing Medical Education expenses

### Eligibility

Nursing and allied health professionals are eligible to apply. To be considered for the Fellowship, applicants must:

- Be an Australian citizen, permanent resident, or holder of a valid visa entitling them to reside and work in Australia for the full funding period.
- Hold a relevant professional qualification in nursing, allied health, or a related clinical or research field.
- Be an early- to mid-career researcher, defined as within 10 years post-award of their highest degree or professional qualification, excluding career disruptions such as parental leave, illness, or caring responsibilities.
- Nominate at least one supervisor from the administering institution who has a proven track record of clinically relevant and innovative research in BMFS.

### Fellowship Conditions

- The Fellowship must represent a substantial contribution to a nominated research project(s).

- Fellows must not concurrently hold another fellowship or grant that provides overlapping salary support or research costs.
- Periods of substantial leave (e.g., long service leave, sabbatical) are not supported.
- Parental leave of up to 12 months is permitted, with salary support provided by the administering institution.
- Fellows must conduct research in accordance with all of the regulatory and ethics requirements of the administering institution. Evidence of ethics/Institutional Review Board approval is required where applicable.
- Tax obligations arising from Fellowship income are the sole responsibility of the recipient.
- If your research involves children or vulnerable people, you must hold a valid *Working with Children Check* or *Working with Vulnerable People* registration applicable in your state or territory. Maddie’s Vision is committed to upholding the highest standards of child safety and the protection of vulnerable individuals in all research activities.

## Reporting Obligations

Fellowship recipients must:

- Submit written progress reports against agreed milestones and timelines
- Provide annual financial statements
- Present project findings at Maddie’s Vision scientific events, as appropriate
- Acknowledge Fellowship support in all publications, presentations, and media
- Provide a financial statement and acquittal of funds from the administering organisation at the conclusion of the Fellowship

## Application Sections

When preparing your application, please review the overview below in conjunction with the official **Application Form**, which is available for download on the Maddie’s Vision website. The Application Form provides complete details, including word limits and formatting requirements.

Application Sections	General information Required
<b>Applicant and institution details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal information</li> <li>• Education &amp; employment detail</li> <li>• Nomination of administering institution (i.e. the institution responsible for managing the fellowship award and where the fellow is expected to conduct the proposed research activities)</li> <li>• Eligibility confirmation</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Research track record</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant CV / resume</li> <li>• Career summary that is relative to opportunity – including a career disruption statement where relevant</li> </ul>

Application Sections	General information Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Career disruption includes maternity / paternity leave, illness and carer responsibilities</i></li> <li>● Grants and awards or recognitions relevant to nursing/allied health research or clinical innovation</li> <li>● Achievements in BMFS-related care, clinical projects, quality improvement initiatives, or practice-based research, including conference presentations and publications</li> </ul>
<b>Research proposal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Project title</li> <li>● Background and rationale – demonstrate strategic alignment to BMFS and include previous evidence or preliminary data supporting the proposed research</li> <li>● Hypothesis, aims, or objectives</li> <li>● Detailed description of the proposed research, clinical, or service-based methods</li> <li>● Key milestones, deliverables and timeline</li> <li>● Expected outcomes and potential impact on BMFS patients, families, and carers</li> <li>● Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan</li> <li>● Justification of FTE for research time alongside clinical duties</li> <li>● Plan(s) for consumer engagement through the project – describe specific activities, roles, and responsibilities of consumers or community members in the research process, including prior engagement or plans for future engagement</li> <li>● Plan(s) for research knowledge translation/implementation – outline how findings will be applied, disseminated, or translated into clinical or policy practice</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Detailed budget and justification of requested costs, including all income and funding sources, using the <b>Budget Spreadsheet Template</b>, available for download on the Maddie’s Vision website. <i>Note: Funding sources other than the Maddie’s Vision Fellowship are optional depending on the project</i></li> </ul>
<b>Research environment &amp; support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Infrastructure, resources, and access to clinical or allied health facilities</li> <li>● Collaborative opportunities across clinical and research networks</li> <li>● Plan(s) for professional development and skill-building relevant to nursing/allied health practice and research</li> </ul>
<b>Consumer engagement summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overview of the proposed project written in plain language for general public understanding, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The unmet need in BMFS (The Challenge)</li> <li>○ Proposed research question, objectives and methodologies (The Research)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Application Sections	General information Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expected impact on patients, families, and carers, including improvements in care, supportive interventions, or daily functioning (The Impact)</li> <li>○ Plan for consumer or community involvement in the proposed project. Outline how ethical considerations will be addressed (cultural sensitivity, inclusivity, privacy, consent, and respect for all research participants) and how relevant populations will be appropriately engaged or consulted.</li> <li>○ Strategy for implementing findings, sharing results with the community and supporting translation into clinical practice or policy</li> </ul>
<b>Supervisors, collaborators &amp; mentors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supervisor(s) information:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Applicants must nominate at least one supervisor from their administering institution. Supervisors should have a proven track record of clinically relevant and innovative research in BMFS</li> <li>○ A letter of support from each supervisor must be included with the application</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mentorship (<i>optional but strongly encouraged</i>):           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Applicants are encouraged to establish a formal mentorship with a senior academic from another institution who has a strong track record and mentoring experience. This mentorship aims to provide additional guidance and support for the applicant's research and career development.</li> <li>○ A letter of support from the mentor, where applicable, is to be included with the application</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Collaborators and other supporters:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Where relevant, applicants may include letters of support from key collaborators, partner organisations, or consumer representatives</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## How to Apply

Applicants must complete the official **MRV Fiona Riewoldt Fellowship Application Form**, available for download on the Maddie's Vision website. The completed application form, along with all required attachments, such as the applicant's CV, research proposal, budget spreadsheet, supervisor and mentor letters, and any other supporting materials can be attached together in a **single PDF file** named: **MRVFRFellowship2026\_[Surname]**.

## Submission

- Applications must be submitted via email to **research@mrv.org.au** by the closing date.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

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- A maximum of one Fellowship will be awarded per grant round. Maddie Riewoldt's Vision reserves the right not to award a Fellowship if no suitable applicants are identified.

## Application evaluation criteria

Applications will be assessed by the MRV Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) based on the pre-defined evaluation criteria outlined in the table below.

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
<b>Consumer Engagement and Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address an important, unmet need in BMFS, with impact on patients, survivors, families or carers.</li> <li>• Relevant to patients, survivors, families or carers.</li> <li>• Meaningful anticipated benefits for patients and support networks.</li> <li>• Evidence of planned consumer engagement in research design and development.</li> <li>• Accessibility and inclusivity of outputs and outcomes</li> <li>• Clear plan for communicating findings across Australian communities, with realistic pathways for translating findings into clinical practice or service improvements.</li> </ul>	10%
<b>Applicant Capability &amp; Track Record</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality and significance of research outputs (e.g. publications, service improvement projects, presentations, grants), adjusted for career disruptions.</li> <li>• Quantity of outputs relative to career stage (adjusted for career disruption).</li> <li>• Leadership roles in clinical, educational, or research projects.</li> <li>• Contribution to research, clinical, or professional networks and partnerships.</li> <li>• Professional development activities demonstrating commitment to advancing expertise in BMFS care.</li> <li>• Alignment of skills and experience with proposed project.</li> <li>• Clear articulation of how the fellowship will build on the applicant's track record to achieve future career goals.</li> <li>• Potential to grow as a clinical or research leader and contribute strategically to the broader field.</li> </ul>	35%
<b>Research Quality &amp; Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicability and relevance to BMFS nursing or allied health care.</li> <li>• Well-defined research objectives with clearly articulated questions that address key gaps in clinical practice or patient care.</li> <li>• Robust study design and methodologies, including appropriate data collection and analysis and attention to ethic conducts/regulatory compliances.</li> <li>• Introduction of new or innovative approaches to clinical care, service delivery, or supportive interventions.</li> </ul>	15%

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realistic project design, access to facilities, and alignment with applicant's clinical responsibilities and expertise.</li> <li>Evidence of consumer engagement in project development.</li> </ul>	
<b>Research Impact &amp; Benefit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for research outcomes to address critical gaps in BMFS care, service delivery, or patient wellbeing.</li> <li>Potential for outcomes to be scaled, adapted, or implemented in other clinical settings or populations.</li> <li>Clear pathway for translating findings into practice, clinical policy, or service improvement.</li> <li>Contribution to developing clinical, research, or translational expertise within the administering institution or broader healthcare system.</li> <li>Scope for sustained impact beyond the fellowship period.</li> </ul>	15%
<b>Feasibility &amp; Institutional Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to necessary facilities, equipment, and technology required for the research, including staffing support (e.g., research assistants, technicians, or clinical support personnel).</li> <li>Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan, including strategies for ethical, regulatory, or practical challenges that might arise.</li> <li>Commitment from the administering institution with formal letter of support confirming endorsement and protected research time alongside clinical duties.</li> <li>Confirmation of experienced supervisor(s) or mentors relevant to the proposed project.</li> <li>Plans or structures to facilitate continued collaboration, or further career opportunities following completion of the fellowship.</li> </ul>	20%
<b>Alignment with Maddie's Vision Mission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevance of proposed research to Maddie's Vision mission and research strategy.</li> <li>Potential for outcomes to advance the mission, including meaningful impact on patients, families and carers affected by BMFS.</li> <li>Demonstrated commitment to mission-aligned principles, including inclusivity, accessibility, and engagement with patients or the community.</li> </ul>	5%