

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

Brian M. Davis Fellowship in Paediatric Bone Marrow Failure 2027 Grant Round Guidelines

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 40 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

The Brian M. Davis Fellowship in Paediatric Bone Marrow Failure has been made possible through the generous support of the Brian M. Davis Charitable Foundation, which was established to support organisations working to improve the lives of children and young people.

The Fellowship continues this legacy by supporting an early-career clinician-researcher, including medical, nursing and allied health researchers, to undertake a high-quality research project focused on paediatric BMFS.

Proposed research should advance the understanding, diagnosis or treatment of BMFS and align with one or more of Maddie Riewoldt's Vision's Five Pillars of Research:

1. Collection and analysis of clinical data and samples from BMFS patients
2. Understanding the biology and environment of blood stem cells
3. Monitoring and understanding predictors of disease prognosis, treatment response, and disease evolution
4. Improving patient care and multidisciplinary support
5. Clinical trials

This fellowship supports clinically relevant research across the full spectrum, from fundamental and discovery science through to translational and clinical research. Proposed research must advance understanding of paediatric BMFS and demonstrate potential to improve diagnosis, treatment, care, or outcomes for affected children, young people, and their families.

Fellowship Details

Timing:

- Call for applications opens: 7 September 2026
- Applications close: 13 November 2026, 17:00 AEDT
- Shortlist/interviews (if required): Week commencing 7 December 2026
- Applicants notified of outcome: Week commencing 14 December 2026
- Fellowship commencement: By July 2027 (deferral requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis)

Funding

- Up to **AUD \$100,000 per annum**, for a maximum of three years.
- Funding may be used to support salary, 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

The Fellowship is open to early-career clinician-researchers, including medical doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a clinician-researcher, including a medical doctor, nurse or allied health professional.
- 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 PhD, MD, or equivalent research or clinical qualification.
 - Medical doctors must have completed their clinical specialty training and be eligible for independent clinical practice in their specialty prior to commencement of the Fellowship.
 - Nurses and allied health professionals must hold a PhD or a Master's by Research (or equivalent qualification with a substantial research component) and demonstrate research experience and/or a track record relevant to BMFS appropriate to their career stage.

- Be an early-career researcher, defined as being within 5 years post-award of their highest degree or specialist qualification at the application closing date, with allowance made for career disruptions such as parental leave, illness, or caring responsibilities.
- Commit a minimum of 0.4 FTE to the Fellowship project for the duration of the Fellowship.
- Demonstrate research experience, interest or engagement relevant to BMFS.
- Propose a research project focused on paediatric BMFS and aligned with one or more of MRV's Five Pillars of Research.
- Nominate at least one supervisor from the administering institution who has a proven track record of research relevant to BMFS.
- Be based at an eligible Australian administering institution for the duration of the Fellowship.

Note: This fellowship is not intended to support enrolment in a higher degree by research.

Fellowship Conditions

- The Fellowship must represent a substantial contribution to a nominated research project.
- Fellows must maintain a minimum 0.4 FTE commitment to the Fellowship project, unless otherwise approved by Maddie Riewoldt's Vision.
- Periods of substantial leave, including long service leave or sabbatical leave, are not supported.
- Fellows must not receive duplicate funding for the same salary component, FTE commitment or research costs. Complementary funding from another fellowship, grant, employer or institution may be held where it supports additional protected research time or project costs and does not overlap with costs funded by this Fellowship.
- Parental leave of up to 12 months is permitted, with salary support provided by the administering institution.
- Other approved career disruptions, including illness, disability or caring responsibilities, will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may result in an extension to the Fellowship term.
- Fellows must conduct research in accordance with all of the regulatory and ethics requirements of the administering institution. Where clinical trials are part of the project, evidence of ethics/Institutional Review Board approval is required.
- The Fellow and administering institution must promptly notify Maddie Riewoldt's Vision of any material changes to the approved project, including changes to the research plan, budget, supervision arrangements, administering institution, employment status or Fellowship commencement date.
- The Fellowship is subject to the execution of a funding agreement between Maddie Riewoldt's Vision and the administering institution.
- 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
Applicant and Institute Details	• Personal information • Education & employment details • Nomination of administering institution (i.e. the organisation responsible for managing the fellowship award and where the fellow is expected to conduct the proposed research activities) • Eligibility confirmation
Research track record	• Applicant CV / resume • Career summary that is relative to opportunity – including a career disruption statement where relevant ◦ <i>Career disruption includes maternity / paternity leave, illness and carer responsibilities</i> • Grants and awards • Achievements in research that are relevant to BMFS, including conference abstracts, publications, presentations, grants and other outputs, relative to opportunity
Research proposal	• Project title • Background and rationale – demonstrate strategic alignment to paediatric BMFS and include previous evidence or preliminary data supporting the proposed research • Hypothesis and aims • Detailed description of the proposed research and methodology • Key milestones, deliverables and timeline • Expected outcomes and potential benefit for people affected by BMFS, including patients, survivors, families and carers • Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan • Justification for the nominated FTE for research time • Plan(s) for consumer engagement throughout 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 • Plan(s) for research knowledge translation/implementation – outline how findings will be applied, disseminated, or translated into clinical or policy practice

Application Sections	General information Required
Budget	Detailed budget and justification of requested costs, including all income and funding sources, using the Budget Spreadsheet Template, available for download on the Maddie's Vision website. <i>Note: Funding sources other than the Maddie's Vision Fellowship may be included where relevant to the project. Applicants must disclose all confirmed and pending funding relevant to the proposed project, including any complementary funding or institutional support contributing to protected research time or project costs.</i>
Research environment & support	- Infrastructure & resources - Collaborations, where relevant - Plan(s) for professional development activities
Consumer engagement summary	- Overview of the proposed consumer engagement approach, written in plain language for general public understanding, including: - How consumers or community members have been, or will be, involved in the research design and development - The plan for ongoing consumer or community engagement throughout the Fellowship period, proportionate to the project's scope, stage and methodology - The role, contribution and responsibilities of consumers or community members, where relevant - How accessibility, inclusivity, privacy, consent and cultural safety will be considered, where relevant - How findings will be communicated to patients, families, carers and the broader BMFS community
Supervisors, collaborators & mentors	- Supervisor(s) information: - Applicants must nominate at least one supervisor from their administering institution. Supervisors should demonstrate a strong track record in research relevant to BMFS and the proposed Fellowship project. For nursing and allied health applicants, this may include supervisors with expertise in clinical research, health services research, or patient-centred outcomes - A letter of support from each supervisor must be included with the application - Mentorship (<i>optional but strongly encouraged</i>): - 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. A letter of support from the mentor, where applicable, is to be included with the application. - Collaborators and other supporters: - Where relevant, applicants may include letters of support from key collaborators, partner organisations, or consumer representatives

How to Apply

Applicants must complete the official **MRV Brian M. Davis 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: **MRVBMDFFellowship2027_[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.
- One Brian M. Davis Fellowship will be awarded in this grant round. The Fellowship is competitive and subject to applications meeting the required standard.

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
Consumer Engagement	• Evidence of existing and/or planned consumer engagement in research design and development • Clear plan for ongoing consumer or community engagement throughout the Fellowship period, proportionate to the project's scope, stage and methodology • Clear description of the role, contribution and responsibilities of consumers or community members, where relevant • Consideration of accessibility, inclusivity, privacy, consent and cultural safety, where relevant • Clear plan for communicating findings to patients, families, carers and the broader BMFS community	10%
Applicant Capability & Track Record	• Quality and significance of research outputs (e.g. peer-reviewed publications, grants, conference presentations, or discipline-appropriate outputs such as clinical guidelines, models of care, or practice change initiatives), adjusted for career disruptions • Quantity of outputs relative to career stage and opportunity • Leadership roles in previous projects or research teams • Building or contributing to research networks and partnerships. • Professional development activities demonstrating commitment to advancing expertise relevant to the fellowship • Alignment of skills with proposed research • Clear articulation of how the fellowship will build on the applicant's track record to achieve future career goals • Potential to grow as a research leader and contribute strategically to the broader field	30%

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
Research Quality & Innovation	• Applicability and relevance to research in paediatric BMFS • Well-defined research objectives with clearly articulated questions, hypothesis and aims • Robust study design and research methodologies, including appropriate data collection and analysis and attention to ethical conduct, governance and regulatory compliance • Introduction of new or unique concepts, approaches or methodologies • Realistic project design, access to facilities, and alignment with applicant's expertise	25%
Research Impact & Benefit	• Potential for research outcomes to address critical gaps in BMFS scientific knowledge or patient care • Relevance and anticipated benefit for people affected by BMFS, including patients, survivors, families and carers • Potential to generate new knowledge, tools, models, datasets or approaches that advance paediatric BMFS research • Clear pathway for research findings to inform future research, therapeutic development, clinical practice or improved patient outcomes, as appropriate to the project's stage • Potential for the research to support future BMFS research and deliver sustained impact beyond the Fellowship period	25%
Feasibility & Institutional Support	• Access to necessary facilities, equipment, technology, personnel and other resources required to complete the research • Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan, including strategies for ethical, regulatory, or practical challenges that might arise • Commitment from the administering institution, including formal endorsement of the application, confirmation of the applicant's protected research time for the Fellowship project, and any additional institutional support provided, where relevant • Confirmation of experienced supervisor and/or mentors relevant to the proposed research area • Plans or structures to support continued collaboration, mentorship and future BMFS research opportunities following completion of the Fellowship	10%

**Brian M.
Davis**
Charitable
Foundation

Maddie Riewoldt's Vision gratefully acknowledges the Brian M. Davis Charitable Foundation for its generous funding of this Fellowship and its commitment to supporting the next generation of Bone Marrow Failure Syndrome researchers.

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