

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

Collaborative Research and Capacity Building Grant 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.

Grant Overview

In our 2027 Grant Round, MRV is offering one Collaborative Research and Capacity Building Grant, providing funding of up to \$150,000 per year for a maximum of three years to support a high-quality research project in BMFS.

Grant Aim

The aim of the Grant is to support a high-quality, collaborative BMFS research project that builds enduring research capacity, leverages existing expertise and resources, and has the potential to deliver meaningful benefits for people affected by BMFS.

Grant Objectives

The Grant seeks to:

- advance understanding, diagnosis, treatment, supportive care or health service delivery in BMFS
- foster genuine and meaningful collaboration across researchers, clinicians, institutions, disciplines, services or sectors, including opportunities to strengthen, extend or develop partnerships where appropriate
- strengthen sustainable BMFS research capacity through the development of people, skills, partnerships, systems, datasets, platforms, resources or infrastructure
- leverage and enhance existing expertise, data, biospecimens, infrastructure, research programs or partnerships
- establish a strong foundation for future research, additional funding, translation, implementation or clinical impact

Applications may encompass laboratory, translational, clinical, supportive care or health services research, including projects that improve access to diagnostic testing, therapies, clinical trials, models of care or support services for people affected by BMFS.

Matched funding, co-investment or partnership funding is not required, but may be included where it strengthens the feasibility, reach or impact of the proposed project.

The proposed project must focus on BMFS and align with one or more of MRV'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

Grant 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 the outcome: Week commencing 14 December 2026
- Grant commencement: By July 2027 (deferral requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis)

Funding

- Up to **AUD \$150,000 per annum**, for a maximum of three years.
- Funding may be used to support personnel, research consumables, data collection, travel essential to the project, 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
 - Major capital equipment, for example equipment costing more than \$10,000
 - Indirect or overhead costs, including institutional infrastructure, utilities and administration
 - Costs not directly related to the approved research project

Eligibility

To be eligible, applications must:

- Be led by a Chief Investigator who is an Australian citizen, permanent resident, or holder of a valid visa entitling them to reside and work in Australia for the full funding period.
- Nominate an eligible Australian administering institution that will accept and administer the Grant.
- Propose a research project focused on BMFS and aligned with one or more of Maddie Riewoldt's Vision's Five Pillars of Research.
- Demonstrate strategic relevance to the needs and priorities of people affected by BMFS.
- Include a collaborative approach involving relevant researchers, clinicians, institutions, disciplines, services or sectors, appropriate to the aims of the proposed project.
- Be feasible within the three-year funding period.

International collaborators may be included where they add relevant expertise or strengthen the proposed project, provided the Grant is led and administered through an eligible Australian institution.

Note: The Grant is not intended to support enrolment in a higher degree by research. Higher degree research students may participate as members of the research team, but the Grant must not primarily support tuition fees, stipends or the completion of a research degree.

Grant Conditions

- The Grant must represent a substantial contribution to an approved research project and be used only for the purposes outlined in the successful application and funding agreement.
- Grant funding must not duplicate salary support, research costs or other expenses funded through another fellowship, grant or funding source. Applicants must disclose all current, confirmed and pending funding relevant to the proposed project.
- The administering institution must ensure that the research team has sufficient time, resources, facilities and institutional support to complete the project within the approved funding period.
- Reasonable changes to project personnel may be considered where required due to parental leave, illness, disability, caring responsibilities, clinical commitments or other significant circumstances. Any proposed changes must be approved by MRV.
- Approved project delays or career disruptions, including parental leave, illness, disability, caring responsibilities, clinical commitments or other significant circumstances, will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may result in an extension to the Grant term.

- All research must be conducted in accordance with the regulatory, governance and ethics requirements of the administering institution and any relevant state, territory or Commonwealth legislation. Where the project involves clinical trials or human participants, evidence of the relevant ethics and governance approvals must be provided before the applicable research activities commence.
- The Chief Investigator and administering institution must promptly notify MRV of any material changes to the approved project, including changes to the research plan, milestones, budget, research team, administering institution or project commencement date.
- Any transfer of the Grant to another administering institution, or substantial change to the project's scope, leadership or objectives, requires prior written approval from MRV.
- The Grant is subject to the execution of a funding agreement between MRV and the administering institution.
- The administering institution is responsible for the appropriate financial management of the Grant, including taxation, reporting, auditing and compliance obligations.
- If your research involves children or vulnerable people, relevant members of the research team must hold a valid *Working with Children Check* or *Working with Vulnerable People* registration applicable in their state or territory. MRV is committed to upholding the highest standards of child safety and the protection of vulnerable individuals in all research activities.

Reporting Obligations

Grant recipients must:

- Submit written progress reports against agreed milestones and timelines.
- Provide annual financial statements.
- Present project findings at MRV scientific events, as appropriate.
- Acknowledge MRV support in all publications, presentations, and media.
- Provide a financial statement and acquittal of funds from the administering institution at the conclusion of the Grant.

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 MRV website. The Application Form provides complete details, including word limits and formatting requirements.

Application Sections	General information Required
Chief Investigator and administering institution	• Chief Investigator contact, qualification and employment details • Administering institution and research office contact details • Eligibility confirmation and relevant declarations
Chief Investigator and research team capability	• Chief Investigator CV and concise track record relevant to the proposed project and BMFS • Broader research team composition, expertise, roles and contributions • Relevant grants, publications, clinical or research achievements and evidence of successful project delivery • Demonstrated collective capability to undertake the proposed research

Application Sections	General information Required
Research proposal	- Project title and lay summary - Background and rationale, including the defined gap or unmet need in BMFS research or care - Research questions, hypothesis and aims - Detailed methodology, analysis plan and ethical or regulatory considerations - Milestones, deliverables, timeline and anticipated commencement date - Expected outcomes and potential benefit for people affected by BMFS, including patients, families and carers - Key risks, barriers and contingency strategies
Collaboration and capacity building	- Nature, purpose and added value of the proposed collaboration - Roles and complementary contributions of investigators, institutions, disciplines, services, sectors and other partners - Team governance, communication, decision-making and management arrangements - How the project will build BMFS research capacity through the development of people, skills, partnerships, systems, datasets, platforms, resources or infrastructure, including improved access to or use of biospecimens, where relevant - Plans to sustain collaboration and research capacity beyond the grant period
Feasibility, research environment and institutional support	- Access to the facilities, equipment, data, biospecimens, infrastructure and personnel required to deliver the project - Evidence that the project can be completed within the proposed timeframe and budget - Institutional and partner support, including relevant approvals, in-kind contributions and commitments - Management of dependencies, project risks and practical or regulatory barriers
Budget	- Detailed budget and justification of requested costs, including all income sources, using the Budget Spreadsheet Template, available for download on the Maddie's Vision website. - Disclosure of current, pending, in-kind, matched, co-investment or partnership funding relevant to the project, where applicable - Evidence that the proposed expenditure is reasonable, necessary and provides value for money <i>Note: Funding sources other than the MRV Grant are optional and may be included where relevant to the project</i>
Consumer engagement and BMFS impact summary	- Plain-language overview of the BMFS challenge, proposed research and anticipated benefit for patients, families and carers - The proposed approach to consumer or community engagement, proportionate to the project's scope and stage - Consideration of inclusion, accessibility, privacy, consent and cultural safety, where relevant

Application Sections	General information Required
	Plans for dissemination, translation and implementation, including how findings may contribute to research, clinical care, policy, health services or broader benefit for the BMFS community <i>Note: This section should be written in plain language and will support assessment of the project's BMFS impact, translation and consumer engagement. Detailed scientific information should not be repeated from the Research Proposal.</i>
Supporting documents	- Chief Investigator CV and relevant research team CVs - Research proposal and budget spreadsheet - Letter of support from the administering institution - Letters of support from key collaborating institutions, partners or consumer representatives, where relevant

How to Apply

Applicants must complete the official **MRV Collaborative Research and Capacity Building Grant Application Form**, available for download on the MRV website, and submit it with all required supporting documents as a **single PDF file** named: **MRVCRBGrant2027_[Chief Investigator 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.
- Grants are limited and highly competitive. MRV reserves the right not to award the Grant if no application is deemed suitable.

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
Proposed Project: Quality and Innovation	- Clear and compelling rationale addressing a defined gap or unmet need in BMFS research or care - Well-defined aims, research questions and outcomes - Rigorous, appropriate and clearly described methodology and analysis - Appropriate consideration of ethics, governance, data management and regulatory requirements - Originality or added value of the proposed concepts, methods, resources or approach	25%
Chief Investigator and Research Team Capability	- Relevant expertise, track record and leadership of the Chief Investigator - Complementary expertise, roles and contributions of the broader research team - Evidence that the team has the collective capability and experience to deliver the proposed project	20%

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
	- Relevant research, clinical, consumer, implementation or methodological expertise - Appropriateness of team composition for the project's scope and objectives	
Collaboration and Added Value	- Genuine and meaningful collaboration across investigators, institutions, disciplines, services or sectors - Clear roles, responsibilities and complementary contributions from each collaborator - Strong rationale for the collaborative approach and evidence that the proposed outcomes could not readily be achieved by a single investigator or institution - Appropriate governance, communication and decision-making arrangements - Potential to establish, strengthen or extend national and, where relevant, international BMFS research partnerships	15%
Capacity Building and Sustainability	- Clear contribution to strengthening capacity in BMFS research or care - Development of people, skills, systems, datasets, platforms, resources or infrastructure, including improved collection, access to or use of biospecimens - Meaningful opportunities to involve and develop emerging researchers, clinicians, allied health professionals or other relevant contributors - Potential to support future research, attract additional funding or enable new initiatives - Clear plans to share knowledge, resources or expertise and sustain benefits beyond the grant period	20%
Feasibility and Institutional Support	- Realistic scope, milestones, timeline and deliverables within the three-year grant period - Appropriate and justified budget, with evidence of value for money - Access to required participants, data, biospecimens, facilities, equipment, infrastructure and personnel - Identification of key risks, dependencies and barriers, with credible mitigation strategies - Clear institutional and partner commitment, including relevant in-kind support, approvals and resources	10%
BMFS Impact, Translation and Consumer Engagement	- Potential to advance understanding, diagnosis, treatment, supportive care, health service delivery or outcomes in BMFS - Relevance and anticipated benefit for people affected by BMFS, including patients, families and carers, as well as potential benefit for clinicians, researchers or health services - Meaningful and proportionate consumer or community engagement, appropriate to the project's scope, stage and methodology	10%

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
	• Clear and realistic pathways for dissemination, translation, implementation or future clinical, health service or policy impact • Consideration of inclusivity, accessibility and equitable benefit	