



## **TOUR DE CURE - GRANTS COMMITTEE**

### **Guidelines for Evaluation of Grant Applications**

Effective as at 1 September 2020

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# Guidelines for Evaluation of Grant Applications

## PART ONE – Objectives of Tour de Cure

Tour de Cure is a charitable organisation founded in 2007 to promote the prevention or control of cancer in human beings through the following activities:

- (a) Promoting and increasing the awareness and understanding of Australians in relation to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment or cure of serious health conditions (cancer);
- (b) Assisting Eligible Charities to promote and increase the awareness and understanding of Australians in relation to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment or cure of serious health conditions (cancer);
- (c) Promoting and increasing awareness and understanding among members of the public of the Trust, its activities, needs, objectives and purposes;
- (d) Soliciting and receiving from the public donations, gifts, bequests and other forms of financial assistance for the furtherance of its objectives and purposes, and in particular to solicit such financial assistance by reference to cycling and other events conducted or sponsored by the Trust;
- (e) Providing money, property or other benefits to or for Eligible Charities, or for the establishment of Eligible Charities.<sup>1</sup>

Since its inception Tour de Cure has raised over \$60 million, funded over 500 projects directed at cancer research, support and prevention initiatives and contributed to more than 30 cancer research breakthroughs.<sup>2</sup>

## PART TWO – Tour de Cure Grants Committee

The Tour de Cure Grants Committee (**Committee**) answers to the Tour de Cure Board (**Board**) and has responsibility for:

- (a) Maintaining an ethical, independent and transparent selection process that aligns with best practice to evaluate funding requests from researchers in Australian Medical Research Institutions (**AMRIs**), other Australian cancer research and support organisations holding Item 1 charity status (collectively, **Eligible Organisations**) and any other organisation as is permitted under the Tour de Cure Trust;
- (b) Establishing and maintaining relationships with independent panels, where applicable, for review of research applications;
- (c) Making recommendations to the Board on the allocation of funding across the categories of research projects, support initiatives and prevention research projects and initiatives;
- (d) Reviewing research, support and prevention applications and co-ordinating evaluations made by independent panels, where applicable;
- (e) Making recommendations with respect to proposed grant recipients to the Board;

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<sup>1</sup> Deed Poll of Variation of Trust, Tour de Cure Trust, May 2, 2012

<sup>2</sup> As at 1 September 2020

- (f) Where possible, providing feedback to successful and unsuccessful applicants for funding;
- (g) Reviewing, working with and leveraging current and potential strategic funding partnerships;
- (h) Reviewing progress of funded projects over time to assess success of projects against stated aims;
- (i) Identifying and communicating progress against aims within funded projects and reporting such to the Board, the broader Tour de Cure community and the research community.

### **PART THREE – Overview of Funding**

#### **Tour de Cure is committed to funding innovation and excellence**

We raise vital funds for world-class cancer projects by supporting initiatives in the areas of research and prevention to bring the curing of cancer closer to reality, as well as supporting patients on the cancer journey.

We also recognise that every dollar Tour de Cure raises is hard-earned. The Grants Committee has an obligation to ensure each dollar is well spent.

#### **General Considerations:**

- (a) We are cancer agnostic – we believe every form of cancer deserves to be beaten - and accordingly will consider applications for research investigating any form of cancer and its health consequences.
- (b) We will consider applications for cancer research impacting any part of the population.
- (c) We will consider applications for research at all points of investigation from basic research, to diagnosis, to treatment through to translational studies, supporting clinical trials through to cancer survivorship.
- (d) Wherever possible we want to see our finite funding resources leveraged as much as possible, such as an Eligible Organisation receiving Tour de Cure funding that may facilitate access to additional research funding and support.
- (e) We support the best projects and researchers we can find. As a result, we may support multiple projects from the same Eligible Organisation.
- (f) We have aligned our grant categories to support postgraduate research students, early career and mid-career scientists as well as more senior researchers, all with significant potential or a proven track record.
- (g) We will fund salaries of researchers and research assistant and other associated costs directly related to the project approved for funding.
- (h) We believe our ability to continue to raise funds from our generous supporters is predicated on demonstrating disciplined diligence in the selection of the best projects possible and ensuring proper ongoing project governance.
- (i) We require grant recipients to share the results of their work with Tour de Cure at defined intervals so we may track progress and inform our supporters.

- (j) Eligibility is limited in all circumstances to applicants permitted to receive funding under the terms of the Tour de Cure Trust as may be amended from time to time (currently limited to Eligible Organisations).
- (k) At the time of application, applicants (Chief Investigator only) must be an Australian citizen, an Australian permanent resident or must have applied to become an Australian permanent resident. Confirmation that Australian permanent residency has been granted will be required before an award can commence. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of the award.
- (l) Tour de Cure reserves the right to offer a grant of a sum that differs from that proposed by the applicant.
- (m) Receipt of funds from Tour de Cure is subject to the Eligible Organisation entering into a Funding Agreement setting out the terms and conditions of the grant.
- (n) Decisions made by Tour de Cure with respect to applications (successful and unsuccessful) are final and are not reviewable.
- (o) We do not automatically award a grant in every category and we reserve the right to only award grants to projects in categories where the applications are of sufficient merit.
- (p) All grants are made subject to confirmation being received from the Eligible Organisation that all requisite ethics and other related approvals have been received or will be obtained before funding is provided.
- (q) All grants are subject to funds being available and Tour de Cure is not bound to make any grants in any financial year.

The Grant Application Process typically opens in September with Expressions of Interest required by the end of October for all research grant categories. Please see the details for specific dates on the Tour de Cure website at [www.tourdecure.com.au](http://www.tourdecure.com.au). Recommendations are made by the Committee to the Board by March of each subsequent year and final decisions announced to successful applicants in April of that same year. Receipt of funds normally occurs by December of the same year following notification of outcome.

Funding is provided on a one-off basis and may be paid by one or more instalments. Previously successful applicants may apply for follow-up funding in subsequent years. Follow-up applications will be evaluated on their merits relative to other project applications.

## **PART FOUR – Funding Guidelines**

Annually, Tour de Cure selects and funds cancer projects in the following areas:

### **A. Research Grants**

Research Projects are supported that improve cancer outcomes and help find a cure for cancer. We fund all types of cancer research projects and are proud to support some of Australia's leading medical research institutes and researchers. We also offer funding to the most talented cancer research leaders of tomorrow. We also fund emerging, talented postgraduate research students to support them in their studies. We proactively identify promising research and critical knowledge gaps that may not fit into traditional funding schemes. We fund acquisition of equipment or resources to help identify new ways to detect and treat cancer. We fund and research that, among other things:

- Prevents cancer and the related health consequences;
- Develops new treatments or medicines;
- Improves cancer detection and diagnosis;
- Improves quality of life;
- Improves understanding of different cancers;
- Supports clinical trials.

**Common Criteria** – the following guidelines (**Common Criteria**) apply to all *research* applications, unless otherwise noted. Additional criteria (outlined below) may be applied to specific grant categories:

- Project and Scientific Quality:** Includes assessment of Application Quality (presentation of scientific background, objectives and content (research proposal/hypothesis)), Methodological Approach (relevance of the proposed methods to answer the hypotheses and scientific questions, including the breadth of the methodological approach and level of effort).
- Project Significance and Innovation:** Includes assessment of Originality (does the research project contribute to significant theoretical and/or methodological advances and/or development of new scientific knowledge and practices in the field?), Insight Generation (including the potential for developing new insights, capabilities and/or treatments), Impact (including translatability), and Dissemination (commitment to communication and sharing of results).
- Likelihood of success:** Includes Quality of Team (assessment of qualifications of lead investigator and project teams, other collaborating research organisations). This will include assessment of the lead investigator's expertise and experience within the field of research. This criteria will also review quality of the Organisation (the degree to which the research team is part of a research environment that has the competence and required resources needed to ensure the success of the project), Experience (the lead investigator's relevant publication record and other evidence of experience relative to opportunity), and Collaboration (demonstration of interdisciplinary cooperation and national and/or international collaboration, when relevant). While relevant publication record of the investigator(s) will be considered, this will be just one of the criteria reviewed in assessing 'Likelihood of success'.<sup>3</sup>
- Value and Feasibility:** Includes assessment of proposed project budget in terms of reasonableness, thoroughness and overall project management versus expected deliverables. Project feasibility (including the budget being realistic, sensible and fully justified) will be considered along with assessment of risk factors.
- Eligibility:** Open to applicants from any Eligible Organisation. The lead investigator must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident as at the closing date of application.

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<sup>3</sup> Note that Tour de Cure is a signatory to the Declaration on Research Assessment. Signatories to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) are committed to assessing the quality and impact of scientific research through means other than journal impact factors. See <https://sfedora.org> for more information.

**Research Projects Guidelines** – specific projects that will be funded include:

**(a) Senior Research Grants**

- (i) Funding Available: Up to \$200,000.
- (ii) Focus: Any research project that supports the objectives of Tour de Cure.
- (iii) Criteria:
  - 1. Common Criteria; and
  - 2. Demonstration of a nationally or internationally competitive research program. Applicants must show evidence of a sustained scientific output in cancer research over at least five years. This may include publications, previous funding, recognition, invited presentations, contribution to discipline, patents and translation into policy/practice.

**(b) Pioneering Research Grants**

- (i) Funding Available: Up to \$100,000.
- (ii) Focus: Any research project that supports the objectives of Tour de Cure with particular emphasis on early stage, exploratory or innovative research.
- (iii) Criteria:
  - 1. Common Criteria; and
  - 2. Demonstration that the proposed project is a novel and/or potentially ground-breaking area of research that is likely to open up new areas of research and provide new insights into cancer diagnosis or treatment.

**(c) Mid-Career Research Grants**

- (i) Funding Available: Up to \$100,000.
- (ii) Eligibility: Open to applicants within any Eligible Organisation who are within five to 10 years of PhD award or equivalent research doctorate as at the closing date of the Primary Application process in any given year. The PhD award date is defined as the date on the testamur. If a candidate received their PhD or equivalent research doctorate over 10 years ago, they may still be eligible by providing details of any significant career disruption that may be taken into consideration by the Committee.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> A career disruption involves a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work, either due to absence (for periods one month or greater) and/or longer-term partial return to work, to accommodate parental leave, carer's responsibilities or illness. The career disruption must have resulted in significantly reduced research productivity research output.

(iii) Focus: Any research project that supports the objectives of Tour de Cure while providing the platform for a mid-career researcher to successfully apply for competitive research funding.

(iv) Criteria:

1. Common Criteria;
2. Letter of support from the Eligible Organisation; and
3. Applicant's career development objectives.

**(d) Early Career Research Grants**

(i) Funding Available: Up to \$100,000.

(ii) Eligibility: Open to applicants within any Eligible Organisation who are within five years of PhD award or equivalent research doctorate as at the closing date of the Primary Application process in any given year. The PhD award date is defined as the date on the testamur. If a candidate received their PhD or equivalent research doctorate over five years ago, they may still be eligible by providing details of any significant career disruption that may be taken into consideration by the Committee.

The top applicant in any given year will be awarded the **Scott Canner Award**.

(iii) Focus: Any research project that supports the objectives of Tour de Cure while providing the platform for an early career researcher to successfully apply for competitive research funding.

(iv) Criteria:

1. Common Criteria;
2. Academic record;
3. Letter of support from the Eligible Organisation; and
4. Applicant's career development objectives.

**(e) Prevention Research Grant**

(i) Funding Available: Up to \$100,000.

(ii) Focus: Any research project that supports the objectives of Tour de Cure with particular emphasis on research that is focused on identifying those factors that will minimise the incidence of cancer.

(iii) Criteria:

1. Common Criteria; and
2. Letter of support from the Eligible Organisation.

**(f) PhD Support Scholarships**

- (i) Funding Available: up to \$10,000 each (up to 10 in total per grant round); payment will be made within three months of notification of success.
- (ii) Eligibility:
  - 1. Open to applicants within any Eligible Organisation who are currently enrolled in a full-time program of research consistent with the objectives of Tour de Cure, leading to the awarding of a PhD or equivalent research doctorate; and
  - 2. Applicants must be current holders of a PhD scholarship (a university research training program, NHMRC scholarship or equivalent).
- (iii) Focus: Any research project that supports the objectives of Tour de Cure. Fifty percent (50%) of the funding must be used by a recipient for direct research costs, conference attendances, the purchase of equipment or analytic resources.
- (iv) Prospective applicants may apply in subsequent years but may only receive a PhD Support Scholarship once during their program of study.
- (v) Criteria:
  - 1. Project quality;
  - 2. Letter of support from nominated supervisor;
  - 3. Academic record;
  - 4. Publications; and
  - 5. Applicant's career development objectives.

**(g) 'Tour de Cure – Foundation for Surgery' Fellowship**

Tour de Cure also supports a research fellowship in conjunction with the *Foundation for Surgery* in the area of surgical intervention in the treatment of cancer. Applications for this Scholarship are open to Fellows of the College, and Trainees or International Medical Graduates on a pathway to Fellowship. Interested parties are directed to the Foundation of Surgery website at [www.surgeons.org](http://www.surgeons.org) for more details on this fellowship.

**(h) Research Matching Grants**

- (i) Funding Available: Up to \$100,000 (when matched, funding will total up to \$200,000).
- (ii) Eligibility: Open to any Eligible Organisation subject to contribution of a matching amount (up to \$100,000) from their own fundraising to Tour de Cure.
- (iii) Focus: Any research project that supports the objectives of Tour de Cure.

- (iv) Criteria:
  1. Common Criteria; and
  2. Letter of support including commitment of matching funding from the Eligible Organisation.

(i) **Enabling Matching Grants**

- (i) Funding Available: Up to \$50,000 (when matched, funding will total up to \$100,000).
- (ii) Eligibility: Open to any Eligible Organisation subject to contribution of a matching amount from their own fundraising to Tour de Cure.
- (iii) Focus: Any application for infrastructure (equipment, technology, data, biobanks, analytic or other resources *excluding* people resources etc) that supports multiple cancer research projects.
- (iv) Criteria:
  1. Linkage to specific research projects that are otherwise funded (not necessarily through Tour de Cure);
  2. Letter of support including commitment of matching funding from the Eligible Organisation;
  3. Compelling need vs resources already available in the cancer research community (specific comment from applicant on avoidance of duplication where appropriate);
  4. Demonstrated plan to share enabling infrastructure across multiple projects and across multiple Eligible Organisations; and
  5. Clear plan for ongoing support of operational costs or service contracts by the Eligible Organisation.

**B. Support Grants**

Support Projects are directed at supporting those patients and their families who are on the journey of cancer treatment. Cancer takes a significant emotional, physical and financial toll on those it affects. Nobody should have to face cancer alone. We find and fund cancer support projects that make all the difference to patients, families, caregivers and communities – from the moment of diagnosis, through treatment and beyond. We fund support projects that:

- (a) Connect people living with cancer, helping them to share experiences and build supportive relationships;
- (b) Support people through the impact of diagnosis, giving them strategies to cope;
- (c) Offer practical help through treatment and beyond;
- (d) Provide financial support and assistance to those experiencing hardship;
- (e) Bring respite to families and caregivers;

- (f) Create hope in the face of this terrible disease;
- (g) Help us to understand the emotional and physical support that people need when they are living with cancer.

### **Support Grant Guidelines**

- (a) Funding Available: Up to \$100,000.
- (b) Eligibility: Open to any Eligible Organisation or as otherwise provided for in the Tour de Cure Trust Deed.
- (c) Focus: Support Projects for those patients and their families who are on the journey of cancer treatment. Note: *research* projects are not funded under this category and should be submitted under one of the Research Projects categories.
- (d) Criteria:
  - (i) Effectiveness in meeting a defined need in the community;
  - (ii) Ubiquity of offering – how available is the output of the project to defined beneficiaries?
  - (iii) Uniqueness of need relative to other options for providing similar support to beneficiaries.

### **Local Grant Guidelines**

Cancer can be an isolating experience, particularly for people living in regional communities, where access to care and support can be incredibly limited. On every day of any Tour we hold, we contribute \$10,000 to local cancer support projects and hold community dinners, so our riders and support crew can meet local people and hear first-hand why their support is so important. Together we are helping to foster a culture of kindness for everyone touched by cancer.

- (a) Funding Available: up to \$10,000.
- (b) Eligibility: Open to any Eligible Organisation operating within a community associated with a Tour de Cure event<sup>5</sup>.
- (c) Focus: Projects or programs supporting cancer patients and their families in that community.
- (d) Criteria:
  - (i) Effectiveness in meeting a defined need in the community;
  - (ii) Ubiquity of offering (how available is the output of the project to defined beneficiaries?); and
  - (iii) Uniqueness of need relative to other options for providing similar support to beneficiaries.

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<sup>5</sup> Note: The window for application is set by Tour de Cure on a time to time basis in the course of determining those communities likely to be hosting Tour de Cure rides or other events in the upcoming year. These grants are not determined during the Annual Grant Round associated with other grants.

## C. Prevention Grants

Prevention projects are focused on those factors that will minimise the incidence of cancer and increase education and awareness of the steps that can be taken within the community to *prevent* cancer. Many people think that getting cancer is down to genes, fate or bad luck. The reality is that cancer risk depends on a combination of genetic makeup, environment and the individual's lifestyle, the last of which can be influenced by decisions made by the individual. We fund cancer prevention projects including seminars, workshops, school programs, cancer awareness campaigns and resources that provide insight into effective prevention strategies and encourage people to minimise their risk. Some previously funded examples include projects focused on the benefit to cancer prevention of:

- Keeping a healthy bodyweight;
- Enjoying the sun safely;
- Staying active;
- Cutting back on alcohol;
- Eating a healthy, balanced diet;
- Not smoking;
- Cancer prevention or awareness programs for indigenous or culturally diverse groups.

We fund cancer prevention research and projects that help to raise awareness and reduce the risk of developing the disease.

We also actively raise awareness about cancer risks and promote healthy living to school-aged children through our **'Be Fit, Be Healthy, Be Happy' Program** directed at schools across Australia.

### **Prevention Grants Guidelines**

- (a) Funding Available: Up to \$100,000.
- (b) Eligibility: Open to any Eligible Organisation.
- (c) Focus: Programs that are directed at understanding, initiating and/or supporting efforts that will minimise the incidence of cancer, and increasing education and awareness of the steps that can be taken within the community to prevent cancer. This may include research into the application and success of other prevention strategies. Note: *research* projects are not funded under this category and should be submitted under one of the Research Projects categories
- (d) Criteria:
  - (i) Common Criteria to the extent the proposal involves a research effort; or
  - (ii) The extent to which the project will lead to a unique<sup>6</sup>, differentiated and scalable concept to support prevention of cancer.

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<sup>6</sup> Note: Proposals involving general education and awareness programs, such as those commonly initiated by government, are unlikely to be recommended for funding.

## **PART FIVE – Application Form**

Applications must be made using the online form at:

[Tour de Cure Application Form via SmartyGrants](#)

For more information regarding Tour de Cure please visit our site at:

[www.tourdecure.com.au](http://www.tourdecure.com.au).

*For more specific information about the Tour de Cure Grants Program please visit our Research Hub at: [Tour de Cure Research Hub](#)*

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Thank you for joining us in the fight against cancer.