

# Tour de Cure - Research, Support and Prevention Grants Committee

## Guidelines for Evaluation of Grant Applications

*Effective as of August 1, 2019*

### **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 \$52 million, funded over 432 projects directed at cancer research, support and prevention initiatives and contributed to 29 cancer research breakthroughs.<sup>2</sup>

### **PART TWO – Research, Support and Prevention Grants Committee**

The Research, Support and Prevention 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**) and other Australian cancer support organisations holding Item 1 charity status (collectively, **Eligible Organisations**);
- (b) Establishing and maintaining relationships with independent panels, where applicable, for review of research applications;

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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 June 30, 2018

- (c) Making recommendations to the Board on the allocation of funding across the categories of research, support and prevention;
- (d) Making recommendations of proposed grant recipients to the Board;
- (e) Reviewing research, support and prevention applications and co-ordinating evaluations made by independent panels, where applicable;
- (f) Where possible. providing feedback to successful and unsuccessful applicants for funding;
- (g) Reviewing progress of funded projects over time to assess success of projects against stated aims;
- (h) 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;
- (i) Reviewing, working with and leveraging current and potential strategic funding partnerships.

### **PART THREE - Overview of Funding**

**Tour de Cure is committed to funding innovation and excellence.** Through our tours and events, we raise vital funds for the world-class cancer projects that we believe will bring the prevention, improvement of cancer outcomes and curing of cancer closer to reality.

We also recognise that every dollar Tour de Cure raised is hard earned and accordingly the RSP 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 diagnosis to discovery and treatment including basic research through to translational studies, supporting clinical trials through to cancer survivorship research;
- (d) Wherever possible we want to see our finite funding resources leveraged as much as possible through such things as facilitating an AMRI using Tour de Cure support to access further research funding and support;
- (e) We support the best projects and researchers we can find, and accordingly we may support multiple projects from the same AMRI;
- (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 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 research governance;
- (h) We require grant recipients to share the results of their work with Tour de Cure at defined intervals so we can inform our supporters;
- (i) Eligibility is limited in all circumstances to applicants from Eligible Organisations;
- (j) 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.
- (k) 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;
- (l) Tour de Cure reserves the right to offer a grant of a sum that differs from that proposed by the applicant;
- (m) Decisions made by Tour de Cure with respect to successful (and unsuccessful) applications are final and are not reviewable;
- (n) We do not automatically award a grant in every category and that we reserve the right to only award projects in categories where the applications are of sufficient merit;
- (o) All grants are made subject to confirmation being received from the Eligible Organisation that all requisite ethics and other related approvals have been received;
- (p) All grants are subject to funds being available and Tour de Cure is not bound to make any grants in any financial year.

The Primary Grant Application Process typically opens in July with Applications for Funding required by the end of August. 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 in November of the application year and final decisions announced to successful applicants in December of that same year. Receipt of funds normally occurs by December of the following year.

Funding is provided on a one-off basis. 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.

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

- Senior Research Grants

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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://sf-dora.org> for more information.

- (i) Funding Available: up to \$200,000.
- (ii) Eligibility: Open to applicants from any Eligible Organisation. The lead investigator must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident as of the closing date of application.
- (iii) Focus: Any research project that supports the objectives of Tour de Cure
- (iv) Criteria:
  1. Common Criteria;
  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) Eligibility: Open to applicants from any Eligible Organisation. The lead investigator must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident as of the closing date of application.
- (iii) Focus: Any research project that supports the objectives of Tour de Cure with particular emphasis on early stage, exploratory or innovative research.
- (iv) Criteria:
  1. Common Criteria;
  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 control.

**(c) 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 can be taken into consideration by the Committee.<sup>4</sup> 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.

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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 carers responsibilities or illness. The career disruption must have resulted in significantly reduced research productivity or nil research output.

- (iv) Criteria:
  - 1. see Common Criteria;
  - 2. Academic record;
  - 3. Letter of support from the Eligible Organisation;
  - 4. Applicant's career development objectives.

(d) Mid-Career Research Grants

- (v) Funding Available: up to \$100,000.
- (vi) Eligibility: Open to applicants within any Eligible Organisation who are within five to ten 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 ten years ago, they may still be eligible by providing details of any significant career disruption that can be taken into consideration by the Committee.<sup>5</sup>
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) Criteria:
  - 5. see Common Criteria;
  - 6. Letter of support from the Eligible Organisation;
  - 7. Applicant's career development objectives.

(e) Tour de Cure – Foundation for Surgery Fellowship

Tour de Cure also supports an additional research fellowship in conjunction with the Foundation for Surgery in the area of surgical intervention into 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.

(f) 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:

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<sup>5</sup> See Footnote 4.

1. Common Criteria;
2. Letter of support re: matching funding from the Eligible Organisation.

(g) Tour de Cure PhD Support Scholarships<sup>6</sup>

- (i) Funding Available: up to \$10,000 each ( up to 5 in total); payment will be made within 3 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 cancer research consistent with the objectives of Tour de Cure, leading to the awarding of a PhD or equivalent research doctorate;
  2. Applicants must be current holders of a PhD scholarship (a university research training program, NHMRC scholarship or equivalent);
  3. The applicant must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident as of the date of application;
  4. The applicant must not be in receipt of any other top-up funding from an external funding body other than that provided by the specific AMRI or university department;
  5. Applicants must be within three years of starting their PhD as at the closing date of the Primary Application process in any given year.
- (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. Fifty percent (50%) of the funding must be used by a recipient for research costs, conference attendance, purchase of equipment or computing resources.
- (iv) Prospective applicants may apply in subsequent years but can only receive a Support Scholarship once during their program of study.
- (v) Criteria:
  1. Project;
  2. Supervisor;
  3. Academic record;
  4. Publications;
  5. Letter of support from the Eligible Organisation;
  6. Applicant's career development objectives.

(h) Enabling Matching Grants

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<sup>6</sup> Note:

- (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, computing 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;
  2. Letter of support re: matching funding from the Eligible Organisation;
  3. Compelling need vs resources already available in the cancer research community (specific comment on avoidance of duplication where appropriate);
  4. Demonstrated plan to share enabling infrastructure across multiple projects and across multiple AMRIs;
  5. Clear plan for ongoing support of operational costs or service contracts by the Eligible Organisation, if any;
  6. The extent to which the proposed project demonstrates a novel and/or potentially ground breaking area of research that is likely to open up further areas of research and provide new insights into cancer control.

## **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 terrible 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.
- (c) Focus: Support Projects for those patients and their families who are on the journey of cancer treatment. Research projects are not funded under this category and should be submitted under either one of the Research Projects categories or under the Prevention Project category.
  - (i) 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 .

### Community 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 Tour, we donate \$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 anyone 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 .
- (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?;
  - (iii) Uniqueness of need relative to other options for providing similar support to beneficiaries.

### **C. Prevention Grants**

Prevention Projects are focused on identifying those factors 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. Many people think that getting cancer is down to genes, fate or bad luck. But cancer risk actually depends on a combination of genetic makeup, environment and things

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<sup>7</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 are not determined during the Primary Application Process associated with other grants.

to do with an individual's lifestyle, the latter of which are more able to be controlled. We fund cancer prevention projects, including research, 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:

- 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 the 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 schools through our 'Be Fit, Be Healthy, Be Happy' Program directed at children.

#### Prevention Grants Guidelines

- (a) Funding Available: Up to \$100,000.
- (b) Eligibility: Open to any Eligible Organisation.
- (c) Focus: Research or other 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.
- (d) Criteria:
  - (i) Common Criteria to the extent the proposal involves a research effort;
  - (ii) For other non-research proposals, the extent to which the project will lead to a unique<sup>8</sup>, differentiated and scalable concept to support prevention of cancer.

### **PART FIVE – Application Form**

Applications must be made using the online form provided at [www.tourdecure.com.au](http://www.tourdecure.com.au).

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<sup>8</sup> Note: proposals involving general education and awareness programs, such as those commonly initiated by government, are unlikely to be recommended for funding.

