Comprehensive research leadership and succession planning necessitates development and support of researchers and clinicians. To that end, the END RHD CRE offers bi-annual rounds of competitive seed and project funding for research projects that support the objectives of the CRE.

**Overarching criteria for approval of funding**

* The funding request must support the objectives of the END RHD CRE.
* Applications are based primarily on merit. Consideration will also be given to other factors, including preference given to Indigenous applicants and geographic spread of participating jurisdictions.
* External funding sources are used to complement END RHD CRE funds. Thus all attempts should be made to access external funds as well. Use of CRE funds to leverage external funding will be an advantage.
* The END RHD CRE Executive Committee decision is final.

**Funding criteria for Project and Seed funding**

Applications for funding can be for:

* Seed funding for projects with defined outcomes – up to $15,000 each
* Projects with defined outcomes

**Application process**

**Application submission and review**

* Seed funding rounds will occur once a year, with closing dates in June.
* Project funding rounds will occur once a year.
* In exceptional circumstances, applications between rounds may be considered.
* Applications need to be submitted to the END RHD CRE Program Manager.
* The Program Manager will acknowledge acceptance of the application for review by issuing an acknowledgement notice by e-mail to the applicant.
* An accepted application will be reviewed against the assessment criteria by the END RHD CRE Executive Committee.
* Formal notification will be sent to successful applicants setting out the conditions of the funding, including milestones and reporting requirements.
* Successful applicants will be required to submit reports as follows:
  + submit annual progress reports
  + annual financial statements of expenditure
  + a final report including a budget acquittal statement.
* A collaboration agreement will need to be in place at the commencement of the project with team members from other organisations/universities.
* Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by the Program Manager.

**Assessment Criteria**

Applications will be assessed against the NHMRC ***Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria*** as follows:

* Community engagement - the proposal demonstrates how the research and potential outcomes are a priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with relevant community engagement by individuals, communities and/or organisations in conceptualisation, development and approval, data collection and management, analysis, report writing and dissemination of results.
* Benefit - the potential health benefit of the project is demonstrated by addressing an important public health issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This benefit can have a single focus or affect several areas, such as knowledge, finance and policy or quality of life.  The benefit may be direct and immediate or it can be, indirect, gradual and considered.
* Sustainability and transferability - the proposal demonstrates how the results of the project have the potential to lead to achievable and effective contributions to health gain for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, beyond the life of the project. This may be through sustainability in the project setting and/or transferability to other settings such as evidence-based practice and/or policy. In considering this issue the proposal should address the relationship between costs and benefits.
* Building capability - the proposal demonstrates how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and researchers will develop relevant capabilities through partnerships and participation in the project.

Applications will also be assessed against the following criteria:

* Ability to address unmet needs in RHD control in the Australian context
* Likelihood of securing future competitive grant funding (e.g. by collecting pilot data, developing collaborative links with other leading researchers in Australia or overseas, etc.)
* Other funding sources approached and/or secured
* How success will be measured including targets and milestones
* The criteria outlined in appendix 1

**Conditions of funding**

The conditions of the END RHD Centre of Research Excellence Project and seed funding award are as follows:

* that the END RHD CRE be acknowledged as a source of funding on any publications or other relevant outputs from the funded activity.
* that you provide an annual report on progress and expenditure. This report must be on the END RHD CRE pro-forma and will be given to the END RHD CRE Executive Committee.
* that any unspent funds be returned to the CRE at the end of the project.

**What should you do?**

Please complete this application form. Your application should be complete and address all of the questions.

Email a completed application form to the END RHD CRE Program Manager Katherine Gray at [END.RHD.CRE.SMB@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:END.RHD.CRE.SMB@telethonkids.org.au)

**What happens next?**

* You will receive an acknowledgement that your application has been received. *Please note that acceptance of the application does not guarantee that funds will be awarded.*
* Application forms will be reviewed for completeness by the END RHD CRE Program Manager, who may contact you for additional information.
* Your application will then be forwarded to the END RHD CRE Executive Committee, and each application will be assessed using the assessment criteria set out above.
* You may be required to be interviewed by members of the END RHD CRE Executive Committee (face to face or by telephone)
* A formal notification will be sent to successful applicants setting out the conditions of the funding. This will also include milestones and reporting requirements.

**Questions and contact details**

Please direct any questions to:

Katherine Gray

END RHD CRE Program Manager

Email: [END.RHD.CRE.SMB@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:END.RHD.CRE.SMB@telethonkids.org.au)

Phone: 08 9489 7648

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| --- |
| **APPLICANT NAME:** |
| **APPLICANT CONTACT DETAILS:** *Include email and phone* |
| **INSTITUTION(S):** |
| **CRE THEME:**  **□** Theme I: Epidemiology and Bioscience  **□** Theme II: Implementation and Translation  **□** Theme III: The RHD Community |
| **FUNDING CATEGORY**:  **□** Seed funding  **□** Travel grant  **□**  Training grant |
| **PROJECT SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION:** *Provide a lay summary of your project. If successful, this will be published on the END RHD CRE website (max 150 words).* |
| **PROJECT OUTLINE:** *Outline any background information that supports and / or is relevant to the request. For seed funding requests, include project aim, hypothesis, methods and timeline (max 3 pages plus max 1 page references).* |
| **SIGNIFICANCE AND OUTCOMES**: *Please outline the objective of your request. Include why the research is significant, what the potential outcomes may be, and how it links to the END RHD CRE (max 1 page).* |
| **RELEVANCE TO THE END RHD CRE:** *Detail how the proposed research is relevant to the END RHD CRE, explain why it is relevant to address an issue of significant importance to rheumatic fever and / or rheumatic heart disease control in Australia (max 1 page).* |
| **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:** *Please provide an overview of how you plan to involve the community in your research. This should include your plans for providing feedback to the community.* |
| **ETHICS:** *Should your application be successful, which ethics committee(s) will you apply to?* |
| **RESEARCH TEAM AND COLLABORATORS:** *Include a list of other investigators on the team, including their contact details. Explain why the project team is well positioned to develop competitive grant applications in this area (max 1 page).* |
| **AMOUNT REQUESTED:** |
| **OTHER FUNDING SOURCES:** *Provide details of any other funding applied for and/or received.* |
| **BUDGET**: *Please submit a budget including full costings and justifications. Any in-kind support should also be included (max 1 page).* |
| **PROJECT END DATE:** |
| **REFEREES:** *Please provide the details of 2 professional referees.* |
| **CV:** *Please attach your CV.* |

**Appendix 1: Seed and project funding detailed assessment criteria**

**SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND**

The proposal has a research plan that:

* has objectives that are well-defined, highly coherent and strongly developed.
* is well designed.
* is highly feasible given the experience, skills and readiness of the team.

**SIGNIFICANCE AND OUTCOMES**

The planned research:

* will result in a significant or highly significant advance in the knowledge pipeline, which addresses an issue of significant importance to rheumatic fever and / or rheumatic heart disease.
* is likely to translate into fundamental outcomes in the science and/or practice of clinical medicine or public health or provide fundamental changes in health policy.
* is likely to result in NHMRC project submissions or other similar competitive grant application submissions.
* will likely result in high impact publications.

**RELEVANCE TO THE END RHD CRE**

The planned research:

* is highly innovative to address an important problem/need in the core purpose of the END RHD CRE.
* will use appropriate methodologies and approaches to enhance outcomes.
* is forward looking, ground breaking, out of the box, novel.
* advances knowledge of RHD.

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

The applicant candidate/team has included details on:

* how they will involve the community in the design and conduct of the research.
* how they will provide feedback to the community on the outcome of the research.
* how they will ensure any materials produced for the community are appropriate to the audience (e.g. use of appropriate language, imagery etc).

**TEAM AND COLLABORATIONS**

The applicant candidate/team:

* has expertise that specifically targets the proposed research both in terms of depth and breadth.
* has training and/or track records appropriate to the proposed research activities.
* preferably crosses more than one of the three themes as outlined in the END RHD CRE.
* is encouraged to be highly collaborative and cross-disciplinary.

**BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION**

The budget:

* has been well justified.
* is necessary to carry out the proposed project.

*Note – END RHD CRE funds will only be provided to cover Direct Research Costs as defined by the NHMRC.*