

## 2024 Care Support Grant Guidelines

### GRANT OBJECTIVES

Despite being described over 150 years ago, MND remains a terminal diagnosis with no effective treatments or cure. The rapid and progressive nature of MND and resulting high level of disability impacts many aspects of patient life. Management of patient care is complex and requires a multi-disciplinary approach to ensure patient health and well-being.

The FightMND Care Support Grant Initiative provides targeted support to improve the quality of life for people living with and/or affected by MND, as well as building capacity and capability in the MND community.

Two funding opportunities are available for FightMND Care Support Grants:

- i) *Research Support grants* – support projects that implement innovative approaches to improve MND care. **Health and medical projects should apply through FightMND’s care research grant program.**
- ii) *Equipment Support grants* – provide funding for equipment technology and at home needs.

### Key Areas of Support include;

1. Improving information for people living with MND, e.g. applications/portals;
2. Improved education for allied health professionals/multidisciplinary teams and/or carers who provide care for people living with MND, particularly in regional or remote areas;
3. Families (inc. children and young people) and carers of people living with MND;
4. Innovation and support for people living with MND;
5. Equipment technology and at home needs;

### Grants that address the below will be prioritised:

1. Grants that address the inequality faced by people living with MND who do not have access to NDIS funding, and/or those that only receive My Aged Care funding (for example, those who are diagnosed after the age of 64).
2. Grants that support collaboration between two or more organisations, and/or able to provide support for health professionals or people living with MND at a national level.

### GRANT CRITERIA

#### Eligibility

Applicants must fulfill the following criteria:

- I. The grant must demonstrate:
  - Capacity to improve the quality of life for people living with MND and people affected by MND; and/or
  - Capability building in the MND Community to improve support for people living with MND and people affected by MND.
- II. The Grant’s primary focus must be people living with MND and/or people affected by MND (other neurodegenerative disease types may be secondary beneficiaries).
- III. The Grant must be Australian led and predominantly based in Australia.

- IV. Support must not replace statutory service provision.
- V. The Grant must support a project or initiative (support for ongoing staff roles is ineligible).
- VI. The project and research plan should be aligned with FightMND Care Research values (refer to Table 1)

## Project plan and background

The proposal should:

- clearly address an unmet need and/or a gap in the MND landscape
- demonstrate significant impact in one or more priority areas of support.
- provide a clear rationale to support the proposed project
- demonstrate strong feasibility of delivery in a 1 or 2 year time frame
- where relevant, address how outcomes can be maintained beyond project completion or identify a path to sustainability.
- address how outcomes will be delivered or disseminated, and/or how target audience will be prioritised.
- identify current or future potential partners if relevant to project.
- where relevant, identify opportunities for collaboration and progression to a national approach.

## Application form guidelines

- The application must be clear, well-written and justified, with specific attention to the following sections:
  - Section 2.5: Estimated beneficiaries
  - Section 2.8: Expected outcomes and measurements
  - Section 2.9: Risks
  - Section 2.12: Expenditure
- A full itemised and detailed budget for the proposed project must be included in the expenditure section
  - Budget items **can** include:
    - Salaries (for personnel directly involved in the proposed project).
    - Salary oncosts if itemised (e.g. superannuation, payroll tax, work cover);
    - Direct costs (consumables, resources, equipment etc relevant to and necessary for the proposed project);
  - Budget items **cannot** include:
    - Indirect, overhead or oncosts of the administering organisation/company.

## FightMND Care Research Values

The aims, objectives and research plan of FightMND Care Support Grant applications should be guided by and align with FightMND Care Research Values, which are defined in Table 1 below.

### FightMND Care Research Values

FightMND's Care research strategy is guided by five core values.

Values:	COMMUNITY	INTEGRITY	URGENCY	BOLDNESS	EFFICIENCY
<b>Description</b>	<i>Driving a collaborative community dedicated to improving the quality of life for those affected by MND.</i>	<i>Support research in areas of excellence and impact for those affected by MND.</i>	<i>Support research that is driven by urgency, that responds to changes agilely and will achieve outcomes rapidly.</i>	<i>Support innovative/entrepreneurial research that takes considered and justified risks aimed at improving Care for those affected by MND.</i>	<i>Supporting research in a disciplined manner, being cognisant of proposed budgets and financial and non-financial costs.</i>
<b>Example considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the project drive further collaboration between otherwise isolated parties?</li> <li>• Does the project demonstrate improved knowledge sharing and connection?</li> <li>• Will outcomes be translatable to the MND community?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposal align with FightMNDs vision to improve the lives of people affected by MND?</li> <li>• Is the proposal of a high quality whose aims, design and expected outcomes meet excellence standards?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project's focus is an area of underinvestment, aiming to overcome barriers to knowledge or system progression?</li> <li>• Will the proposal's outcomes improve the quality of life for those affected by MND?</li> <li>• Is the outlined project plan the fastest way to achieve this outcome?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project's aims and research plan clearly demonstrate innovation in the MND Care research sector?</li> <li>• Are risks to the research identified and considered solutions outlined?</li> <li>• Does the project have potential to significantly improve Care for those affected by MND?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal outlines the most cost-effective way of achieving proposed outcomes.</li> <li>• Does the initiative have a pathway to self-sustainability?</li> <li>• Are there long-term financial or non-financial costs that have and/or need to be considered?</li> </ul>

Table 1. FightMND Care Research values