CARE SUPPORT GRANT GUIDELINES 2025

INTRODUCTION

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 awards funding to Australian organisations that care and support people with MND, to innovate, develop and implement ways to improve how people living with and affected by MND are supported and cared for in Australia. Grants support a range of projects including the provision of medical equipment / assistive technology (AT) and services, programs and technologies, education and training, and information access.

Two types of grants are available:

- Medical equipment / Assistive technology and support services
- Innovation and Improvement in Care Support

APPLICATIONS OPEN: 19th May 2025

APPLICATIONS DUE: 19th July 2025

Medical equipment / Assistive technology and support services	Innovation and Improvement in Care Support
Up to $150,000 (excl GST) over 1 year	Up to $250,000 (excl GST) over 2 years
Submit up to 2 applications per lead organisation.	Submit up to 2 applications per lead organisation.
Partial or full funding may be awarded	Partial or full funding may be awarded
Recipients notified: September 2025	Recipients notified: December 2025

Applications to this grant opportunity must propose a project, program or activity that can address an <u>unmet need or gap</u> for people affected or living with MND.

Applicants need to highlight the opportunity(s) they are applying for in their application and are limited to submitting up to four (4) Care Support grant applications as a lead organisation, with a limit of 2 applications in each grant category.

Applicants should submit proposals that are focused and reflect the project duration and budget.

The continuation of funding within this period will be subject to periodic project review after the submission of satisfactory progress reports, which are required at six-monthly intervals.

6-monthly reporting is an important requirement of FightMND Care Support Grants. Please consider this when planning your proposal and project timelines.

GRANT OBJECTIVES

Funding opportunities available through this grant program are:

Medical equipment / assistive technology and support services	Innovation and Improvement
Medical equipment / assistive technology and Medical equipment / assistive technology training: Including assistive technology for loan to people who do not have access to the NDIS, medical equipment in clinics, etc.	**Education and Information access:** Improved education, training and/or information access for people living with MND, family and professional carers, and allied health professionals/multidisciplinary teams.
Care Package and services *For applications seeking funding for salaried positions that need to be sustained long term, a separate plan outlining short and long-term plans to support and sustain the role post funding completion **must** be uploaded separately in Fluxx, or will not be considered.*	**Building Networks and Communities:** Building or improving networks or communities to improve engagement and connection in MND research, care, support or advocacy.
	Innovation and improvement: Developing new or improving existing technologies, programs or initiatives that can improve quality of life and/or access to support and care for people affected by MND.

Applications that strongly address gaps or unmet needs for people living with or affected by MND are eligible to apply. Those that support the below areas will be prioritised:

1. Inequality faced by people living with MND, for example:
   - Lack of access to NDIS
   - Poor or lack of access to essential medical equipment and medical facilities
   - Those living in regional, rural, and remote communities.
2. Minimise the risk of adverse events for people with MND in an emergency, in hospitals, or other public spaces.
3. Applications that support people affected by MND at a national level, or collaborative applications between two or more organisations.

4. Families (inc. children and young people) and carers of people living with MND.

NOTE: Please note that health, clinical, medical, and social science research projects are not eligible for this grant scheme – these applications should be submitted through the Care Research Grant scheme.

Please contact care@fightmnd.org.au to discuss if you are unsure, prior to submitting an application.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications must fulfill the following criteria:

I. 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.

II. The Grant must demonstrate capacity to improve the quality of life of people living with or affected by MND.

III. The Grant must be led by an Australian organisation or group, and funded activities fully based in Australia.
   a. Collaborations with a non-Australian organisation or group will be eligible, however funds can only support activities in Australia.

IV. Support must not replace statutory service provision.

V. The Grant will fund:

Medical equipment / assistive technology and training grants	Non-medical equipment / assistive technology grants
Purchase of Medical equipment / assistive technology	Salaries including relevant oncosts, directly related to the essential delivery of the project, with FTE reflective of the time required on the project.
Costs for maintenance and storage.	Reimbursements relevant to project, including: i. Staff backfill reimbursements ii. Reimbursements to people living with or affected by MND
Salaries including relevant oncosts, directly related to the essential delivery of an equipment training program.	Equipment, travel and consumables critical to the aims of the project.
Reimbursements relevant to project, including: i. Staff backfill reimbursements ii. Reimbursements to people living with or affected by MND	Travel costs up to $5k for relevant conferences.

VI. The Grant will not fund:

a. For non-medical equipment/Assistive technology grants: Capital equipment, and depreciation or maintenance of capital equipment.
b. Organisation indirect, overheads or oncosts
c. Salaries for senior members of staff (Manager level and above).

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

All applications are to be submitted through the FightMND Grant Management System Fluxx (https://fightmnd.fluxx.io).

For help with creating a new user account, please follow this link: User manual

Select "Care Support Grants" in the Fluxx Grant Management System to access the Care Support Grant application form.

Note that information entered into the portal does not automatically save, so please periodically click "Save" to avoid losing your data.

APPLICATION FORM OVERVIEW

Details on the application form will be entered directly into the Fluxx Grant Management System.

Key Information
1. **Name of lead-organisation/group and contact details**
2. **Is this a collaborative project?**
3. **How many collaborators will be involved in the project, and roles of collaborators.**
    a. Collaborator orgs, key contact, email address, roles
4. **How many collaborators will be receiving grant support through this project?**
    a. List Collaborator organisations receiving grant support through this project.
5. **Does this proposal require additional funding (Yes/No)**
    a. If yes, has additional funding been secured?
    b. Where has secured funding been obtained from?
6. **Funding Opportunity (single choice)**
    a. Medical equipment / assistive technology and AT training
    b. Care packages and services
    c. Education and Information access
    d. Building Networks and Communities
    e. Innovation and Improvement
7. **Which of the priority areas does this grant support (multiple choice)**
    a. Inequality faced by people living with MND who:
        i. do not have access to NDIS funding, and/or

      ii.   those that only receive My Aged Care funding (for example, those who are diagnosed after the age of 64) and/or

      iii.   Receive no or insufficient statutory funding

  b. Minimise the risk of adverse events for people with MND in an emergency, in hospitals, or other public spaces.

  c. Collaborative applications between two or more organisations, or applications that support people affected by MND at a national level.

  d. Regional, rural and remote communities.

  e. Families (inc. children and young people) and carers of people living with MND;

8. **Beneficiaries:**
   a. Who will this project benefit: People living with MND; Family carers; genetic carriers; family members (including children)
   b. Provide an estimated of no. of
      i. Direct beneficiaries.
      ii. Indirect beneficiaries
         Comment on how these were estimated.
   c. If beneficiaries are people living with MND,
      i. how many do not have access to the NDIS?
      ii. How many live in regional / rural / remote communities?

9. **Provide a summary suitable for publication if application is successful (1500 characters / 250 words)**

10. **Were people living with or affected by MND directly or indirectly involved in identifying the gap or unmet need, and/or in developing the proposal, and/or in delivering the project? If yes, please state how they were involved. (1500 characters / 250 words)**

11. **What are the key impacts the project will have on people living with, or affected by MND (1500 characters / 250 words).**

Project Proposal

1. **Project description, background and rationale (3000 characters)**
   i. How application will address a gap or unmet need for people living with / affected by MND, including how gap/unmet need was identified.
   ii. Justification and rationale behind the development of the project, including information that supports your application, such as consultations, data, strategies etc. Note that if this has not been done, a scoping study should be included as part of the project plan.
   iii. Description around collaboration if relevant to project.

2. **Project plan (4000 characters)**
   i. Timeline and milestones – explanations relating to the timeline of the project and feasibility may be included.

FightMND is a registered
not-for-profit Australian Charity.
(ACNC: 62740350704)

PO Box 3073
Burnley North VIC 3121
fightmnd.org.au

ii. Current and future stakeholder engagement and implementation plans, costs to stakeholders, and prioritisation of particular stakeholders (eg, those who don't have access to the NDIS).

    a) *Medical equipment / assistive technology grants will need to address how end-users will access the AT and cost to end-users.*

iii. If relevant, involvement and participation of people living or affected by MND and/or end users in the project/activity/program.

iv. Include sustainability and/or future plans for project.

    a) *For applications seeking funding for projects or salaried positions that need to be sustained long term, (eg, an allied health professional or a program that needs to be delivered on a regular basis) a separate plan outlining short and long-term plans to support and sustain the role post funding completion **must** be uploaded separately in FLuxx, or will not be considered.*

v. Include, if possible, how underserved populations, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, or Culturally and linguistically diverse communities, will be considered and engaged with.

3. **Capabilities and Experience (1500 characters)**

i. Non- medical equipment / Assistive technology grants:
Comment on the lead organisation's and collaborators' capabilities and experience in delivering similar projects.

ii. Medical equipment / Assistive technology grants:
Provide an overview of the organisations' (and relevant collaborators) capacity to deliver Medical equipment / Assistive technology / training / care package / services, and comment on infrastructure and experience available to deliver program.

4. **Impact**

i. Clearly present the proposal's impact on people living with or affected by MND, or other beneficiaries in Australia over the short, medium or long-term.

ii. Provide evidence and logic to support your impact claims.

5. **Risks and challenges (1500 characters)**

6. **Budget**

i. If project is a collaborative effort, please note which organisation will be the recipient of funds in each line.

ii. Salaries for each staff member required for the essential delivery of the project must be outlined in the budget, including FTE allocation.

iii. Equipment critical to the aims of the project will be supported.

For projects that are successful recipients of grant funding, FightMND will require a full detailed budget with a year-to-year breakdown, as well as a detailed Gantt chart, to be included in the final Grant report.

REPORTING

Funding recipients will be required to submit reports on a regular basis via the Fluxx Grant Management System (details will be provided to successful applicants). The reporting schedule is outlined in Section 15 of the Terms and Conditions.

These reports will be used to assess whether the project is proceeding satisfactorily, whether funds are being acquitted in accordance with the original application goals, and to ascertain the ongoing value of FightMND funding.

Funding may be suspended if progress is considered unsatisfactory, or if funds have not been utilised in accordance with the Care Research Grant Agreement.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Assessment Criteria for Review

Applications will be reviewed by FightMND and independent national experts in MND Care on the following criteria:

Equipment and Services	Innovation and Improvement
Rational, impact and engagement	
Proposal Rational and relevance to people living with and affected by MND (15%)	People with lived experience of MND (PLEx) and relevant stakeholder engagement and involvement (10%)
Stakeholder engagement and involvement (15%)	Relevance and impact for people affected by MND (20%)
Impact on people living with or affected by MND (20 %)	
Project Assessment	
Project Plans and Sustainability (30%)	Project Strategy and design (40%)
Organisation experience and capacity, and project feasibility (20%)	Team capacity and Project Feasibility (15%)
	Innovation and Sustainability (15%)

Each criteria is scored out of five (7) by internal and external reviewers, according to FightMND guidelines.

FIGHTMND VALUES

The alignment of proposals with FightMND values are also considered when reviewing applications. These are:

FightMND is a registered
not-for-profit Australian Charity.
(ACNC: 62740350704)

PO Box 3073
Burnley North VIC 3121
fightmnd.org.au

Community – driving collaboration in the community, including knowledge sharing.
Integrity – supporting projects or programs with high-impact potential.
Urgency – projects or programs that are driven by and demonstrates urgency.
Boldness – supporting innovation that takes considered and justified risks aimed at improving the lives of people affected by MND
Efficiency – supporting projects and programs in a disciplined manner, being cognisant of proposed budgets and financial and non-financial costs

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All information contained in applications forwarded to FightMND will be regarded as confidential. Documents containing personal information will be handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic). Personal information will only be disclosed with the permission of the individual to whom it relates, or where the Act allows.

Applicants consent to the information supplied as part of their application being disclosed for the purposes of the evaluation and administration of the application and grant. Such disclosure includes but is not limited to independent reviewers/assessors, FightMND's Health Research and Support Advisory Panel (HRSAP), the FightMND Board, and relevant employees of FightMND involved in the research grant process.

Applicants acknowledge that announcement of funded FightMND Grant applications will involve a dissemination of information to the public about their general nature.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – REVIEWERS AND HRSAP

FightMND requires its independent reviewers and HRSAP to act in an ethical manner, declare conflicts of interest, and withdraw from considering applications where such conflict does or may exist.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT

Successful applicants are required to acknowledge FightMND in any publications, public announcements, media, and scientific meeting presentations or discussion forums pertaining to research conducted. FightMND materials, logos and images can be supplied for this purpose, if required.

FightMND is a registered
not-for-profit Australian Charity.
(ACNC: 62740350704)

PO Box 3073
Burnley North VIC 3121
fightmnd.org.au