

2026 FIGHTMND NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
FIGHTMND CALL FOR PROPOSALS	5
KEY DATES AND CONTACTS.....	5
OBJECTIVES.....	6
LEVERAGING EXISTING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE	6
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	7
LEAD ORGANISATION, PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS AND CO-INVESTIGATORS	7
PARTNERSHIPS.....	8
ELIGIBLE GRANT ACTIVITIES, EXPENDITURES AND CONDITIONS	8
NON-ELIGIBLE GRANT ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURES	9
REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.....	10
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES	11
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	11
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES	14
INVITED FULL PROPOSALS.....	14
REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL APPLICATIONS	14
APPLICATION FORM	14
PROPOSALS.....	15
1. STATEMENT ON IMPACT, SIGNIFICANCE AND INNOVATION	15
2. NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM.....	15
3. TIMELINE	16
4. BUDGET	17
5. FINANCIALS	17
6. PARTNERSHIPS	18
7. STATEMENT ON CAPACITY, CAPABILITY AND RESOURCES RELEVANT TO THIS PROPOSAL.....	18
8. LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE LEAD ORGANISATION	18
9. LETTERS FROM FUNDING PARTNERS.....	18
10. LETTERS FROM CO-INVESTIGATORS.....	18
11. PRIMARY BUSINESS INVESTIGATOR CV/TRACK RECORD	19
12. PRIMARY RESEARCH INVESTIGATOR CV/TRACK RECORD	19
13. CO-INVESTIGATOR CV/TRACK RECORDS	19
14. DECLARATION OF RESEARCH FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES – AWARDED	19
15. DECLARATION OF RESEARCH FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES – REQUESTED/UNDER REVIEW ..	19
HOW TO SUBMIT AND FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS.....	20
TABLE 1. OTHER RESEARCH FUNDING – AWARDED	21
TABLE 2. OTHER RESEARCH FUNDING – REQUESTED / UNDER REVIEW	22

REPORTING	23
PRIVACY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST	24
PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY	24
CONFLICT OF INTEREST – REVIEWERS AND IRP	24
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT	24
TERMS AND CONDITIONS	25
FIGHTMND NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.....	25
THE GRANTEE(S) AND/OR THE LEAD INSTITUTION MUST ESTABLISH A STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE GRANT PRIOR TO THE GRANT COMMENCING, OR WITHIN THE FIRST SIX (6) MONTHS OF THE GRANT COMMENCEMENT DATE.	31
THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT OF THE GRANT PROGRAMME, AND FIGHTMND MUST HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE.....	31
APPENDIX 1	32
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.....	32

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Applicant: Representative responsible for submitting the application – the Lead Organisation, who is responsible for completion and lodgement of the application, and progress and reporting on the project. A grant can only have one Lead Organisation.

Career Disruption: A career disruption involves a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work, due to: Parental leave; Major illness/injury; or Carer responsibilities.

Centre of Excellence: An entity that supports best practice and leadership around a focal area of research.

Co-Investigator(s): Responsible for carrying out some aspects of the research project under the guidance and leadership of the Primary Investigators.

Collaboration and Collaborator(s): All people, Investigators and Organisations involved in the Research Infrastructure (RI) are considered to be collaborators. Collaboration may be between a combination of disciplines, Departments and/or Organisations. It includes Organisations or individuals that provide specific resources that contribute to the RI. Co-Investigators represent a specific sub-group of collaborators who are directly involved in the conduct of the RI but are not responsible for its direction and progress.

Contact Officer: Representative of the Lead Organisation responsible for administration of the RI, and the receipt and distribution of grant funds.

Goods and Services Tax: Goods and Services Tax (GST) imposed in accordance with the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*, and related Acts and Regulations. GST will be paid on top of grant amounts, where appropriate. This will be determined by the Lead Organisation's GST status.

Lead Organisation: The organisation responsible for submitting the application, and overseeing the RI's progress and reporting. A grant can only have one Lead Organisation.

Motor Neurone Disease (MND): For the purposes of the National Research Infrastructure grant, the definition of MND includes the following progressive neurological disorders that harm motor neurons: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS); Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS); Progressive Muscular Atrophy (PMA); Progressive Bulbar Palsy; and Pseudobulbar Palsy.

Partners: Organisations or individuals providing substantial financial support and/or resourcing to the RI focused on enabling/advancing operations, growing capacity, and sustainability.

Primary Business Investigator (PBI): Business representative or manager leading the project – the Primary Business Investigator is responsible for governance, overall direction, marketing, operations, finance and sustainability of the Research Infrastructure, particularly for the foreseeable future.

Primary Research Investigator (PRI): Researcher leading the research and/or research capabilities of the RI – the Primary Research Investigator is responsible for leading and executing the research capabilities, projects and innovation under the RI, and supporting co-Investigators (CIs). This includes establishing procedures around accessibility for the research community to the RI and its resources.

Research Infrastructure: Facilities, equipment, systems and services necessary to conduct research.

Steering committee: A committee established by the Lead Organisation and/or Grantees, who will provide governance and oversight of the Research Infrastructure program. FightMND must have a representative on the Steering Committee.

INTRODUCTION

This document provides guidelines and information for FightMND's 2026 National Research Infrastructure Grant. Applicants should familiarise themselves with all areas prior to commencing an application.

FIGHTMND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We are pleased to invite a call for National Research Infrastructure Grant applications focused on establishing, strengthening and sustaining **national-scale biorepositories** that advance MND research in Australia.

KEY DATES AND CONTACTS

Applications open:	9 December 2025
Expression of interest due:	23 February 2026 at 17:00 AEDT
Submit Expression of interest to:	FightMND Grant Management System at https://fightmnd.fluxx.io/
Applications due (invited):	7 May 2026 at 17:00 AEST
Recipients notified:	September 2026
Enquiries:	FightMND Infrastructure and Innovation Manager, at infrastructure@fightmnd.org.au
Grant opportunity type:	Targeted, Competitive

FightMND National Research Infrastructure Grants are offered between the value of **AUD \$350,000 up to \$2 million**. Applicants should submit proposals compatible with a 3 – 5 year period , and FightMND support will not normally exceed 5 years. Proposals will also require a plan for sustainability of the Research Infrastructure beyond this timeframe. Continuation of a National Research Infrastructure Grant within the funded period will be subject to periodic review after the submission of satisfactory progress reports, which are required at six monthly intervals (**see Terms and Conditions 1.1 and 15**). **Please consider this when planning project timelines.**

FightMND only supports work carried out in legitimate research institutions and/or organisations, that meet best-practice and ethical standards.

OBJECTIVES

While critical to advancing our understanding of MND and developing new treatments, investment into MND-focused National Research Infrastructure (RI) in Australia is currently limited.

FightMND National Research Infrastructure Grants aim to address the underfunding of RI and incentivise the build of sustainable RI that:

- Captures, equips and connects all MND research sectors nationally;
- Facilitates high-quality, competitive and efficient MND-focused research in Australia;
- Empowers discovery, innovation and data linkage; and
- Accelerates translation to better treatments and a cure for MND.

The objective of this grant opportunity is to increase investment into health and medical research for MND in Australia by:

- Supporting the most critical RI for advancing innovative MND-focused research; and
- Building partnerships that support the development of MND-focused RI.

The program is structured to incentivise partnerships between researchers, government, industry and non-for-profit organisations both within and outside of the MND field, with FightMND supporting the MND component of the program.

For the **2026 Research Infrastructure grant round**, eligibility will be **restricted to applications for biorepositories**, to strategically address an identified unmet need within the MND research ecosystem in Australia. Proposals will need to be focused on biorepositories that:

- Are research enabling, and demonstrate a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach (e.g. biosamples, iPSC, brain banks);
- Have a national focus with a pathway for national and international integration;
- Have comprehensive links with clinical data;
- Have an established accessibility pathway and policy in place for sample accessibility, data linkage and data sharing, or viable roadmap towards enabling this;
- Outline a roadmap to which data generated by the RI complies with international standards and protocols, is harmonised nationally and globally, and aligns with FAIR principles (i.e. findable, accessible, interoperable & reusable).
- Outline a roadmap towards data integration with national and global data sets;
- Provide national benefit to the MND research community and sector, meet the highest critical need for MND and demonstrate a plan for sustainability that is considered and relevant to the approach.
- Have established partnerships with secured co-funding.

Applications may be focused on:

- i) The design and development of novel Biorepositories that have an MND focus;
- ii) Major improvements to current Biorepositories with an MND focus;
- iii) Continued operation of existing Biorepositories that have an MND focus; and/or
- iv) Establishment of collaborations/partnerships with existing infrastructure entities, giving them a new or significantly enhanced MND focus.

LEVERAGING EXISTING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

FightMND encourages applicants to leverage and strengthen existing RI and expertise, where appropriate. This facilitates collaboration and innovation to advance research capabilities, and increases efficiency by reducing duplication in research facilities, existing equipment and technologies. Proposals that leverage existing Research Infrastructure projects, e.g. those funded by the Australian Government through the [National Collaborative Infrastructure Strategy](#), will be highly regarded.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

LEAD ORGANISATION, PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS AND CO-INVESTIGATORS

- The applicant must be the Lead Organisation. While the Lead Organisation may apply for multiple grants, the Primary Business Investigator and Primary Research Investigator may only be listed on 1 (one) National Research Infrastructure Grant application.
- The Lead Organisation is responsible for governance and financial management of the project and any reporting on the outcomes of the project, according to the grant agreement.
- The Lead Organisation must have full accreditation and be based in Australia.
- Eligible organisations may include medical research or innovation institutes, universities, corporate commonwealth entities and corporations (including business and non-for-profit).
- Joint applications are encouraged, provided there is a Lead Organisation who is the main driver of the project and is eligible to apply.
- Applicants must nominate:
 - A business lead, the Primary Business Investigator (PBI) who will take the lead role in directing and executing the business plan; and
 - A research lead, the Primary Research Investigator (PRI) who will take the lead role in directing and executing research enabled by the proposed Research Infrastructure.
- The PBI and PRI share collective responsibility in leading the direction and outcomes of the Research Infrastructure.
- A person must not be named as a PBI, PRI or Co-Investigator on more than one application submitted to the National Research Infrastructure Grant program.
- Applicants should consider the management and administration burden of the Research Infrastructure. Where appropriate, the same person may be named for both the PBI and PRI, provided this is rational for the proposal's approach and does not compromise the delivery of the Research Infrastructure or advancement of MND research nationally.
- The level of contribution and role of the Organisation, Primary Business/Research Investigator and Co-Investigators must be clearly defined on the application cover sheet and detailed in the grant application.
- The RI program must be based in Australia.
- For the duration of the FightMND National Research Infrastructure Grant, the Primary Investigators must be based in Australia. Co-Investigators may be based overseas.
- Co-Investigators should remain active for the duration of the grant.
- A CV must be provided for all Co-Investigators.
- Applications should include collaborators who have expertise and experience in the development and implementation of research infrastructure within Australia. Collaboration with experts based overseas is also encouraged.
- Investigators with limited MND experience are strongly encouraged to collaborate with those having more substantial expertise in MND research.
- Open-science standards are encouraged where possible, and research proposals demonstrating open-science practice and information and knowledge-sharing will be considered favourably (for further detail, see <https://www.unesco.org/en/open-science/about>).

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships

Applications for National Research Infrastructure Grants must include at least one Partner Organisation.

The purpose of partnerships is to:

- Promote collaboration between the research and other sectors;
- Guide the advancement of, and innovation in, the RI's research capabilities;
- Provide certainty over the future sustainability of the RI;
- Support establishment of the RI and its potential to be competitive for industry investment; and
- Improve health and medical outcomes for people living with MND.

Proposals must include at least 50% of funding from partners which must be provided in cash, or have demonstrated tangible value that can be verified. Partners, where applicable, should have input on the overall direction of the RI and have representation in the leadership steering committee.

Partner Organisations may include, but are not limited to: research infrastructure organisations, technology transfer offices, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, healthcare providers (public and private hospitals, health services), private sector entities (employers, private health insurers), industry consortia and collaborative research organisations, commercialisation partners and venture capital firms, non-government organisations and charitable foundations, community organisations and consumer advocacy groups, other entities with relevant translational or commercialisation expertise, and those working in federal, state, territory or local government in Australia.

Support from FightMND will be matched to the level of in cash investment provided by Partners, and limited to a total value of \$2 million over a period of up to 5 years. FightMND's contribution must be clearly stated and justified in the budget.

Partnerships with organisations based overseas is encouraged, however the RI must be based in Australia.

The contribution of partnerships will be considered based on their strength, validity and relevance to the RI.

ELIGIBLE GRANT ACTIVITIES, EXPENDITURES AND CONDITIONS

- Applications must propose RI that addresses the outlined grant objectives.
- FightMND will not fund duplicate RI accessible to MND researchers in Australia.
- The National RI grant must commence within 3 months of the agreed start date. The agreed start date must be within 6 months of the notification of the award.
- Successful applicants may be required to present an overview of the National RI Grant to FightMND donors and supporters at a research symposium following funding announcements.
- It is an expectation of successful applicants that data and resources generated from National RI Grants will be shared with the research community to benefit people with MND.
- It is expected that outcomes of projects supported by the RI, where possible and relevant, will be published in appropriate peer-reviewed academic and professional journals. FightMND must be notified via email of publication details.
- Payment structure will be based on achievement of milestones, which will be finalised jointly with the investigators and FightMND, if the National RI Grant is approved for funding.
- Continuity of funding year-to-year will be dependent on satisfactory progress reports from the Lead Organisation and/or Primary Investigators, and an itemised financial report at the end of each year.
- Regardless of the period of funding proposed, the application must not exceed the maximum allowable costs.
- Any other actual or proposed sources of funding to support the National RI Grant must be disclosed.

- Funding from FightMND for National RI Grants must be spent on costs directly incurred for the RI and outlined in the application.
- Salaries, for Primary Investigators will be supported up to \$175,000, where justified, a level equivalent to the amount outlined in the MRFF National Critical Research Infrastructure initiative. Salaries for project managers and coordinators within this range will also be accepted, where justified. Salaries requested must be justified, be critical to the RI's objectives and outcomes, and reflect the time an individual will spend on the project.
- Salary on-costs may be supported, if itemised (e.g. superannuation, payroll tax, work cover).
- Direct research costs critical to meeting project objectives and outcomes may be supported.
- Funding for equipment may be requested. However, applications must clearly demonstrate that the equipment is critical to the development of the program, achieving program objectives and outcomes, provides national benefit, and cannot be provided by the institution. Servicing, maintenance and/or repair costs relevant to equipment funded by this National RI Grant Program must be covered by the applicant and/or Lead Organisation.
- Costs to enable open access for publications within 6 months of publication can be included in the project budget (but no other publication costs).
- Funding to support specific National RI activities to be undertaken overseas may be requested. However, it must be clearly demonstrated that the overseas activity is critical to the successful completion of the National RI Grant, and the equipment/resources/personnel required for the grant activity are not available in Australia.
- Travel costs essential to running the RI can be included within the budget, and may cover:
 - Travel within Australia or internationally to perform program activities outlined in the grant application. Eligible transport costs include economy airfare only, plus reasonable accommodation expenses where essential to program delivery.
 - Attendance at relevant scientific/technical meetings, only if presenting program objectives and/or outcomes.

FightMND reserves the right of refusal of any National RI Grant applications that it deems fall outside these criteria.

NON-ELIGIBLE GRANT ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURES

- Institutional indirect, overhead or on-costs.
- Computers, unless they are an essential component of laboratory equipment, or used for management/analysis of extensively large datasets.
- Servicing, maintenance and/or repair costs relevant to equipment funded by this National Research Infrastructure Grant.
- Activities and supplies already supported from other sources.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Proposals are submitted to FightMND and are independently peer-reviewed by FightMND's Infrastructure Grant Panel (IGP). The IGP's funding recommendations are then considered by FightMND's Board.

Applications will be assessed across four criteria at the following weighting:

- Criteria 1 – Unmet need, impact, overall value and national benefit for MND ecosystem (20%)
- Criteria 2 – Design, implementation and feasibility of RI Business Plan, including overall risk of the project and contingency plans, financial projections and sustainability (40%)
- Criteria 3 – Design, implementation and feasibility of the Research Plan (25%)
- Criteria 4 – Personnel, Organisation and Partnerships (15%)

Each criteria is scored using the ten-point scale outlined in Appendix C of the [MRFF 2023 National Critical Research Infrastructure Grant Opportunity Guidelines](#). These are:

Score	Rating Scale	Descriptor
10	Excellent	Significantly exceeds expectations. Evidence confirms consistent superior performance in all areas. Claims are fully substantiated.
9	Outstanding	Exceeds expectations in most key areas and addresses to a very high standard in all other areas. Most claims are fully substantiated with others very well substantiated.
8	Very Good	Meets expectations to a very high standard in all areas. All claims are well substantiated.
7	Good	Meets expectations to a high standard in all areas. Claims are well substantiated in key areas.
6	Fair	Addresses all areas well. Claims are well substantiated in most areas. Some minor shortcomings.
5	Acceptable	Addresses most key areas to consistent acceptable standard with no major shortcomings. Most claims are adequately substantiated. Some of the proposal may be questionable.
4	Marginal	Key areas addressed marginally and does not fully meet expectations. Some claims unsubstantiated, while others only adequately substantiated or lack sufficient detail. Some of the proposal may be unworkable.
3	Poor	Poorly addresses or fails to address some areas. Claims largely unsubstantiated. A number of areas in the proposal may be unworkable.
2	Very Poor	Inadequately deals with most or all areas. Claims almost totally unsubstantiated. A number of areas in the proposal may be unworkable.
1	Unacceptable	Does not meet expectations. Criteria not addressed. Claims unsubstantiated and without evidence. Proposal is unworkable.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

FightMND will only accept Expressions of Interest submitted via the Fluxx Grant Management System, which can be accessed at the following link <https://fightmnd.fluxx.io>.

All administrative information and Expressions of Interest, as outlined below, are to be entered into the application forms in Fluxx. Resources are available to help you with this submission procedure.

- [How to register a new user account in Fluxx \(manual\)](#)

- [How to submit an Expression of Interest in Fluxx \(written manual\)](#)

If you experience any issues or have questions regarding the submission process, please contact the FightMND Infrastructure and Innovation Manager at infrastructure@fightmnd.org.au.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

For the **2026 Research Infrastructure grant round**, eligibility is **restricted to applications for biorepositories**.

An Expression of Interest must include the following:

1) APPLICATION FORM

Details on the Application form will be entered directly into FightMND's Grant Management System (Fluxx) at <https://fightmnd.fluxx.io/>, and include:

- Lead Organisation information
- Primary Business Investigator information
- Primary Research Investigator information
- Research Infrastructure program title
- Lay summary of the RI, and impact of the RI for the MND ecosystem (500 characters)
- MND-focused research the RI will enable/advance (500 characters)
- Details of Co-Investigators
- Details of Partners
- Aims of RI
- Key Words
- Estimated budget of RI program
- Estimated start date of the RI program
- Estimated duration of the RI funding
- Details of Collaborators

2) EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Use the template below as an example of the format required to submit your Expression of Interest. This needs to be uploaded with the Application Form as a single PDF in FightMND's Grant Management System at <https://fightmnd.fluxx.io/>.

Expressions of Interest must be prepared on A4 size pages with a minimum size 11 font (calibri preferred), one (1) cm minimum page margins and **must not exceed the word limits indicated** in the table below (limits include spaces).

Title
State the national impact of the RI for MND-focused research and individuals living with MND (200 words)
Lead Organisation
Primary Business Investigator – (responsible for governance, operations, marketing, finance, risk etc)
Primary Research Investigator – (responsible for implementing research that the RI will enable/advance)
Research Infrastructure aims
<p>Describe the Business Plan for the RI (300 words)</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RI vision • RI structure, operations and governance (inc. data security and data storage if appropriate) • Market and Users that will benefit from the RI • Risk Management of the RI
<p>Financial Plan/Projections for the RI.</p> <p>Provide details of revenue projections, operational costs/expenditure forecast, profit loss projections and other relevant financials e.g. return on investment analysis in a format suitable for analysis by business development and financial experts. These should be provided in table form, and in accordance with AASB Accounting Standards.</p> <p>Attach the RI financial plan and projections as a separate section at the end of the EOI PDF. Also, upload the RI financial plan and projections directly onto Fluxx in excel (or equivalent) format.</p>
<p>Sustainability of the RI (200 words)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How sustainable is the proposed RI? • Indicate plans and approaches on how the RI could become self-sustainable beyond the grant period
<p>Describe the Project Plan for the RI (300 words)</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of MND-focused research and capabilities that will be enabled/advanced by the RI • Why this RI is needed in Australia • Key programs enabled by the RI and how they will be implemented • Plans for education and training • Plans for enabling innovation in research capabilities of the RI • Proposed pathways to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FAIR data and data harmonisation ○ Data integration with national and global data sets ○ Driving collaboration across the MND research sector
Outline how the team has the capacity and capability to deliver the RI and experiences the team has to ensure national reach (250 words)

Budget

Estimated project expenditure proposed to be funded each year by FightMND and Partners (cash items only, or items for which tangible value can be demonstrated and verified)

Year	FightMND	Partners (in cash) *	Partners (in kind) *
1	\$	\$	\$
2	\$	\$	\$
3	\$	\$	\$
4	\$	\$	\$
5	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$	

* Partner contributions (collectively) must match the funding requested from FightMND. FightMND funding is limited to \$2 million.

Consumer engagement: State how people living with MND will be engaged with this RI program (100 words)

Consider:

- Direct involvement with the RI research program and research projects enabled
- How research outcomes arising from the RI will be communicated
- How individuals involved in contributing to the RI research will be notified of research outcomes
- Education programs

3) Curriculum Vitae

A CV of the Primary Business Investigator and Primary Research Investigator (2 pages max. each) must also be:

- Attached at the end of the EOI PDF
- Uploaded as a PDF onto Fluxx.

Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by FightMND's Infrastructure Grant Panel (IGP) and those that align with the National Research Infrastructure Guidelines and FightMND's standards of excellence will be invited to submit a full application.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

INVITED FULL PROPOSALS

Should you be invited to submit a full application, FightMND will only accept applications submitted via the Fluxx Grant Management System, which can be accessed at the following link <https://fightmnd.fluxx.io>.

All administrative information and the proposal, as outlined below, are to be entered into the application forms in Fluxx. Resources are available to help you with this submission procedure.

- [How to submit a National Research Infrastructure Grant in Fluxx \(written manual\)](#)

If you experience any issues or have questions regarding the submission process, please contact the FightMND Infrastructure and Innovation Manager at infrastructure@fightmnd.org.au.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL APPLICATIONS

Applications must include the following:

- Application form (entered directly into the Fluxx Grant Management System)
- Proposal (as a single PDF)
- Timeline (as a single PDF)
- High-level budget being requested from FightMND (entered directly into Fluxx)

APPLICATION FORM

Details on the application form will be entered directly into Fluxx, and will include the following:

- Title of National Research Infrastructure Grant
- Statement on the potential national impact of the RI (1000 characters).
- A summary of how people living with MND will be engaged with this program (500 characters).
 - This may be through, e.g., direct involvement in research, education, communication of research outcomes etc., or by other means.
- Lead Organisation
- Primary Business Investigator
- Primary Research Investigator
- Co-Investigator(s)
- Name of the Contact Officer
- Funding Partners
- Other collaborators (not listed as Investigators)
- Duration of funding support from FightMND for the RI
- RI aims
- RI milestones
- RI total budget
- Key Words
- A lay summary of the National RI Grant proposal suitable for media release if the application is successful (300 characters).
- A lay summary of the National RI Grant suitable for publication on the FightMND website and newsletter if the application is successful (750 characters)
 - Provide background information necessary for readers without scientific or medical training to understand the rationale and feasibility of the proposed RI. It should also clearly describe the

outcomes the program is designed to achieve, the sustainability of the proposed RI and the advances that the RI will make towards understanding and treating MND.

- A high-level budget summary of total expenditure (in AUD) per year, entered directly into Fluxx (see page 12 of instruction manual), in addition to the budget included in Section 4 of the proposal. Note that this should be the same expenditure as presented in the 2-page budget within the PDF proposal, but entered separately in Fluxx as high-level line items.

PROPOSALS

A well-developed, well-integrated, and detailed proposal must be provided, supporting the objectives, strategy, feasibility, promise and implementation of the National Research Infrastructure program.

Proposals must be uploaded as a single PDF file onto Fluxx (max. 5MB) and contain the following details:

1. STATEMENT ON IMPACT, SIGNIFICANCE AND INNOVATION (1 page max.)

Identify and clearly outline the innovation in the approach and the impact of the proposal for people living with MND.

Applicants should demonstrate this by identifying:

- The unmet need in Australia
- How the RI will address the objectives of the grant opportunity including:
 - How the proposal will support, facilitate and advance research
 - How initiatives and/or resources generated will be utilised to advance MND research
- How the RI will deliver outcomes that are a priority for people living with MND, including:
 - Consumer/community engagement and involvement during conceptualisation, development and planned implementation of the RI
 - Consumer/community engagement and involvement in the research enabled by the RI
 - Communicating research outcomes arising from the RI
 - Notifying research outcomes to individuals involved in contributing to the RI
 - Education programs
- How the RI includes new and innovative approaches, that can be scaled nationally, and/or how it builds on and supports other existing infrastructure initiatives in the MND sector
- How the RI impacts on existing infrastructure programs that are currently operating in Australia
- How project delivery and outcomes will be shared with and impact key communities and stakeholders should also be considered

2. NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Provide details of the RI program, including a:

- **Business Plan** of the National RI, including (5 pages max.):
 - Vision, overview and goals of the RI
 - Organisation of the RI and Operations
 - E.g. legal structure, operational plan, governance, cyber-security, data storage
 - Market and Users
 - i.e. target users, value proposition, stakeholder engagement
 - A risk management and implementation strategy
 - An intellectual property strategy

- A statement on sustainability that indicates the plan for future sustainability for the National RI Program. The statement should demonstrate:
 - How RI funded through this project will be maintained beyond the life of the grant
 - How the RI will establish new or existing partnerships to support the sustainability of the project
 - A transition plan presenting the goals, priorities and strategies for the proposal beyond project completion.
 - Details on the facility operations and management procedures that will be undertaken after project completion.
 - A partnership plan to secure sustainable fundingApplications should clearly demonstrate a plan for sustainability that is considered and relevant to their approach. Applicants are encouraged to develop infrastructure that will be self-sustainable by project completion
- A statement on FightMND's involvement in the project
- **Project Plan** of the National RI, considering **(3 pages max.)**:
 - Details of the objectives and activities that will be undertaken as part of the RI
 - MND-focused research and capabilities that will be enabled/advanced by the RI and how they will be implemented
 - Key programs enabled by the RI
 - Key milestones and deliverables of the RI
 - Why this RI is needed in Australia
 - Plans for enabling innovation in research capabilities of the RI
 - Plans for education and training
 - A feasibility statement
 - Statement on the strength of partnerships and collaborations
 - Policy and procedures the RI program will have to ensure the data generated:
 - Is FAIR data that is harmonised nationally/globally
 - Can integrate with national and global data sets
 - Has the highest potential to drive collaboration across the MND research sector
 - Include references (on a fourth page of project plan if applicable and relevant – 1 page max.)

Ensure the Project Plan begins as a new page following the Business Plan.

3. **TIMELINE** (1 page max.)

Include a detailed timeline for the National Research Infrastructure project in Gantt chart format, that encompasses the delivery timelines for:

- The RI aims
- All RI milestones
- All proposed research programs
- All RI deliverables

The timeline should ALSO be uploaded as a separate file directly into Fluxx.

4. BUDGET (2 pages max.)

Provide an itemised budget with justification and breakdown of annual expenditure.

- Applicants should include budget details of the entire program, including:
 - The overall budget and cost of the RI;
 - The component of the RI to be funded by this application (see “Eligible Activities Grant Activities, Expenditures and Conditions’ and ‘Non-Eligible Activities Grant Activities and Expenditures’ sections for eligible budget items).
 - Contributions by Partners to the cost and expenditure of the RI;
 - Whether the TOTAL amount of funding required for the RI has been secured, and the TOTAL funding amount so far secured.
- If the TOTAL amount of funding required for the study has not been secured (other than the amount requested in this application), indicate the:
 - Approach that is being made by the applicants to secure this additional funding; and
 - Anticipated timeframe to secure the additional funding.
- The budget section in Fluxx must also be completed. This is a high-level line-item budget summary of total expenditure (in AUD) per year **supported by FightMND** (see page 12 of instruction manual). Note that this should be the same expenditure as presented in the 2-page budget within the PDF proposal.

5. FINANCIALS

In a format suitable for analysis by business development and financial experts, provide details of:

- Revenue projections
- Operational costs/expenditure forecast
- Profit/loss projections (including revenue variance scenarios)
- Other relevant financials e.g. return on investment analysis

Financials should be for the duration of grant period, and at least 1 year beyond. These should be provided in table form, and **in accordance with AASB Accounting Standards**.

6. PARTNERSHIPS (1 page max.)

Provide details for each partner providing financial support for the program, including:

- Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Other registration number where applicable
- Business address
- Postal address
- Contact details

Proposals must include at least 50% of funding from other sources and partner contributions must be provided in cash (or in kind, where tangible value can be demonstrated and verified). Note, FightMND will match up to a total value of \$2 million over a period of up to 5 years. Please use the template below as an example of the format required in submission of your application.

Partner	Funding/Investment \$ amount committed (in cash) (AUD)	Funding/Investment \$ amount committed (in kind) (AUD)
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$

7. STATEMENT ON CAPACITY, CAPABILITY AND RESOURCES RELEVANT TO THIS PROPOSAL (1 page max.)

Include:

- The Primary (Business/Research) Investigator's access to and/or feasible plan to recruit an appropriate, multi-disciplinary team, with proposed key project personnel. Their relevant skills, experience and expertise should be clearly articulated, with details on how their contributions are important to the success of the RI and enabling/advancing research capacity.
- Organisation names and Departments where work will be carried out. Demonstrate how the proposed research aligns with the research strategies and direction of the Lead Organisation.
- Multi-organisational collaboration plan, if applicable, including resolution of potential intellectual material/data sharing issues and organisational barriers.
- Evidence and track-record in overseeing similar infrastructure projects.

8. LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE LEAD ORGANISATION (1 page max.)

Letter of support from the Lead Organisation confirming suitability of applicants, and that appropriate staffing, expertise, infrastructure, equipment and consumables will be available and provided for the proposed project to completion.

9. LETTERS FROM FUNDING PARTNERS

Letter of support from each funding partner detailing their involvement and financial contribution to the RI.

10. LETTERS FROM CO-INVESTIGATORS

Provide a letter (email correspondence) from Co-Investigators confirming their involvement in the project proposed in the application.

11. PRIMARY BUSINESS INVESTIGATOR CV/TRACK RECORD (2 pages max.)

Include:

- Academic/business background
- Present and past employment positions
- Awards and Prizes
- Experience leading similar infrastructure projects in the past 5 years
- Working with major clients and stakeholders (past 5 years)
- Previous research experience
- Details of any career disruption

12. PRIMARY RESEARCH INVESTIGATOR CV/TRACK RECORD (2 pages max. per Investigator)

Include:

- Academic background
- Present and past employment positions
- Awards and Prizes
- Prior research/infrastructure projects and grants awarded (past 5 years)
- Peer-reviewed publications in last 5 years, including Top 5 publications in last 5 years (do not include publications in preparation or under review). Please provide a DOI number for papers recently accepted
- Details of any career disruptions

13. CO-INVESTIGATOR CV/TRACK RECORDS (2 pages max. per Co-Investigator)

Details as per Primary Research Investigator.

14. DECLARATION OF RESEARCH FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES – AWARDED

Details of funding awarded from other sources in support of this National RI Grant must be declared (template provided in Table 1).

Include:

- Investigator, and Title of other Application
- Funding Source/Organisation and Application ID
- Role of Investigator on other Application
- Total amount requested

15. DECLARATION OF RESEARCH FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES – REQUESTED/UNDER REVIEW

Details of research funding requested from other sources in support of the National RI Grant must be declared (template provided in Table 2).

Include:

- Investigator, and Title of other Application
- Funding Source/Organisation and Application ID
- Role of Investigator on other Application
- Total amount requested

HOW TO SUBMIT AND FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

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

- Select “National Research Infrastructure Grants” in the Fluxx Grant Management System to access the application form

Applications will consist of:

- An APPLICATION (directly submitted onto Fluxx)
- The PROPOSAL
PROPOSALS should be in English and submitted as a single PDF (minimum size 12 font – calibri preferred, minimum 1 cm page margins and single line spacing), uploaded onto the Application form on the Fluxx Grant Management System (PDF size not to exceed 5MB). Figure/Table legends can be reduced to Calibri Light 10pt font. Include page numbers in footer.

The PROPOSAL should be submitted as an attachment to the application form on Fluxx.

- GANTT CHART TIMELINE (separate to the PDF proposal)
- Completion of the Budget section in Fluxx

TABLE 1. OTHER RESEARCH FUNDING – AWARDED							
TEAM MEMBER/ APPLICATION ID	FUNDING ORGANISATION	DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL	PEER- REVIEWED (YES/NO)	PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR ROLE	FIRST YEAR FUNDED	DURATION OF FUNDING (YEARS)	TOTAL AMOUNT (\$AUD)

TABLE 2. OTHER RESEARCH FUNDING – REQUESTED / UNDER REVIEW							
TEAM MEMBER/ APPLICATION ID	FUNDING ORGANISATION	DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL	PEER- REVIEWED (YES/NO)	PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR ROLE	FIRST YEAR FUNDED	DURATION OF FUNDING (YEARS)	TOTAL AMOUNT (\$AUD)

REPORTING

Funding recipients will be required to submit reports on a regular basis. The reporting schedule is outlined in the following table:

REPORT	REPORTING FREQUENCY	DUE
Progress against pre-determined milestones and/or targets *	6-monthly	Every 6 months from receipt of funds
Financial Reports (to be included in progress report) *	Annually	Every 12 months from the receipt of funds
Final Report	Once Only	At project completion, or within 12 weeks after project completion
Ad hoc reports *	As requested by FightMND	On request with negotiable time frame not greater than 6 weeks
Presentation of project	As requested by FightMND	During FightMND Research and/or donor Events or webinars

*These reports will be used to assess whether the National Research Infrastructure 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 FightMND National Research Infrastructure Grant.

PRIVACY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All information contained in applications submitted 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, the FightMND Review Panels, the FightMND Board, and relevant employees of FightMND involved in the research grant process.

Applicants acknowledge that announcement of funded National Research Infrastructure Grants will involve a dissemination of information to the public about their general nature.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – REVIEWERS AND IRP

FightMND requires its independent reviewers and Review Panels 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.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

FIGHTMND NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All communication concerning National Research Infrastructure Grant applications and administration should be addressed to the Infrastructure and Innovations Manager at FightMND, by email to infrastructure@fightmnd.org.au.

1. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

1.1. FightMND National Research Infrastructure Grants are time-limited and applicants should ensure that proper consideration is given to this in the proposal. When the project is approved in principle, the initial sum awarded by FightMND will be for the first six (6) months only. Approval of funding for subsequent invoices at six (6) monthly intervals will be subject to availability of funds and the receipt, from the grantee and/or Lead Organisation, of satisfactory project progress and financial reports. Funding may also depend on achievement of program milestones agreed to by the Lead Organisation and FightMND, as outlined in the Grant Agreement. Members of the FightMND team, Infrastructure and Innovations Panel, and Board will review progress reports to decide outcomes.

1.2. If the Grantee under-spends in any year, FightMND can, at its discretion, give approval for the balance to be carried into the following year. Expenditure beyond the end date will only be permitted if authorised by FightMND in advance. Requests must be made by contacting FightMND at least eight weeks prior to the original completion date, by email to the Infrastructure and Innovations Manager at infrastructure@fightmnd.org.au.

1.3. The value of the National Research Infrastructure Grant is between \$350,000 and \$2,000,000 AUD for project performance of up to five (5) years.

1.4. FightMND will not meet indirect or overhead costs or on-costs of the Lead Organisation, such as: general travel, finance services, staff facilities, staff development, public relations, institutional libraries, routine secretarial work, personnel services, stationery or contributions to general departmental costs, and publication costs (except for those necessary to enable open access for publications).

1.5. Travel: Travel costs essential for running of the program and delivering project outcomes are allowed. Travel costs may include: *Travel within Australia* and *International travel* essential to program activities outlined in the grant application and grant agreement, limited to the reasonable cost of transport and accommodation; Attendance at relevant scientific/technical meetings, only if presenting program objectives and/or outcomes. Transport costs covered by this National Research Infrastructure Grant Program are limited to the economy class fare for each sector travelled. Travel costs do not cover separate hotel accommodation or other subsistence costs. Invoices, receipts or other evidence of spending must be provided to FightMND upon request.

1.6. Payment of instalments is conditional on receipt and approval of satisfactory project progress and financial reports, and/or achievement of program milestones agreed to by the Lead Organisation and FightMND, as outlined in the Grant Agreement (see Terms and Conditions 1.1 and 15).

1.7. Funding from other sources: financial support for clearly defined aspects of a project from separate funding sources is permitted under FightMND grants. Such supplementary funding must be disclosed at the time of the grant application, and at the time such funding is received after submission of the grant application.

2. EQUIPMENT

2.1. FightMND will only fund equipment purchased as part of a National Research Infrastructure Grant that is essential to the development and delivery of the project and project outcomes. Servicing, maintenance and/or repair costs relevant to equipment is NOT funded by this National Research Infrastructure Grant.

3. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. It is the responsibility of the Lead Organisation and Primary Investigators to have ethical committee approval for all or part of the proposed research. This should ideally be in place at the time of applying for funding.

3.2. Ethical approvals must be received prior to the commencement of any work supported by the National Research Infrastructure Grant that requires ethical approval. FightMND must receive notification from the grantee or Lead Organisation that ethical approval is in place prior to the commencement of any project work that requires ethical approval.

3.3. Evidence of Ethical Committee Approvals must be provided to FightMND upon request. When such evidence is requested, payment of invoices will be delayed until evidence has been provided.

4. PERSONAL DIRECTION OF THE RI

4.1. It is expected that the Primary Business and Primary Research Investigators will be actively engaged in directing the RI. Continued use of FightMND funds during a prolonged absence of either Primary Investigator requires written agreement to continue the research under the direction of another qualified Investigator, ideally obtained prior to the absence. The grantee or an approved representative of the Lead Organisation must apply to and notify FightMND by email to the Infrastructure and Innovations Manager at infrastructure@fightmnd.org.au with an explanation of the situation, providing details of the arrangements for conducting the project during their absence (see Terms and Conditions 11.2).

5. RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF

5.1. FightMND does not act as an employer and, therefore, in all cases where financial support is provided for the employment of staff, the Lead Organisation undertakes to issue a contract of employment in accordance with any other relevant Act relating to the conditions of employment.

5.2. FightMND will not be responsible for claims under statute or at common law, nor will they indemnify the Lead Organisation against a claim for compensation or against any claims for which the Institution may be liable as an employer or otherwise.

6. STAFF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

The Lead Organisation must accept full responsibility for:

6.1. The management, monitoring and control for all staff (permanent, temporary and students) employed or involved in any project funded by a FightMND grant;

6.2. The management, monitoring and control of all work funded by a FightMND grant.

7. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

7.1. If the tenure of the appointment of staff recruited to work on the FightMND-funded project continues beyond the defined period of the Grant, the Lead Organisation will be solely responsible for all costs beyond the period of the Grant. FightMND accepts no liability for contracts and costs extending beyond the defined grant period.

8. EMPLOYMENT TERM CONTRACTS

8.1. Where members of staff have been under contract to the Lead Organisation prior to the activation of the FightMND National Research Infrastructure Grant, FightMND will not reimburse costs attributed to any prior commitment. This includes any redundancy payments due for service prior to the grant period.

8.2. The contract of employment offered must not extend beyond the termination of the National Research Infrastructure Grant (unless the Lead Organisation wishes to extend the contract at its own expense).

9. PARENTAL AND OTHER LONG-TERM LEAVE

9.1. The Lead Organisation will meet the cost of any long-term leave, other than holiday, and will ensure that all annual leave entitlement is taken within the National Research Infrastructure Grant period. Long-term leave may include parental or long-term sick leave.

9.2. Parental leave is the responsibility of the Lead Organisation employing staff undertaking a FightMND-funded project. Leave will be provided according to the Lead Organisation's local terms and conditions of employment. The costs of such leave are the responsibility of the Lead Organisation and are not provided by FightMND.

9.3. If a FightMND-funded employee is due to take any planned long-term leave, the Primary Investigators and/or Lead Organisation should inform FightMND of the dates in advance. This will enable discussion to decide whether the Grant should be suspended for the period of absence until full-time employment can be resumed (see Terms and Conditions 4 and 11.2). If unplanned long-term leave occurs, the National Research Infrastructure Grant Lead Organisation or an approved representative of the Lead Organisation should contact FightMND by email to infrastructure@fightmnd.org.au as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

10. ACTIVATION OF AN AWARDED NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

10.1. National Research Infrastructure Grants are activated on receipt of a signed Grant Agreement and receipt of the first invoice. If, for any reason, the start date of the project is delayed after the Grant Agreement has been returned, FightMND must be informed at once, a Grant Agreement Deed of Variation form completed, and a new start date agreed (see Terms and Conditions 11.2). If necessary, a revised Grant Agreement will need to be completed and returned.

10.2. If the project does not start within three (3) months of the start date indicated on the Grant Agreement, FightMND may withdraw the National Research Infrastructure Grant offer. The grantee and/or Lead Organisation will have to reapply for funding in a future grant round, in competition with other applications at the time.

11. CHANGE OF TERMS OF AN AWARDED NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

11.1. Reallocation of funds from one expense heading of the approved budget to another, as detailed in the Grant Agreement, requires written permission from FightMND.

11.2. Grantees will be required to submit a letter to FightMND detailing any, and all, proposed changes to the RI, and complete a Grant Agreement Deed of Variation. Letters/Deeds of Variation must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to the changes taking place, and submitted for approval to FightMND by email to the Infrastructure and Innovations Manager at infrastructure@fightmnd.org.au. FightMND must be kept informed at all times of any changes to the original grant funded and the Grant Agreement.

11.3. Any request for major changes in the terms of the National Research Infrastructure Grant, e.g. for additional staff or budget items, must be made in the form of a new and separate grant application, which will be considered in competition with all other new applications.

12. CHANGES TO CONDITIONS OF AN AWARDED NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

12.1. FightMND reserves the right to change the Terms and Conditions of National Research Infrastructure Grants at any time. If this occurs during the lifetime of a National Research Infrastructure Grant, the revised Terms and Conditions may be applied in place of those issued at the commencement of the National Research Infrastructure Grant.

12.2. Successful applicants will be given at least 8 weeks' notice of any change to conditions of the grant.

13. EARLY TERMINATION OF AN AWARDED NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

13.1. FightMND reserves the right to terminate the awarded National Research Infrastructure Grant at any time. Circumstances which might lead to termination include:

- Any breach in the Terms and Conditions under which the award was made;
- If the project has not started within three months of the agreed start date;
- The work is diverging markedly from the original approved project. The National Research Infrastructure grantee or an approved representative of the Lead Organisation must inform FightMND immediately when they are aware of a change of direction (see Terms and Conditions 11.2). There may, however, be circumstances in which the change is acceptable on scientific grounds;
- Failure to submit adequate progress reports, or serious and unresolvable problems identified by a site visit; and/or
- Work has ceased on the Grant, or the Lead Organisation and/or Primary Investigators have ceased to be actively involved in the project. FightMND must be informed immediately if this situation arises (see Terms and Conditions 11.2).

FightMND will endeavour to give 60 days' prior notice before termination of an awarded National Research Infrastructure Grant.

13.2. If a National Research Infrastructure Grant is terminated, FightMND will meet costs properly and necessarily incurred under the Grant Agreement up to the termination date. However, payments will not, in aggregate, exceed the amount of the National Research Infrastructure Grant remaining to be paid at the time of its termination.

13.3. In the event of work being discontinued by the Lead Organisation, written notification must be sent to FightMND, together with a report on the work carried out to date, setting out reasons for the termination.

14. EXTENSION TO AN AWARDED NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

14.1. It is the responsibility of the Lead Organisation and Grantees to apply for further support before the end of the National Research Infrastructure Grant period, if this is required. Applications for an extension of support will be considered as a new application in a relevant grant scheme if open, and in competition with other applications at the time of applying.

14.2. For no-cost extensions to the project period, adequate time (at least eight weeks), should be allowed for an application to be processed and FightMND accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred due to the failure of a grantee to make such an application in good time.

15. REPORTS

15.1. The Lead Organisation, in collaboration with Grantees, is required to submit the following reports:

- Annual progress reports: due every 12 months from the National Research Infrastructure Grant start date, as stated on the executed National Research Infrastructure Grant Agreement (see Terms and Conditions 1.1). A short summary in language intelligible to the lay reader should also be submitted for possible use in FightMND publications and on our website;
- Interim reports: brief six-monthly reports of no more than three pages on project progress; and

- Final report: required within three months after completion of the National Research Infrastructure Grant project. A detailed final report covering the whole project will be substituted for the annual report. In addition, a summary should also be provided in language intelligible to the lay reader. Researchers must avoid the use of jargon and technical language and should pitch the summary at the level of a science feature in a broadsheet newspaper. The summary may be used in FightMND publications.

15.2. Instalments for the Grant will be paid only after receipt of progress reports and their approval by FightMND. Payment may be delayed if reports are not submitted on time and/or if clarification is required.

15.3. Feedback to people living with MND and/or Carers. All grantees are encouraged to provide regular information on their research to be circulated by FightMND for patients and carers. Where volunteers are involved in research, grantees are required to provide regular feedback to the participants and FightMND, in addition to annual reports and publications.

16. SITE VISITS AND PROGRESS MEETINGS

16.1. FightMND reserves the right to visit the grantee's laboratories during the period of the National Research Infrastructure Grant to discuss project progress, and welcomes invitations to do so.

16.2. Grantees may be asked to attend meetings to discuss progress with FightMND representatives and donors. These may be arranged in conjunction with site visits.

16.3. Grantees may be asked to take part in FightMND communication projects, such as video content, to help facilitate feedback to FightMND's donors on outcomes related to the National Research Infrastructure Grant.

17. PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND PUBLICITY

17.1. Grantees are expected to seek publication of findings in refereed journals, as soon as possible, during and after the completion of the National Research Infrastructure Grant project (subject to Term and Condition 18). FightMND and the grantee and/or Lead Organisation jointly undertake to notify each other before published reference is made to the findings of the project, and to discuss the form of publication wherever possible.

17.2. Grantees and/or the Lead Organisation must inform FightMND immediately when results from FightMND-funded research are accepted for publication or presentation. The grantee and/or Lead Organisation must provide FightMND with reprints, photocopies or electronic copies of the final version of any such publications.

17.3 Open Science Policy: Open-science standards are encouraged by FightMND where possible, and proposals demonstrating open-science practise and information and knowledge-sharing will be considered favourably (for further detail, see <https://www.unesco.org/en/open-science/about>).

17.3. Open Access Policy: Grantees are mandated to make their peer-reviewed papers, directly arising from the National Research Infrastructure Grant, available through open access. These research papers should be available within the PubMed Central repository as soon as possible, but definitely within six months of publication. Costs to enable open access for publications can be included in the project budget.

17.4. Posters – costs and accessibility: If FightMND-funded research is accepted for presentation as a poster, the costs of poster production may be claimed as part of the consumables budget (to a maximum of \$500 per National Research Infrastructure Grant). The poster must acknowledge FightMND as a source of funding and should include FightMND's logo. FightMND should be provided with an electronic copy of the poster for use on our website and social media.

17.5. To ensure the long-term sustainability of income for research infrastructure and to reflect and maintain our reputation for funding research of the highest scientific excellence and of greatest relevance to MND, all opportunities to promote FightMND must be pursued. The National Research Infrastructure Grantee and the

Lead Organisation are obliged to co-operate with FightMND over any publicity or fundraising activity arising from research funded by FightMND. Where it is the main funder of the research, FightMND reserves the right to lead on publicity.

17.6. At least five working days in advance of any publicity arising from research wholly or co-funded by a FightMND National Research Infrastructure Grant, the Lead Organisation and/or Grantees must notify FightMND by email to the Infrastructure and Innovations Manager at infrastructure@fightmnd.org.au, and the MarComms Officer at marketing@fightmnd.org.au. FightMND must be given at least 24 hours' notice of any media release in connection with the National Research Infrastructure Grant. Any press release or other material including reference to FightMND-funded research must be approved by FightMND before it is released to the media.

17.7. In any oral or written report or poster presentation relating to FightMND-funded research, the Grantee and/or author must acknowledge FightMND's support and display the FightMND logo, where practical. All references to FightMND-funded work placed on websites, electronic bulletin boards and similar platforms must state clearly that the work is funded by "FightMND" and ideally a link should be included to the FightMND website: www.fightmnd.org.au.

17.8. Grantees must ensure that FightMND's support is acknowledged in all publications, presentations and similar communications. It is essential for National Research Infrastructure Grantees to acknowledge that their research has been supported wholly or in part by FightMND, either in the text or in a footnote. The National Research Infrastructure Grant reference/ID must also be provided.

17.9. When speaking publicly and to representatives of the media about FightMND-funded research, grantees and researchers should ensure they inform and make it clear to the media and others that they should be presented as a "FightMND-funded scientist". Grantees should consult with FightMND's Infrastructure and Innovation Manager at infrastructure@fightmnd.org.au, and the MarComms Officer at marketing@fightmnd.org.au, before speaking to the media.

17.10. There is a subtle but important difference between speaking as a "FightMND-funded scientist" and acting as a spokesperson for FightMND. Representatives of the media may not always be aware of this difference. Grantees and Researchers who speak to the media must ensure that their personal views are not misrepresented as being attributable to FightMND.

18. PATENTS, COPYRIGHT AND OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

18.1. If ideas, processes or products of potential commercial value are generated as a result of the project, the Lead Organisation and/or Grantee must notify FightMND before taking any steps to exploit the results commercially. The Lead Organisation and Grantee accept that FightMND may require a share of the proceeds from commercialisation. The agreed financial arrangements from proceeds of commercialisation shall continue to bind the parties notwithstanding any termination of the National Research Infrastructure Grant. For further detail, please see Appendix 1 - Intellectual Property rights and commercial activities.

19. FIGHTMND MEETINGS AND EVENTS

19.1. Grantees are asked to make themselves, or other appropriate research team members, available to report on the National Research Infrastructure Grant project at FightMND meetings, fundraising events and occasionally at other times by invitation.

19.2. There may be occasions where the grantee or other appropriate research team members will be asked to present their work relating to the National Research Infrastructure Grant project at scientific, business and/or health care professionals' meetings.

19.3. When speaking and presenting at FightMND events, grantees or other appropriate research team members are expected to make it clear in the presentation their funding connection with FightMND.

20. STEERING COMMITTEE

The Grantees and/or the Lead Institution must establish a Steering Committee for the Grant prior to the Grant commencing, or within the first six (6) months of the grant Commencement Date.

The Steering Committee will provide governance and oversight of the grant programme, and FightMND must have a representative on the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee must meet twice a year, 1 month before the progress reports are due, in person (at the Administering Institution) or remotely, meeting on a more frequent basis where necessary. In between meetings, the Grantee's and/or Administering Institution will provide progress reports to FightMND by the set Due Dates.

21. FIGHTMND CASE STUDIES

21.1. Grantees are asked to make themselves available as case studies reflecting the work of FightMND for its wide-ranging communications and fundraising activities.

22. SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

22.1. In the rare event of scientific fraud occurring, it is the responsibility of the employing authority to investigate any suspected case of fraudulent activity. Provision of funding from FightMND depends on the employing authority producing evidence of a procedure for dealing with scientific fraud. If fraud should be proven, the National Research Infrastructure Grant must be repaid in full to FightMND forthwith.

23. INDEMNITY

23.1. FightMND does not provide cover for negligent or non-negligent harm for participants in FightMND-funded studies. The Lead Organisation should ensure that local arrangements are in place should claims arise.

APPENDIX 1

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

As a charity, FightMND is obliged to ensure that the outcomes of its funded research are applied for the public benefit. In some circumstances, this obligation may be best achieved through the protection of Intellectual Property resulting from the research and the facilitation of commercial exploitation of this Intellectual Property.

The term 'Intellectual Property' (IP) describes any work or invention that results from original creative thought.

IP falls into different categories:

- Copyright: protects written, dramatic and artistic work, software, films, sound recordings and broadcasts.
- Patents: protects technical inventions, novel products or processes.
- Trademarks: distinguish the goods and services of one organisation from another.
- Design rights: protects the visual appearance of products.

Some of these protections need to be registered (trademarks, patents) and some do not (copyright, design rights). If the IP is not protected, another individual or organisation may copy the design or commercialise and sell the invention without consent or payment.

Therefore, for grants where FightMND funding may lead to the generation of Intellectual Property, the following additional conditions shall apply:

1.1. Any Intellectual Property developed during the course of conducting research supported by FightMND National Research Infrastructure Grants under this agreement (Project IP) shall be owned by the Lead Organisation.

1.2. The Lead Organisation must comply with the National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research by having in place strategies, policies, and procedures for the identification, protection, management, and exploitation of Intellectual Property, including that resulting from funding by charities such as FightMND.

<http://www.arc.gov.au/national-principles-intellectual-property-management-publicly-funded-research>

1.3. The Lead Organisation should ensure that all persons in receipt of funding from FightMND, or working on funded activity (including employees, students, visiting staff and sub-contractors), are employed or retained on terms that vest in the institution all Intellectual Property arising from funding by FightMND.

1.4. The Lead Organisation, grant holders and co-Investigators should inform FightMND of any pre-existing arrangements of which they are aware, and which could lead to a breach of FightMND-funded standard conditions. The Institution should take reasonable endeavours to ensure that no consultancies, third party restrictions or arrangements which might impact on a FightMND-funded grant are entered into in relation to any FightMND-funded person or activity without prior agreement of FightMND. FightMND-funded investigators, or individuals involved in a FightMND-funded project, should not use materials or compounds (other than those obtained commercially), on terms which would place restrictions on the publication of the results. Institutions should take reasonable endeavours to ensure that "reach-through claims" have not been granted on any FightMND-funded IP in favour of commercial organisations providing materials or compounds to FightMND-funded individuals for research purposes. However, FightMND recognises that companies providing materials may often require exclusive rights to any Intellectual Property arising from use of that material, and that this requirement is often non-negotiable. Where Intellectual Property arises

from research linked indirectly to the use of material provided under such agreement, the provider should be offered a time-limited opportunity to take out a revenue generating licence.

1.5. The Lead Organisation and Grantees are bound to notify FightMND promptly in writing when new Project IP arises from the Grant and take reasonable steps to ensure that such IP is protected and not published or otherwise disclosed publicly prior to protection (whilst at the same time ensuring that potential delays in publication are minimised).

1.6. The Lead Organisation must notify FightMND of the intent to commercially exploit the results of any research it has funded. The Lead Organisation is not required to seek FightMND's consent in assigning Intellectual Property to its technology transfer company.

1.7. Within thirty (30) business days of receiving the notification from the Lead Organisation, and prior to the Lead Organisation applying for registration of any Project IP, FightMND will advise the Lead Organisation in writing which one of the following financial arrangements will apply in relation to commercialisation of the Project IP:

- I. All of the costs associated with commercialising of the Project IP (including patent and legal costs) will be paid by the Lead Organisation. Out of any net proceeds received by the Lead Organisation from commercialising the Project IP (after all of the Lead Organisation's costs associated with commercialising the Project IP have first been deducted), the Lead Organisation will pay 10% of all net commercialisation proceeds to FightMND until such time as FightMND has received an amount equal to the amount of the National Research Infrastructure Grant funding provided under this agreement multiplied by five (5).
- II. Ten per cent (10%) of the costs associated with commercialising the Project IP (including patent and legal costs) will be paid by FightMND as and when the costs fall due, and the remaining 90% of the commercialisation costs will be paid by the Lead Organisation. Out of any net proceeds received by the Lead Organisation from commercialising the Project IP (after all the Lead Organisation's costs associated with commercialising the Project IP have first been deducted and FightMND's costs have been reimbursed), the Lead Organisation will pay 10% of all net commercialisation proceeds to FightMND in perpetuity.
- III. FightMND will not seek any payment from the net commercialisation proceeds arising from commercialisation of the Project IP.

1.8. If the Lead Organisation does not wish to protect, manage or exploit the IP, or fails to comply with the agreed strategy, FightMND may direct the Lead Organisation to take steps to protect the IP at the Lead Organisation's expense or to transfer the IP to FightMND.

1.9. If the Lead Organisation wishes to use any third party (other than its recognised technology transfer company) to carry out its obligations with respect to IP, it must provide details to, and obtain prior written approval from, FightMND.