

CARE SUPPORT GRANT GUIDELINE

EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Despite being described over 150 years ago, motor neurone disease (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 Program provides grant funding to Australian institutions and organisations who provide targeted support in line with the needs of people living with, and affected by MND. In doing so, FightMND aims to improve the quality of lives of those currently living with and affected by MND.

GRANT OBJECTIVES

The FightMND **Care Support Grant – Equipment and Services** awards grants of up \$100,000 over a 1 (one) year period to Australian not-for-profit organisations, and hospitals and clinics, that care and support people with MND to:

- a. Purchase equipment or assistive technologies to be loaned out to people living with MND as part of an equipment loan library or similar.
- b. Provide care packages for non-NDIS supported allied health care or domestic care service provision.

A further \$50,000 may be awarded as part of the equipment / assistive technology purchase for:

- a. Training for carers to safely use and manage the equipment, and/or.
- b. Training for allied health care providers to safely prescribe equipment and train users.



Applications that focus purely on training should apply through the **Care Support Grant – Innovation and Improvement**

Applications that strongly address inequity in access to equipment, equipment training, or services will be prioritised, especially for those living with MND who:

1. Do not have access to the NDIS
2. Live in regional, rural, and remote communities
3. Those from underrepresented communities such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) groups, or from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds

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

Applicants are limited to submitting up to one (1) Equipment and Services grant applications as a lead organisation.

6-monthly reporting is an important requirement of FightMND Care Support Grants. Please consider this when applying for this grant.

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:
 - a. Purchase of medical equipment / assistive technologies that will improve the quality of life, or extend the life of, someone living with MND
 - b. Costs for maintenance and storage
 - c. Reimbursements or salaries, including relevant oncosts, directly related to any equipment training program.
 - d. Care packages for allied health care or domestic care service provision.
- 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 not directly related to application.

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 – Equipment and Services” 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 training
 - b. Care packages and services
- 7. Which of the priority areas does this grant support (multiple choice)**
 - a. Do not have access to the NDIS
 - b. Live in regional, rural, and remote communities
 - c. Mostly underrepresented communities (ATSI and/or CALD)
 - d. None of the above
- 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)

Proposal

1. Project Overview and Rationale

- a. Describe the project and its purpose
- b. Explain how it addresses a gap or unmet need for people living with or affected by MND, and how it was identified, and provide justification and supporting evidence
- c. Comment on if and how people with lived experience of MND, or other key stakeholders, were consulted in identifying the gap or unmet need.

2. Project plan and delivery

- a. Provide a timeline if relevant (mandatory for Training programs)
- b. Explain how beneficiaries will access equipment, packages, or training, including costs and priority access.
- c. Outline any collaborations relevant to the project
- d. If relevant,
 - i. Describe involvement of people living with or affected by MND and/or end users.
 - ii. address engagement with underserved populations (e.g., Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, CALD communities).

3. Impact

- a. Detail the short-, medium-, and long-term impact on people living with or affected by MND. Provide evidence and logic to support impact claims.

4. Sustainability

Comment on

- How project will be sustained post funding completion

5. Capability & Risk Management

- a. Summarize the organization's and collaborators' capacity, infrastructure, and experience to deliver the project.
- b. Identify potential risks and challenges and how they will be managed.

6. Budget & Resource Allocation

- a. Provide a detailed budget, including:
 - i. Allocation of funds for collaborative projects.
 - ii. Salaries with FTE allocation for essential staff.
 - iii. Equipment critical to project aims.

7. Optional Uploads:

- a. For training programs, a gantt chart outlining proposed training plan and timelines to be uploaded.

REPORTING

Funding recipients will be required to submit 6-monthly reports on a regular basis via the Fluxx Grant Management System (details will be provided to successful applicants).

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 Support Grant agreement.

Future funding of the Applicant is subject to the submission of 2 satisfactory acquittal and impact reports, which are required at six-monthly intervals.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Assessment Criteria for Review

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

Each criteria is scored out of five (5) 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:

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.



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