

National Medical Program

The Judith Jane Mason & Harold Stannett Williams Memorial Foundation (The Mason Foundation) Guidelines



Application dates

Open: 1 July

Close: 31 August

Making an Application

Apply via: <https://equitytrustees.smartygrants.com.au/mason2017>

Enquire via: charities@eqt.com.au

Equity Trustees Medical Research and Health Funding Domain

Equity Trustees is soon to launch a new strategy for the distribution of discretionary grant funds for Medical Research & Health (MR&H) on behalf of our clients. Whilst we finalise our broader MR&H granting strategy, we have kept the National Medical Program funding round the same as in past years with the exception of capping the maximum value of grants available for Alzheimers' research and for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome research (Early Career, Proof of Principle and Innovation grants) at \$100,000 and seeking only single-year grant applications for all categories.

Goal of The Mason Foundation

The goal of The Mason Foundation is to achieve enduring, positive impact in the areas of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Alzheimer's disease through funding medical research principally into the causes, prevention and/or management of these diseases.

Background

The Judith Jane Mason & Harold Stannett Williams Memorial Foundation was established as a result of a generous donation in 2003 from Judith Jane Mason (nee Williams). The Foundation is named in honour of the benefactor and her father, Harold Stannett Williams, who was born in the last years of the 19th Century. His daughter describes him as "a most intelligent, wonderful and charitable man". The memory of his personal generosity is enhanced through this Foundation, benefiting others in perpetuity.

Areas of Focus

Two areas of need in the community have been prioritised for the Foundation's funding. The first is Alzheimer's disease. The second, which is perhaps dearer to the founder's heart, is Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. This is due to the fact that Chronic Fatigue Syndrome is such a damaging, yet poorly understood, illness and causes immense suffering.

Focus Areas:

1. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and related disorders

It is understood that the sciences related to inflammation, cognition and neurosciences, all have a role to play in advancing our knowledge and understanding of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS). Therefore, in seeking to achieve the Mason Foundation's goal with respect to CFS, the Trustees recognise that support for research that is not directly targeted at people suffering from CFS, may provide new insights into mechanism and treatments for this condition. **Applications looking at fatigue and chronic neurological and inflammatory disorders would be welcomed.**

In applying for this stream of funding, researchers must demonstrate how successful outcomes from their work could reasonably be expected to lead toward advances in understanding mechanisms, diagnosis, prevention and management of CFS.

Applications will be more highly regarded where homogenous and clinically well described cohorts are the focus of the research. **Researchers are strongly encouraged to propose projects that use one or both of the Canadian Consensus Criteria or the Fukuda Criteria.**

1.1 Early career researchers

With a desire to develop the field of CFS Research the Trustees wish to provide support to early career researchers. Consequently, preference will be given to new researchers who have completed their PhD within the past five years and who are now positioning themselves to secure their first solo National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant.

Individual, once-off grants of up to \$100,000 will be considered in this category this year. It is envisaged that these grants will help position researchers to attract larger funding from other competitive sources such as NHMRC within a reasonable amount of time.

1.2 Proof of principle grants

The Trustees are keen to see CFS-related research attracting increased levels of competitive funding such as NHMRC funding. Therefore, preference will be given to 'proof of principle' projects. Researchers seeking funding through this stream, will need to be able to convincingly argue how their project will reasonably position them, to attract more significant competitive funding from sources such as the NHMRC.

Individual, once-off grants of up to \$100,000 will be considered in this category.

1.3 Innovation grants

With a view to driving significant advances in our knowledge and understanding of CFS – its causes, treatment and cure – the Trustees make available Innovation Grants.

It is expected that applications for this funding will involve multi-disciplinary teams, that are exploring novel concepts and innovative approaches. Furthermore, such applications will need to be considered likely to yield a dividend that couldn't otherwise be achieved, and should be for work that is new and distinct from other proposals previously submitted to this program for funding.

Individual once-off grants of up to \$100,000 will be considered in this category.

The total annual income available for the CFS stream of funding is typically in the order of \$500,000 – \$600,000.

2. Alzheimer's disease

This stream relates to research into more effective diagnosis, treatment or cure of Alzheimer's disease. In assessing projects, the Foundation will favourably consider applications for emerging research concepts, requiring seed funding or young investigators getting established.

Projects will be funded for one year only. The Trustees have a clear expectation that that these grants will be used to help position researchers to attract larger funding, from other competitive sources such as NHMRC within a reasonable timeframe.

Individual grants of up to \$100,000 will be considered. The total annual income available for the Alzheimer's disease stream is typically in the order of \$500,000.

Eligibility

Grants will be made to organisations in Australia. In order to be eligible to receive funding from the Mason Foundation, organisations need to be charities that have been endorsed as Item 1 DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) entities.

From time to time the Trustees may invite researchers to submit proposals for Special Grants.

Notification Date: mid-December

Applicants can expect to know the outcome of their applications in December.

Reporting

Successful grant recipients are required to lodge a report at the conclusion of the grant, detailing the achievements and evaluating the success of the activities for which funding was given. For multi-year grants, an annual progress report is required to be submitted before subsequent grant instalments will be paid.

Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement of support from The Judith Jane Mason & Harold Stannett Williams Memorial Foundation as managed by Equity Trustees is expected in presentations and publications.

Transferring Grant Funding

Grant funding is provided to organisations and cannot be transferred to another organisation without prior approval from Equity Trustees.

Additional Information for Higher Education Providers

The Mason Foundation's medical and scientific research grants are listed as a compliant funding scheme on the Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR). The income higher education providers receive from such schemes listed on the ACGR is a metric used in driving the allocation of the Australian Government's Research Block Grants.