

NATIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAM – ME/CFS RESEARCH GRANTS

THE JUDITH JANE MASON & HAROLD STANNETT WILLIAMS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION (THE MASON FOUNDATION) GUIDELINES

Application dates for funding commencing in 2025

Open: 9 September 2024

Close: 1 November (11.59 PM AEDT) 2024

Making an Application

Apply via: <https://equitytrustees.smartygrants.com.au/Mason25>

Enquire via: charities@egt.com.au

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.

Goal of the Mason Foundation

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

The Mason Foundation is partnering with the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI) to award Alzheimer's disease research grants. Refer to the Equity Trustees website for more details.

On 14 August 2019, the Mason Foundation announced funding to establish the first Australian Registry and Biobank for ME/CFS. In July 2024 the ME/CFS Registry and Biobank was awarded additional funding from the Mason Foundation to increase the capacity and diversity of samples available to the research community.

Research grant applications that include either accessing or contributing resources (data and/or biospecimens) with AusME (The Australian ME/CFS and Long COVID Registry and Biobank) will be prioritised. Please visit the AusME website for details <https://www.emerge.org.au/ausme/>

THE MASON FOUNDATION NATIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAM – ME/CFS RESEARCH GRANTS

The Mason Foundation ME/CFS research grants support research projects that focus on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS). Recommendations for funding by the Trustees are made by an independent National Medical Advisory Panel.

In this granting round, ME/CFS research grants will be awarded for a maximum of **\$120,000 p.a. for up to three years.**

Applicants need to demonstrate that they have considered the potential impact of their research in relation to all or some of the following areas, as appropriate:

Objective: Support research projects that focus on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)

Scientific credibility: the proposal includes a strong hypothesis, suitable methodology and a clear research plan.

Demonstrates impact: the proposal provides evidence that the research is likely to have a positive impact on people living with ME/CFS.

Translation: the proposal identifies how the research will be translated into clinical practice, policy, public education or further research.

Capacity building: the proposal has a capacity building element. Funds may be used for

- supporting early career researchers
- attracting new clinical researchers to the field.

Collaboration: the proposal involves meaningful collaboration between researchers within Australia

Research focus: Focus on priority areas of research for ME/CFS, including one or more of the following:

- understanding the pathology of the illness
- developing a diagnostic test for patients
- improving how health professionals currently diagnose and manage ME/CFS
- severe cases of ME/CFS
- emerging research priorities

Use of the AusME Registry and Biobank: For studies involving human samples or data, research grant applications that include either accessing or contributing resources (data and/or biospecimens) with AusME (The Australian ME/CSF and Long COVID Registry and Biobank) will be prioritised.

We note that there is overlap between research regarding Long COVID and ME/CFS. While research projects in relation to Long COVID can seek funding through this program, it is necessary that the primary focus of the research is ME/CFS.

The Mason Foundation acknowledges the NHMRC ME/CFS Advisory Committee's advice to the NHMRC that there is currently no perfect diagnostic criteria, but agreed that the 2003 Canadian Consensus Criteria (CCC), the 2011 International Consensus Criteria (ICC), the Institute of Medicine (IOM), now the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), 2015 diagnostic criteria, and the Paediatric Primer (2017) for child and adolescent patient selection and collection of common data elements (CDEs) are internationally the most commonly used criteria for research. **We would encourage grant applicants to use these consensus criteria in their proposals.**

ELIGIBILITY

Payment of the Grant will be made to the institution nominated by the applicant. The Mason Foundation can only make grants to organisations with BOTH Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Item 1 and Tax Concession Charity (TCC) status.

First named chief investigators that have ongoing multi-year grants with future grant commitments from this Foundation – i.e. grants with amounts still to be paid in this or future financial years – are ineligible to apply

Decisions on funding take into account the following:

- whether the proposal has a clearly defined hypothesis/es, objectives and outcomes;

- the capacity to achieve proposed outcomes to a suitable quality with the available resources and in the specified timeframe.
- a realistic and clear budget must be part of your proposal; and
- the quality of proposed research team and the strength of their track record.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AN APPLICATION

Go to Equity Trustees website at <https://www.eqt.com.au/philanthropy/grant-funding/our-four-focus-areas/medical-research-and-health> under Mason National Medical Program click on 'Apply for grant'. Please note that the online application can only be accessed when a funding round is open.

To make an application you will need to create a Smarty Grants login first. If you don't have a login, you will need to create one by completing the **Register** section, if you already have a login, then enter your login details in the **Login** section.

Notification Date:

Applicants can expect to know the outcome of their applications in January 2025.

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A GRANT IS AWARDED

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 must 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.