

Introduction

In 2007, Chloe Rutherford was diagnosed with leukaemia. Chloe seemingly beat the disease only to relapse and pass away from complications from pneumonia in 2009. Our Foundation name emerged from a case of mistaken identity rather than a flash of inspiration, but it is entirely fitting. On one of the first of her over 250 visits to the Royal Children's Hospital, Chloe thought she saw a gift shop, with snowdomes from all over the world adorning its glass walls. It was in fact the nurses' station where she was having surgery. To Chloe it was beautiful and magical, and like all beautiful things, she just had to have a snowdome of her own. Of course, she got what she wished, and as she bravely underwent each treatment for her cancer, more and more snowdomes appeared; gifts from family, from friends both old and new and from the nurses who cared for her.

Snowdome Foundation was formed in 2010 by Chloe's father Grant Rutherford, Professor Miles Prince AM and Rob Tandy. Since then, we have enabled over \$95 million to unlock access to new treatments by channelling philanthropic investments into early phase human clinical trials of next-generation treatments. Snowdome is the leading not-for-profit organisation exclusively focused on raising funds to support translational research into blood cancers, providing Australians with blood cancer the best opportunity for a cure. To date, Snowdome has extended over 84 research grants to fund over 105 multi-year research positions. Across Australia, we have facilitated 129 clinical trials, helping more than 2,771 patients access world-class clinical trials.

Vision

To give every Australian blood cancer patient the best opportunity for a cure.

Mission

To accelerate next-generation treatments for Australian blood cancer patients, to help them live longer, better lives.

Snowdome Strategic Priorities

Snowdome Foundation assists Australia's best clinicians and researchers with much-needed funding to support their work. Snowdome has a mission aligned granting process that identifies key strategic priorities to fight blood cancer including:

- Advancing innovation through translational research, clinical trials, emerging blood cancer research, novel treatment platforms or therapies
- New innovations in genomic and molecular profiling including translational and functional genomics
- Targeted and cellular therapies and their derivatives
- Precision medicine

The Opportunity

Snowdome is inviting applications for a paediatric malignant haematology project supported through funding for a three-year fellowship (with the third and final year contingent on performance). This Grant aims to address unmet needs in childhood blood cancer research by investing in a project that accelerates clinical implementation for paediatric patients with blood cancers - particularly but not limited to leukaemia and lymphoma. Funding will support cutting edge, high quality translational research, including existing or planned clinical trials and studies focused on new therapies.

The successful applicant will receive maximum funding of \$133,333 per year for up to three (3) years. Total funding available is \$400,000. Pre-set milestones will be agreed upon in advance.

Timeline

Applications Open	Monday 27th April 2026
Applications Close	10am AEST Monday 15th June 2026
Outcome Announced	Monday 7th July 2026



Eligibility Criteria

- The researcher will preferably have a PhD with postdoctoral experience in haematology. Candidates without a PhD should provide evidence of their substantial expertise and accomplishments in areas relevant to the grant focus on paediatric blood cancers. Equivalent experience may include, but is not limited to, extensive research experience in academia, industry or government settings, with a proven track record of contributions to the field of medical research.
- Australian citizen or eligible for permanent residency and will be conducting research at an Australian research institute.
- The successful appointee will perform top quality, high impact research towards the discovery of new therapies that are aligned with the Snowdome Foundation's mission and strategic priorities.
- The project must specifically be applicable to or address paediatric blood cancer through the support of existing or planned cutting-edge, high-quality translational research (3-5 years), clinical trials and studies, or be targeted to new drugs in therapy.
- The research should be primarily conducted in translational human clinical studies in preference to animal studies.
- Track record of successful completion of research projects, presentation of research results at conferences, internal forums and via published manuscripts.
- Institutional commitment required to provide research space, resources (equipment).
- Pharmaceutical funded late phase or registration clinical trials, or research activities adjunct to such trials will only be considered if proposed as a separate project aligned with the Snowdome Foundation's strategic priorities.
- The research must not predominantly involve supportive care or psychosocial support or be for infrastructure such as registries and databases

Assessment Criteria

- Alignment with Snowdome Foundation's vision, mission & strategic priorities.
- Alignment with eligibility criteria.
- Strength and scientific quality of research proposal, including feasibility, innovation & novelty, pathway to translation, clinical implementation & patient access impact.
- Potential for the project to contribute to sustainable delivery or impact including through leveraged funding or strategic partnerships.
- Investigator(s) capability, including track record of successful completion of research project and strength of CV & publications.

Applications will be subject to review by members of the Snowdome Foundation Grants Committee and expert selection panel. The Snowdome Foundation reserves the right not to award the Chloe Rutherford Paediatric Haematology Fellowship if no suitable applicants are identified.

Eligible Costs

The successful applicant will be eligible to receive funding of up to \$133,333 per year for an initial term of up to two (2) years, with a performance-based option to extend for an additional one (1) year.

Applicants must justify use of the requested budget. Budget items must be directly related to the proposed research project. Expenses must be incurred between the grant start and end dates. Allocated and indirect costs will not be funded.

Eligible expenditure costs may include:

- Salary costs
- Recurrent costs & costs directly attributable to the project such as patient recruitment, research services
- Consumables
- Equipment essential to conduct the proposed research
- Research Governance/Ethics fees

* With the exception of applicants who request a salary at 1FTE where at least a 90%-time commitment is acceptable, all other salary and time commitments must be equivalent. Part time positions (stipend pro rata) will be considered to a minimum of 0.8 EFT.

How to Apply

Applicants should carefully follow all outlined instructions when applying.

Submit the following in one document no later than 10am AEST on Monday 15th June 2026 to grants@snowdome.org.au:

- **Completed Application Form**
- **Statement of Support:** a letter of support from the institution (mentor/supervisor) that highlights the applicant's dedication to blood cancer research and the potential impact of the research.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** The CV should be no more than 2 pages and must include:
 - key positions (last 5 years)
 - highlight impact/achievements in the field
 - top ten publications (last 5 years)
 - awards (past 5 years)
 - Up to 3 references
 - 100 word statement of impact of your research on clinical outcomes

Submissions must be submitted electronically in one document (word or PDF) with the file name `ChloeRutherfordFellowshipApplication_[Surname]`

[All queries should be directed HERE](#)

To apply please ensure the cover letter, statement of support and CV are saved as one document in Word or PDF format. Save the document with the filename `ChloeRutherfordFellowshipApplication_[Surname]`

Submit your document by email to grants@snowdome.org.au before 10am AEST on Monday 15th June 2026

[All queries should be directed HERE](#)