

1. About Snowdome Foundation

Founded in 2010, the Snowdome Foundation was born from the personal experiences of two families impacted by blood cancer. After Dr John Tandy was diagnosed with myeloma in 2009, his son Rob Tandy set out to help bring promising new treatments to Australian patients faster. Around the same time, Grant Rutherford sadly lost his nine-year-old daughter Chloe to leukaemia. Together with leading haematologist Professor Miles Prince AM, they established Snowdome to improve outcomes for Australians living with blood cancer by advancing diagnosis, accelerating access to innovative therapies, and help bring life-changing treatments to Australian blood cancer patients sooner.

Since its inception, Snowdome has enabled investment of more than \$95 million in blood cancer research, funded 84 multi-year grants, supported more than 105 research positions, and made it possible for thousands of patients to participate in more than 129 clinical trials. Today, Snowdome is the leading not for profit organisation focused exclusively on raising funds to support translational research and clinical trials that will accelerate next generation treatments (and cures) to help Australian blood cancer patients live longer, better lives.

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

2. Research Impact Program

The Snowdome Foundation Research Impact Program aims to identify projects or areas of research to fund which will accelerate new therapies for Australian patients with blood cancers.

The Research Impact Program will run two competitive rounds each year (subject to available funding). Applications will be assessed after the closing date of each round (biannually).

2.1 Program Purpose

The Snowdome Foundation Research Impact Program aims to support high quality research and clinical trials that will accelerate the translation of treatments into improved outcomes for Australians affected by blood cancer.

The program seeks to fund projects that have a clear pathway to clinical implementation and patient benefit within **3-5 years**, with the potential to improve diagnosis, treatment selection, treatment delivery, access to new therapies, and patient outcomes. The program prioritises innovative research and clinical trials that aligns with Snowdome Foundation's strategic priorities and has the potential to create meaningful and measurable impact for blood cancer patients.

2.2 Funding Available

Funding requests will be assessed relative to the total funding available for each round. Grants of varying amounts may be awarded for projects of up to three years duration. The funding amount available for each round will be published in the relevant application guidelines.

As the Snowdome Foundation Research Impact Program is dependent on available funding, Snowdome Foundation reserves the right not to proceed with a funding round if sufficient funds are not available. Snowdome Foundation also reserves the right to partially fund applications.

2.3 Funding Rounds

Each round follows a two-stage application process:



2.4 Application Process

Expression of Interest (EOI)

The Expression of Interest stage is used to assess the strategic alignment, innovation, translational potential (3-5 years), expected patient impact, investigator capability, collaborations and indicative funding requirements of a proposed project. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application.

Full Application

Invited applicants will be required to provide a detailed project application including strategic alignment, project methodology, translational pathway (3-5 years), expected impact, timeline and milestones, budget justification, collaborations, ethics and governance considerations, existing funding support and investigator track record.

All applications will be assessed by the Snowdome Grants Committee, and where necessary, expanded to include a panel of industry experts to review against criteria including alignment to Snowdome priorities, scientific merit, feasibility, innovation and potential impact.

3. Timing

The Snowdome Foundation Research Impact Program is delivered through two funding rounds each year (subject to available funds) and uses a two-stage application process (expression of interest and full application).

Stage 1 Expression of Interest (EOI): Applicants submit an EOI by the published closing date. EOIs are reviewed by a review panel. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Stage 2 Invitation to Full Application: Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application. Unsuccessful applicants are notified of the outcome.

Stage 3 Full Application and Review: Invited applicants will submit a full application (template and supporting documentation). Applications are assessed by the review panel, with funding recommendations considered by the Snowdome Foundation Board.

Stage 4 Funding Decision and Commencement: Applicants are notified of the outcome. Successful applicants must finalise project milestones and grant agreement documentation, and sign a funding agreement with the Snowdome Foundation before funding commences.

Round-specific dates for each funding round will be published on the Snowdome Foundation website and in the relevant application guidelines.

Indicative Timeline

Timings are a guide only

EOI Stage	5 - 7 Weeks
Invitations to Full Application	3 - 4 Weeks
Full Applications Close	4 - 6 Weeks
Review Panel Evaluation & Assessment	4 - 6 Weeks
Award Commencement	1 - 3 Months after notification

4. Eligibility

All applications are evaluated against the criteria and should align with the Snowdome Foundation's vision, mission and strategic priorities.

4.1 Research Scope

The Program prioritises research that is expected to demonstrate a pathway to clinical implementation and patient benefit within 3-5 years and has the potential to improve diagnosis, treatment selection, treatment delivery or patient outcomes.

4.2 Applicant Eligibility

- Our program welcomes applications from Australian permanent residents or individuals holding a visa allowing you to live, work and study in Australia
- Applicants must be affiliated with a hospital or non profit institution.
- Applicants offered funding through the Snowdome Foundation Research Impact Program will be required to enter into a formal Funding Agreement and accept the Snowdome Foundation's funding terms and conditions.

4.3 Who Can Apply

Applications must be submitted by an individual researcher. Companies, organisations and institutions are not eligible to apply. Applications are welcome from researchers across all career stages, including early career researchers within five* years of award date of a PhD, or obtaining their specialist qualification as well as mid career and senior researchers.

The Principal Investigator may submit only one application per application round for this grant program. Applicants must demonstrate experience and capability in blood cancer research appropriate to their career stage. Where an applicant does not have a substantial track record in blood cancer research, they must include a Co Principal Investigator with significant expertise and an established track record in the field. Where a Co Principal Investigator is included, they must be identified at the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage and their role in the project clearly described. A Co-PI should provide expertise that is integral to the proposed research, with at least one research aim substantially dependent on their specialised knowledge, laboratory, facility, or research capability. Co-Principal Investigators may also contribute strategic scientific input, expert guidance, and feedback throughout the project. Other scientific staff, collaborators and key personnel may be included where appropriate to support delivery of the proposed research.

* The five year eligibility period does not include recognised career or workforce interruptions, and the five-year time frame should be considered a guide rather than a strict requirement. Submissions with rationale/justification to support time frame and career disruptions will be considered. A career disruption involves a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work (periods of 3 months or more), due to pregnancy, illness or injury, caring responsibilities, and/or long-term partial return to work as a result of illness or caring responsibilities. The career disruption must have occurred post the date of the letter advising that the thesis was passed and resulted in significantly reduced research productivity or nil research output.

4.4 Eligible Expenses

- Personnel directly related to the project
- Clinical trial costs
- Patient-related research costs
- Data analysis and specialised testing

4.5 Ineligible Expenses

- General institutional operating costs
- Capital building works
- Retrospective costs
- Activities unrelated to the approved project
- Costs already funded by another source
- Physical infrastructure/equipment

5. Assessment Criteria

5.1 Assessment Framework

Criteria	Weight	What reviewers consider
Alignment with Snowdome Foundation Mission & Strategic Priorities	0.2	How clearly the project accelerates next-generation therapies for blood cancers and aligns with Snowdome strategic priorities (innovation, translational/functional genomics, precision medicine, targeted/cellular therapies).
Scientific Quality & Feasibility	0.2	Rigour of methods; clarity of aims; feasibility for impact within 3-5 years and budget; identification/mitigation of scientific, operational and clinical risks.
Investigator & Team Capability & Infrastructure	0.1	Strength of investigator(s) CV & publications. Track record of successful completion of research projects. Right mix of expertise and experience; access to patients/samples/data/infrastructure; strength of multidisciplinary team and collaborations.
Innovation & Novelty	0.15	Degree of innovation/novelty (e.g., advanced genomics, precision medicine, targeted/cellular therapies) and potential to meaningfully advance the field.
Pathway to Translation (3-5 years)	0.15	Clarity and credibility of the pathway to patient impact within 3-5 years; milestones; partners; leverage potential.
Clinical Implementation & Patient Access Impact	0.15	The extent to which the project enables or accelerates clinical implementation, improves pathways to patient access, strengthens clinical readiness, or optionally enhances clinical trial participation or development. Clinical trials may be included but are not required.
Leverage & Sustainability (Funding/Commercial)	0.05	Ability to attract co-funding or in-kind support; potential for commercialisation; long-term sustainability. Leverage potential.

5.2 Applications should

- Support improved outcomes for blood cancer patients in the foreseeable future (3-5 years)
- Involve Australian researchers in Australia or Australian researchers overseas, preferably with strong collaborative connections in Australia to enable the knowledge to be transferred back to Australia
- Address one or more of Snowdome's strategic priorities through research that advances prevention, diagnosis, disease detection, monitoring, treatment, or patient outcomes in blood cancer.
- Have quantifiable outcomes and reasonable milestones, set and agreed upon in advance
- Facilitate clinical trial accrual
- Leverage (now or potentially) other funding sources

5.3 Applications should not

- Be stand-alone laboratory and/or animal research without near-term (3-5 years) likelihood of clinical translation
- Involve supportive care, psychosocial support, housing, transport
- Be infrastructure such as registries and databases
- Be for physical infrastructure, as a general rule Snowdome does not prioritise funding for this
- Be late phase trials which are predominantly funded by pharmaceutical companies (although these may be part of larger strategy of trial program)
- Be a clinical trial research study 'bolted-on' to pharma-funded trials (such scientific research must be part of a separate research project that meets Snowdome Foundation's funding strategic priorities)
- Be a pharma clinical trial 'Registration' study

6. Application Process

6.1 Expression of Interest (EOI)

All applicants must submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) using the EOI template and email it to grants@snowdome.org.au by the specified deadline. EOIs will be reviewed by the review panel to determine how well the proposed project aligns with the program's objectives and assessment criteria. Panel members will independently assess and score each EOI, with any declared conflicts of interest managed in accordance with the conflict of interest process. Based on these initial assessments, a shortlist of applicants will be invited to progress to the full application stage.

6.2 Full Application

Applicants who are successful at the Expression of Interest stage will be invited to submit a full application. Applicants must submit the full application by the deadline via email to grants@snowdome.org.au by completing the full application template.

6.3 Assessment Process

Applicants who are successful at the Expression of Interest stage will be invited to submit a full application. Applicants must submit the full application by the deadline via email to grants@snowdome.org.au by completing the full application template.

Review Panel

Full applications will undergo a detailed review by the Review Panel, using the established assessment criteria to generate an overall score to rank applications. Each application will be independently scored by panel members. Panel members may include medical/scientific experts and representatives of the Snowdome Grants Committee and Executive.

Applicants who submit a full application may be asked to present to the Review Panel.

Conflict of Interest Management

Review panel members must declare actual, potential or perceived conflicts and will not participate in the assessment of impacted applications.

Funding Recommendations

Eligible applicants will be assessed against the assessment criteria to generate an overall score to rank applications. Snowdome reserves the right not to award the Research Impact Program grant if no suitable applicants are identified. The outcomes of the full application review will inform the final funding recommendations.

7. Funding Conditions

7.1 Statement of Support

Must be provided by the Head of Department, Institute Director or equivalent, and confirm:

- institutional support
- infrastructure availability
- ability to undertake the project
- the applicant's dedication to blood cancer research
- commitment to managing awarded funds

7.2 Successful Applicant Requirements

Successful applicants will be required to submit six-monthly progress reports, annual financial acquittals, and a final project report throughout the funding period. They will also be expected to participate in Snowdome Foundation communications, impact reporting, and other activities that help showcase the outcomes and achievements of funded research.

7.3 Acknowledgement of Funding

Successful applicants must acknowledge Snowdome Foundation support in:

- publications
- presentations
- media releases
- conference abstracts

7.4 Intellectual Property

Any intellectual property developed remains with the administering institution, subject to terms outlined in the funding agreement.

7.5 Funding Conditions

Snowdome Foundation reserves the right to offer funding at an amount lower than that requested. Applicants may be asked to revise project scope and milestones to align with the funding offered.

7.6 Funding Agreement

Successful applicants must enter into a formal Funding Agreement with the Snowdome Foundation. The administering institution must agree to and accept the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement before any funding can be awarded or released.