



WA Early-Career Child Health Researcher (ECCHR) Fellowships Program 2026 Guidelines and Conditions

1. Introduction

- (a) The Western Australian Early-Career Child Health Researcher (ECCHR) Fellowships Program (the Program) that is managed and administered by the BrightSpark Foundation Company Ltd¹ as the Program Administrator and currently is funded by the:
- [Stan Perron Charitable Foundation](#) (SPCF); and
 - [BrightSpark Foundation](#) (Foundation).
- (together Program Sponsors).
- (b) The Program aims to:
- Retain early to mid-career researchers: Provide targeted support to secure the future of WA's health and medical research and innovation workforce at a critical career stage. Fellowships, near-miss grants, and career pathways will help reduce attrition and keep top talent engaged.
 - Make WA competitive: Deliver funding and ecosystem support that improves WA's success in national and global funding rounds. Investments will focus on closing capability gaps, supporting funding navigation, encouraging collaborations, and rewarding open science.
- (c) Since its inception in 1978, the SPCF has donated more than \$150 million to organisations and individuals with a significant focus on Mr Perron's heartfelt desire to help Western Australian children battling illness, disability and disadvantage. The SPCF funds both Community and Research Grants and prioritises co-funded (partnership) applications.
- (d) For more than 45 years, the BrightSpark Foundation has supported over 200 researchers in WA (alumni) and distributed nearly \$10 million in child health research funding. Since 2015 the Foundation has collaborated with the [Raine Medical Research Foundation](#) to co-fund annual Priming Grants to emerging researchers and other collaboration awards for WA based child health research projects assessed on a competitive basis.

¹ Trustee and manager for the BrightSpark Foundation.

- (e) The BrightSpark Foundation provides funding to deliver better health outcomes to the community, through early-career researcher programs that support the next generation of research leaders in WA.
- (f) The purpose of the Program is to:
- encourage WA based postdoctoral early-stage researchers to stay involved with child health research longer
 - support early-career researchers to establish their child health research credentials in order for them to progress into more senior and securely funded child health research career roles.
- (g) The Program Sponsors may be expanded or modified from time to time as the Program develops and grows.

2. Program Description

- (a) The Program provides salary and research project support (the Fellowship) to early-career researchers to undertake child health research projects (either their own and/or as a collaborator on other child health research projects) and develop research skills and career capabilities.
- (b) The intention is to support the Fellows to become better qualified, experienced and positioned to seek longer term and more advanced substantial child health research funding through avenues such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigator Grants Emerging Leadership scheme. Please see Annexure 1 for further information.
- (c) The Fellow's research activity must be:
- undertaken in WA with a WA based Research Entity (university, health service provider, medical research institute or foundation).
 - supported by a suitably qualified WA based professional research supervisor throughout the term of the Fellowship (Research Supervisor).
 - be of relevance to significant child health needs and lead to better health outcomes for children.
- (d) The Program recognises that early-career researchers may not yet have a credible child health research project that by itself merits funding. The review and assessment process will focus on the demonstrated commitment, capacity and skillset of the applicant and track record of their Research Supervisor and Research Entity to ensure the Fellowship is successful.
- (e) Subject to quality applications, at least one Fellowship in each round will be awarded for Aboriginal² related child health research projects. Please see Annexure 2 for further information.

² Within Western Australia, the term Aboriginal is used in preference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, in recognition that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Western Australia. No disrespect is intended to our Torres Strait Islander colleagues and community.

3. Eligibility

(a) Applicants for this Program must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- be currently undertaking research in child health, including allied health and health sciences; and
 - be an early-career researcher who has:
 - a. just completed or is nearing completion (within six months) of a PhD, most preferably (not mandatory) in an area related to child health research; or
 - b. has the cumulative equivalent of no more than 5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) years (0-5 years relative to opportunity³) postdoctoral research experience.
- (together 'Eligible Candidates').

(b) The Program is open to applicants who:

- subject to funding, plan to commence a child health research project soon after, (most preferably from the 1 January and no later than the 1 July, in the year immediately following), the date of conferral of their PhD or award of the Fellowship, as applicable.
 - during the period of the Fellowship, will not undertake more than 0.5 FTE paid research time (including paid research time which is a component of an academic/clinical/administration/part-time role) that is funded from sources other than the Fellowship.
 - are not the lead investigator on an NHMRC, Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) or equivalent grant or have been awarded independent (outside their organisation and not including tenders, non-research funding and philanthropic funding) or competitively peer reviewed grant funding greater than \$150,000 (ex GST) for a project they lead or have led since completing their PhD.
 - have nil or minimal ongoing committed funding support for their child health research proposal.
 - are an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent resident of Australia, or have an appropriate work visa in place for the period of the Fellowship.
 - physically reside in WA for a minimum of 80 per cent of the period of the Fellowship.
 - nominate a WA based Research Supervisor, who will be a senior/established researcher active in child health research, who undertakes to:
 - a. stringently review the application.
 - b. provide expert advice on the design and statistical analyses included in the research activity.
 - c. provide guidance and ongoing support during the period of the Fellowship.
 - d. assist with reporting on progress directly to the Program Sponsors.
 - e. ensure the application includes only one project; and
 - f. be listed as a Research Supervisor on no more than one application per round.
- The applicant will be required to specify which of the following applies:

³ Meaning excluding "Career Interrupting Events", such as major illness, and/or carer responsibilities including parental leave.

- a. employee of the Research Entity; or
 - b. honorary or adjunct title at the Research Entity. If the Fellowship recipient is or will be employed by another entity (the Employer), the Employer must have a physical and operational presence in WA, and confirmation must be provided that either:
 - a) an affiliation agreement exists between the Research Entity and the relevant Employer; or
 - b) the intention is for the Fellowship to be subcontracted to the relevant Employer.
- The Research Entity must:
 - a. have an active Australian Business Number (ABN).
 - b. have a physical and operational presence in WA.
 - c. be a WA university, WA research institution, WA public health service provider⁴ or a WA public-private partnership (PPP) provider⁵.
 - d. co-partner with the Program Sponsors by agreeing to contribute at least a minimum gap share⁶ of the overall total Fellowship funding package amounts.
- The Program is not open to applicants who already have been awarded an Early-Career Child Health Researcher Fellowship or a Raine Priming Grant.
- Applications must be submitted in accordance with the 'Application Instructions' section of this document.
- The Program Administrator reserves the right to request further information and make final decisions regarding eligibility.

4. Funding

- (a) Fellowship funding will provide FTE salary support to undertake child health research duties, as well as to contribute to direct research costs (consumables) up to a maximum amount per annum. The Fellowship will be provided for a maximum of three years at 1.0 FTE commitment however, if the Fellow reduces their FTE due to a career disruption (e.g. parental leave, illness, caring responsibilities), a variation can be requested to extend the length of the Fellowship pro-rata, up to a maximum of six years.
- (b) During the term of the Fellowship, clinical, academic, or other professional part-time duties carried out in a WA based hospital or health service provider or WA based tertiary institution may be continued however the FTE commitment to the Fellowship research at the Research Entity must be maintained at a minimum of 0.5 FTE. Should this requirement cease to be met, then the Fellowship funding may also cease or be

⁴ WA public health service provider means a health service provider established by an order made under section 32(1)(b) of the Health Services Act 2016, such as the Child and Adolescent Health Service, East Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service, South Metropolitan Health Service, WA Country Health Service and PathWest.

⁵ Public-private partnership (PPP) provider refers to private hospitals with an agreement with the state government to provide public health services, for example, Joondalup Health Campus and St John of God Midland Public Hospital.

⁶ The Research Entity's total research cash and in-kind support for the project will need be discussed between the candidate and relevant Research Entity project budget, but indicatively the minimum gap contribution will need to be no less than 30% of the overall total Fellowship funding amount.

suspended, unless special circumstances apply (e.g. carer leave including parental leave, where funding may be suspended and/or deferred).

- (c) The Fellowship funding package is \$420,000⁷ over three years, or \$140,000 per year for a 1.0 FTE commitment. The level of Fellowship support is designed as a 1.0 FTE funding package contribution, and a pro-rata share of the full salary component for a particular year is still payable even where the FTE is less than 1.0, noting however that the child health research time commitment must be at least 0.5 FTE. The full salary component will be adjusted pro-rata for Fellowships involving less than a 1.0 FTE but greater than a 0.5 FTE commitment. For example, if the researcher is committing and spending the equivalent of three days a week (0.6 FTE) on the Fellowship, then 60% of the salary is payable from the salary component of the funding package.
- (d) The Fellow's employing Research Entity must contribute a minimum 30% of the \$420,000 funding package as their Minimum Gap Contribution.
- (e) Funding may be applied towards:
- base salary components (including holiday, annual or compassionate leave accrued and taken within the period of the Fellowship), with Program Sponsors funding contributing a maximum of \$110,000 per annum (excluding on-costs)
 - up to 15% on-costs⁸ (including statutory superannuation limited to the equivalent of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) [super guarantee levy](#)) per annum
 - direct research costs (DRCs) allowance of up to \$16,500⁹ per annum.
- (f) Any additional salary (above \$110,000 per annum), on-costs and DRCs costs are to be carried solely by the employing Research Entity in addition to their committed Minimum Gap Contribution.
- (g) The base salary component of the funding package may be applied towards payment of salary during holiday, annual or compassionate leave taken, but not towards entitlements for any untaken annual leave, long service leave, or extended leave (incl. parental leave) or severance, redundancy and termination payments that may arise or be accrued during the Fellowship term.
- (h) Grant funding will be indexed in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This adjustment ensures that awarded amounts remain responsive to inflationary pressures and retain their intended value over time. The applicable CPI rate will be drawn from the most recent quarterly data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and applied at the start of each new funding year.
- (i) Any salary, severance and termination payments and long service leave or extended leave (incl. parental leave) entitlements related to or leave entitlements accrued in non-Fellowship roles are not supported and must not be paid for with Fellowship funding.
- (j) Any salary, on-cost or other expenses related to the successful applicant for the awarded Fellowship FTE and duration which is beyond the term of the awarded Fellowship is the responsibility of the relevant Research Entity. If the successful applicant moves to a higher position classification (e.g. research officer to research fellow), this does not affect the Fellowship, which remains funded and payable at the position classification applicable at the time of application.

⁷ All amounts in the Fellowship funding package exclude GST.

⁸ This on-costs percentage may be less than what the Research Entity usually provides to its researchers. The Project Sponsors expect that the Research Entity meets any shortfall over and above their Minimum Gap Contribution.

⁹ This DRC allowance may be less than what the Research Entity usually provides to its researchers. The Project Sponsors expect that the Research Entity meets any shortfall over and above their Minimum Gap Contribution.

- (k) The provision of Fellowship funding to the relevant Research Entity will be administered by the Program Administrator on behalf of the Program Sponsors.
- (l) The Research Entity will invoice the Program Administrator at the commencement of each 6-month period of a Fellowship term. The invoice is to total the amount due from the Program Sponsors for the 6-month period.
- (m) Fellowship salary will be paid to the Fellowship recipient by the relevant employing Research Entity in accordance with their employment conditions.
- (n) The DRC allowance can be requested and applied without further approval for the cost of items directly related to the research e.g. access to relevant research databases, pathology tests, consumables, paper, publishing costs and up to \$15,000 for unique equipment. Annual acquittal statements will be required.
- (o) Additional research project costs, not included in the Fellowship, will need to be obtained independently by the Fellowship recipient. Requests for travel funds and any/additional publication fees will not be approved.
- (p) The Fellowship funding must not be applied towards facility, administrative or other indirect costs that would be provided by an organisation in the normal course of undertaking and supporting health and medical research (e.g. those costs often incurred for common or joint objectives, utilities and services, regulatory and research compliance and administration of research services).
- (q) The Fellowship FTE, duration and research costs offered to each Fellowship recipient are subject to the discretion of the Program Sponsors. Fellowship funding is offered subject to the availability of funds, which could be varied in the event of unforeseen circumstances.
- (r) The Fellowship shall commence on 1 January in the year following the award of the grant. The Program Administrator should be informed of any potential delays to this commencement date as soon as possible. It is expected that the Fellowship will commence when the Fellowship recipient's PhD has been conferred, where applicable, and no later than 1 July in the year immediately following the date of conferral of their PhD or award of the grant, as applicable.
- (s) Fellowship funding is based on the FTE commitment, duration and research costs included in the Application and Grant Funding Agreement, and this funding amount is final. In the event the Fellowship recipient incurs additional expenses for whatever reason, these will not be paid by the Program Sponsors.
- (t) Fellowship deferrals will generally be supported in relation to carer responsibilities and major illness or injury.
- (u) Equipment purchased with Fellowship funding remains the property of the relevant employing Research Entity.
- (v) Fellowship funding that is used for purposes other than that for which it was awarded or is unspent at the conclusion of the Fellowship term, is repayable to the Program Administrator and shall revert to the Program Sponsors.

5. Consumer Involvement

In line with the NHMRC definition, consumers are people who have lived experience of a health issue. They include patients and potential patients, carers, and people who use health care services. Consumers can also be people who represent the views and interests of a consumer organisation, a community or a wider constituency.

Guidance on consumer involvement can be found at the Consumer and Community Involvement Program [website](#) and the [NHMRC Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research 2016](#).

Applicants are encouraged complete the free online 30 minute Consumer and Community Involvement in Health Research [course](#).

Applicants are encouraged to describe how consumers can and will be involved in the design of the Fellowship research and to detail the plan for ongoing engagement.

6. Applicant Selection Process

The applicant selection process shall be administered by the Program Administrator involving a five-stage process in the following order:

- (1) **Preliminary screening** by the Program Sponsors to check eligibility. Applicants will be notified at this time if the application is not eligible.
- (2) **Independent review and initial rank of Applications** by the Program Fellowship Advisory Panel (PFAP) comprising representatives from WA research organisations, the Program Sponsors and chaired by the BrightSpark Research Advisory Committee (BRAC) nominee. Applications will be assessed by the PFAP using the Assessment Criteria from Annexure 3.
- (3) **PFAP discussion of top ranked Applications** to consider and recommend top ranked Applications to the BRAC. This step may include an interview by members of the PFAP with Applicants and their Research Supervisor. Recommendations will consider paid research time already available to the Applicant and the intent of the Applicant's proposal. Applications will be finally assessed and ranked by the PFAP based on the interview (if any) and the Assessment Criteria and Weightings.
- (4) **PFAP submits a ranked merit list of the applications to the BRAC.** Funding recommendations in merit order will be made by the PFAP to the BRAC for review. The recommendations may include priority funding for top ranked applications in Aboriginal child health research.
- (5) **BRAC submits funding recommendations to the BrightSpark Board.** The BRAC will review the PFAP funding recommendations and make the final funding recommendations to the BrightSpark Board, any amendments to the merit order recommended by PFAP will be highlighted. The consideration and decision by the BrightSpark Board of the final recommendations by the BRAC may be informed by available budget considerations and be preceded by consultation with the Program Sponsors. The decision of the BrightSpark Board shall be final and shall be communicated to Applicants by the Program Administrator. Correspondence will not be entered into regarding the decision.

7. Assessment Criteria and Weighting

- (a) The review and assessment process will focus on the demonstrated commitment of the applicant and Research Supervisor to undertake child health research by assessing:
- projects they have worked on that illustrate experiences and examples of:
 - leadership, mentoring (mentor or mentee) and training.
 - funding management including progress milestones and acquittal reporting.
 - contributions to the scientific community (e.g. committee work).
 - publications they are listed on.
 - Research Supervisor's statement/recommendation.
 - Research Entity's commitment to supporting child health research, including preparedness and ability to:
 - support the Fellow throughout the period of the Fellowship.
 - provide opportunities for the Fellow to progress and develop their child health research skills and research project management capabilities, including making available research facilities, conference attendance grants (where available) and publishing opportunities and support.
 - support the applicant's expressions of interest and goals for continuing child health research in WA.
 - the applicant's work program for undertaking a particular child health research project and how that meets the applicant's goals.
 - the applicant's team building and people management skills.
 - the applicant's genuine interest in pursuing a WA-based child health research career, including applicants progressing to an early-career researcher role equivalent to the NHMRC Investigator Grants Emerging Leadership Level 1.

Each application will be assessed based on the Assessment Criteria and Weightings outlined in Annexure 3.

8. Application Instructions

The instructions below must be followed when making a submission:

- (a) The Application Form must be used. The link to download the Application Form is available on the [BrightSpark website](#).
- (b) The completed application must be submitted by **1:00 PM (AWST) Wednesday 24 June 2026**. No late submissions will be accepted.
- (c) Electronic signatures are acceptable. The onus is on the applicant to ensure approval to use an electronic signature has been obtained.
- (d) Applications must be complete, include requested CVs, letters of support and certifications, and be submitted by the closing date/time. Applicants are responsible for complying with internal review deadlines.
- (e) The application and email subject line must be titled as follows: Surname First name - ECCHRF

- (f) Acknowledgement of receipt of application will be provided via email to the Research Entity within 5 working days of the closing date.

9. Grant Funding Agreement

- (a) Fellowship funding will be paid in six-monthly instalments following execution of a Grant Funding Agreement with the Fellowship Recipient, their Research Supervisors and the relevant Research Entity and subsequently following the receipt of regular satisfactory progress reporting and there being no outstanding reports, breach or suspension of the Grant Funding Agreement.
- (b) The terms and conditions of the Grant Funding Agreement will be available on the Program Administrator's website.
- (c) The Research Entity (if external to the WA public health system) will be required to provide evidence of insurance as a condition of the Grant Funding Agreement which may include:
- Public Liability (mandatory for all grants).
 - Professional Indemnity (mandatory if the Administering Institution is conducting a clinical trial, provides any form of medical treatment or advice, training, or will provide any tailored design, advice or specification services).
 - Property for the Administering Institution's replacement value of assets (mandatory for building, plant, machinery, equipment).
 - Workers Compensation (mandatory if the Administering Institution has employees or is paying salaries, noting this includes payments to working Directors).
 - Product Liability (mandatory if the Administering Institution manufactures, supplies, sells, services or repairs a product).
 - Motor Vehicle if the Administering Institution owns vehicles.
 - Cyber Liability if the research project involves confidential data, e.g. identifiable patient information.

The Program Sponsors recommend that you seek advice from your insurance advisors to confirm what level and type of insurance is required.

10. Research Governance Requirements

- (a) Research projects supported through the Fellowships program will be conducted in accordance with the [Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research](#).
- (b) The Research Entity will be responsible for obtaining any research ethics and governance approvals that might be required for undertaking funded activities and ensuring these are maintained as required for the duration of the funded activity.
- (c) Research ethics approvals must be obtained from appropriate ethics committees (human and/or animal). Research governance authorisation (also known as site specific authorisation) must be obtained from each relevant institution/site conducting the project or providing access to data, participants, or tissue samples.
- (d) For information on research ethics and governance submission requirements for the WA public health system please refer to the following websites: [Research Ethics](#); [Research Governance](#); [Multi-centre Research](#)

11. Use of Data Collections

- (a) A project that requires access to and use of WA Department of Health data collections requires review and approval for data release in accordance with the [Health Services Act 2016](#) and the [Health Services \(Information\) Regulations 2017](#). This is in addition to research ethics and governance approvals and will include a feasibility assessment to determine whether the data requested is appropriate for the purposes of the study and approval for use of the data, from the data custodian.
- (b) Preliminary cost and time estimates can be obtained from contacting DataServ@health.wa.gov.au. Cost estimates should be included in the proposed budget and an estimate of time for release of the data should be incorporated into the milestones in the application.
- (c) Should the applicant be awarded a Fellowship, it is recommended you immediately begin the data request and approval process.
- (d) If the use of WA Department of Health data collections is proposed, Information can be found at [Data Linkage Services](#).

12. Intellectual Property

- (a) The ownership of Intellectual Property produced by the successful applicant during the Fellowship shall vest with the employing Research Entity. Intellectual Property that is produced in conjunction with an external host research group or other organisation shall be owned and controlled consistently with the relevant IP research policies of the relevant employing Research Entity.
- (b) The Research Entity must ensure that appropriate agreements are in place with the Fellow, Research Supervisor and participating entities. This includes relevant permissions to use third-party IP required to deliver the research activity. When a recipient or a project team member(s) from the WA public health system is a participant (i.e. the WA public health entity is not the Research Entity), the IP agreement must be authorised at an appropriate level by the relevant WA public health system entity.
- (c) Any questions regarding such IP matters should, in the first instance, be directed to the Program Administrator.

13. Reports

- (a) At the completion of each calendar year, the Fellow is required to provide an Annual Progress Report, including an annual acquittal statement of expenditure of the funds during that calendar year.
- (b) If a satisfactory Annual Progress Report is not provided, then funding may be suspended or terminated.
- (c) At the completion of the Fellowship period, the Fellow is required to submit:
 - a Final Report

- an acquittal statement of the expenditure of funds that is certified by the relevant finance officer of the relevant Research Entity.
- (d) If a satisfactory final report and/or acquittal statement is not provided when requested, applicants and/or the Research Entity may not be eligible for future funding through all or any of the Project Sponsors.
- (e) Guidelines, templates and due dates for reports and the acquittal statement will be provided to the Fellow by the Program Administrator as required.
- (f) Fellowship alumni will be asked to take part in follow-up questionnaires to evaluate research performance and impact that has come about after Fellowship funding and will inform the review of future funding programs. Alumni are asked to keep the Program Administrator updated with any changes to their contact information.

14. Professional Development

Fellowship recipients are encouraged, during the term of the Fellowship, to:

- (a) seek an adjunct or honorary title with a WA University or another WA-based [NHMRC-approved administering institution](#) in order to apply for [NHMRC funding](#).
- (b) familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures and timelines for applying for [NHMRC's Investigator Grants](#) Emerging Leadership scheme
- (c) complete the [WA Health Translation Network](#) (WAHTN) [Research Education and Training Program](#) (RETP) [Good Clinical Practice](#) (GCP) in Australia course, and other relevant WAHTN RETP [courses](#).

15. Acknowledgement

- (a) The Program Administrator will publicly announce the recipients of the Fellowship. Fellowship recipients and all other parties must withhold announcement/media coverage until after the Program Administrator advises this has occurred.
- (b) Acknowledgment of the Program Sponsors support must be made in publications, conference presentations, public discussion, press statements etc. The citation is:
- “This work is/has been supported through the Western Australian Early-Career Child Health Researcher Fellowships Program, which is a Co-Funded Partnerships Program of the the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and the BrightSpark Foundation”.*
- (c) References to the Fellowship should include the correct title: “*Western Australian Early-Career Child Health Researcher Fellowship*”.

16. Dissemination

- (a) Fellows are requested to forward copies of publications and other research communication activities resulting from the funded Fellowship to the Program Administrator.
- (b) In order to maximise knowledge exchange, funding recipients must comply with the NHMRC's 'Publication and dissemination of research: a guide supporting the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research', which can be downloaded from the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) page, and the NHMRC's [Open Access Policy](#).
- (c) All peer-reviewed publications that are supported in whole or in part by the Program Sponsors must be made immediately open access, that is, without any embargo period at the time of first online publication, regardless of whether such publication is an advanced or early online publication or the Version of Record. Funding recipients are encouraged to upload to a pre-print site any draft publication or report resulting in whole or in part from the funded Activity prior to submission to a peer-reviewed publication (if permitted by the publisher). The funding recipient must notify the Program Administrator of all publication Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). If the paper is peer-reviewed and published, the funding recipient must notify the Program Administrator of the publication DOI.
- (d) The corresponding author's Open Researcher and Contributor Identification (ORCID) should also be notified to the Program Administrator.

17. Privacy Statement

- (a) In this Privacy Statement, the term Personal Information has the meaning given to that term in the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).
- (b) The Program Administrator will ensure that any Personal Information received from an applicant in connection with their application is used and disclosed only to the extent necessary for the purposes of assessment of the application, any award made and any required reporting requirements by law or by a Regulatory Authority.
- (c) The Program Administrator will take all reasonable steps to ensure that Personal Information managed by it in connection with the application and any award is protected against misuse, interferences and loss, and from unauthorised access, modification and disclosure.
- (d) By applying, the applicant acknowledges that the Program Administrator may use their Personal Information for purposes in connection with the application and any award and may disclose their Personal Information to the Research Entity for the purposes of any award.
- (e) Project title, Fellow, funding amount, Research Entity, plain language summaries may be used for publicity purposes by the Program Sponsors.

- (f) If requests are received by the Program Sponsors to make public any aspect of the Fellowship, other than the aspects listed above, the authorisation of the Research Entity will be sought, notwithstanding information requested under the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA) or information pertaining to the receipt of State Government financial assistance tabled in the Parliament of Western Australia.

18. Complaints

Research Entities or applicants who feel that their interests have been adversely affected by an administrative action or process taken by the program Administrator in administering the Program may lodge a complaint. Complaints can only be considered when they refer to the administrative process and not to the funding decision. Complaints must be submitted via email (marked Confidential) to: (Administrator@brightsparkfoundation.com.au).

Annexure 1 - NHMRC Investigator Grants 2024 Peer Review Guidelines

Extract from the NHMRC Investigator Grants 2024 Peer Review Guidelines:

Emerging Leadership Level 1 (EL1) It is expected that EL1 Investigator Grant recipients will typically be between 0 and 5 years post-PhD (or equivalent) and will be beginning to gain recognition in their research area with demonstrated:

- original contribution(s) in their field of expertise
- ability to contribute to the conception of research projects
- scientific contributions within their region, state or territory (e.g. community leadership, state level contribution to a professional society)
- limited but developing supervision of research staff and students
- contributions within their department, centre, institution or organisation (e.g. organising journal clubs, seminar series etc).

It is also expected that Emerging Leadership applicants will be working within a larger team under the mentorship of more senior researchers.

Annexure 2 - Aboriginal Application Guidance

Aboriginal child health research projects must:

- Demonstrate appropriate community engagement with Aboriginal individuals and communities at all stages of the research project.
- Demonstrate potential benefit specifically addressing outcomes for Aboriginal children in Western Australia.
- Demonstrate sustainability and transferability of project outcomes into the future.
- Show that measures have been put in place, that include agreements with community and/or any Aboriginal researchers on the team, to ensure that all data collected within the parameters of the program align with Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles.

Annexure 3 - Assessment Criteria and Weightings

The assessment criteria and weightings referred to in item 7 of the 2026 Guidelines and Conditions is as follows:

Each application will be assessed based on the criteria and weightings below:

Assessment Criteria	%
<p>Track Record of the applicant relative to opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Track record - based on the applicant’s Curriculum Vitae, and career disruption/relative to opportunity. ✓ Child health research commitment - the extent of the applicant’s demonstrated scientific interest in and commitment to child health research. ✓ Research aptitude - the demonstrated research organisational skills of the applicant including transparency of aims and objectives, data investigation and analysis, work plan management and interaction with team members. ✓ Publications - the productivity of the applicant and the quality of publications and journals in which the applicant has published ✓ Leadership - the extent to which the applicant demonstrates progress towards an independent research career. ✓ Vision - the applicant’s vision for their research career and how the Fellowship would assist in achieving this vision. <p>“Relative to opportunity” includes clinical, administrative or teaching workload, clinician training, availability of research resources, relocation of the applicant or research lab/clinical setting, periods of unemployment, career breaks due to carer responsibilities, typical performance in the field of research, and employment in other sectors (e.g. industry). COVID-19 related disruptions will also be considered.</p> <p>“Research impact” is the verifiable outcomes that research makes to knowledge, health, the economy and/or society, and not the prospective or anticipated effects of the research - in line with the NHMRC Research Impact definition.</p>	20
<p>Quality and feasibility of the proposed child health research project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The projects relation principally and predominantly to child health research, potential for the project data to be confidently interpreted, identification of valid and quantifiable outcome measures, and appropriateness of the study design and analysis to the available data. ✓ Well justified and achievable aims, methodology and techniques that can be achieved within the funding and timeframes specified. 	20

<p>Significance and novelty of research and potential benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The significance and relevance of the research project to addressing WA child health outcomes. ✓ Potential for the project to lead to new paradigms, challenge current paradigms, develop or introduce novel concepts, methodologies, technologies, interventions, or other uniquely creative qualities. ✓ Likelihood that the proposed study may be successfully translated into improved health outcomes for children through innovation or change to existing scientific knowledge, clinical practice, and/or health policies and guidelines. 	20
<p>Capacity, capability, and resources to deliver on the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The applicant's ability to make a significant independent contribution to the research project at a leadership level and the applicant's work to contribute to building the ongoing research capacity of the research team. ✓ The research team's capacity, capability and available resources to enhance the research of the applicant and provide support to the project. ✓ The relevance of the Research Entity (and host research environment if different to the Research Entity) . 	20
<p>Consumer, carer and community participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clearly defined relationships with health consumers or community groups who have lived experience of the research project issue being investigated. ✓ Willingness to include consumers in the research team where appropriate. ✓ How consumer representatives will be engaged and contribute to the research project throughout the project timeline. 	10
<p>Supervisor commitment to applicant's development and success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Supervisor's planned supervision and mentoring approach, including availability, meetings and how progress will be monitored. ✓ How the supervisor will support skills development, career progression and integration into relevant research networks. 	10

Annexure 4 – Glossary of Terms

Agreement Date	the date of acceptance of the Fellowship Grant Funding Offer.
Applicant	a researcher candidate that is an eligible applicant for a Fellowship.
Assessment Criteria and Scoring System	as described in item 7 of the Guidelines and Conditions.
Awardee	a successful Applicant named as the awardee in the Fellowship Grant Funding Details.
Authorisation	<p>any consent, authorisation, registration, filing, agreement, notarisation, clearance, certificate, permission, licence, permit, waiver, approval, authority or exemption from, by or within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a Regulatory Authority required under any Law b) a professional standards authority required under any of its professional standards or codes of conduct including those relating to medical research or c) a research institution under any of its Internal Policies and Procedures <p>and includes any renewal of, or variation to, any of them.</p>
BRAC	BrightSpark Research Advisory Committee.
BrightSpark	BrightSpark Foundation Company Ltd ACN 164 362 109 as trustee for and manager of the BrightSpark Foundation .
Business Day	<p>means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) for receiving a notice under this document, a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, bank holiday or public holiday in the place where the notice is sent b) for all other purposes, a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, bank holiday or public holiday in Western Australia.
Business Hours	from 9.00am to 5.00pm on a Business Day.
CHR	child health research.
Claim	means any proceeding, action, demand or lawsuit (including by way of a claim for contribution or an indemnity).
Closing Date	the date by which applications for Funding must be submitted.
Commencement Date	the date by which the Project Activities is to commence, as described in the Fellowship Grant Funding Details.
Confidential Information	Confidential Information means all information which a party discloses whether provided verbally, by demonstration, inspection, or any other intangible method, or whether intangible, written or electronic form and may include, without limitation, intellectual property, know-how, trade secrets, formulae, methods

	of manufacture, designs, diagrams, specification sheets, technical reports, operating or maintenance manuals, operating or process data, calculations, proposals, pricing and customer and supplier information.
Conflict of Interest	means an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest arising for or in connection with an Applicant, a Research Supervisor or senior staff member of a current or prospective Supporting Organisation in connection with an actual or proposed Project Activity which will or might reasonably be considered to have a material adverse effect on the ability for an Applicant, a Research Supervisor, or a senior staff member of a Research Entity to carry out their obligations under the Guidelines and Conditions, the Grant Funding General Terms and Conditions and the Funding Agreement.
Date for Activity Completion	the date by which the Project Activities must be practically completed, which is as set out in the Fellowship Grant Funding Details.
ECCHR	Early-Career Child Health Researcher.
Employer	is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the organisation with whom at the Agreement Date the Awardee is employed on an FTE basis or with whom by the Commencement Date the Awardee will be employed on an FTE basis, which in either case is for a term that is at least equivalent to the Fellowship Term, but subject to usual conditions of employment regarding early termination; and (b) which at the Agreement Date, is the organisation named as the Employer in the Fellowship Grant Funding Details.
Event of Default	This occurs if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) any of obligations of the Research Team Members are breached and that breach (if remediable) continues without remedy for 5 Business Days (or such longer period specified) after that notice of the breach and requiring that it be remedied; or (b) any of obligations of the Research Team Members are breached and that breach cannot be remedied; or (c) a Milestone fails to be achieved by its corresponding Milestone Date or the Awardee has failed, or in the reasonable opinion of the Program Administrator, is likely to fail, to deliver the Project Activity in accordance with the Funding Agreement; or (d) the Funding Agreement is repudiated by any of the Research Team Members; or (e) a material warranty given by or representation made by any of the Research Team Members is or becomes untrue; or (f) any of the Research Team Members or their officers, employees, subcontractors or agents has breached, or is suspected to have breached, any Law or Authorisation given relevant to the Project Activity; or

	<p>(g) in the reasonable opinion of the Program Administrator, the reputation of any of the Program Sponsors or that of the Government of Western Australia is, or is likely to be, damaged by an act or omission of a Research Team Member; or</p> <p>(h) a Research Team Member fails to notify the Program Administrator of a Conflict of Interest or is unable or unwilling to resolve or deal with a Conflict of Interest as required by the Program Administrator.</p>
Fellowship	is the WA Early-Career Child Health Researchers Fellowship.
Fellowship Grant Funding	is the funding awarded to the Awardee, subject to the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement, in order to undertake the Project Activity, details of which are described in the Fellowship Grant Funding Details.
Fellowship Grant Funding Details	are those described in the Offer Letter - Schedule 1.
Fellowship Term	is the duration of the Fellowship, as described in the Fellowship Grant Funding Details.
FTE	full-time employment.
Funding	the amount specified in the Fellowship Grant Funding Details.
Funding Agreement	the agreement arising from the acceptance by the Awardee, Research Entity and Research Supervisor of the Fellowship Grant Funding Offer.
Fellowship Grant Approved Application	the Awardee's Fellowship Application which has been assessed and approved by the Program Administrator for a Fellowship Grant.
Fellowship Grant Funding Offer	the Fellowship Grant Funding set out in Schedule 1 of the WA ECCHRF Offer Letter.
Grant Funding General Terms and Conditions	the general terms and conditions governing the Awardee, Research Entity and Research Supervisor of the Fellowship Grant Funding Offer.
GST Act	<i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 (Cth).</i>
Guidelines and Conditions	the WA ECCHRF Program 2024 Guidelines and Conditions for the award round of 2025 Fellowship Grants, applicable at the time of the Awardee's application and as may be amended from time to time by or with the authority of the Program Administrators.
Intellectual Property Rights	all intellectual property rights existing anywhere in the world (whether registered, registrable or otherwise) including: <p>(a) patents, copyright, rights in circuit layouts, registered designs, trademarks and the right to have Confidential Information, business and company names or other rights whether existing under statute, at common law, in equity or otherwise kept confidential; and</p>

	(b) any application or right to apply for registration of any of those rights, but does not include Moral Rights.
Internal Policies and Procedures	the rules, regulations, policies, protocols and procedures relevant to undertaking research duties whilst employed by the Employer or with or at the Research Entity or both.
Law	includes the common law and any statute, regulation, ordinance, by-law or lawful direction or notice by a Regulatory Authority.
Liability	means any debt, obligation, cost (including legal costs), expense, Loss, damage, compensation, charge or liability of any kind (whether arising in negligence or otherwise), including those that are prospective or contingent and those the amount of which is not ascertained or ascertainable.
Loss	includes any loss, cost, expense, damage or liability whether direct, indirect or consequential (including pure economic loss), present or future, ascertained, unascertained, actual, prospective or contingent or any fine or penalty.
Milestone	each milestone set out in the Fellowship Grant Approved Application and includes the Date for Activity Completion.
Milestone Date	for a Milestone, the date for achievement of that Milestone set out in the Fellowship Grant Approved Application.
Moral Rights	has the same meaning as in the Copyright Act.
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council.
Offer Letter	the letter of Funding offer from the Program Administrator to the Awardee.
Program	the Western Australian (WA) Early-Career Child Health Researcher Fellowships (ECCHRf) Program sponsored by the Program Sponsors.
Program Administrator	the manager of the Program nominated from time to time by the Program Sponsors and until otherwise advised is BrightSpark.
Program Fellowship Advisory Panel (PFAP)	is the panel comprised of representatives of WA research organisations, representatives of the Program Sponsors and chaired by the BRAC nominee, responsible for reviewing and assessing Applications and recommending to the BRAC, in merit order based on the Assessment Criteria and Scoring System, the shortlisted Applicants for Fellowships in a particular round.
Program Sponsors	The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and BrightSpark, and includes any successor, additional or replacement charities or organisations which during the Fellowship Term may join the Program as sponsors.
Project	the CHR project described in the Fellowship Grant Funding Details.
Project Activity	the CHR initiative and activities described in the Fellowship Grant Approved Application.
Records	the records and information of any kind, including originals and copies of all accounts, financial statements, books, files, reports,

	records, correspondence, documents and other materials created for, or relating to, or used in connection with, the carrying out of the Project Activity, whether or not containing confidential information, and however such records and information are held, stored or recorded.
Regulatory Authority	any ministry, governmental department or agency or semi-governmental, local, municipal, provincial, regional, public, administrative, statutory or judicial entity, including a stock exchange.
Research Entity	is a WA based organisation; (a) which is a university, health service provider, medical research institute or foundation; and (b) is the organisation where from the Commencement Date the Awardee will commence and conduct the Project Activity and whose nominated Research Supervisor will be responsible for supervising and mentoring the Awardee throughout the Fellowship Term, in accordance with that organisation's Internal Policies and Procedures; and (c) which at the Agreement Date, is the Employer or the organisation named in the Fellowship Grant Funding Details.
Research Supervisor	a suitably qualified WA based professional research supervisor who is the individual or individuals named as such in Schedule 1.
Research Team Members	means all or any of the Awardee, Research Supervisor or Supporting Organisation.
Stan Perron Charitable Foundation	Stan Perron Charitable Foundation Limited as trustee for the Stan Perron Charitable Trust ABN 75 641 897 929. www.perronfoundation.org.au
Supporting Organisation	the Employer and if the Research Entity is different to the Employer includes both the Employer and Research Entity acting jointly and severally.
Schedule 1	is a reference to the schedule attached to the Offer Letter.
Taxes	taxes, levies, imposts, excises, deductions and duties, including fines, penalties and interest on any of them, but excludes taxes on the overall net income of a party.