# San Foundation Research Grants

## 2026

Supporting research leading to improved patient experiences, patient outcomes and / or health systems



**San Foundation**

# Overview

San Foundation is offering funding for two (2) research grants, each in the amount of $25,000 for work that will showcase AHCL research leading to improvements in patient experiences, patient outcomes and / or health systems.

Projects will use a research or a quality improvement framework.

Applications are open to AHCL employees, accredited clinicians and affiliates with a research idea that meets the criteria. A selection panel will review applications via a standardised application form and identify the successful grant recipients.

# Key Dates

**Applications open:**
Monday, 23 March 2026

**Applications close:**
Thursday, 23 April 2026 11:59pm

**Announcement of Grant Recipient**
Early May 2026

**Submit all documents to the AHCL Research Office**
**Subject:** San Foundation Research Grant
**E:** research@sah.org.au
**P:** 9480 9604

# Assessment Criteria

*Eligibility Criteria*
- Clinical Research. The proposed project is an investigator-initiated clinical research project. Other types of research (e.g., basic science research, research which occurs only in the out of hospital setting, commercially sponsored research, descriptive research (idea-generating or monitoring), systematic reviews, or meta-analyses) are not eligible for this grant.

- New. The research project has not yet commenced.

- Benefits AHCL and our patients.
    - The research will occur within an AHCL entity, have a principal investigator who is employed by AHCL or holds accreditation for Research or Affiliate – Research.
    - Any published works will acknowledge funding provided by the San Foundation and the support of AHCL.
    - Most of the benefit from the project should rest with AHCL patients.

*Grading Criteria*
1. Relevant. The proposed research has a clear rationale. It is aligned to the mission, vision and values of AHCL, and to our research priority areas:
    a. Living with Cancer
    b. Healthy Living
    c. Optimising Healthcare

2. Innovative and engaging. The proposed research provides a compelling story or showcase, to engage consumers, philanthropists, clinicians and researchers.

3. Multidisciplinary team. The project will encompass a range of disciplines, both across and within professions (e.g., nursing, allied health and medical).

4. Expertise. The project team has the appropriate experience (clinical and/or research) to complete the proposed project.

5. Scientifically excellent. The project's aim, research questions and hypotheses are clearly articulated. The methods, data collection, data management plan and statistical analysis are clearly described and appropriate to meet the objectives of the research.

6. Feasible. The proposed project can be completed within the proposed timelines and budget.

7. Sensible allocation of resources. The proposed allocation of budget for the research is clear and appropriate for the scope of the project.

8. Influential. The research has the potential to influence improvements in patient experiences, patient outcomes and/or health systems.

# Project Lead and Investigator Team

Each application must have a single nominated project lead (Principal Investigator) who is responsible for delivering the research should it be funded. The project may have any number of Associate Investigators required for the project. There is no limit on the number of applications an individual may be listed on as a project lead and/or coinvestigator.

# Budgets

All items in the requested budget must be directly related to the project and fully justified. Failure to sufficiently justify items may result in a reduced offer of funding. Submitted budgets should be clearly divided into components as outlined below.

1. **Salaries:** The AHCL research grant will only support salaries for individuals for their time committed to the project. For example, an investigator requesting salary who is only working 0.6 FTE on the project will only be eligible for 0.6 of their per annum salary. We do not fund business as usual staff salaries providing in or out of hospital services, or other healthcare services. Salary on-cost support is limited to 22%. Non-employed financial support for salaries may be paid via a tax invoice to persons holding an ABN or to a company holding an ACN and would include GST.

2. **Direct Research costs:** Equipment, materials and consumables: The purchase of essential items and equipment specifically required for the project is allowed if such items are normally not available. **Reasonable expenses for computer services, the development of digital applications or purchase/ licensing of software is also permitted, if directly related to the project.** Travel: Funds for travel will only be considered when they form an integral part of the project. Participant recruitment: costs for participant recruitment may be included where there is a justifiable need.

3. **Research services:** Research services directly required for the successful conduct of the project are permitted such as protocol writing assistance or biostatistician assistance. Budgets must include information of the facility to be used, rates per hour, and number of hours required.

4. **Research translation costs:** It is important to comprehensively explain and itemise the costs of translation activities. Translation costs may include Publishing fees, Peer engagement and training, Consumer/patient education, Government, funder (e.g. health funds), college, national body and other stakeholder engagement, clinical guidelines and/or policy change.

5. **Co-funding and in-kind support:** Co-funding should be itemized and included so that AHCL can appropriately assess the value proposition of the investment.

6. **Excluded:** AHCL research grants will not fund Provision of clinical services, Institutional overhead and administration costs (including office supplies), Research infrastructure (such as desks, buildings, general equipment), Insurance costs, Costs related to intellectual property, Entertainment, hospitality and personal expenses (including subscriptions and professional membership fees).

# Project Milestones
## and Progress Payment Schedule

Project milestones will be described and the costs within that element of the project will be paid once that milestone is achieved as evidenced by submission of the progress report.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

**Milestone 1. Ethics & site governance approval.**
The research project must be submitted to the Research Office within 6 months of the announcement of a successful grant application.

- Activities include development of Research protocol and related documentation for submission to ethics and research governance.
- Budget elements: Protocol writer assistance 4 hours @$75/hr = $300; Biostatistical advice 1 hr @$250/hr = $250; Researcher salary 0.2FTE @$100/hr for 4 weeks = $3,200
- Progress Payment 1 total: $3,750

**Milestone 2. Implementation of research project.**
This must commence within 6 months of achieving Milestone 1.

- Activities include participant recruitment, project delivery and data collection
- Budget elements: Researcher Salary 0.2 FTE @$100/hr
- Progress Payment 2 total: 0.2 FTE @$100/hr for 8 weeks = $6,400

**Milestone 3. Study completion.**
This must be completed within 2 years of the commencement of Milestone 2.

- Activities include completion of Milestone 2, completion of data collection with data ready for analysis
- Budget elements: Researcher salary of 0.2FTE @$100/hr for 2 weeks = $1,600
- Progress Payment 3 total: $1,600

**Milestone 4. Analysis, write up and submission for publication.**
This must be completed within 6 months from study completion.

- Activities include statistical analysis, creation of the research paper ready for publication and presentation at conferences, plus final publication
- Budget elements: Biostatistical data analysis 8 hrs @$250/hr = $2,000; Researcher salary 0.2 FTE @$100/hr for 4 weeks = $3,200; submission for publication fees $4,000
- Progress Payment 4 total: $9,200

# Expectations
## if successfully funded

Following submission of their applications, applicants must notify the AHCL Research Office if any additional or overlapping funding is obtained from another source (or sources) for delivering the research project described in their application. Applicants should also notify the AHCL Research Office if there are any significant and material changes to circumstances that affect their ability to complete the research as described in their application.

A. **TIME TO SUBMISSION FOR PUBLICATION.** It is expected that research projects will be completed within a period of 42 months from award of the grant, or the timeframe listed in the application, whichever is the greater

B. **GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS (ETHICS, INSURANCE ETC).** Proposals require ethical and site governance review; project will only be started after written confirmation of approval from the ACHL Research Office has been obtained. All researchers need to have completed the Good Clinical Practice course within the past three years. Accredited (non-employed) researchers need to hold appropriate indemnity insurance which covers their proposed research activity and to have research as an approved scope of practice.

C. **COMMUNICATIONS (CONFIDENTIALITY, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT, MEDIA ETC).** All publications, including journal articles, conference presentations and media releases that emerge from awarded grants must acknowledge the support of the San Foundation and Adventist Healthcare. The San Foundation and AHCL requests all non-academic articles and media releases to be provided for review and approval prior to public release. San Foundation and AHCL may also request funded researchers to make themselves available to present their work at conferences and webinars from time to time, and for public communications.

D. **REPORTING.** Project Leads of funded awards will be required to submit progress reports at regular intervals through the funding period according to the project milestones. Payment of grant instalments will be conditional on receipt and approval of progress reports. Unsatisfactory reports, or failure to submit reports may result in the suspension of funding.

Sydney Adventist Hospital