SSMRF 2026 Early Career Researchers and Standard Research Grants

Guidelines for Applicants by Expression of Interest (EOI)

The St George & Sutherland Medical Research Foundation (SSMRF) is delighted to announce a new round of research grants for **2026**. These grants will be open to researchers based at either St George or Sutherland Hospitals including scientific, medical, nursing/midwifery and allied health staff, for research that is carried out predominantly at those hospital campuses.

2026 research grants will include:
Standard grants – (up to $50,000) – targeting Cancer
Early career researcher grants – (up to $30,000)

A. Background

The SSMRF was established in 2007 with the aim of promoting and funding medical research at St George & Sutherland Hospitals.

B. Specific Objectives of SSMRF Grants

To foster, strengthen and grow teams of quality researchers who will:

- Fulfil the SSMRF's overall objectives
- Undertake research that is scientific in nature, in medical or health related fields and is, or may prove to be, of value to Australia.
- Be in a position to secure external Category I grant funding to further their work.

C. Grant types

- **Early career researcher grants** (up to $30,000): Honours, Masters and PhD students; JMOs, trainees (medical, nursing, allied health), advanced trainees, fellows; medical specialists within 5 years of hospital appointment and nursing/allied health specialists within 5 years of highest degree; scientists within 5 years of award of PhD. Proof of relevant dates, enrolments and qualifications must be submitted. •
- **Standard grants** (up to $50,000): Target discipline Cancer:
  Full grants from mid-career, established and senior researchers and teams

D. Process of Application

The process for applications will involve an expression of interest (EOI). The EOI will be limited to a **maximum of 2 A4 pages plus an abbreviated 2-page CV (biosketch) for each investigator,** which includes qualifications, appointments, affiliations, contact details, grant history, most important publications of the last 5 years and details of any existing funding for the project. **For early career researcher applications, proof of ECR status must be included.**

Applicants who wish to discuss their plans should email the Chair of the SSMRF Research Committee, Professor Michael Grimm (m.grimm@unsw.edu.au).

Following review of all EOIs by the SSMRF's Research Committee, competitive EOI's will be invited to submit a full application. The review process of the **full applications** will be undertaken by a minimum of two reviewers. The SSMRF's Research Committee will make their recommendations based on the reviewers' assessments. All grant awards are subject to the SSMRF Board's approval.

E. Ineligibility criteria

Expressions of interest that do not adhere to these guidelines will be ineligible for consideration.

F. Timelines & Key Dates

Monday 30th March:	EOI advertised
Tuesday 28th April:	EOI submission deadline
Wednesday 20th May:	Invitations to submit full applications
Tuesday 30th June:	Full application - submission deadline
Monday 10th August:	Completion of reviews of full applications
Monday 24th August:	Research Committee recommendations to SSMRF Board
Early September:	Successful grants announced to recipients

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI):

1. Project Title:

2. Field(s) of research and percentages

Please use the six digit codes from the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC), 2008.

3. Research Team:

• List the Chief Investigator and include:
- academic qualifications
- current appointment to St George or Sutherland Hospital
- any other (or additional) appointments at other institutions
- university and other relevant affiliations
- for ECR applicants, proof of ECR status
- contact details (email and mobile phone contact of Chief Investigator)
- grant history, most important publications of the last 5 years, existing funding for the project

• List all Co-Investigators and their:
- academic qualifications
- current appointment at St George or Sutherland Hospital if applicable
- any other (or additional) appointments at other institutions
- university and other relevant affiliations
- grant history, most important publications of the last 5 years

4. The Department(s) (and the location) in which the work will be conducted

The proposed work **must** be carried out predominantly at St George and/or Sutherland hospitals

5. Project Outline:

The body of the EOI should:
• be no more than 2 A4 pages in length (min 11 pt font)
• clearly state the background, the aims and significance of the proposal
• briefly describe research methods. Find detail is not required but the Research Committee must be able to make some judgement of feasibility from the description
• describe how the research team's proposal will meet the SSMRF objectives (above)

6. Brief Budget Outline:

Please provide a brief budget, with justification, and estimated timeline for expenditure.

ICRs are not supported by SSMRF grants

7. Possible referral of your application to other external potential sources of funding.

SSMRF may seek external funding from trusts and foundations for some grant applications including those deemed worthy but, due to limited funding, unsuccessful.
If SSMRF wishes to use your application for these purposes SSMRF will contact you prior to any applications being made.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI):
EOIs should be submitted electronically in a **single document in pdf format** to:
Pam Brown, CEO: ceo@ssmrf.com.au
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NO LATER THAN 5PM TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2026.

EOIs that do not comply with these guidelines will not be considered.