

Instructions for applicants

* indicates a required field

Completing this Expression of Interest form

Before completing this form, you should read the [MS McLeod ECR Award Guidelines](#) for Applicants paying particular attention to the criteria against which Expressions of Interest (EOI) will be assessed. All EOI submissions received by the due date will be assessed for eligibility by the WCH Foundation against the eligibility criteria described in the guidelines.

EOIs which are deemed eligible, and best meet the assessment criteria, will be shortlisted by the Trustees of the MS McLeod Research Fund for invitation to submit a full application via SmartyGrants. The WCH Foundation reserves the right to invite some, all or none of the EOI applications to submit a full application.

Closing date

All EOI applications must be made online via the WCH Foundation SmartyGrants platform by the closing date, being no later than **5:00pm** Australian Central Daylight Time on **Friday 4 September, 2026**.

Late submissions will NOT be accepted.

I have read and understood the above. *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Further information

For further information, please refer to the [MS McLeod Early Career Researcher Award 2026 Guidelines for Applicants](#), or contact the WCH Foundation by [email](#) or telephone on +61 (08) 8464 7900.

Privacy information

The information on this form will be used only for the purpose of assessing an EOI for possible inclusion in the MS McLeod Early Career Research Program, except where otherwise stated. The WCH Foundation will not disclose personal information collected without consent, except where authorised or required by law. In assessing your EOI, the information may be shared with Trustees of the MS McLeod Research Fund, members of the WCH Foundation Research Grants committee, the WCHN, state and/or local government agencies, organisations and individuals, including those you identify in the EOI, to substantiate any claims or statements that you make, to verify the capacity of your organisation to manage MS McLeod Research funds and for general comments on the viability of your proposed project. Please see our [privacy policy](#) for further information.

Eligibility

* indicates a required field

This section of the application form is designed to help you, and us, understand if you are eligible for the 2026 MS McLeod Early Career Researcher Award. Please answer each question below in relation to the proposed research before proceeding.

Note that these eligibility criteria, and the remaining criteria, will also be screened prior to peer review by the Trustees of the MS McLeod Research Fund.

Applicant eligibility

Are you (the 'applicant') an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen or do you have permanent residency in Australia at the time of submitting this EOI? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have 5 years or less research experience since the conferral of your PhD (NHMRC relative to opportunity and career disruption considerations apply)? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you hold a paid appointment at or have an affiliation (including adjunct or affiliate titles) with one of the following institutions:

- Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN)*
- Adelaide University
- Flinders University
- South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)

*this may include staff working on a WCHN site, but employed by another organisation/institution, please contact the WCH Foundation for further information and to check eligibility

*

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you an active researcher (e.g. a research scientist or research clinician) in a relevant field of paediatrics or children's health (this may include research into periconception, pregnancy, and perinatal health, where the focus is on healthy foetal development and child health outcomes)? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Project eligibility

The MS McLeod Research Fund supports an outstanding Early-Career Researcher (ECR) to lead a program of research relevant to paediatrics or children's health. This may include periconception, pregnancy, and perinatal related research where the focus is on healthy foetal development and child health outcomes.

Does your project align with the above research area? *

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☐ Yes

☐ No

Will you be based in South Australia for at least 80% of the funding period? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Your responses indicate that you are not eligible

One or more of your responses above indicate that you or your project is not eligible for the 2026 MS McLeod Early Career Researcher Award round.

Please contact the WCH Foundation by [email](#) or on (08) 8464 7900 if you have any further questions.

Application Identification Number

If you need to contact us throughout the application process, please quote the application ID number below:

Application ID

This field is read only.

Applicant information

* indicates a required field

Contact details

Applicant name *

Title

First Name

Last Name

Applicant primary address

Address

Applicant postal address

Address

Applicant primary phone number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Applicant alternative phone number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Applicant email address *

Must be an email address.

EOI outcome will be sent to this email address.

Applicant website

Must be a URL.

Administering institution ***Department, School, College and/or Research Institute****Applicant position *****Academic qualifications ***

Enter official abbreviations of degrees conferred.

Year of conferral of highest qualification ***Career and track record**

Describe your career to date, including track record and key achievements relating to your field of research.

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Institution / Organisation details

* indicates a required field

Administering Institution contact details

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Please enter the details of the relevant Administering Institution contact person (i.e. Research Office/Secretariat representative).

Administering Institution contact person *

First Name

Last Name

Address

Address

Email address *

Must be an email address.

Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Upload the completed Administering Institution Endorsement form (EOI stage).

Download [here](#).

*

Attach a file:

Participating Institutions / Organisations

Please list any institution(s) and/or organisation(s), Australian and/or International, with which you would collaborate for the proposed project. You may wish to include details of any in-kind or voluntary contributions from these organisations, where applicable (e.g. funds, goods, services, or facilities).

Institution / Organisation	Describe reason(s) for collaboration
	Must be no more than 50 words.

Project details

* indicates a required field

Description of the proposed research

Provide a description of the proposed research and expected research outcomes, paying particular attention to the eligibility and assessment criteria as set out in the MS McLeod Early Career research Award 2026 Guidelines for Applicants.

Project title: *

Provide a name for your project/program/initiative. Your title should be short but descriptive.

Provide a description of the proposed research, including project rationale, aims and objectives, and a brief description of the project plan including study design and consumer engagement. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 500 words.

Use language suitable for non-specialist review.

Describe how the expected outcomes of the research will support healthy foetal development and/or improve child health outcomes. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Proposed timeline

Provide a basic timeline outlining the key activities the proposed project will undertake.

For example, this may include:

- Project setup (Ethics approvals - Months 1 to 2),
- Recruitment and data collection (Surveys, interviews, experiments, etc. - Months 3 to 6),
- Data analysis (Cleaning, coding, statistical analysis - Months 7 to 9), and
- Reporting and dissemination (Draft report, publications, presentations - Months 10 to 12).

Project phase	Activities	Timeline

Project leadership team

Please list the team members (both within your organisation and collaborators from other institutions/organisations), available to work on the proposed project.**Note:**

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- **Include additional team member who will share responsibility for project delivery and financial management if the proposal is funded.**
- **Team members may be at any career stage**
- **At least one team member must have prior experience in leading grant-funded research and who can provide direct mentoring and support to the applicant.**

Career stage categories as follows:

- **PhD Candidate:** the candidate must have submitted their thesis or be awaiting conferral at the time of funding commencement (indicatively January 2027).
- **Postdoctoral Researcher:** <3 years since conferral of PhD, or equivalent research experience.
- **Early-Career Researcher:** 3 to 5 years since conferral of PhD, or equivalent research experience.
- **Mid-Career Researcher:** >5 to 10 years since conferral of PhD, or equivalent research experience.
- **Senior Researcher:** >10 years since conferral of PhD, or equivalent research experience.
- If none of the options apply, please leave the Career Stage field blank.

Name and title	Career stage	Role
	Refers to years since conferral of a PhD, or equivalent research experience.	Must be no more than 50 words.

Financial Details

Approximate budget

Indicate the proposed use of MS McLeod Research Funding, listing each budget item and the yearly cost.

Only include budget items contributing to the total budget request from the MS McLeod ECR Award (not voluntary or in-kind contributions - these can be listed in the 'other funding sources' section below).

Expenditure type	Year 1	Year 2	Expenditure description
	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	e.g. 1 x 0.6 FTE Lab Assistant
	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	

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	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	

Approximate contributions

Indicate the proposed use of other contributions by financial year.

Voluntary contributions means funds that are committed for investment in the proposed research. For example, this may include a commitment by a University to contribute Research Block Grant funding to support the research or funding from another organisation or an individual.

*Note that voluntary contributions are **cash** amounts contributed to the Proposed Research.*

In-kind contributions include goods or services contributed to the proposed research for example this may include research salaries, overheads, laboratory space, consumables etc.

Contribution type	Year 1	Year 2	Description of the source and use of voluntary/in-kind contributions
	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	

Funding sought

Amount Requested Year 1

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Amount Requested Year 2

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Total amount of funds requested

This number/amount is calculated.

The maximum amount that can be requested is \$220,000 over a maximum of two years.

Other Funding Sources

Funding Contribution Year 1

This number/amount is calculated.

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**Funding Contribution
Year 2**

This number/amount is calculated.

**Total amount of
voluntary and in-kind
contributions**

This number/amount is calculated.

Total project cost

Funds requested from the MS McLeod Research Fundn, **plus** voluntary and in-kind contributions.

This number/amount is calculated.

Applicant declaration

* indicates a required field

I/We:

- have read and understand this Expression of Interest, the MS McLeod Early Career Researcher Award 2026 Guidelines for Applicants and the privacy policy,
- will immediately inform the WCH Foundation Research team of any changes in the circumstances outlined in this Expression of Interest, and
- understand that submitting this form does not constitute a commitment of funding and is simply an Expression of Interest for the MS McLeod Early Career Researcher Award.

Enter your name and the date to indicate agreement with the above statements *

Title First Name Last Name

Date *

Must be a date.