PO Box 6176,
Upper Mt Gravatt, QLD, 4122
ABN 23 088 896 299
mecfs.org.au
info@mecfs.org.au
MEcfsAU

ME/CFS Australia Postgraduate Research Funding Opportunities 2026

ME/CFS Australia invites proposals for top-up scholarships, consumable grants, and/or travel grants. Please find the information below.

ME/CFS Australia reserves the right not to award a scholarship in any category.
Individuals may apply for all categories, but may only be awarded in one.

Top-Up Scholarship

Scholarship focus
- Research into ME/CFS with a consumer focus

Scholarship value
- $10,000 total

Scholarship duration
- Up to 3 years

Number potentially awarded
- 1

Eligibility

Enrolment status
- Current student or commencing mid-year intake at an Australian university

Student type
- Domestic, International

Study level
- Postgraduate by coursework or research

Study area
- Biomedical sciences
- Social Sciences
- research students in other fields are invited to apply if they can demonstrate that their proposed work addresses one or more of the focus criteria below.

* Applicants must be in receipt of or apply for and be awarded a living allowance scholarship to be eligible for this scholarship.

** Projects must accept current understandings of ME/CFS as a neurological condition (ICD-11), whilst rejecting other outdated and disproven theories of ME/CFS.

***Special consideration may be given to an individual who has lived with ME/CFS or another invisible chronic illness.

About this scholarship

ME/CFS Australia is the peak-body for patient-led ME/CFS charities in Australia. We aim to improve access and inclusion for people with ME/CFS in health care, disability services, welfare, and other national services. ME/CFS Australia emphasises the authority of patient experience and self-knowledge and is seeking to support research that can contribute to improving the lives of people with ME/CFS in various aspects of health and participation in society.

Projects will have a strong ethos of consumer co-design in research and will also align with one or more of the following focus criteria:

- of interest to the community of ME/CFS consumers
- will lead to a better understanding of ME/CFS
- will enhance the body of evidence for effective treatments for ME/CFS or of common symptoms of ME/CFS
- will lead to increased accessibility and inclusion for people with ME/CFS, particularly those who are homebound or bedbound
- can be used as evidence to encourage governments, health bodies, and other organisations to better support people with ME/CFS
- will lead to improved quality of life for people with ME/CFS
- will inform clinical practice, including clinical pathways

ME/CFS Australia have a team of volunteers who are highly experienced in research and co-design. Additional consideration will be given to a project which includes consultation with ME/CFS Australia throughout the project.

How to apply

Please submit a brief proposal of no more than 2,000 words which outlines your project in plain English.

Your proposal should include:

- how your project will meet the eligibility and focus criteria
- how the funds will be utilised
- your expected timelines
- expectations regarding outcome – e.g., publishing, further research projects
- how you propose ME/CFS Australia stakeholders, including its member organisations might be involved in the project

Your supervisor must co-sign this proposal indicating their commitment to supervising the research until completed if the scholarship is awarded.
Proposals can be submitted to info@mecfs.org.au by 15 May 2026 with an outcome to be determined by 26 June 2026.

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Consumable Grant

Scholarship focus

- Research into ME/CFS with a consumer focus

Scholarship value

- Up to $10,000 total

Scholarship duration

- Up to 3 years

Number potentially awarded

- 1

Eligibility

Enrolment status

- Current student or commencing mid-year intake

Student type

- Domestic or International

Study level

- Postgraduate by coursework or research

Study area

- Biomedical sciences
- Social Sciences
- research students in other fields are invited to apply if they can demonstrate that their proposed work addresses one or more of the focus criteria below.

*Funds must be used for the research component of a postgraduate program.

** Projects must accept current understandings of ME/CFS as a neurological condition (ICD-11), whilst rejecting other outdated and disproven theories of ME/CFS.

***Special consideration may be given to an individual who has lived with ME/CFS or another invisible chronic illness.

About this grant

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Projects will have a strong ethos of consumer co-design in research and will also align with one or more of the following focus criteria:

- of interest to the community of ME/CFS consumers
- will lead to a better understanding of ME/CFS
- will add to the body of evidence about ME/CFS
- will lead to increased accessibility for people with ME/CFS, particularly those who are homebound or bedbound
- will lead to increased quality of life for people with ME/CFS
- can be used as evidence to encourage governments, health bodies, and other organisations to better support people with ME/CFS

ME/CFS Australia have a team of volunteers who are highly experienced in research and co-design. Additional consideration will be given to a project which includes consultation with ME/CFS Australia throughout the project.

This grant exists to cover the incurred costs of research such as consumables, laboratories, salaries of support and technical staff, and other research costs not covered by other grant sources.

How to apply

Please submit a brief proposal of no more than three to four pages which outlines your project in plain English.

Your proposal should include:

- how your project will meet the eligibility and focus criteria
- your expected costings
- your expected timelines
- expectations regarding outcome – e.g., publishing, further research projects
- how you propose ME/CFS Australia stakeholders might be involved in the project or not

Proposals can be submitted to info@mecfs.org.au by 15 May 2026 with an outcome to be determined by 26 June 2026.

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Travel Grant

Scholarship focus

- Research into ME/CFS with a consumer focus

Scholarship value

- Up to $5,000 total

Scholarship duration

- 1 year

Number potentially awarded

- 1

Eligibility

Enrolment status

- Current student or commencing mid-year intake

Student type

- Domestic or International

Study level

- Postgraduate by coursework or research

Study area

- Biomedical sciences
- Social Sciences
- research students in other fields are invited to apply if they can demonstrate that their proposed work addresses one or more of the focus criteria below.

* This grant excludes travel to conferences or to complete units of study at other institutions.

** Projects must accept current understandings of ME/CFS as a neurological condition (ICD-11), whilst rejecting other outdated and disproven theories of ME/CFS.

***Special consideration may be given to an individual who has lived with ME/CFS or another invisible chronic illness.

About this grant

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improving the lives of people with ME/CFS in various aspects of health and participation in society.

Projects will have a strong ethos of consumer co-design in research and will also align with one or more of the following focus criteria:

- of interest to the community of ME/CFS consumers
- will lead to a better understanding of ME/CFS
- will add to the body of evidence about ME/CFS
- will lead to increased accessibility for people with ME/CFS, particularly those who are homebound or bedbound
- will lead to increased quality of life for people with ME/CFS
- can be used as evidence to encourage governments, health bodies, and other organisations to better support people with ME/CFS

ME/CFS Australia have a team of volunteers who are highly experienced in research and co-design. Additional consideration will be given to a project which includes consultation with ME/CFS Australia throughout the project.

This grant exists to cover the incurred costs of travel where your project will be enhanced by the experience. This includes collaboration with other ME/CFS research institutions and/or attending/presenting at ME/CFS conferences. Both domestic and international travel will be considered.

How to apply

Please submit a brief proposal of no more than three to four pages which outlines your project in plain English.

Your proposal should include:

- how your project will meet the eligibility and focus criteria
- your expected costings
- your expected timelines
- expectations regarding outcome – e.g., presenting at a conference, publishing, further research projects, etc
- how you propose ME/CFS Australia stakeholders might be involved in the project or not

Proposals can be submitted to info@mecfs.org.au by 15 May 2026 with an outcome to be determined by 26 June 2026.