

Australian Epilepsy Research Fund Request for Applications

The Epilepsy Foundation is pleased to announce the inaugural Funding Round of the Australian Epilepsy Research Fund is open as of **November 1st 2018**.

The Australian Epilepsy Research Fund (AERF) Grant Scheme seeks to fund projects that will have a lasting beneficial impact on the lives of people living with epilepsy. The AERF prioritises projects that will make a significant impact in the lives of people living with epilepsy, whether this be in the short-, medium- or longer-term.

The AERF's mission is to reduce the impact of epilepsy on people's lives by promoting and funding patient-focused research, with the ultimate aim of finding a cure for epilepsy, and supporting those living with epilepsy in the meantime. The AERF strongly encourages multidisciplinary, collaborative projects, as well as applications from early career researchers (ECRs).

Requests may be made for up to \$1 million for projects spanning up to 5 years in duration. The level of requested funding and project duration must be explicitly justified in the application and the AERF may allocate less than the requested level of funding, depending on the number of applications and grants awarded.

Applications will be assessed in early 2019 and funding allocations will be announced in early 2019. The long-term aim of the AERF is to facilitate annual funding rounds, to promote and support ongoing research into epilepsy. The timing of subsequent funding rounds will be determined following the successful allocation of funding from Round One.

The AERF was initiated in 2018, with the assistance of the Australian Government Department of Health's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) scheme and has been further boosted by philanthropic donations. As such, the inaugural funding round has **two main focuses** and will be accepting project applications that adhere to the following criteria;

1. Projects with a specific focus on the genetic underpinnings of epilepsy and/or treatment for rare genetic epilepsy disorders. These projects will be allocated funding from the MRFF scheme and there is a total of **\$1.5 million** available specifically for genetic research proposals.
2. Projects that are expecting to produce tangible outcomes for people living with epilepsy in the short- to medium-term. A donation of **\$500,000** has been made that can be allocated to projects that have clearly achievable aims to improve the lives of those living with epilepsy. This may be a drug trial in the later stages of development, research into the impact of epilepsy in understudied populations, such as rural and remote Australians, that may facilitate or inform policy change, or research identifying a promising new target for treatment.

All Proposals will be submitted to a peer review process and assessed by a focus group of people living with epilepsy. Guidelines for Applicants and Reviewers can be found on the Epilepsy Foundation website and proposals should be submitted to Research@epilepsyfoundation.org.au by **February 15th 2019**.