The Foundation Catalyst Grant

Guidelines & Terms of Reference - 2026

RANZCP Foundation

1. Award overview

Award name	Catalyst Grants
Purpose	The RANZCP Foundation Catalyst Grants aim to provide psychiatrist researchers with access to small-scale funding to support the development of pilot studies or proof-of-concept for a future study. Functioning as a starting point, the Catalyst Grants provide a signal of merit and endorsement from the RANZCP Foundation and aim to assist researchers to take their projects and proposals beyond an idea, to the point of readiness to apply for larger funding.
Funding source	RANZCP Foundation
Research focus	Pilot or proof of concept for a future study.
Eligibility	Open to RANZCP Fellows and Affiliates in good standing who meet the eligibility requirements set out in Section 2.
Value and form of award	The grant provides up to A$5,000 (plus gst). The recipient will receive a formal letter of offer, an invitation to accept the scholarship at the College Ceremony during Congress, and a framed certificate.
Permitted use of funds	There are no restrictions on how Catalyst Grants funds can be used. Examples of eligible expenses include research equipment, statistical analysis software, participant reimbursement, and ethics or governance costs.
Number offered	Two grants will be offered in 2026.
Application period	Application dates will be published for each round. For 2026, applications open on 1 July and close on 31 August.

2. Eligibility

The grant may be awarded to one person or shared by a team containing at least one RANZCP Fellow or Affiliate member.

Previous recipients, including members of research teams, of the grant are eligible to apply for further funding.

Applicants must have not received more than A$10,000 in previous research funding for the research topic that is the subject of this grant application.

RANZCP members who work part-time, are on or are returning from parental leave, or undertaking another form of leave including carers/family leave are eligible to apply

3. Applications

Applications must be submitted through the online portal by the closing date and include:

- a project summary, including background literature and rationale, project aims, methodology, cultural safety, lived and living experience, innovation and future development, impact
- detailed budget
- curriculum vitae
- evidence of ethics approval, or a pending ethics application, from an approved ethics committee. If this is not yet available, a letter from the applicant's supervisor confirming ethics approval is in progress must be provided
- at least one referee's report

4. Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- the originality, scientific merit, feasibility and clinical relevance of the proposed project
- the extent to which the proposal demonstrates cultural safety and meaningful inclusion of lived and living experience
- the availability of alternative or more appropriate funding sources for the proposed project or activity, including opportunities for joint or co-funded partnership projects with organisations better placed to achieve the objectives of the proposal
- whether the proposal is, in the opinion of the Committee, of a standard and nature appropriate for the RANZCP and Foundation to publicly align with and support as a mental health charity and peak membership organisation representing Australian and New Zealand psychiatrists
- any other relevant considerations consistent with the purpose of the grant

5. Selection and approval process

Applications will first undergo an eligibility and completeness check in accordance with these guidelines. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements, or that are incomplete at the closing date, may be excluded from further consideration.

Eligible applications will be assessed by the Committee for Research (CFR), which will make recommendations to the RANZCP Foundation Committee regarding the award of grant funding.

The CFR will seek advice from members of Te Kaunihera or the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Committee to assist in assessing submissions or research protocols designed to engage or benefit these populations and communities.

The RANZCP Foundation Committee will consider the CFR's recommendations and make the final decision on the award of grant funding.

The RANZCP reserves the right to:

- consult with other College committees and expert groups to assist in decision-making
- make no award of grant funding where, in its opinion, no suitable applications are received

- where possible, provide feedback and advice to unsuccessful applicants.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

6. Award conditions

As part of the application process, applicants must accept the RANZCP Grant Funding Rules.

All applicants are advised that the RANZCP Foundation Catalyst Grants are not a guarantee of future funding from either the Foundation or any other external funders.

Document history

Date	Version	Approver	Description
June 2026	2.1	RANZCP Foundation Committee	Updated the assessment, selection and approval process, and governance sections.
June 2025	2.0	RANZCP Foundation Committee	Updated the application, assessment, and selection process and criteria.
July 2023	1.2	Senior Manager, Membership Development, Membership, Events and Publications	Updated the description, eligibility criteria, and selection process.
May 2022	1.1	RANZCP Foundation Committee	Updated the grant description and eligibility and increased the value/form of award.
May 2021	1.0	B2021/8 R12	New document.