



Guidelines HeartKids Australia Research “Grants-in-Aid” Program

Background

The “Grants-in-Aid” Program is a new research funding program supported by our Founding Partner, **Wilson HTM Foundation**. The Program was established by HeartKids Australia in September 2011. This program is intended to support Australian research into congenital and acquired childhood heart disease.

“Grants-in- Aid” differ from our “Research Projects Grants” which are intended to support large research grants over a two or three year timeframe and which resemble research project funding schemes operated by the NHMRC. Grants-in-Aid are intended to fund smaller projects (minimum \$20,000 and maximum of \$50,000) and have a shorter duration, with a maximum of twelve months.

The grant application process is also simpler, the application forms shorter the decision process faster and hence the process should be less demanding on applicants. The Grants-in-Aid are intended to support and grow research capacity specifically directed to childhood heart disease (CHD).

Lodging and Assessment of Applications

Applications must be submitted on the Grants-in-Aid application Form and must comply with the instructions in these guidelines. All sections of the form must be completed. Applications must be received by the HeartKids Office by Friday September 23 2011.

Applications will be reviewed to ensure they comply with our requirements and then complying applications will be assessed and evaluated by HeartKids Research Advisory Committee (RAC) on the basis of quality, significance, feasibility and ability to meet the HKA criteria for research (See Document HeartKids Research Criteria).

Funding streams

There are three potential streams of funding

1. **Small Research Projects**. Funds may be sought to contribute to a larger (already mainly funded project) or to provide a seed funding for a new idea or to fund a pilot study or to assist with a small clinical trial.
2. **Building Research Infrastructure**. Funds may be sought for purchase of capital equipment needed for research or for access to specialised infrastructure, eg biobanks, databases etc

3. **Research Capacity Building.** Funds may be sought to assist research capacity building by providing access to special expertise to bolster research or providing research leadership development. This could include:
- Biostatistics advice,
 - Epidemiological advice
 - Grant-writing expertise/training
 - Project management skills/training for researchers
 - Computing services etc.
 - Clinical research support to assist the development of clinical research centres. (Note this could take the form of mentoring or provide for a sabbatical visit by a senior researcher to Australia. Applications can be made for back-fill of clinical positions, allowing dedicated time for research and time away from clinical or admin activities. Assistance to support a short-term Research Fellow position will be considered provided the total commitment does not exceed \$50,000).
 - Assistance in fostering development of multi-centre Australian and New Zealand research collaborations in CHD will also be considered, provided clear and specific aims and outcomes are outlined (e.g. application for an NHMRC partnership grant).

The following types of activities **will not be supported** under this scheme:

- Undergraduate or post graduate student support
- Travel fellowships for travel overseas
- Conference or workshop attendance or organisation
- Multi-year projects
- Projects which exceed \$50,000 in budget where the remainder of the funding has not yet been secured.

Budget and Size of Grants

Grants applications may be made for projects between \$20,000 and a maximum of \$50,000. The projects or activities must be completed within 12 months and the funds must be expended within the 12 months. A detailed budget must be provided.

Applicants

Applicants must hold a position in a hospital, research institute or tertiary education institution. Funding for own salary will not be provided. (Applications to support a short-term Research Fellow position may be supported but the application must come for a Senior Member or Head of the Department).

Project

Sufficient detail must be provided to make it clear what work will be done and how the money will be spent and how this relates to research activity or infrastructure/capacity building. Applicants must ensure that their work meets the Research Criteria of HKA (see Attachment 1).

Milestones that will be achieved must be specified together with time lines for their attainment. Outcomes of the project must be clearly documented. Projects must be completed within 12 months of receiving funding.

Terms and Reporting

Before accepting a grant the applicant must agree to the terms of the grant and accept the specific reporting responsibilities (which are specified in the standard contract).

Contract

HKA has a standard Grants-in -Aid funding contract which applicants will be expected to accept. Non-acceptance of the standard document must be made explicit and reasons for this given in the grant application.

Limitation on number of grants held

It is intended that there will be a limit of one grant provided to any one applicant (Principal Researcher) or to any one Centre at the one time. The exception for this would be if the applicant/centre is involved in a multi-centre application in which case two or more grants may be held, at the discretion of the RAC.

Enquiries and further information

Applicants or representatives of institutions which require further information should direct their enquiries to HeartKids Australia Office, Tel 02 98754090 or Email: office@heartkids.org.au

Provisional Timetable

The Grants-in-Aid Application Process Program will be run for the first time in 2011.

September 1, 2011	Call for Applications
September 23, 2011	Applications close
December 16, 2011	Applicants informed of the outcomes
January 2, 2012	Funding commences

