

This funding scheme aims to support **new innovative stroke trial research** across Australia (**maximum funding request \$50,000**) for researchers based in Australia. The **grant funding term is 18 months**.

To be ELIGIBLE, the CIA must be:

1. A **CRE affiliate** (details below to become an affiliate if you are not already).
2. Proposing an **innovative new clinical trial** (including pilot trials) for stroke, or **research activity that directly informs the design or methodology of an innovative new stroke trial**.
3. Using this funding support to further develop a research question with **a view to obtaining subsequent substantive Category I funding** from the National Health and Medical Research Council or Medical Research Future Fund (or similar).
4. Based at an **NHMRC administering institution** that can act as the trial sponsor for your proposal.

Where relevant, PRIORITY will be given to projects that:

- Demonstrate consumer co-design.
- Demonstrate diversity (e.g. multidisciplinary teams with career stage and gender) and inclusion (e.g. ensuring those with aphasia are included in the projects).
- Help close the gap in currently underserved communities (e.g. rural/remote communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes).
- Are led by early (0-5 years post-PhD) and mid-career (>5-10 years post-PhD) researchers with established mentorship from more senior researchers.

TIMELINES:

1. **Minimum data** must be completed by 11.59pm 18 September 2026. [Complete this minimum data form](#)
2. **Application** must be submitted by 11.59pm 23 October 2026. [Complete this form to submit your application](#). **Note**, any application submitted without associated minimum data entered by the minimum data deadline will be deemed ineligible.

APPLICATION: Prepare a single PDF to upload (maximum 10MB) with the following sections clearly labelled:

1. **CRE affiliate** status or application for CIA only (see attached proforma).
2. **2-page CV** for each named investigator inclusive of your overall track record in the last 5 years and top 5 publications in the last 5 years related to the proposal and reasons for their choice.
3. **Project application:** copy of a previous application submitted to a granting body or new application.
 - a. *If previous application submitted*, document in 1 page modifications to adhere to the funding budget (max \$50,000) and timeline (max 18 months) for this grant opportunity. Please **only** submit the project proposal component of your previous grant e.g., 8 pages for MRFF.
 - b. *If new application*, document in a maximum of 4 pages

Note: Please be sure that either option for submission includes timeline, risks and indicative budget.
4. **Study innovation statement:** in 1 page detail how your proposal directly:
 - Proposes a new innovative new clinical trial for stroke, or research activity that directly informs the design, or methodology of a new stroke trial.
 - Produces innovative data that will be used to support applications for subsequent substantive Category I funding from the NHMRC or MRFF (or similar).
5. **Study consumer involvement statement:** in 1 page explain how you propose to involve consumers at all stages of your research, including its prioritisation, design, conduct, dissemination and translation.
6. **For CI applicants who have experienced career disruption(s) during the last 5 years** (consistent with NHMRC definitions) relevant to your career history, in 1 additional page you can:
 - a. Provide details of your career disruption(s) (dates, NHMRC classification; note, personal or confidential details are not required), and
 - b. Provide a brief explanation on the impact the career disruption(s) has had on your research and research achievements and associated productivity relative to stage of career.

OUTCOME: Applications will be scored by independent CRE advisors. Outcomes by February 2027.