

2025 Mater Research Betty McGrath Grant – Guidelines

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**Applications open 24 September 2025 and
close 5pm 29 October 2025.**

Late applications will not be accepted.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Aims of the grant scheme

The overall aim of the Betty McGrath grant scheme is to enable high-quality, evidence-based healthcare improvement and innovation at Mater.

The research can have broad impact; however a key consideration should be whether the project has the potential to be implemented to have impact at Mater for our patients, people, and/or business systems.

Betty McGrath Grants provide funding support of non-laboratory based clinical, health services or education innovation research projects which should meet at least one of the following aims:

- development or improvement of clinical procedures or models of care
- development and implementation of healthcare enabling technology
- improving the experience of care for individuals (including quality and satisfaction)
- improving the health of populations
- reducing the per capita cost of healthcare through innovation
- improving healthcare workforce wellbeing and/or workforce models
- design and/or develop best practice in healthcare focused education and/or professional development approaches
- improving the functioning of a health service at a business unit level including corporate functions.

Investigator led clinical trials or interventional studies are permitted, however research that contributes to an Industry or private company sponsored clinical trials or study is not permitted.

A key change to the scheme in 2025 is a focus on supporting projects based primarily on the merit of the proposed idea, rather than the track record of the researcher.

1.2 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Considerations

Mater Research prioritises equity, diversity and inclusion in its culture and research activities. Impact of barriers encountered by women, researchers from First Nations backgrounds and/or culturally and linguistically diverse communities, persons with disability, or those who identify as LGBTIQ+ will be taken into consideration in grant schemes which include assessment of the track record of the researcher.

The 2025 scheme is focused on supporting projects primarily on the merit of the proposed idea, rather than the track record of the researcher. Therefore, the application documents do not require details of barriers faced by researchers to be included. However, if applicants wish to include details of specific barriers faced which have impacted on their research career to do, this information could be included in the 'team overview' section of the application.

Applicants are encouraged to incorporate equity, diversity and inclusion opportunities into the design of their research program whenever possible.

1.3 Consumer Involvement

When appropriate and feasible, researchers should incorporate meaningful consumer involvement into the research project, with involvement in project development considered favourably.

1.4 Grant availability

The Betty McGrath Grant will fund research projects at Mater and led by Mater employees that meet the purpose and aims of the scheme.

In 2025, up to three Grants may be awarded, for projects of up to three years duration, with a maximum budget of \$50,000 per annum (therefore a maximum total grant value of \$150,000 over three years).

The project plan must include annual milestones with release of funds in years two and three contingent on annual progress reporting.

1.5 Investigator Eligibility

1. To be eligible for a Betty McGrath Grant, at time of application and throughout the duration of the grant term, the lead applicant must be employed by Mater or MRI-UQ in one of the following ways:
 - A permanent / continuing (non-casual) appointment, or
 - A fixed-term (also known as maximum-term) non-casual contract, with a current end date that exceeds at least the first year of the grant. Applicants must note that if their position ends before the period of the grant is complete, the funds will be either rescinded or transferred to another eligible investigator (to continue leading the funded project) at the discretion of Mater Research Executive.
2. The proposed project must be undertaken primarily at a Mater site and have intended direct benefits to Mater patients, people, health services, education or business systems.
3. To help ensure the feasibility of the project, the applicant must demonstrate that either they have experience in managing a research project or that they have active support from sufficiently experienced researchers and/or research active clinicians within Mater.
4. Applicants must have the written support of their current line manager or Department Director to confirm that project and the team member commitments will be supported by the local business unit if the application is successful. Any applications which include using funds for backfill must have clear and explicit approval from the relevant director for this approach.
5. Previous recipients of a Betty McGrath Grant are eligible to apply for the current round, except where the previous award is still ongoing. If the previous project is expected to be completed before the closing date, please inquire with the Research Grants team at research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au to confirm eligibility.
6. Applications from researchers who do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered. Please contact research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au as early as possible with any eligibility questions.

1.6 Research Ethics and Governance Approvals

Research projects requiring **Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)** and **Research Governance** (site specific authorisation) approvals must be obtained within six months of the award of the grant, or the grant offer may be rescinded at the discretion of the Mater Research Executive Director.

Applicants are encouraged to seek the advice of the Research Navigator service within Mater Research via email research.navigator@mater.uq.edu.au or [Mater Research SharePoint](#).

We encourage applicants to discuss their intended project with these support teams prior to submission so that any potential challenges to approvals progressing are identified and accommodated for within the project design.

2. Budget

A budget must be completed for each year of grant. Please use the 2025 Betty McGrath Grant Budget Excel template and transfer the totals to the relevant section of the application form.

A justification of requested budget items is to be completed in the Betty McGrath scheme application form

The Grants may be used to support the following types of budget items:

- purchase of small equipment/software (note that purchases >\$10,000 will require normal Mater capital expenditure approval and documentation)
- project related consumables
- health economics or biostatistical support/advice
- research staff salaries or back-fill of medical, nursing, or allied health staff within Mater only
- open-access article processing charges (publication fees)
- consumer engagement related expenses.

3. Application Process

Applications must be made using the current forms and templates. All documents are available for download on the [Mater Research SharePoint](#) page, the Mater Intranet, or can be requested via email (research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au). Complete applications are to be submitted to research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au by the advertised closing date.

To ensure fairness to all Applicants, incomplete or late applications will only be accepted if exceptional circumstances are presented for consideration before the closing date. Exceptional circumstances should be presented in writing to the Mater Research Grants Team via email (research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au). Requests will be considered by Mater Research Executive and decision provided in a timely manner.

The Research Grants Team will acknowledge receipt of the application. Please ensure your contact details, including your **Mater** email address, are provided in the application. An *approximate* timeframe for the application process is outlined in the table below.

Description	Dates
Applications Open	24 September 2025
Applications Close	5pm 29 October 2025
Ranking of Applications	November 2025
Notification of successful applicants	Expected late November 2025
Availability of Funds	1 January 2026

3.1 Application documents

A complete application will include the following documents, using the 2025 Betty McGrath template forms:

1. Application form
 - Provide this form as a word document with the file name *2025 BM Application_SURNAME*
2. Project proposal
 - Provide this form as a PDF with file name *2025 BM Proposal_SURNAME*. Your proposal should be a maximum of 4 pages plus 1 page of references as required.
3. Budget spreadsheet
 - Provide this document as an Excel spreadsheet with file name *2025 BM Budget_SURNAME*
4. Team overview
 - Provide a one page overview of the research team and/or collaborators delivering the project, as a word document with the file name *2025 BM Team_SURNAME*
 - The research project 'team' does not need to be limited to one clinical department, research group, or business unit. The team overview should include the key players who are working together on the proposed project.
 - If the proposed project is led by a solo researcher, please specify this information.
 - The team overview should provide sufficient detail for the assessors to understand why this is the right 'team' of people to deliver this specific research project, which is one indicator of the project's feasibility.
 - Include any information you believe is applicable to your ability to deliver the proposed research project.
5. Support letter from your Manager or Director
 - Provide a brief Letter of Support as a PDF signed by your Research Group Leader, Line Manager, Clinical Department Head or Department Director with file name *2025 BM LoS_SURNAME*.

3.2 Letters of Support

Prospective Applicants must discuss their intention to apply with their Research Group Leader, Line Manager, Clinical Department Head or relevant Department Director, and obtain a Letter of Support that must be submitted as part of the full application. The Letter of Support should include;

- Alignment of the proposed research to the Group's/Department's overarching objectives
- Confirmation of support for the applicant and project commitments if successful (including explicit confirmation of approval for any proposed backfill arrangements)
- Confirmation that the applicant will have protected time available and the required infrastructure and resources to successfully deliver the project.

4. Assessment Process

4.1 Review of Applications

A Review Panel will be appointed and will consist of suitably qualified internal Mater members and external representatives, in accordance with the Review Panel Procedure for Internal Mater Research Grants (MPPL – 06441).

All applicants will be assessed and ranked against the Selection Criteria.

4.2 Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Research proposal - Does the project address an important healthcare need or challenge at Mater? - Can the question or problem be answered by the design and methodology proposed by the project? - Is the project likely to deliver outcomes that can be implemented at Mater? - If the project is successful, would implementing the project outcomes have a beneficial impact on Mater's capacity to provide high quality, evidence-based healthcare? - Is now the right time to undertake the proposed project?	80%
Feasibility - Is the project likely to be able to be delivered: - By the applicant/team? - In the proposed department/team/business unit? - In the timeline proposed? - Within the proposed project budget?	20%

5. Terms and Conditions

The Grant is subject to the following conditions:

- The Betty McGrath Grant is an internal scheme managed by Mater Research
- Funds should be spent in alignment with the approved project proposal and timeline. Variations to the project, including changes to the use of awarded funds, will require approval which can be sought by contacting research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au
- Funds will normally only be accessible once the relevant Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) and Research Governance (RGO) approvals are in place and shared with the Research Grants team. If these approvals are delayed for more than six months from the nominal start date of the grant scheme (01 Jan 2026), the offer of grant funds may be rescinded. A further three-month extension whilst awaiting compliance authorisation may be permitted for extenuating circumstances via a request to the Research grants team before the 6 months has ended.

- If funds for salary support for staff working on the relevant HREC and RGO approvals is required (including clinical backfill), a relevant proportion of the grant funds can be made available prior to the HREC/RGO approvals being obtained – recipients should discuss further with the Research Grants team upon offer of the funding.
- Recipients of the Betty McGrath Grant are expected to present findings from their research at a Mater Health or Mater Research event in the year following the completion of the research; and/or at a relevant professional conference in the year following the completion of the research.
- Recipients are expected to participate in Betty McGrath marketing and collaboration initiatives, e.g., presenting outcomes of their project at Betty McGrath forums, and events held by Mater Foundation, as requested.
- The support of Mater Foundation and the grant shall be acknowledged in any subsequent funding applications, conference presentations, publications or media publicity resulting from the grant, assuming such acknowledgement is not in contravention of the requirements of the publication or event organisers.
- Recipients must provide an annual report on the progress of the research, via a written report on the agreed report proforma.
 - Funds are allocated on an annual basis across the length of the grant. Unspent funds may be carried forward into the subsequent year, however a request and justification for this carry forward must be included in the annual progress report for approval by Mater Research.
 - Adequate progress of the research, including the achievement of pre-defined project milestones and/or key deliverables against the submitted timeline, must be demonstrated in the annual report. If progress has been delayed, a robust written justification of why research milestones have not been achieved must be provided.
- A final report, using an agreed report proforma, outlining the research outcomes will be submitted to Mater Research within six months of the completion date of the research.
- Funding arrangements
 - Awarded funds will be held in cost centres established within the recipient's business unit, and the recipient must liaise with the relevant Finance Business Partner to arrange establishment of a suitable cost centre.
 - Funds will be transferred by intercompany journal on either an annual or monthly basis at the discretion of Mater Research
 - Recipients will provide a financial reconciliation or financial statement outlining how the grant funds have been expended for review with the annual progress report or within 14 days of a request by Mater Research.

6. Further Information

Further information regarding the grant may be obtained from the Mater Research Engagement and Grants Team:

- Mater Research Grants: research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au
- Mater Research Engagement: research.engagement@mater.uq.edu.au