Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation

Social Determinants of Health – Innovation Grant 2025
Guidelines, Instructions and Conditions of Award

1. Program Overview

Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation (RHRF) is seeking to develop a sustainable approach to addressing social determinants of health (SDH) in partnership with other healthcare and community organisations. To ensure that this program aligns with the broader mission of RHRF and is positioned to enhance the care patients receive through Ramsay Health Care Facilities, RHRF has decided to focus on health issues that affect the following population cohorts – Women, Regional & Rural population and People aged over 60.

We envisage that projects funded through this program will consist of three core Phases.

Phase 1: Project Background & Evidence Gathering

Mapping the affected population and developing a deep understanding of the current outcomes for the population with the selected health condition. This work should include consideration of the barriers / enablers that are affecting the selected population group and how these impact health outcomes. Project should be undertaken in both public and private healthcare sectors and should consider whether there are any different barriers in these populations to ensure that the potential solutions to the identified issue will be effective in the broader population and not in a single healthcare setting.

Phase 2: Solution Design and Stakeholder Engagement

Identification of potential solutions that are aimed to resolve barriers and improve health outcomes in the targeted population. As a part of the stakeholder engagement component, it is expected that applicants will identify potential partner organisations & relationships from the population cohorts to be utilised in the project co-design to inform the achievement of the desired outcomes.

The term co-design means an approach of involving consumers (e.g. patients, people with lived experience, carers and supporters) in the design of the project as equal partners in the team.
One example of the key capabilities required for effective co-design, is presented in the Co-design toolkit developed by the Agency for Clinical Innovation, NSW Government (see Fig 1.).

Fig 1: Co-design capabilities (Reference: Agency for Clinical Innovation, NSW Government; Co-design Toolkit)

Phase 3: Development and Undertaking of Pilot Projects

The aim of this phase is to develop and undertake a pilot project that could be tested or could be presented to other funding bodies for more funding and support if required. Ideally, the pilot project or planned approach should be developed and undertaken in partnership with consumers and other organisations to achieve the desired outcomes. It should outline any potential barriers and mitigation strategies that the research team can anticipate in advance of the project.

Example of a project:

To illustrate the process that we anticipate projects will undertake, the following hypothetical example is used.

> *A project seeks to identify the barriers to accessing health care for single mothers with mental health conditions. The first step in this project would be mapping the current outcomes, locations of care and developing increased understanding of the non-health care barriers that prevent single mothers from accessing care. This could be undertaken by collecting data from single mothers that do seek treatment, by interviewing the care teams in public and private sectors who provide treatment to single mothers and by interviewing single mothers about their situation. This work would lead to an understanding of barriers and issues facing single women seeking care, insights from care teams on potential solutions and ways that care could be delivered more effectively. Once these insights have been developed, the investigative team would identify potential organisations that may be interested in partnering to provide solutions to the identified barriers. These organisations would then come together for a workshop to develop solutions and potential pilot projects that could be developed to test these solutions. If feasible, these pilot programs could then be delivered, or a broader funding proposal for government, Ramsay and the community organisations could be developed for consideration.*

If your project has already developed a solution (completed any of the project phases mentioned above), clearly outline what has been done so far. Please include:

- Completed Phases: briefly describe the phases completed and the solutions developed.
- Supporting Evidence: provide evidence such as publications, reports, data, photos or visual documentation showcasing the work.

This should demonstrate progress and lay the foundation for further testing and development.

1.1 Key dates for SDH innovation Grant 2025

Activity	Open	Close
Applications Submission	13 June 2025	24 July 2025
Internal Review of Applications	25 July 2025	31 July 2025
Notification to Shortlisted Applicants	5 August 2025	
Review of Applications by Scientific Review Panel and Finalisation of Funding Recommendations	6 August 2025	5 September 2025

Social Determinants of Health – Innovation Grant 2025
Guidelines, Instructions and Conditions of Award

Review Panel Recommendations Reported to Board for Endorsement	Mid-September 2025	
Notification to Applicants	Late September 2025	
Meeting with Grant Recipients	Late September 2025	Mid-October 2025

2. Program requirements

RHRF is seeking applications from a broad cross section of the research community, with particular focus on partnering with other health care providers and consumers to investigate and deliver these projects. Key to these projects is an innovative and partnering approach to develop solutions to the identified issues.

In the context of this grant, innovation does not always mean entirely new approaches. It can involve projects that build upon existing strategies or programs, enhancing and adapting them to better address the specific needs of communities. It can focus on improving and scaling up solutions that are already in place, making them more effective in tackling the non-medical factors that impact health outcomes.

2.1 Key criteria

Projects funded under this scheme should:

- Address the non-medical factors that affect health outcomes of these populations when they are diagnosed with cancer, mental health, cardiovascular disease (CVD) or musculoskeletal disease.
- Seek to involve patients treated in the public sector as well as within Ramsay Health Care facilities.
- Seek to access a diverse population and deliver benefits for all Australians.
- Seek to include individuals with lived experience or community representative as co-leads in the project, if possible.

2.2 Funding

A maximum of **$700,000** is available per project, for projects up to a **maximum of three (3) years** in duration. The RHRF Board will fund up to two projects that best align with the strategic priorities of the foundation.

2.3 Review process

Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and shortlisted by the RHRF Grants Management Team. The shortlisted applications will then be evaluated by the RHRF Scientific Review Panel and Independent Reviewers, which will provide funding recommendations to the RHRF Board. The RHRF Board will make a final decision on which projects are funded. **RHRF reserves the right to only fund projects that have the full support of the RHRF Board.**

Social Determinants of Health – Innovation Grant 2025
Guidelines, Instructions and Conditions of Award

2.4 Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for SDH Innovation Grant 2025, a project must satisfy the following criteria:

a) Research may be conducted in a setting that allows access to the target population for the research, this could be in primary care, public hospitals, community clinics or in the home.

b) The research must also include a Ramsay Health Care Facility or Health Service Location such as Ramsay Health Plus, Ramsay Psychology, Ramsay Connect or Ramsay Pharmacy. *Research that is simply recruiting participants from Ramsay Health Care and does not meaningfully involve Ramsay Health Care facilities and staff will not be considered.*

c) The research team must include at least one researcher or VMO affiliated with the Ramsay Health Care Facility. If applicants are unable to meet this criterion, the RHRF team will help the applicant to identify suitable individuals to be involved in the research.

3. How to apply

This grant scheme is available to researchers based in Australia and all research must be conducted in Australia.

Online Application Portal – REGGS

All applications for RHRF Grants must be submitted via the REGGS (Research Ethics, Governance and Grants) system. REGGS is an online, cloud-based portal for the management of research ethics, governance and grants across Ramsay Health Care and RHRF.

Register on REGGS
To start an application, you must first register on REGGS.
Go to https://grants.rhrf.org.au to set up an account.

Please select the green **Apply now** button "**Social Determinants of Health Innovation Grant - 2025**" to start your application.

Using REGGS
- The application is structured to be completed in multiple pages
- You can navigate through the application to different parts of the application using the navigation menu on the left
- Don't forget to SAVE regularly!

For detailed information on how to apply via REGGS, please see the REGGS Grants – How To Guides found on the RHRF website.

> *Tip!* *You will be able to save the online application and complete it over time. A copy of your application will be available to download from the portal and will be emailed to you once you submit your application.*

3.1 Detailed Project Proposal

Applicants should include a separate, detailed project proposal with the application.

This detailed project proposal **should not exceed 3 pages** and should contain additional information that may be useful for the scientific review panel and RHRF board. The project proposal **should not** repeat information that is contained in the REGGS application form. The purpose of the additional information is to understand the context of the study and the proposed research, with particular emphasis on questions that may be considered by peer reviewers.

Applicants must address all of the following items within the proposal:
- The research question, hypothesis, aims and objectives;
- The research methodology / study design;
- The setting / the project sites and how any specific issues will be managed at these sites;
- Participant population, the participant recruitment strategy and data collection;
- Evaluations, health economic and statistical analysis;
- Ethics and Governance plan;
- Expected outcomes of the study and how it will benefit the patient population;
- How you will measure the success of the project; and
- Long-term impact of the project on the SDH, focusing on reach, scalability and sustainability.

The detailed proposal can include references, figures, Gantt charts, tables and/or diagrams as required. Supporting documentation may be uploaded separately as a PDF document.

3.2 Investigative Team

Please provide the details of the investigative team in an attachment in the following format:

Name	Organisation	Current Appointment	Is the Researcher Affiliated with Ramsay? If yes, which Ramsay facility?	Are you Affiliated with Ramsay Partner organisation, ANZUP?	Role in the Project	Qualifications	Time Allocated to Project

3.3 Publication Plan

RHRF requires all research findings and outputs to be published in openly accessible form, in a timely manner, and for the public benefit, in accordance with the NHMRC Open Access Policy.

Note: Publications will form part of Awardees' ongoing reporting obligations.

3.4 Project Knowledge Exchange Plan & Post-Project Translation Plan

RHRF believes Knowledge Exchange and Translation are important aspects of any research project that aims to improve patient outcomes. We ask that applicants carefully consider their plans for both activities.

Note: Both Knowledge Exchange and the translation plan will form part of Awardees' ongoing reporting obligations.

3.5 Applicant Declaration

RHRF expects that all the Investigators have participated in the development of the application and that anyone listed as an Investigator has agreed to participate in the project.

The Investigators must have read these Guidelines and, if awarded an RHRF grant, will be required to abide by the terms and conditions of RHRF grant awarded, including all reporting requirements.

4. Conditions of Award

4.1 Administrating Organisation

The Administrating Organisation must be a single, reputable research organisation to be eligible. It must have policies and procedures in place for the management of research funds, the management of intellectual property, and for the conduct of research consistent with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.

4.2 Funding Agreement

All successful applicants awarded a RHRF SDH Innovation Grant will be asked to enter into a Funding Agreement with RHRF and Ramsay Health Care (if applicable).

RHRF expects contract negotiations to be completed in two to six weeks. RHRF reserves the right to withdraw this offer if the contract isn't fully executed within this time frame.

4.3 Budget and Funding Conditions

Please note that no more than 20% of the total project budget should be allocated towards data collection or mapping of the affected population. Any budget request exceeding this 20% threshold will require detailed justification and may not be eligible for funding.

If any phases of the project have already been completed, please provide a clear and detailed justification for the funding being requested. RHRF will consider all applications; however, the extent to which a project demonstrates the potential to deliver immediate benefits to patients will be taken into account.

Below is an overview of how RHRF grant funding may or may not be used by Grantees.

4.3.1 What RHRF will fund:

RHRF will fund any costs that are directly related to the project, are not already available at the site or to the project team and can be justified.

Examples of costs RHRF will fund are:

- Salaries for Research Assistants, Research Nurses, Statisticians, and other salary on-costs (e.g., payroll tax, workers compensation, leave loading, and superannuation) as determined from the relevant Award Rates;
- A Clinical Fellowship, PhD Scholarship, or a Masters (Research) Scholarship. The conditions are set out below;
- Direct research costs such as materials and consumables. The purchase of essential items and equipment specifically required for the project is allowed if such items are normally not available and do not exceed an individual cost of $5000;
- Reasonable expenses for services, or purchase/licensing of software;
- Funds for travel. *Note: these costs will only be considered when they form an integral part of the project;*
- Costs associated with participant recruitment, where there is a justifiable need;
- Software development, if it is adequately justified and directly related to the to the research project; and
- Fees, charges and oncosts that are directly related to the research project. All such fees must be justified.

4.3.2 What RHRF will not fund:

The list below outlines items the RHRF will not fund and should not be included:

- Administering Organisation's indirect research or infrastructure costs;
- "Business as usual" staff salaries providing in or out of hospital services, or other healthcare services;
- Insurance costs;
- Costs related to intellectual property management;
- Entertainment, hospitality and personal expenses (including subscriptions and professional membership fees);
- Scholarships for Post-Graduate Masters Degrees;
- Grants that are predominantly for equipment; or
- Capital works, general maintenance costs, telephone or communication systems, basic office equipment such as desks and chairs, rent, or the cost of utilities.

4.3.3 No Indirect Costs

RHRF awards grants on the condition that its funds are not used for indirect research or infrastructure costs, in accordance with NHMRC or equivalent grant guidelines.

4.3.4 Funding is not for infrastructure

RHRF will not fund grants that are predominantly requests for equipment. In the event of the purchase of capital items in excess of $5,000 with RHRF funds, including equipment, the Grantee must ensure that those items, or any proceeds from the sale of those items, continue to be applied for similar purposes of the original application until at least 30 June 2027.

4.4 Conditions for the Inclusion of Clinical Fellowship, or PhD Scholarship, or a Masters (Research) Scholarship

RHRF is committed to supporting clinical research training programs. As such, applicants may elect to fund one of a Clinical Fellowship, PhD Scholarship or Masters (Research) Scholarship as part of their research project.

The involvement of a Clinical Fellow, or PhD or Research Masters Candidate must be clearly justified in the 'Project Budget' section of the application.

4.4.1 Clinical Fellowship

The Clinical Fellowship is for junior health care professionals who have a PhD or other research qualification and who wish to develop skills in translation and implementation of research in actual health care settings.

Conditions of funding a Clinical Fellowship via an RHRF grant include:
- Fellowships will be for a maximum of two years and must be for the benefit of a Ramsay Health Care facility.
- Fellowships will be awarded via a related University and the appointment must include academic credentials.
- Recruitment of the Fellow must be subject to transparent, merit-based appointments.

4.4.2 PhD Scholarship / Masters (Research) Scholarship

Applicants may include one PhD Scholarship or one Masters (Research) Scholarship in medicine, allied health or nursing or related disciplines to support the development of a next generation of clinical academics.

Conditions of funding a PhD or Masters (Research) Scholarship via an RHRF Grant include:
- Scholarships funded can be either a full scholarship which is at a minimum equal to the Australian Government Research Training Program stipend and conditions, or as a top-up scholarship to a competitively awarded main scholarship.
- These scholarships will be for domestic candidates only and must involve a Ramsay Health Care facility.
- Recruitment must be subject to open, merit-based and acceptable to the University providing enrolment.

4.5 Payments Linked to the Completion of Stages

RHRF payments are paid upon the completion of stages (comprising of a series of milestones). To receive payments, Grantees must submit Progress Reports at the completion of each agreed stage.

Upon execution of the funding agreement the first payment will be made upon the submission of an invoice. The first payment is normally 10-15% of the total grant amount and is typically enough to get the project started.

Subsequent payments will be made upon receipt and approval of a Project Report at the completion of each stage as agreed between the Parties. Invoices will be requested once these reports have been accepted by RHRF.

The remainder of the payments will be paid on completion of each stage. Most projects will have 6-8 Stages.

4.6 Open Access Publications

The outcomes of this RHRF grant must be for the public benefit. As such, RHRF requires that all grant recipients publish their findings and outputs in accordance with the NHMRC Open Access Policy, in a timely manner, for the public benefit.

The intent is that all research outputs from the RHRF grants must be made publicly accessible, in line with the NHMRC guidelines, as per one or a combination of the dot points below:

- Publications in open access journals
- Publications in hybrid journals where the author/s have paid for the research to be open access
- Publications that are in free/open journals
- Publications that are publicly available via university repositories.

Grantees will be required to report on all publications and outputs throughout the grant.

4.7 Acknowledgement and Style Guide

The RHRF grant must be acknowledged in all publications, reports and other communications, using the following acknowledgement:

This research was/is supported by the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation (grant #)

An Acknowledgement and Logo Guide has been created for all RHRF grant recipients to follow and adhere to and will be disseminated once a grant is awarded funding.

4.8 Reports

Grantees will be required to submit a series of reports throughout the life of research project. While regular reporting is required, the reports are designed to capture key information and not to be onerous. RHRF will provide all grantees with the report templates, which may be updated from time to time. All reporting will be required to be performed via the REGGS portal.

4.8.1 Milestone Reports

Milestone reports are required to be submitted at the completion of each stage and are linked to payments. These reports should be considered as status updates of the progress of the project.

4.8.2 Annual Progress Report and Acquittal Statement

An Annual Progress Report is required at the end of each financial year along with the Acquittal Statement. Grantees will be required to report on outputs including open access publications, socioeconomic status of the research participants, project sites and funding support at a minimum.

4.8.3 End of Project Report and Acquittal Statement

An end of Research Project Report is required at the conclusion of the research project and research grant along with the Final Acquittal Statement.

4.8.4 Post Grant Outcomes Evaluation Report

A Post Grant Outcomes Evaluation Report is required annually for a period of five (5) years from the end of the completion of the grant. This report is focused on the outputs, outcomes and any translation of the research achieved by the research project.

5. Contact Details

If you have any questions, please contact the RHRF Grants team at: RHRFgrants@rhrf.org.au