

RIO TINTO CHILDREN'S DIABETES CENTRE

A Breakthrough T1D Centre of Excellence



RioTinto



2025 Seed Funding Grants – Call for Proposals Guide

Applications due 24th November 2025 at 5pm Australian WST.

The goal of the Rio Tinto Children's Diabetes Centre: A Breakthrough T1D Global Centre of Excellence in Diabetes Research (Global CoE) is to improve the lives of all young people living with diabetes, their families and community by bringing together research, education and clinical care. The Global CoE is supported by five national and global institutions/hospitals and is a world-leading initiative building on the excellent team, experience, and connections already in place among the Global CoE and partner sites.

The Global CoE, through its [Community Involvement Framework](#) and [Guidelines](#), is committed to embedding lived experience within its programs of work to ensure meaningful research occurs that will directly benefit children and young people living with type 1 diabetes.

Summary

The Global CoE aims to encourage new and innovative research, researchers and translation ideas and projects. Seed funding grants are made possible through funding support by Rio Tinto, Telethon Trust and Breakthrough T1D, and are intended to generate pilot data to increase competitiveness and strengthen application for larger grants from sources such as Australia's National Health Medical Research Council and JDRF in future funding rounds. **Applications are sought for projects that progress the goal of the Global CoE which is to improve the lives of children and families living with type 1 diabetes.**

These grants are open for early to mid-career researchers* (EMCRs) and allied Health Professionals, and the amount available per project funded is set at \$20,000 AUD (excl. GST). At least two seed funding grants may be awarded in this funding round; there is provision to award more grants based on proposal merit and the evaluation and recommendations of the Review Panel.

All projects will need well-defined deliverables and applicants must justify their requested budget against defined project costs, including participant reimbursement and community involvement, if applicable. If a proposal is successful, the investigator may receive the grant in two 'instalments' according to demonstrated achievement of scheduled deliverables. The planned duration of funded activities will be no more than 18 months.

**The 'effective' number of years from the date that Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) thesis was passed (not date of degree conferral) Relative to Opportunity and once Career Disruptions are considered.*

"Early Career Researchers" are defined as having less than 7 years' postdoc.

"Mid-Career Researchers" are defined as having less than 15 years' postdoc.

“Early Career Researchers” may include individuals with a University medical, allied health, nursing or relevant Biomedical Science degree plus three years full-time equivalent of active research. experience (the date the applicant achieved three years (full-time equivalent) research experience will be used as a “PhD pass date” equivalent).

Advice

Seed funding grants will be awarded to projects that address outcomes for type 1 diabetes (T1D) that contributes to at least one objective of the Global CoE:

1. *To formulate a framework to develop, implement and evaluate models of care that lead to improved health outcomes and reduced burden for people living with T1D.*
2. *To promote effective transfer of research outcomes into health policy and/or practice.*
3. *To develop novel advanced economic frameworks that include the broad true costs of T1D to enhance access to novel therapies and shape policies.*
4. *To facilitate effective and cross disciplinary collaboration and partnerships with academia, industry, consumers, clinical organisations and key experts and stakeholders.*

The project proposal should also include one or more of the following:

- Focus on new knowledge or technologies
- Promote effective translation of knowledge or technology into mainstream clinical practice
- Been conceived and driven by members of the community and/or has a clearly identified and involved consumer group
- A focus on an underserved or disadvantaged group.

The purpose of these grants is to fund either seed activities that will support early to mid-career researchers to either generate pilot data to strengthen a major competitive grant application; including proposals that seek to contribute to improving the likelihood of attracting future funding and/or creating discovery, commercialisation, and other translation or impact opportunities.

Seed funding grants can be used toward activities including, but not limited to:

- generating pilot data
- developing collaborations with other labs and institutes
- conducting community/stakeholder consultations
- protocol development,
- simulations to support study design
- development of a competitive project grant submission.

Awarded amounts cannot be used to cover general infrastructure costs (incl. on-costs).

Eligibility

- Applicants must include a Global GCoE Collaborator as a Co-Investigator, as listed in **Attachment A**.
- Lead applicant must be an EMCR as defined in the ‘Summary’ section (*)
- Applicants must submit their proposal using the *RTCDC GCoE Seed Funding Grant Application Form 2025* and follow the process as provided on this form. Only proposals using this form will be considered further.

Application Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

- A Grant Review Panel, that includes the GCoE Community Involvement Coordinator and a consumer representative, will review and evaluate the eligible applications.
- Applications will be assessed on **1) scientific merit & feasibility, 2) innovation, 3) potential impact, contribution and alignment to the overall objectives of the Global CoE 4) development benefits for lead investigator and 5) community participation, engagement and involvement** as per the *RTCDC GCoE Seed Funding Grant Scoring Guide 2025*.
- The 2 highest ranked applications will be awarded up to \$20,000 AUD.

- Additional grants may be awarded based on application merit.

Important dates

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Date</i>
Grant round opens	29 September 2025
Applications close 5pm Australian WST.	24 November 2025
Grant Review Panel assess and make recommendations	December 2025 – January 2026
Talent and Capacity Building Subcommittee consider Panel recommendations.	By 31 January 2026
Management Steering Group endorse recommendations	By 31 January 2026
Applicants notified of outcome.	By 31 January 2026

Conditions of award

- All awarded funds must comply with the Terms and Conditions of the award, including appropriate acknowledgement of the Global CoE in any grant outputs.
- All awarded funds must be expended within 18 months of receiving the award.
- Any funds not expended within 18 months must be returned to the Global CoE.
- Recipients will be required to demonstrate achievement of outcomes by providing:
 - Progress report 9 months from the acceptance of the award (at halfway point of the grant);
 - Presentation to Scientific Program Subcommittee at the end of the grant period on project outcomes.
 - Provide a short report at the end of the grant period (no more than 3 pages, with presentation slide deck as attachment) outlining how the funds were used, and outcomes relating to the agreed deliverables of the award.
- Recipients agree to meet with the GCoE Community Involvement Coordinator after grant is awarded, but prior to project commencing.

Related Documents

- *RTCDC GCoE Seed Funding Grant Application Form 2025*
- *RTCDC GCoE Seed Funding Grant Scoring Guide 2025*
- *RTCDC GCoE Seed Funding Grants Terms and Conditions 2025*
- *RTCDC GCoE Seed Funding Grant Policy 2025*
- *RTCDC GCoE Community Involvement Framework 2022*
- *RTCDC GCoE Community Involvement Framework 2022*

ATTACHMENT A – ELIGIBLE COLLABORATORS AND SITES

Name	Institution
A/Prof Phil Bergman	Monash Children's Hospital, Australia
A/Prof Spiros Furlanos	Royal Melbourne Hospital/University of Sydney
A/Prof Yvonne Zurynski	Macquarie University, Australia
Dr Alicia Jenkins	University of Sydney, Australia
Dr Amelia Harray	The University of Western Australia
Dr Anthony Pease	Monash University, Australia
Dr Anthony Russell	Queensland Health, Australia
Dr Anthony Zimmermann	North Adelaide Local Health Network, Australia
Dr Aveni Haynes	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Dr Chetty Tarini	Royal Hospital for Sick Children Edinburgh
Dr Craig Taplin	Perth Children's Hospital, Australia
Dr Daniel Tortorice	College of the Holy Cross, USA
Dr Dessi Zaharieva	Stanford University, USA
Dr Ella Zomer	Monash University, Australia
Dr Emily Callander	Monash University, Australia
Dr Gerry Fegan	Fiona Stanley Hospital, Australia
Dr Helen Woodhead	Sydney Children's Hospital Network, Australia
Dr Jeffrey Cannon	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Dr Keely Bebbington	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Dr Ki wook Kim	University of New South Wales
Dr Kristen Neville	Sydney Children's Hospital Network, Australia
Dr Kriti Joshi	Children's Hospital Queensland
Dr Laurel Messer	Barbara Davis Centre, University of Colorado, USA
Dr Maddalena Ferranna	The University of Southern California
Dr Marie-Anne Burckhardt	University of Basel, Switzerland
Dr Martin de Bock	University of Otago, New Zealand
Dr Mary Abraham	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Dr Megan Penno	University of Adelaide
Dr Michael Huang	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute
Dr Rebecca Pedruzzi	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Dr Tarini Chetty	NHS Lothian, Scotland
Dr Tony Huynh	Queensland Health, Australia
Dr Vinutha Shetty	Perth Children's Hospital, Australia
Helen Clapin	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Prof Ann Maguire	The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Australia
Prof David Bloom	Harvard TH Chan School of Public health, USA
Prof David Maahs	Stanford University, USA
Prof David O'Neal	University of Melbourne, Australia
Prof Elizabeth Davis	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Prof Jan Fairchild	Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide, Australia
Prof Jeffrey Braithwaite	Macquarie University, Australia
Prof Jenny Couper	University of Adelaide, Australia

Prof Mike Riddell	York University, Canada
Prof Paul Fournier	University of Western Australia, Australia
Prof Peter Adolfsson	University of Gothenburg, Sweden
Prof Peter Coleman	Royal Melbourne Hospital/University of Melbourne
Prof Sophia Zoungas	Monash University, Australia
Prof Tim Jones	Perth Children's Hospital, Australia