

SUMMER FOUNDATION COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST INSTRUCTIONS

1 AUGUST 2018

The Summer Foundation is looking to establish partnerships with research institutes, universities and government to deliver research to provide an evidence base to inform systems change and policy reform related to young people living in aged care.

The Summer Foundation is calling for expressions of interest (EOI) for research projects, research partners and early career researchers.

We are seeking EOIs of two distinct types:

1. Early career researchers or potential PhD students who wish to be placed at the Summer Foundation to progress research in one of our priority research areas.
2. Development grants to seed fund high quality and strategic research that is positioned to secure substantial grant funding.

SUMMER FOUNDATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN AGED CARE

Hundreds of young Australians with disability enter nursing homes every year. Their lives are characterised by boredom, loneliness and grief, with 53% receiving a visit from a friend less than once per year. These are people who could live in the community if they were provided the right support at the right times. The Summer Foundation's aim is to resolve the issue of young people living in nursing homes.

OUR VISION

That young people with disability and complex support needs will have inherent value as members of our society with access to a range of housing and support options that enhance health, wellbeing and participation.

OUR MISSION

To create, lead and demonstrate long-term sustainable changes that stop young people from being forced to live in nursing homes because there is nowhere else for them.

Our history

The Summer Foundation was established in 2006 by Di Winkler, an occupational therapist who has worked with people with severe brain injury for more than 20 years.

Working as a therapist, Di became frustrated by the lack of appropriate housing options for people with disability. She often saw young people being discharged from hospital or rehabilitation settings to nursing homes. In 2005, Di started a PhD to change policy and practice around the issue of young people living in nursing homes. Di heard many stories from families about their gruelling experiences with nursing homes and decided that research alone was not going to be enough to resolve the issue. So, in 2006 the Summer Foundation was formed.

The early work of the Summer Foundation focused on understanding the experience of young people forced to live in nursing homes and growing a body of evidence to support the need for systemic change.

We support the disability, health and aged care systems to work more effectively with younger people in nursing homes. We have prototyped effective housing alternatives to aged care for younger people with disability. We support people with disability and their families to share their stories and empower others to avoid or leave aged care.

As part of our work to resolve the issue of young people living in nursing homes, the Summer Foundation has been trialling an innovative housing solution that integrates smart home technology and good design with a support model designed to promote independence, all in well-located community settings.

We also develop practice guides, training materials and new models for government and non-government organisations to work together to resolve this issue. We undertake rigorous and practical research to make sure there is a strong evidence base for what works.

In 2017, we decided that the replication and scaling of our housing demonstration projects would be best implemented by a dedicated organisation that focused on the 'bricks and mortar' of housing projects. So, we established Summer Housing, a not-for-profit sister organisation to the Summer Foundation. Summer Housing is separate to the Summer Foundation, with an independent Board and staff, but the two organisations collaborate on areas of common interest.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

Purpose of Summer Foundation Research

The purpose of research delivered or commissioned by the Summer Foundation is to inform and foster systems change. Please refer to www.summerfoundation.org.au/strategies for further information regarding the Summer Foundation's 2018-2021 Strategic Objectives.

There are five distinct ways we use research to change systems.

AREA	DESCRIPTION
1. Problem definition	We can't solve a problem we don't understand. We aim to develop a deep understanding of the systems that admit young people to aged care and leave them there. We identify the factors that shape the systems and all the pressure points. This research seeks to understand root causes of complex problems and develop a body of research and a shared understanding of the problem.
2. Review and evaluate previous interventions	We don't want to reinvent the wheel. We research and analyse the strategies that others have tried in the past to identify potential solutions and inform their design. We seek to harness the best thinking from incubators, other non-profits, universities and think tanks.
3. Systems change: Measurement and evaluation	Rigorous data collection at a systems level is essential for an organisation focused on systems change. We glean what we can from administrative and population data prior to collecting additional data. We collect consistent and ongoing data to guide our strategy and measure our progress.
4. Stakeholder engagement and communication	Understanding the drivers of the system and the key messages for change that resonate with key influencers and stakeholders is essential for changing systems. Our policy team leads our government engagement strategy and assists us to frame our research for consumption by government. Our communications team supports our knowledge translation and reframes the problem and solution for different stakeholders. The role of research is to obtain the perspective of a range of stakeholders to enable us to understand the beliefs and behaviours that underpin why systems operate the way they do.
5. Evaluate potential solutions and pilots	We use research to determine what works. We test and evaluate interventions that address the system from multiple directions. We evaluate to determine if a pilot has the potential for massive scale.

Methodology

A range of methodologies is required to develop the breadth of evidence we need to inform policy and practice related to the issue of young people in residential aged care (RAC). Given that data collection in longitudinal studies is time consuming and expensive, our first priority is to utilise data science to unlock the full potential of existing administrative and population data. We are seeking partners with the capacity to clean and manipulate large data sets, combine data from different systems, make deeper insights and reach data informed conclusions. Projects may involve predictive analytics, data visualisation, machine learning and data wrangling with large disability, health, housing or aged care data sets.

However, population and administrative data alone will not provide a sufficient evidence base. Primary research that obtains the perspectives of people with disability is key to developing potential solutions and solving the issue of young people in RAC. We anticipate that many projects in this program will be mixed methods, collecting both quantitative and qualitative data.

GRANT ROUND PARTNERSHIPS

We are open to a range of partnership opportunities including:

- Individuals with or without a current relationship to a university e.g. PhD student scholarships and post graduate fellowships
- Development grants to seed fund high quality and strategic research that is positioned to secure substantial grant funding

Individuals

We are looking for talented graduates and early career researchers to contribute to the knowledge base of how best to support young people with disability and complex support needs.

Partnership model

The Summer Foundation is open to a range of ways to support post graduate Fellows and PhD students. Two options are identified below. Applicants can propose other options.

- Direct employment – the Summer Foundation can directly employ post graduate Fellows in ongoing or time limited roles. This could include in combination with a university where post graduates would spend part of their time at both the Summer Foundation and an institution.
- Secondments and sponsored positions – the Summer Foundation and a university can work together with the Summer Foundation providing funding for an agreed research program to be undertaken by a post graduate student or a PhD student as part of their thesis.

Research topics

There is particular interest in post doctoral and PhD applicants addressing the following topics:

- Impact of the NDIS on young people in aged care: analysis of plans, funded services and outcomes
- Prevention of new admissions of young people to aged care
- Evaluation of hospital discharge planning and follow up
- Disability housing: needs, preferences, demand and supply
- Post occupancy evaluation, costs and impact of built design and technology incorporated into housing for people with disability.

Who can apply

Applications are open to:

- Universities with a fellowship or potential PhD candidate identified
- Research institutes with a fellowship or potential PhD candidate identified
- Individuals (current and potential PhD students, post doctoral students)

The average grant amount for a Post Graduate Fellowship or PhD scholarship is in the range of \$25,000-\$35,000 per annum.

Applicants wishing to apply should complete the Individual EOI form www.summerfoundation.org.au/research-grant-individual-eoi-form and return it to research@summerfoundation.org.au. Individuals may apply either with an existing university partnership and potential supervisors or co-researchers.

Institutions

We are seeking research proposals from research institutes, universities and government.

Partnership model

The Summer Foundation is seeking to work with expert researchers on a range of topics related to the issue of young people in nursing homes. Rather than simply fund relevant research, the Summer Foundation will provide expertise in policy, practice, engaging stakeholders (including people with disability, families, workers and government), research specific to our cohort and knowledge translation. This collaborative approach will ensure that the research output provides a rigorous and practical evidence base to inform potential solutions and change policy and practice.

The Summer Foundation will assist to shape the research by providing input and feedback prior to the finalisation of the following:

- Research design
- Data collection tool(s)
- Data analysis
- Draft of findings
- Discussion
- Dissemination and knowledge translation plan

Research topics

A range of research topics was identified during the development of the Summer Foundation 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. These topics provide potential partners with clear guidance regarding the types of research projects we are seeking to fund.

Who can apply?

Applications for research grants are open to:

- Universities
- Research institutes

We are also interested in working with government agencies or departments with a mutual interest in any of the research topics.

Institutions who are interested in partnering with the Summer Foundation to address some of the research questions outlined above should complete an Institution EOI form www.summerfoundation.org.au/research-grant-institution-eoi-form and return it to research@summerfoundation.org.au.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Summer Foundation will convene a panel comprising Summer Foundation staff and independent experts to assess applications received through this process. The criteria used by the panel are:

1. Proposed research project	<p>The overall purpose and scope of the proposed research and the extent to which it will add to the current body of knowledge.</p> <p>The alignment and contribution of the research proposal to the Summer Foundation's research priorities.</p> <p>The anticipated impact on policy, practice, system and costs.</p>
2. Research questions, methodology and timeframe	<p>The quality and suitability of the proposed research methodology against the research questions proposed.</p> <p>The approaches are clearly specified and realistic.</p> <p>The extent to which the proposal is grounded in theory and previous research.</p> <p>The existence of clear and achievable milestones and gates for releasing the next phase of funding.</p>
3. Research experience, expertise and related research	<p>The researcher(s) can collectively demonstrate knowledge and application of proposed analytical techniques and methodologies and an ability to use these to produce quality peer reviewed research.</p> <p>The skills and experience of the researcher(s), including allocations of team members' time and contribution to the project, are clearly identified.</p> <p>Evidence of the applicant's understanding of the key issues and relevant research.</p>
4. Project quality assurance and risk management	<p>The existence and effectiveness of project management, quality assurance and risk management processes to ensure production of timely, relevant and high quality research.</p> <p>Proposals will be evaluated on the capacity to adhere to the timelines proposed (including obtaining ethics approval).</p> <p>Demonstrated willingness to work cooperatively with the Summer Foundation and be pro-active in negotiating the nature of the research and its outputs, evidence of future application and dissemination activities.</p> <p>A demonstrated capacity to be flexible, and to work collaboratively across sectors and with industry and other key stakeholders.</p>
5. Value for money	<p>The total budget will be considered against the overall quality and depth of the research project proposed.</p> <p>Any opportunities to leverage additional funding or resources would be considered favourably.</p>
6. Research team composition and skills	<p>Research teams would be expected to have a mix of skills and demonstrated research and analytical expertise, therefore cross- disciplinary teams (including actuaries, health economists, data scientists) would be considered favourably.</p>

Key dates

EOIs advertised	8 August 2018
EOI closing date	21 September 2018
Invitations to develop full research proposal	12 November 2018

For questions and further information

Please email research@summerfoundation.org.au to register your interest in receiving the answers to any questions or queries that may be relevant to all applicants.