

Senior Clinician Research Fellowship Guidelines 2027

This document provides information about the application process, eligibility and conditions to apply for a Metro North Health / The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) Foundation Senior Clinician Research Fellowship. All enquiries should be directed to Seán Ó Cinnéide, Research Grants Officer at MetroNorthResearch-Grants@health.qld.gov.au.

Overview

Metro North Health and TPCH Foundation are offering a Senior Clinician Research Fellowship to support clinician researcher training and leadership within Metro North Health, specifically at The Prince Charles Hospital or Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford Clinical Directorate or associated satellite healthcare facilities. The Fellowship will enable a clinician researcher to pursue a research career while maintaining an active clinical role, without having to transition to a full-time research fellowship.

Metro North Health and TPCH Foundation will provide co-funding to award a maximum of one Senior Clinician Research Fellowship. The Fellowship is for a fixed term of three (3) years and must be completed within that period. Metro North Health will support the program by funding salary equivalent of 0.4 FTE, with salary to be paid at the substantive rate of the Fellow. The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation will provide \$150,000 per Fellowship year in grant funding to support the Fellow's direct research costs.

Applications are invited from clinicians employed at The Prince Charles Hospital or Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford Clinical Directorate or associated satellite healthcare facilities across all healthcare disciplines, including medical, nursing and midwifery, allied health, health sciences and dental health care professionals.

Program Background

Metro North Health and TPCH Foundation share a commitment to fostering a visionary research culture that embraces innovation in diagnostics and therapeutics, systematically evaluates clinical practice, and translates new knowledge into world-class healthcare.

Clinician researchers are uniquely positioned to identify research questions of direct relevance to patients and to lead high-quality research that improves health outcomes for patients and the wider community. The Metro North Research Strategy¹ sets out Metro North's commitment to developing integrated clinical and research career pathways that enable us to attract, develop and retain a world-class, research-active workforce.

The Senior Clinician Research Fellowship is offered to support an outstanding clinician to advance a program of research which will concurrently progress their research and clinical practice careers whilst enhancing patient care and innovation in TPCH Foundation's² aligned health priorities of heart disease, lung disease, mental health, ageing and paediatrics.

¹ [Metro North Research Strategy 2023-2027](#)

² [TPCHF-Strategic-Plan-2026-2030](#)



Eligibility

- Applicants must hold a substantive permanent clinical appointment with The Prince Charles Hospital or Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford Clinical Directorate or associated satellite healthcare facilities on the date of application and maintain this for the duration of the Fellowship. Clinicians in training are not considered appropriate for this Senior Clinician Research Fellowship program.
- Applicants must hold evidence of a research doctorate and training, e.g. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or other internationally recognised doctoral research qualification.
- Applicants should be able to demonstrate evidence of research program leadership including publications, research supervision and mentoring, competitive grant funding and/or other evidence of research program leadership, relative to opportunity.
- Applications are welcomed across all areas of clinical and health research relevant to The Prince Charles Hospital or Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford Clinical Directorate or associated satellite healthcare facilities. Research programs that align with TPOCH Foundation priority areas are particularly encouraged. These priority areas are:
 - Heart
 - lung
 - mental health
 - ageing
 - paediatrics

High-quality applications outside these priority areas are equally eligible for consideration and will be assessed on their overall merit and alignment with the objectives of the Fellowship.

- The applicant must not have any outstanding Metro North Health or TPOCH Foundation progress/final reports.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in applications

In preparing their applications, applicants must comply with the NHMRC [Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Grant Applications and Peer Review](#).

Obligations of awardees

Fellows are expected to disseminate their results through the normal scientific channels. The support of Metro North Health and TPOCH Foundation must be acknowledged in any publication, media or presentation arising from the research.



Terms of Funding

- One part-time (0.4 FTE) 3-year Senior Clinician Research Fellowship will be awarded.
- The Fellow will be concurrently appointed to a temporary part-time position at the level of their substantive clinician appointment with the Metro North Office of Research.
- The Fellow must be employed in a permanent clinical position with The Prince Charles Hospital or Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford Clinical Directorate or associated satellite healthcare facilities and must continue to undertake clinician duties (minimum 0.2 FTE) for the duration of the Fellowship. The total Metro North appointment may not exceed 1.0 FTE.
- The Fellow must take up the appointment before 01 March 2027.
- The Fellow is responsible for ensuring that all research undertaken through the Fellowship has obtained all applicable ethics approvals, exemptions, governance authorisations and site-specific approvals prior to commencement.
- The Fellow will be responsible for demonstrating adherence to the research plan outlined in the approved application. Continuation of Fellowship funding is contingent upon successful progress toward completion of these activities and annual submission of a Progress Report.
- Grant funding of \$150,000 per annum will be provided by the TPCF Foundation to support direct research costs for three years. Direct research costs are defined as reasonable costs directly related to the research proposal, including (without limitation), research personnel, consumables, data collection and analysis, and other research related expenses, but excluding overheads, and salary of the Fellow.
- TPCF Foundation will retain and administer the grant funding and make it available to support the Fellow's research proposal within 2 months of the commencement of the Fellow. Expenditure must be in accordance with the approved budget, with reimbursement of direct research costs paid to Metro North Health quarterly in arrears following receipt of a valid tax invoice.
- Funds will be available for the duration of the Fellowship. For clarity, any unspent funds will not be available following the conclusion of the Fellowship.
- The grant amount shall be spent in accordance with the approved budget, which can be amended by the awarded Fellow following prior written agreement with Metro North Health and TPCF Foundation.
- Metro North Health will ensure that the awarded Fellow submits a Progress Report on an annual basis and at the completion of the Senior Clinical Research Fellowship.
- All expenditure of fellowship funds must be in accordance with the submitted and approved study budget and be compliant with Metro North Health's procurement policies and procedures.



Assessment

Assessment will be conducted in two stages.

Stage 1: Written application.

Selection of the Fellow will include a written application submitted to Metro North Health via the SmartyGrants portal, comprising a research proposal outlining the research activities to be undertaken during the three-year fellowship, specific milestones, deliverables and a budget detailing proposed expenditure of the grant funds.

Applications will be reviewed for eligibility, completeness, and alignment with the Fellowship objectives. Metro North Health and TPCH Foundation reserve the right not to progress applications to assessment where these requirements are not met.

Those meeting the requirements will be assessed by a Panel, which will include representatives from Metro North Health and TPCH Foundation.

Applications will be assessed on:

1. **Research Program:** The research area, innovation and significance of the project (40%)
2. **Track Record:** Research output, relative to opportunity, and demonstrated research leadership of the applicant (40%)
3. **Research Environment and Capacity Building:** Quality of the research environment, institutional and collaborative support, and the applicant's contribution to supervision, mentoring and research capacity building (20%)

Metro North Research and TPCH Foundation are committed to creating pathways for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to develop their research skills and capacity. Strategic Metro North policy and workforce development objectives will be taken into consideration.

Stage 2: Interview.

The highest ranked applicants will be invited for an interview where the applicant will verbally present their research plan, followed by discussion and questions from the panel.

Applicants are requested to invite their Head of Department, Clinical Supervisor or Executive delegate to attend where they will be asked to speak to the level of potential impact, project feasibility and support of the applicant.

The panel will rank the applicants based on both their written application and interview.

Key Dates

Research Fellowships open	31 August 2026
Research Fellowships close	6 October 2026
Applicants notified; successful applicants invited to interview	early November 2026
Interview	mid November 2026
Applicants notified of the outcome	December 2026