

## 2026 PCT Annual Grants

### EOI guidelines and general information for applicants

The Pat Cosh Trust (PCT) was established in 2010. The purpose of the Trust is the public charitable purpose of the advancement of education of practitioners and students of physiotherapy located, working or residing in Victoria by:

- initiating and supporting programs that improve practitioners and students of physiotherapy's ability to practice; and
- funding research to improve the standard of education of practitioners and students of physiotherapy.

The Trustees will call for applications for projects or research consistent with the purpose of the Trust. Applications are considered predominantly on the basis of scientific merit, significance and team track record. Projects will only be funded if the budget is fully justified. Grants will not be awarded for individual scholarships or conference attendance.

Applicants are required to submit an expression of interest (EOI) using the supplied form, followed by a full application for those who are shortlisted. It is anticipated that full applications will open in late July and close mid-September.

For 2026, six grants up to the value of \$30,000 each (excluding GST) will be offered.

### **Submission of EOI Applications**

The completed EOI form and any relevant documents are to be sent via email to:

[Joanna.Chen@australian.physio](mailto:Joanna.Chen@australian.physio)

All submissions must be received by **Sunday 26 April 2026**. Receipt of your application will be acknowledged by return e-mail.

### **Research Area**

The project or research is relevant to the specified purpose of the Trust.

- The goal, potential significance and expected benefits to practitioners and/or students of physiotherapy are demonstrated
- Demonstrates the need, relevance, and significance of the project or research to practitioners and students of physiotherapy's ability to practice; and /or improve the standard of education of practitioners and students of physiotherapy

Choose one or two areas of research from the following list:

- Acupuncture and Dry Needling
- Advanced Practice
- Animal
- Aquatic
- Cancer, Palliative Care and Lymphoedema
- Cardiorespiratory
- Disability
- Education
- Gerontology
- Mental Health
- Musculoskeletal

- Neurology
- Occupational Health
- Orthopaedics
- Paediatrics
- Pain
- Sports and Exercise
- Women's, Men and Pelvic Health
- Other (specify)

## **The Applicant**

The applicant must:

- be the Chief Investigator of the project;
- hold current unconditional registration as a physiotherapist with AHPRA;
- currently work or reside in Victoria;
- be an Australian citizen, or have permanent resident status.

The applicant has a demonstrated track record of successful completion of projects or research:

- presents evidence of successful completion of previous projects or research, including dissemination of results (conferences, seminars, reports, journal articles) and
- demonstrates knowledge, skills and ability in project management (including budgets) and research methods.

The applicant may submit up to two separate Annual Grant EOIs but only one will proceed to the full application stage (if applicable).

The applicant cannot be a named Associate Investigator on another application within the same funding round, including the PRF Seeding Grants for Early Career Researchers.

## **Research Team**

A number of Associate Investigators can be included as part of the research team.

The organisation or the administration team must be Victorian-based.

Where appropriate, please consider including consumers, end-users or people with lived experience of the condition as Associate Investigators.

## **Budget**

The maximum funding available for a PCT Annual Grant is \$30,000 (excluding GST).

Please provide a detailed description, rationale and amount required for each applicable category outlined below.

For budget purposes, the following interpretations will apply:

Personnel – people employed in order to carry out the project, for example, research assistants. Please list each person separately, include planned activities for each person, and include salary details such as level, hourly rate, on-costs, and time allocation. Please note that academic salary support for the Chief Investigator will not be funded. Funding to backfill the clinical workload of the Chief Investigator will be considered; however, this must be fully justified.

Equipment, project materials and consumables – items used during the course of the

project, for example, imaging, data collection equipment, and participant costs.

Travel – only travel related to data acquisition will be funded; conference travel will not be funded.

In general, the PCT will not fund publishing costs. However, if funding is requested, then this must be fully justified.

Please note that administering organisation's infrastructure costs will not be funded, nor will items that would normally be covered by a person's workplace, as this would substantially impact on the amount of funds remaining for research.

Grants will not be awarded for individual scholarships or conference attendance.

The funding will be issued in stages. A progress report against key milestones (a maximum of four) must be submitted with each funding request. The invoice will not be paid until the milestone report is received and accepted as satisfactory by the Trustees. A detailed budget plan, including key milestone information, will be required at the full application stage.

Ethics approval is required for research involving humans or animals and must be provided to the PCT before funding is released.

Please refer to the provided budget exemplar.

## **Timeline**

Please ensure that the timeline is feasible. Please note that there is the expectation that the project will be completed within 18 to 24 months of the grant being awarded, including ethics approval (approximately January 2028 to January 2029). It is envisaged that the outcome of full applications will be known by December 2026.

## **Ethics Approval**

For research involving humans and animals, ethics approval from an appropriate body must be gained, and confirmation of this must be supplied to the PCT prior to the payment of grant monies.

Whilst ethics approval can be obtained after you have been notified of the outcome of your application, a 12-month time limit applies from receipt of the grant agreement to obtain ethics approval.

After this period, the PCT reserves the right to request documentation to demonstrate that the project is progressing towards gaining ethics approval and /or is still feasible. If in the view of the PCT that substantial progress has not been made in obtaining ethics approval, or the project is no longer feasible, the PCT reserves the right to terminate the agreement.

## **Certifications**

The Chief Investigator (applicant) must verify the contents of the application and his or her eligibility for a PCT Annual Grant.

The Associate Investigator 1 must verify their commitment to supporting the Chief Investigator throughout the project.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

Grants will be awarded by the Pat Cosh Trust Trustees, whose decisions shall be considered final, on the recommendation of the APA Grants Review Committee in relation to:

- Scientific quality (60%) - This includes the clarity of the hypotheses or research objectives, the appropriateness of the study design or methodology, evidence of high-quality research practices (such as statements on protocol registration, analysis plan registration and adhering to reporting guidelines for relevant study design) to ensure that the experimental results will be unbiased, reproducible and transparent, and the feasibility of the project.
- Significance of expected outcomes and/or innovation of the concept (25%) - This includes the potential of the project to increase knowledge in the field and have a significant impact on the practice of physiotherapy.
- Knowledge translation (15%) - This includes study design features that facilitate translation, planned processes for translating findings to the physiotherapy (and broader) community, and the likelihood that these strategies will lead to influences on practice, policy and / or behaviour change. This can also include plans, which do not necessarily need to be achieved during the project scope or timeline.
- Team quality and capability - The applicants' research record demonstrates the appropriate research skills, experience, and concern for research rigour, relative to opportunity, required to complete the proposed project. The research record of the team demonstrates appropriate skills, experience and research rigour to support the development of the applicant as a researcher and ensure timely completion of the proposed project.
- Budget - This includes its appropriateness and level of detail provided which should include personnel, equipment, project materials, consumables, travel and incentives. Projects will only be funded if the budget is fully justified.

## **Legal Agreement**

Applicants are required to sign a formal agreement prior to receiving any grant monies.

## **Release of Information**

All information provided on a PCT grant application form is private and confidential and will be used in accordance with the APA's Privacy Policy. If your grant application is successful, information including the names of investigators, grant amount, project title and project summary will be published on the PCT webpage of the APA website.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the please contact the privacy officer at [privacy@australian.physio](mailto:privacy@australian.physio)

### **EOI DEADLINE: Sunday 26 April 2026**

The PCT must receive EOI submissions by the above specified deadline.

#### **Queries:**

Please contact Joanna Chen, via email [Joanna.Chen@australian.physio](mailto:Joanna.Chen@australian.physio)