



The Hospital Research
Foundation Group

Barry Marshall Travel Awards 2026

Guidelines for Applicants v1.0

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Open	Wednesday, 21 January 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST)	Monday, 27 April 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST)	Monday, 3 August 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST)
Close	Wednesday, 8 April 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST)	Wednesday, 15 July 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST)	Wednesday, 28 October 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST)

1. About The Hospital Research Foundation Group

First founded in 1996 in part by Warren Jones, whose vision was to realise a research foundation that benefitted the health and wellbeing of local residents, the Fremantle (WA) Hospital Medical Research Foundation awarded its first grants in 1999 following a three-year capital campaign to ensure the sustainability of an annual grant program. In 2016, following an expanded partnership with Fiona Stanley Hospital, it was renamed Spinnaker Health Research Foundation, a nod to Jones, the founding chair, who was a local resident of Fremantle and the manager of the successful America's Cup syndicate in 1983.

Spinnaker Health Research Foundation joined The Hospital Research Foundation Group (THRFG) in 2023. THRFG consists of 11 charities whose combined purpose is to "Together, Fight" for better health and wellbeing for our community through life-changing medical research and improved healthcare. THRFG will be the entity administering this round.

2. About the Barry Marshall Travel Awards

In 1983 Professor Barry Marshall AC, Nobel Prize Laureate, received a travel grant from the then Medical Advisory Committee of Fremantle Hospital while working at Fremantle as a registrar. This small grant gave Prof Marshall the opportunity to present his preliminary findings on the *Helicobacter pylori* research which ultimately earned him and his colleague Dr Robin Warren AC a joint Nobel Prize in Medicine. Prof Marshall credits this travel grant as providing the means by which he was able to convince his peers of the significance of the discovery and, ultimately, lead to simple, lifesaving treatments for peptic ulcers and stomach cancer.

In this spirit, the Barry Marshall Travel Awards were established to not only pay tribute to Prof Marshall's great achievements, but also to foster a culture of aspiration, innovation, and information sharing for emerging researchers.

Active participation in scientific conferences and networking with peers is an important part of developing a career in research, particularly for Early-Mid Career Researchers (EMCRs). The Barry Marshall Travel Awards are available on a competitive basis to assist with some of the costs of participating in a national or international scientific conference during 2026/27.

The awards are generously supported by Prof Barry Marshall AC and Mrs Adrienne Marshall, Business Events Perth, and THRFG.

[Business Events Perth](#) is Western Australia's convention bureau, funded by the Western Australian Government through Tourism WA, responsible for promoting the State nationally and internationally as a destination for business events. Business Events Perth supports organisations, researchers and industry leaders through funding and specialist expertise, assisting in attracting conferences in their fields to Western Australia and contributing to knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the creation of new opportunities for trade and investment.

3. Eligibility Criteria

3.1. Applicant

The awards are open to eligible health professionals and medical researchers who are pursuing a research project or initiative connected with a Western Australian Public Health Service Provider (including Public-Private Partnership providers).

Requests for Barry Marshall Travel Awards will be considered from the following:

- **Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students** that are enrolled (full-time or part-time) at a

university in Western Australia, and that are undertaking a health and medical research project connected with a Western Australian Public Health Service Provider (including Public-Private Partnership providers).

- **Early-mid career health professional/clinician researchers and research scientists** that are currently conducting research that is connected with a Western Australian Public Health Service Provider (including Public-Private Partnership providers), and demonstrates potential significant and meaningful impact for the WA community. For the purposes of this scheme, “Early-mid career” will be considered as up to 10 years post HDR conferral (where held) or equivalent research experience. This timing requirement will allow for career disruption/opportunities in line with the [NHMRC Relative to Opportunity policy](#).

In each round, only **one** application per eligible applicant will be considered. Applicants can only receive **one** Barry Marshall Travel Award for travel in the 2026 scheme. Applicants that have previously received a Barry Marshall Travel Award for travel in any round of the 2026 scheme are not eligible to apply for further support from this scheme.

An application for the same travel that was previously unsuccessful in any year or round of the Barry Marshall Travel Award scheme cannot be resubmitted in a subsequent year or round.

3.2. *Conference participation*

Barry Marshall Travel Awards are to support eligible applicants to participate in a national or international scientific conference at which they can demonstrate:

- they are attending at least 66% of the core conference program; and
- they have been invited by the conference organisers to perform at least one of the following active participation roles as part of the conference program:
 - presenter of a keynote, symposium, other oral presentation
 - presenter of a scheduled poster presentation
 - being the chair or a panel member for a conference panel or other interactive session.

The following clarifications are provided for the avoidance of doubt:

- The active participation role you are undertaking must be made evident in your application. “Active participation” refers to the scheduled/formalised interaction with attendees as part of the oral/poster presentation or panel/session. General attendance alone, the passive display of a poster/ePoster, or other activity that is not part of the official conference program is not eligible for funding under this scheme.
- It must be a requirement that you physically attend the conference venue in order to carry out the active participation role, and evidence of this requirement must be provided as part of your application.
- Where the applicant is not first author on the accepted abstract or where there are multiple authors/speakers presenting together, applicants must clearly explain their role and demonstrate their individual contribution is substantial and essential to the presentation.

3.3. *Travel support requirements*

To be eligible to apply in the 2026 scheme, the travel activity must meet the following requirements:

- The conference commencement date published on the official conference website **must** fall between 1 February 2026 and 31 January 2027.

- Requests for support must be submitted **before** travel has commenced in the appropriate application round. Retrospective applications will not be considered.
- **At time of submission**, all travel must be **formally approved** via the official travel approval process as required by the enrolling university (if applying as a HDR student) or employing organisation (if applying as a health professional/clinician researcher/research scientist) of the applicant (refer to application requirements in section 5.2 for more information), and the relevant travel policies of that institution must have been followed when making bookings.

4. Use of Funds

4.1. *Funding available*

The maximum funding available is up to \$2,500 per award and, depending on funding availability and funds requested, we anticipate providing approximately four (4) awards per round.

In determining the amount of funding to be awarded, the selection committee will consider the total eligible expenditure (see 4.2) and any other travel grant funds awarded for the activity.

Should the request be successful, funds will be reimbursed by THRFG to the employing/enrolling institution through which travel was arranged following completion of travel. Funds will not be provided to private accounts and cannot be claimed directly from THRFG.

It is expected to take at least 4-6 weeks following completion of travel and confirmation of final costs for funds to be paid to the employing/enrolling institution. Please ensure adequate alternative funds are available to secure bookings until such time as the Barry Marshall Travel Award funding becomes accessible.

Any unused funds will be retained by THRFG.

4.2. *Eligible expenditure*

Eligible expenditures that may be funded under this scheme are:

- conference registration
- economy flights associated with travel to/from the conference location (or nearest points of arrival/departure)
- accommodation for the official conference dates.

Funds may **not** be requested for per diems, visas, travel insurance, transfers, meals, entertainment, memberships or any costs associated with private travel undertaken in conjunction with the conference travel.

The application must list **all** applicable eligible expenditures associated with undertaking the activity. Each cost included must be evidenced by a quote, receipt or invoice for the chosen item, and converted to AUD\$. Eligible expenditure items that have been partially covered by other sources of travel support and/or personal funds must also be declared in the application. Costs that are insufficiently evidenced or explained, or that are incongruous with the described travel may be removed from consideration.

If THRFG becomes aware of omissions or inclusion of misleading information in a request, it may choose to exclude an application from assessment, withdraw funding, and/or refer the matter to your employing/enrolling institution.

4.3. *Conditions of funding*

If funded, the recipient will be required to:

- provide a short lay-language report (plus photo/s) about their experience, impact and any collaboration developed. The report should be submitted to grants@hospitalresearch.org.au within two weeks of completion of travel. Please note that reports will be shared with Prof Marshall AC and Mrs Adrienne Marshall and Business Events Perth, and report content may be included in communications or materials for THRFG or Business Events Perth.
- if requested, present at or attend THRFG event(s) for the community, researchers and/or supporters.
- appropriately acknowledge THRFG in all presentation materials during the travel period.

5. Application and Assessment

5.1. How to apply

Applications must be completed and submitted through THRFG's online application portal SmartyGrants via the round link provided below and must be received before 12:00 noon AWST on the round close date (see below) to be considered for funding.

<p>All queries regarding the application process should be directed to grants@hospitalresearch.org.au</p> <p>Incomplete, incorrectly submitted, or late applications will not be considered.</p> <p>All dates below are indicative and subject to change.</p>
Round 1
<p>Opens: Wednesday, 21 January 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST) Closes: Wednesday, 08 April 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST) Apply at: https://hospitalresearch.smartygrants.com.au/2026-BMTA-R1</p>
Round 2
<p>Opens: Monday, 27 April 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST) Closes: Wednesday, 15 July 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST) Apply at: https://hospitalresearch.smartygrants.com.au/2026-BMTA-R2</p>
Round 3
<p>Opens: Monday, 03 August 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST) Closes: Wednesday, 28 October 2026 at 12:00 noon (AWST) Apply at: https://hospitalresearch.smartygrants.com.au/2026-BMTA-R3</p>

For all applicants, whether successful or unsuccessful, summarised application content including applicant details (name, organisation, position, contact details and role in conference), information about the conference opportunity, and the applicant's research will be shared with Business Events Perth to assist their efforts to attract international events to Western Australia. Applicants may opt out of being contacted by Business Events Perth for this purpose in the application form.

Successful applicants may still be contacted by Business Events Perth regarding communicating award details and/or sharing post-travel report content in their materials.

5.2. Application requirements

In addition to the information requested in the online form, applicants will also need to upload the following documents to the application portal for the request to be considered complete at time of submission:

- **Formal travel approval documentation:** Your travel must be arranged and approved in line with the internal policies and processes of the organisation through which your travel is being arranged, and the official approval must be provided with your application. Please make sure you know how to obtain the appropriate approval, and the timeline for obtaining it, before you commence an application.

Common types of travel approvals include a “travel approval” form signed off by someone of authority, or an approved request or requisition made via a travel approval/procurement portal used by the organisation.

Where to find more information: All HDR students should consult the student travel policies/procedures of their enrolling university in the first instance and/or seek further advice from the unit responsible for graduate research student administration. Applicants that are applying as employees (i.e. health professionals, clinician researchers, or research scientists) will need to consult the staff travel policy/procedure of their employing organisation. Advice for all applicants may also be available from the area responsible for arranging travel at your institution.

Exemptions: If (and only if) you are exempt from requiring official approval to travel under your organisational policies and procedures, in place of the approval in the application please provide a letter from your direct supervisor stating that (a) you are exempt under your organisational policies, and (b) providing their support for your travel.

- **Written confirmation from the event organisers that you were invited to undertake an active role(s):** Refer to 3.2. for what constitutes an active role. For example, an email advising the award of a presentation slot, or invitation to chair a session.
- **A link to the conference/meeting program**
- **Evidence of travel costs:** A quote, receipt, or invoice verifying the cost of each eligible expenditure item associated with the attendance/travel. Your own estimations, cost ranges or links to search engines are not acceptable evidence.
- **Details of all other funds awarded or to be used** towards the costs of eligible expenditures. This includes indicating where items have been provided free of charge or are partially or fully funded from other sources, including the applicant’s own personal funds.

5.3. Assessment and notification of outcomes

Notification of outcomes is anticipated within 30 days following the close of the respective round.

Applications will be assessed by a committee convened by THRFG against the four following weighted criteria:

Conference opportunity (20%)

The extent to which the conference opportunity:

- is of merit/standing within the field; and
- provides opportunities for relevant additional networking/collaboration activities by the applicant.

Benefit and significance to WA (30%)

The extent to which the applicant can demonstrate that conference participation will appreciably enhance the relevance and potential benefits of the applicant's research program for:

- patients and consumers of WA healthcare services; and
- Western Australia more broadly.

Applicant development (30%)

The case made by the applicant with respect to:

- the active participation role they are undertaking;
- the suitability and significance of their conference participation for their career stage; and
- the likely outcomes and benefits for their future research career.

Budget (20%)

The extent to which the proposed budget:

- is reasonable and cost-effective; and
- is sufficiently itemised with suitable evidence for all eligible costs.

Applicant responses against these criteria will be scored using the rubric outlined below.

Score	Description
5	Outstanding: Of the highest quality - no queries, concerns, or issues
4	Excellent: high quality – a limited number of minor issues, queries, or concerns
3	Good: solid - with some issues, queries, or concerns
2	Borderline: OK but with several issues, queries, or concerns
1	Uncompetitive: Poorly described - with many significant issues, queries, or concerns

In evaluating applications:

- Preference will be given to applicants that will, in addition to conference participation, be visiting local institutions or otherwise engaging with key stakeholders in their field of research during the conference period.
- Preference will be given to those who have not previously received a Barry Marshall Travel Award.
- The level of funding requested will be considered in line with the principles outlined in section 4 and the evidence of costs provided by the applicant.

Following evaluation of all eligible applications, the selection committee will make recommendations for award to THRFG executive for approval. The right to accept, reject, or otherwise modify grant recommendations will be retained by THRFG executive at their sole discretion.