



The Hospital Research
Foundation Group
**Kidney, Transplant
& Diabetes**

2026/27

**THRFG-KTD CALHN Renal Service
Nancy Douglas-Irving OAM Scholarship**

Guidelines v1.0

Round close: Wednesday 2nd September at 4:00pm (ACST)

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1. About THRFG – Kidney, Transplant & Diabetes

The Hospital Research Foundation Group (THRFG) supports the community by funding vital medical research and patient care initiatives. THRFG - Kidney, Transplant & Diabetes (THRFG-KTD) is one of 11 charities in the Group, and supports research on the mechanisms of disease and potential avenues for improving patient outcomes in diabetes, transplantation and kidney disease.

While there is a focus on the Central Adelaide Local Health Network's Renal Service, THRFG-KTD also proudly promotes wide collaboration with many research groups in Australia and world-wide, working to improve the health and wellbeing of people living with diabetes and kidney disease.

2. Nancy Douglas-Irving OAM – The Person

This scholarship honours the memory of Nancy Douglas-Irving OAM.

Nancy was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when she was 10 years old and 9 years later developed end-stage kidney disease where she started her journey through the various treatments for the



disease. She underwent three transplants (including one simultaneous kidney-pancreas transplant) and haemodialysis during her life. The third transplant, which lasted in excess of 16 years, being from a close family member.

As a young person traversing the difficulties of living with a chronic illness, Nancy was a staunch advocate for herself and others, studied, worked and had many friendships during her life. Her advocacy for her own healthcare gave pause to health clinicians regarding the importance of partnering with consumers in their own healthcare and the consumer as the expert. Nancy would always be the first to volunteer in trying new developments in assisting in Renal research activities, supporting publicity events and advocacy and presenting her life learnings to renal nurses and clinicians.

In 1998, with her good friend Enzo Scipioni, Nancy started Dialysis Escape Line Australia, which allowed patients on dialysis the opportunity to travel, something that was not broadly available to people on dialysis. The numerous dialysis cruises and international trips enriched the lives of patients, their families and clinicians who were able to interact with patients in a non-therapeutic environment.

Nancy was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2005 in recognition of her charitable work for dialysis fund raising and dialysis travel.

Nancy lived a fulfilling life never letting her restrictions getting in the way, however passed away 1 August 2021 at the age of 51. Nancy's family wanted a permanent legacy and in conjunction with the committee have donated the proceeds of the Dialysis Escape Line Australia to support Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) renal nurses to further and expand their education opportunities through travel.

3. About the Scheme

The 2026/27 THRFG-KTD CALHN Renal Service Nancy Douglas-Irving OAM Scholarship ("the Scholarship") is being made available on a competitive basis to assist with some of the costs of a national or international conference or study tour during 2026/27 for eligible staff.

The aim of the Scholarship is to build the clinical leadership capacity and capability of nurses through encouraging active participation in study tours and professional/scientific conferences, in turn supporting innovative practice change and quality improvement initiatives that are embedded in

person-centred care across areas of identified priority within CALHN Renal Service.

4. Eligibility Criteria

4.1 Applicants

Applications to the Scholarship will be considered from **clinical or research nursing staff** who are:

- currently employed in a full-time or part-time capacity within the CALHN Renal Service; and
- currently conducting or supporting a CALHN Renal Service-associated* research or healthcare improvement project investigating an identified clinical practice, workforce or health service issue that, if addressed, will lead to clearly defined and achievable outcomes for the Renal Service, renal consumers, and stakeholders.

** CALHN Renal Service-associated means being undertaken within CALHN Renal Service, i.e. led by a staff member of CALHN Renal Service, or with meaningful CALHN Renal Service staff member involvement on the project team.*

4.2 Supported Study and Conference Attendance

The Scholarship is intended to contribute towards the costs of undertaking active participation in one (or more) of the following activities:

- Attending a national or international professional/scientific meeting or conference (virtually or in person) for the purposes of giving an **oral or poster presentation** (the conference abstract/poster must clearly indicate the presenter's affiliation with CALHN Renal Service and support from THRFG-KTD)
- Attending a national or international professional/scientific meeting or conference (virtually or in person) as an **active member of the conference organisation committee**
- Undertaking a **study tour** for the purposes of developing clinical leadership and/or exploring the implementation/translation of evidence-based clinical best practice

For the avoidance of doubt, passive display of a poster/e-poster and/or inclusion of an abstract in conference booklet/proceedings, without an active presentation component, does not qualify as "actively participating".

The applicant must be able to demonstrate in the application how undertaking the proposed activity will enable their investigation of clinical leadership/practice to support the translation of evidence into practice, how the applicant plans to impact the delivery of quality consumer-centred care, and how the applicant plans to introduce innovative change that improves workplace environments, team culture and patient outcomes as a result of their learnings.

4.3 Timing Requirements

- Applications for the 2026/27 Scholarship round will be accepted and assessed in one round (refer Section 6.1). The commencement date of the intended travel/conference must be a **minimum of 30 days** after the round close date.
- The conference commencement date published on the official conference website, or confirmed date of research travel, must fall prior to 30 June 2027.
- All travel must be formally approved by SA Health/CALHN as the employing organisation of the applicant before any awarded funds will be paid (refer to application requirements in section 6.1 for more information), and the relevant travel policies of that institution must be followed when making bookings.

In each round, only ONE application per eligible applicant will be considered. An application for travel that is not supported in one round cannot be resubmitted for a subsequent round.

Applicants who are successful in the 2026/27 Scholarship round will not be eligible to apply in the

subsequent 12 month period.

Retrospective applications will not be considered.

5. Funding

5.1 Funding Available

As a guide for intending applicants, there will be up to \$7,500 (ex. GST) available in total for this 2026/27 THRFG-KTD CALHN Renal Service Nancy Douglas-Irving OAM Scholarship round, and it is anticipated that up to two (2) applications will be supported. The reasonableness of the budget is part of the assessment criteria (refer Section 6.4.1) and requests $\geq$ \$5,000 (ex. GST) will be particularly scrutinized. The funding available and its distribution across (successful) applications may be varied without notice by THRFG.

For successful requests, funds will be provided to the cost centre at the employing organisation through which conference registration and/or travel was arranged (and as indicated on the organisational travel approval). Funds will not be provided to private accounts and cannot be claimed directly from THRFG.

It is expected to take approximately 4-6 weeks following notification of outcomes and our receipt of any outstanding information required from the applicant for funds to be paid to the employing/enrolling institution.

5.2 Eligible Expenditure

Eligible expenditures include conference registration, economy flights, and accommodation for study tour travel and official conference dates.

Funds may not be requested for per diems, travel visas, travel insurance, transfers, meals, entertainment, memberships, any costs associated with private travel undertaken in conjunction with the conference/study tour travel, or to reimburse expenditures made using points from loyalty programs.

The application must list all eligible expenditures associated with undertaking the activity. Each cost included must be evidenced by a quote, receipt or invoice, and converted to AUD. The applicant's own estimations, cost ranges, or links to search engines are not acceptable evidence.

5.3 Conditions of Grant

If awarded a 2026/27 THRFG-KTD CALHN Renal Service Nancy Douglas-Irving OAM Scholarship, 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, and may be included in communications or materials by THRFG.
- if requested, present at THRFG event(s) for the community, researchers and/or supporters.
- appropriately acknowledge THRFG-KTD in all presentation materials during the supported travel period.

6. Application and Assessment

6.1 How to Apply

Applications must be received before 4:00 pm (Adelaide time) on the round close date below to be considered.

Applications must be completed and submitted through THRFG's online application portal SmartyGrants via the round link provided below.

Apply at:

<https://hospitalresearch.smartygrants.com.au/2026-KTD-NDI>

Applications close: Wednesday 2nd September at 4:00pm (ACST)

All queries regarding the application process should be directed to grants@hospitalresearch.org.au

Incomplete, incorrectly submitted, or late applications will not be considered.

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:

- Official approval to travel from SA Health/CALHN as the employing organisation of the applicant. Requirements differ depending on circumstance, so please seek advice from your institution about how to obtain the appropriate approval under their travel policies and procedures before you commence an application.
Please note, documents indicating “pending” organisational travel approval and costs (e.g. quote, invoice or receipt) may be uploaded as part of the application. However, before funds can be transferred (if successful), a fully endorsed and authorised travel form must be provided.
- If travelling to a conference, written confirmation from the conference organisers that you have been granted an active role(s) – see 4.2. for what constitutes an active role. If undertaking a study tour, written confirmation from the primary host(s) that they agree to your visit.
- A link to the conference/meeting program.
- Evidence (e.g. quote, screenshot, receipt, invoice) for the cost of each eligible expenditure item associated with the attendance/travel. The applicant’s own estimations, cost ranges or links to search engines are not acceptable evidence.
- Details of any other funds awarded in support of the requested activity.

Unless otherwise specified in the application form, all uploaded files should be provided in PDF format. File names should include a short description of the item followed by the CIA’s family name, for example “Transcript_Smith.pdf”.

When submitting an application, please note:

- **Applicants must click on the “Submit” button when the application is finalised.**
- **Applicants will then receive a confirmation of application submission by email.**
- **If the email is not received (after checking junk/spam folders), applicants should assume that the submission has not occurred and re-attempt submission.**

6.2 Engagement with Consumers (for study tour applications)

For applications involving study tours, there may be the potential need for engagement with consumers. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) defines consumers as people who have lived experience of a health issue, including patients and potential patients, carers, and people who use health care services. Consumers can also be people who represent the views and interests of a community or wider constituency. For the purposes of this round, consumers may also involve clinical staff as “end-users” of enhanced service delivery.

If the proposed study tour does involve consumers, there should be meaningful consumer engagement in relevant aspects. For study tours the application form will ask applicants to describe to what extent consumers will be involved and, if so, how they will be engaged. Different consumers may be involved at different stages, and engagement could incorporate:

- Demonstrable reflection of consumers’ input to the objectives of the study tour.

- Mechanisms to meaningfully involve consumers over the course of the study tour (including post-tour implementation or evaluation). This might include feedback channels or consultation/advisory opportunities.
- Budgetary allowance to support, implement and acknowledge consumer participation (e.g. honoraria and payments, support for involvement activities and associated events).

6.2.1 Study Tours with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

For study tour applications with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, applicants must ensure the following are taken into account when formulating the proposal:

- [The South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Accord 2026–2036](#) (“the Accord”)
- [NHMRC Ethical guidelines for research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples](#); and
- [The AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research](#).

THRFG is a signatory to the Accord and, if applicable, study tour applicants will be asked to describe how they have addressed the principles of the Accord.

Where applicable, applicants should also familiarise themselves with the [CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance](#). These are people-oriented and purpose-oriented, reflecting the crucial role of data in advancing Indigenous innovation and self-determination. These principles encourage appropriate, respectful and ethical data use and are complementary to the [FAIR data principles](#) for data to be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

Further guidance on consumer/community involvement in research can be found in the following resources:

- [Consumer and Community Involvement Program](#) website.
- [NHMRC Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research](#).

It is recommended that applicants complete the free 30-minute [Consumer and Community Involvement and Grant Writing](#) and [Consumer and Community Involvement in Health Research](#) online courses (or equivalent).

6.3 Use of Artificial Intelligence in Application Preparation

Generative AI (GenAI) may be used to support application preparation, but such use must accord with the [NHMRC Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Grant Applications and Peer Review](#), and any of the applicant’s own organisational policies that may apply.

Where GenAI is used during preparation of the application, this must be declared and the nature of the use disclosed as part of the application.

6.4 Assessment

Eligible applications will be assessed against the weighted criteria at 6.4.1 by (non-conflicted) members nominated via the THRFG-KTD Advisory Committee, and which may include members of the CALHN Renal Service, Renal Laboratory and THRFG. External reviewers may be invited to assess applications if required. Conflicts of interest will be managed by the Chair.

6.4.1 Assessment Criteria

The aim of the Scholarship is to build the clinical leadership capacity and capability of nurses, supporting innovative practice change and quality improvement initiatives that are embedded in person-centred care across areas of identified priority within CALHN Renal Service.

The Proposal must describe how undertaking the proposed activity will enable the applicant’s investigation of clinical leadership/practice to supports the translation of evidence into practice, how

the applicant will impact the delivery of quality consumer-centred care, and how the applicant plans to introduce innovative change that improves workplace environments, team culture and patient outcomes as a result of their learnings.

Study or Conference opportunity (20%)

The extent to which the study tour or conference opportunity:

- is of significance and relevance to CALHN Renal Service activities; and
- provides relevant (meaningful) collaboration/professional network enhancement opportunities for the applicant.

Benefit and significance to CALHN Renal Service and THRFG-KTD (30%)

The extent to which the applicant can demonstrate that study tour or conference participation will be of measurable benefit and significance to the CALHN Renal Service and THRFG-KTD including:

- evidence/data for the service need being supported by the study/conference opportunity;
- enhancing delivery of quality consumer-centred care (including how the applicant plans to introduce innovative change and measure the impact);
- enabling positive patient outcomes; and
- building workplace environment and team culture.

Applicant development (30%)

The extent to which the applicant can demonstrate that the study tour or conference participation:

- is relevant to the applicant's professional experience to date; and
- provides benefits and opportunities for the applicant's career development, including enhancing clinical leadership.

Budget (20%)

The extent to which the proposed budget:

- is reasonable, value-for-money, and sufficiently itemised; and
- has supporting 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	Very Good: 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 those who have not previously received grant funding via THRFG.
- 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.

All assessment criteria will be considered in the context of the Round objectives, and THRFG's Purpose more broadly. Please note that assessors will follow the NHMRC Relative to Opportunity policy (www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/policy-and-priorities#download), and will be required to deal with applications and assessment matters confidentially.

Lay language components of the invited submissions may be used to engage consumers in aspects of the decision-making process.

In the case that no submission is deemed worthy of funding, THRFG may close the round without awarding funding.

Before the final decision is made, THRFG may request further information or detail from applicants and/or their enrolling/employing institution. Shortlisted applicants may also be interviewed by a panel convened by THRFG.

6.5 Funding Decision and Notification of Outcomes

Recommendations for award will be made to THRFG CEO for approval. The final funding decision will be made by THRFG, informed by reviewer assessments, and determined by funding availability. This decision will be final, and no further negotiations will be entered into.

THRFG-KTD CALHN Renal Service Nancy Douglas-Irving OAM Scholarships may be partially and/or provisionally awarded subject to conditions as recommended/determined by the assessment committee/THRFG. THRFG also reserves the right to accept, reject, or otherwise modify grant recommendations at its sole discretion. If THRFG becomes aware of omissions or inclusion of misleading information in an application, it may choose to exclude an application from assessment, withdraw funding, and/or refer the matter to your enrolling/employing institution.

THRFG reserves the right not to fund any application for any reason, including where the relevant project personnel and/or Administering Institution have not fulfilled their obligations under previous THRFG funding agreement/s, including but not limited to reporting, financial acquittal, and acknowledgement requirements.

Successful applicants and their employing organisation will be notified by THRFG (indicatively 4-6 weeks after close of the round), and THRFG will arrange funding transfer via the nominated employing organisation following confirmation of any outstanding information.