

The Firefly Children's Foundation (formerly Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation) is offering a mid-career Research Fellowship to support researchers to pursue ground-breaking advances in childhood health, education and welfare, and build research capability in South Australia.

We are seeking mid-career researchers focusing on research that addresses the Firefly theme of:

"Improving Children's Health, Development and Wellbeing"

Applicants from clinicians, allied health practitioners and researchers in related disciplines are encouraged to apply.

A free account is required to make an online submission via Submittable, from the link on the Firefly website: firefly.org.au/research

Registration gives you secure access to your application form, allowing you to save your progress and resume later.

PDF previews of the Fellowship Application Form and Terms and Conditions are available on the Firefly website.

You must liaise with your Administering Institution's Research Administration Office (RAO), prior to lodging.

Fellowship Application — Step 1

Opens 1 September 2026 (at 09:00 ACDT) and closes 20 October 2026 (at 17:00 ACDT).

Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

The **Submitter** will receive lodgement confirmation via email from Submittable. Please use your university email address to submit.

To ensure you receive emails from Submittable, you may need to safelist these addresses, and check your junk folder: notifications@email.submittable.com and notifications@email.auth.submittable.com

How Can I Safelist Notification Emails from Submittable?

Please liaise with your RAO in the first instance if you have any questions regarding your submission.

Submitters and RAOs will be notified of the Fellowship outcomes from the **25 November 2026**, via email from Submittable.

Firefly Children's Foundation reserves the right to request further information from applicants.

All pre- and post-award correspondence, monitoring and reporting will be conducted via the Administering Institution's Research Administration Office.

Eligibility

Established Mid-Career researchers based in South Australia are eligible to apply. Applications from clinicians, allied health practitioners and researchers are encouraged to apply.

The Fellowship is designed as a highly flexible support package, enabling collaboration across teams, institutions, and sectors to deliver research with national and international impact.

To be eligible you must:

- hold a PhD and typically have 5-12 years of postdoctoral research experience (relative to opportunity) in an area relevant to improving children's health, development and wellbeing.
- Be eligible and willing to reside and work in South Australia for the duration of the Fellowship.
- Undertake research that clearly and substantially aligns with the Fellowship theme.
- Have a track record in child-focused research in one or more of: biomedical, clinical, public health, education, social and behavioural sciences, health or social policy or related fields.
- Have applied, translational and/or implementation research that can lead to improved outcomes for children and families.
- Have demonstrated success in supervising, mentoring and coaching trainee researchers.
- Show a clear and strengthening trajectory of leadership capability.
- Secure additional funding support from and be hosted by a reputable research institution with the capacity to support the proposed research program.
- Demonstrate potential to attract additional national and international research funding and build research capability in South Australia.
- Be willing to work with Firefly to promote the Fellowship, their research and the Foundation.

Research must be led from South Australia: The Fellow and the Administering Institution must be located in South Australia.

Fellowship Term and Amount

In this round, Firefly will award one fixed-term, full-time Fellowship for three years (with the option of a further two years), valued at \$150,000 per annum to cover salary and research costs.

The commencement date of the Fellowship will be in quarter 1 of 2027 with the start date to be negotiated between 1 January and 31 March 2027.

Assessment

Applications will be assessed and scored against weighted criteria of:

- 1) researcher & capability;
- 2) capacity building & leadership;
- 3) project quality & innovation; and
- 4) feasibility & strategic alignment

Assessment and scoring will be undertaken by the Firefly Independent Research Committee.

Your application should clearly outline how the proposed research is relevant to the theme and will ultimately improve children's **health, education** and/or **welfare**.

Research Integrity

Firefly Children's Foundation takes a zero-tolerance approach to:

- dishonesty,
- Intentional misrepresentation of a third party's work,
- The fraudulent manipulation of data, and
- Scientific misconduct or misadventure in any form.

Firefly Children's Foundation will terminate a Fellowship and seek a full refund of any fellowship funds paid where it is found that the author(s) plagiarised or misrepresented another person's work or intellectual property or is guilty of any other form of misconduct outlined above.

Firefly Children's Foundation may sue the recipient and/or Administering Organisation for damages if the research is published and plagiarism or abuse of third-party copyright or IP is subsequently uncovered.

Decision Notification

The outcome of the 2027 Fellowship round will be communicated from 25 November 2026, with the successful applicant and RAO advised in advance (under embargo) of communication to all other applicants.

The decision is final and the Firefly will not enter into correspondence with individual applicants. You are assured that every submission is given due scrutiny by the expert panel.

Ethics Approval

If the project involves experiments on human subjects or animals, or the in vitro production of recombinant DNA molecules, evidence of Ethics Approval must be received by the Firefly before any Fellowship payment can be processed.

Fellowship Payments

Once all administrative pre-commencement requirements have been completed (funding agreement signed, evidence of any required ethics approvals submitted, fellowship commencement date negotiated) the administering institution may invoice Firefly quarterly over the Fellowship period.

Payment of the final instalment will be withheld until all Fellowship acquittal reports are finalised.

Reporting and Prior Obligations

If there are acquittal reports, invention notifications, or unexpended funds to be returned from a previous grant, these must be finalised prior to making an application for the Fellowship round. Failure to do so may make the applicant ineligible for future funding.

The Fellow and host institution will provide written progress reports to Firefly every 90 days during the Fellowship, in plain English, covering research activities and outcomes, progress against Key Deliverables and Performance Criteria, expenditure, and any intellectual property developed in the period.

Publications and Reports

A copy of any publications, papers, reports or articles resulting from the Fellowship funded by Firefly should be forwarded to the Firefly Children's Foundation, during and for a period of 24 months after the end of the Fellowship Funding Period.

The support of The Firefly Children's Foundation should be appropriately acknowledged in any publications, papers, reports or articles.

The recipient may be requested by Firefly to present their outcomes and findings at conferences, seminars or Grand Rounds, or to appear on media nominated by Channel 7 to describe their research work, at no cost.

Media Releases

Firefly must be advised at least 48 hours prior to general release of any proposed media release regarding Firefly-funded Fellowship findings, so that Channel 7 can be given the first option to release the story.

Intellectual Property & Commercialisation

Standard IP and revenue-share terms apply to every Fellowship and are set out in the Fellowship Agreement which will be provided to the successful applicant and their institution for execution. Research IP is owned by the host institution; Firefly receives a charitable-purpose licence and a pre-agreed share of any net commercialisation income. Applicants must disclose any existing IP of funder terms that apply to the proposed program, and their institution must acknowledge that the Firefly terms will apply.

Terms and Conditions

Submission of a Fellowship Application indicates acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of Funding.
