

# 2026 Round 1: Franklin Women Carer's Scholarship Instructions to Applicants



## Franklin Women Carer's Scholarship – 2026 Round 1

The Franklin Women Carer's Scholarship aims to reduce the financial and logistical barriers associated with unpaid caring responsibilities to enable primary carers to participate in valuable career opportunities.

Our team knows first-hand the challenges of balancing unpaid caring responsibilities against work or study. We also understand that these challenges, and their impacts, are varied based on individual circumstances. Considering this, we have embedded flexibility into this scholarship. We allow applicants to specify the career opportunity that is currently most valuable to them and explain how scholarship funds would be used to mitigate the **additional** barriers to participating in this opportunity created by their caring responsibilities.

For the sixth year running, we are proudly partnering with the Sydney Local Health District to deliver this scholarship. The additional funds provided by the Sydney Local Health District supplement those raised through Franklin Women memberships, so that we can support more applicants in 2026.

### Guidance on how funds can be used

Scholarship funds can be used by the recipient **for any career opportunity and in any way** that will reduce the **additional** barriers arising due to their unpaid caring responsibilities.

The scholarship **can** be used to fund, for example:

- ✓ Travel costs for a family member who will provide care while the primary carer presents at an in-person or virtual conference
- ✓ Additional days for paid care to alleviate the applicant so they can take part in a workshop or other professional development activity
- ✓ A food delivery service to reduce logistical burden associated with meal preparation at a time when working on a critical grant, award or promotion application
- ✓ Coaching support to help navigate professional and personal stresses and/or barriers faced which caring responsibilities have contributed to
- ✓ Ride-share services that transport unaccompanied minors/care recipients with a disability/chronic illness to medical appointments or care providers
- ✓ Other unique applications for your specific circumstances

The scholarship **cannot** be used to fund, for example:

- ✗ Your own flights or accommodation for conference travel
- ✗ Your conference registration fee

While Franklin Women are flexible with how funds can be used, we ask that you clearly articulate why the stated opportunity is important for your career progression at this time, and how the proposed use of funds will alleviate the additional barriers created by your caring responsibilities. Where possible, please also justify how you arrived at the requested amount of funding (see below) by including an itemized budget. This will help us to fairly assess the applications.

### Funding Amount

Funding of **up to \$1500** can be requested per application.

We have up to \$4700 available in this funding round. The number of scholarships administered will depend on the number of applications and size of requests we receive. We will review all applications as per the Evaluation Guidelines below.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship you must:

- Be currently employed, or enrolled as a student, in an organisation within the health and medical research ecosystem in Australia
- Be the primary carer of one or more children under 18 years of age or have other unpaid caring responsibilities for family members (i.e. those with a disability or chronic/mental health condition, or who are frail/elderly)

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- Be a member of Franklin Women at the time of applying
- Be planning to use the funds for opportunities occurring between 1 Dec 2025 and 30 Jun 2026 (we'll open another round in mid-March for opportunities taking place in the 2nd-half of 2026)

## Application Requirements

**Applications open 26 August and close 20 October 2025.** Successful applicants will be notified in December, with funds available from that time.

Each application must include:

- ☐ Completed Application Form (available at <https://franklinwomen.com.au/scholarship/>)
- ☐ Curriculum Vitae (maximum 4 pages) outlining your employment history, key achievements and/or track record, contributions to the field, and other relevant activities (noting career disruptions where relevant)

In your application, we ask you to:

- Demonstrate your commitment to a health and medical research career
- Outline any personal and/or professional challenges you are experiencing in light of your caring responsibilities
- Outline how your proposed use of the funds will be of benefit to you and your career aspirations during this time and alleviate the additional challenges posed by your caring responsibilities

Our intention is for this application process to be brief to reduce the burden on applicants. To help our review process, please keep the purpose of this scholarship in mind when completing your application.

**All applications must be submitted as a pdf file named in the format: *Surname\_2026\_Round 1\_Scholarship*) via email to: [hello@franklinwomen.com.au](mailto:hello@franklinwomen.com.au)**

## Evaluation Guidelines

Applications will be forwarded to the Scholarship Review Committee and assessed using a pre-defined marking scheme against the following criteria:

1. Alignment of the application with the purpose of the Carer's Scholarship
2. Clarity of the caring challenges faced and how the proposed use of funds would be of benefit
3. The applicant's track record relative to opportunity
4. That all eligibility criteria and grant requirements outlined here are met

Individual scores of the Scholarship Review Committee will be collated and reviewed collectively to make the final funding decision. Any conflicts of interest will be raised and discussed at the time of decision-making and managed on consensus.

## Obligations of Recipients

Franklin Women will announce recipients on their website and via their online network (including social media and e-newsletter) and may require images from successful recipients to coincide with the announcement. In alignment with the collective model of Franklin Women, successful recipients will be asked to contribute to our blog or newsletter, sharing their personal and professional experiences either relating to this scholarship or another topic close to their heart. We acknowledge the time limitations of those in our sector right now and so are flexible on the timing of this activity to within the next 12-months.

## Privacy Notice

The information supplied in the scholarship application is required by Franklin Women to assess candidates for this funding scheme. Franklin Women reserves the right to reverse or vary any decision made if it is found that the decision has been made based on incomplete or incorrect information supplied by the applicant. Franklin Women may publicise the names, areas of research and other relevant details of successful applicants. The information provided in the application will be provided to members of the Franklin Women Peer Advisory Committee as part of the review process.