

Franklin Women COVID Carer's Support Scholarship

In 2020, Franklin Women are repurposing the funds allocated to our regular Carer's Travel Scholarship to support health and medical researchers who also assume primary caring responsibilities and are experiencing additional challenges associated with COVID-19.

The Franklin Women Team know first-hand that the challenges experienced by those in our sector at this time are varied and individual. We want to acknowledge the resilience our peers are demonstrating, particularly those of you who also have caring responsibilities, also assuming carer roles which are primarily held by women. While we would love to be in a position to meet the diversity of needs through our scholarship, we have chosen to address two challenges commonly identified by our members at this time. These are:

- 1) Logistical burden due to additional caring and work responsibilities, and
- 2) Impact on productivity and its implications on career sustainability and personal wellbeing.

For this reason, we are offering **8 COVID Carer's Support Scholarships** where applicants can select **one** of two initiatives:

Option A) \$400 [Dinner Ladies](#) voucher to reduce the burden associated with meal preparation.

OR

Option B) 2x 1 hour virtual coaching sessions with psychologist Tamar Balkin of [Balkin Coaching](#) to support you to work through self-identified professional and/or personal challenges experienced at this time. To be used in the 6-months after 1st June 2020.

We hope this repurposed scholarship will provide a small amount of needed support to talented researchers in our sector who are experiencing a challenging time balancing unprecedented caring and work responsibilities.

NOTE: For Option A, if Dinner Ladies do not deliver to your place of residence, we will allocate the same amount to a similar food/produce service. For Option B, Tamar has kindly offered Franklin Women a reduced fee for this scholarship to allow for more recipients. If the successful recipients would like additional coaching sessions beyond the inclusions of this scholarship the Franklin Women rate will continue when the additional sessions are paid for by the individual.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship you must:

- Be currently employed, or enrolled as a PhD student, in the health and medical research field at a university or research institute 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).
- Be a full or student member of Franklin Women at the time of applying.

Application requirements

So that we can provide this support as soon as possible we have attempted to simplify the application process while still allowing us to assess in a fair manner. The application and review process has also been fast-tracked, with the support of the Franklin Women Team.

Applications open Monday 4th May and close Sunday 17th May 2020. We will notify successful recipients prior to 1st June 2020, with the scholarship resources made available from this date.

In your application, we ask you to:

- Demonstrate your commitment to a health and medical research career;

Carer's Support Scholarship Instructions to Applications



- Outline the challenges you are experiencing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and your additional caring responsibilities; and
- Outline how the selected scholarship initiative will be of benefit to you at this time.

Our intention is for this to be brief to reduce burden on applicants, however, please keep the intent of the scholarship in mind and ensure you address its aims to help the review process.

All applications must be submitted as one single file (named in the format: Surname_2020_CarerCovid-19) via email to: hello@franklinwomen.com.au

Each application must include:

- Completed Carer's Travel Scholarship Application Form (provided on the Franklin Women website www.franklinwomen.com.au)
- Curriculum vitae (maximum 4 pages) outlining your employment history, key research output track record, contributions to the field and other relevant activities (noting career disruptions where relevant)

Application Evaluation

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

1. Alignment of application with the purpose of the COVID Carer's Support Scholarship;
2. Clarity of the additional COVID-associated challenges faced and how the selected initiative would be of benefit;
3. The applicants track record relative to opportunity; and
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 our website and via their online network (including social media and e-newsletter) and may require images and quotes 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 NSW Peer Advisory Committee as part of the review process.

Further Information

Further information, including application forms and guidelines, is available on our [website](#).