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**ANZCA funding opportunities
and resources: Guidance for
anaesthesia investigators**

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Purpose of document:

This guide is designed to help ANZCA and FPM fellows, trainees, and emerging investigators navigate the landscape of ANZCA research funding and support. It outlines available grant opportunities, eligibility criteria, application strategies, and practical resources provided by the ANZCA Foundation and Clinical Trials Network (CTN).

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ANZCA funding opportunities and resources: Guidance for anaesthesia investigators

1. Supporting clinical research through funding and community

Research is the foundation of progress in anaesthesia, perioperative and pain medicine. But even the most promising ideas require more than just curiosity and commitment, they need funding, guidance, and a strong support network. The [ANZCA Foundation](#) and the [Clinical Trials Network](#) (CTN), offer a range of resources that can help you move from research concept to impactful study.

This guidance document is designed to help both novice and experienced investigators navigate the landscape of ANZCA funding opportunities, understand the support systems available, and prepare competitive grant applications. Drawing on advice from the [ANZCA Foundation](#) leadership, this guide provides a roadmap for leveraging grants, connecting with professional networks, and setting yourself up for long-term success as a clinical researcher.

2. ANZCA Foundation: Supporting research for a healthier future

The ANZCA Foundation plays a central role in advancing the college's mission through:

- Funding research that improves clinical outcomes.
- Promoting health equity across diverse populations.
- Supporting global health initiatives.
- Enabling capacity building in perioperative care, anaesthesia, and pain medicine.

While the foundation supports a broad philanthropic portfolio, approximately 85% of its funds are directed toward research, underpinning its core mission: improving patient outcomes through evidence-based care.

One of the most compelling arguments for this focus comes from the Grattan Institute, which reported in 2013 that 1 in 9 Australian hospital patients suffer a complication, translating to over 900,000 patients annually. Reducing preventable complications through better research isn't just beneficial—it's critical.

3. Funding streams and eligibility criteria

Whether you're seeking seed funding for a pilot study or support for a full project, ANZCA offers options, including:

Project grants

- [Project Grants](#) are typically one year, with second year funding available for high-ranking applications. Scholarships for higher degrees are offered within project grants to fellows or trainees enrolled in research degrees at recognised institutions in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, or Singapore, for up to two years based on performance.

CTN pilot and feasibility grants

- [CTN Pilot and Feasibility Grants](#) supports pilot or feasibility studies to inform future large-scale trials in anaesthesia, pain, or perioperative medicine.
- Up to A\$10,000 per grant; total annual pool of A\$30,000.
- Open to ANZCA/FPM fellows and trainees (others by CTN policy); ethics approval required before funding.
- Assessment based on study justification, feasibility, methodology, budget, and team track record.
- Applicants are encouraged to present at the CTN Strategic Research Workshop for feedback.

Professional Practice Research Grants

- [Professional Practice Research Grants](#) targets research into qualitative methods, leadership, implementation science, and workforce well-being.
- Open to collaborations with CTN to enhance the translation of research into clinical practice.

Patrons Emerging Investigator Grant

- [Patrons Emerging Investigator Grant](#) eligibility includes chief Investigator A must be an ANZCA or FPM fellow/trainee in good standing and an early career researcher (\leq \$40,000 in prior grants, \leq 5 first-author papers).
- Max two active grant applications per individual per year (multi-year grants count each year).
- Only one application per grant category is allowed.
- Team may include other fellows, trainees, clinicians, scientists, students, etc.

Academic enhancement grant

- Applicants of [Academic enhancement grants](#) must have university status at the level of professor, associate professor, clinical professor or clinical associate professor but do not have to have administrative responsibility for a clinical department.
- All chief investigators must be ANZCA or FPM fellows.
- Eligible research includes: Establishing a new chair; Appointing a new incumbent or changing research direction of an existing chair; Adding a second chair in a department; Supporting a research group led by a professor/associate professor.
- Selection is based on: Research merit; applicant track record and capability; Long-term benefits to academic development and the specialty, including support for higher degrees.

Novice investigator grants

- [Novice investigator grants](#) are for ANZCA or FPM fellows/trainees who are novice researchers (no prior grants $>$ \$10,000, \leq 5 publications in past 5 years).
- Requires an experienced supervisor.
- Provides up to A\$20,000 for one year.
- Only one application per grant category and max two active grants/applications per person per year.
- Early submissions (by 14 Jan) encouraged for mentoring.
- Research must benefit ANZCA regions.

Named ANZCA Foundation research awards and grants

[Named ANZCA Foundation research awards and grants](#) recognise high-ranking research projects in anaesthesia, pain, and perioperative medicine:

- *Harry Daly Research Award*: Presented annually to the top-ranked research project.
- *John Boyd Craig Research Award*: Supports outstanding pain-related research, with preference for projects in Western Australia.
- *Russell Cole Memorial ANZCA Research Award*: Funds high-ranking pain research, especially in cancer pain management.
- *Robin Smallwood Bequest*: Supports research in anaesthesia, intensive care, or pain medicine.
- *Elaine Lillian Kliver ANZCA Research Award*: Funds anaesthesia, analgesia, or pain-related research.
- *Patricia Mackay Memorial ANZCA Research Award*: Recognizes research focused on quality and safety in patient outcomes.
- *W. John Russell ANZCA Research Award*: Supports research in anaesthetic engineering, education, or patient safety.
- *ANZCA Innovation and Technology Research Award*: Funds research involving innovative use or development of technology.
- *Darcy Price ANZCA Research Award*: Supports projects involving emerging investigators, regional anaesthesia, or education.

- *ANZCA Patrons Emerging Investigator Grant*: Assists emerging researchers transitioning from novice to mid-career stage.
- *Skantha Vallipuram ANZCA Research Scholarship*: Supports fellows or trainees establishing their research careers.
- *ANZCA Melbourne Emerging Anaesthesia Researcher Award*: Supports emerging researchers within five years of fellowship undertaking anaesthesia research at University of Melbourne affiliated hospitals.
- *ANZCA Melbourne Emerging Researcher Scholarship*: Supports early-career researchers in anaesthesia, pain medicine, and perioperative medicine at the University of Melbourne.

Environment and sustainability research grant

- [Environment and sustainability research grant](#) offers up to A\$25,000 for research reducing the environmental impact of anaesthesia, pain, or perioperative care.
- Open to ANZCA/FPM fellows and trainees (if trainee leads, a fellow must also be named).
- Projects may assess environmental impact, patient outcomes, costs, or sustainable models of care. Other grant opportunities available through the ANZCA Foundation are listed on the [ANZCA website](#).

4. Researcher support resources

The ANZCA Foundation doesn't stop at funding—it also offers practical tools for success:

- [Emerging Investigator Toolkit \(via ANZCA Library\)](#):
 - Study design guides.
 - Authorship and publication resources.
 - Budget planning templates.
- [Professional Practice Research Guide](#):
 - Developed with the Professional Practice Research Network (PPRN) executive.
 - Supports human factors, qualitative, and translational research.
- [ANZCA Institutional Research Repository \(AIRR\)](#):
 - Hosts relevant publications, reports, and resources.
- Research Consultation Service:
 - Led by Kathryn Rough, provides support with:
 - Literature searches.
 - Systematic reviews.
 - Evidence synthesis methodology.
- Administrative Guidance:
 - Susan Collins, research administration co-ordinator (research@anzca.edu.au), is your go-to contact for application support and eligibility queries.

5. Application strategies for success

To make the most of the ANZCA Foundation's support, consider the following tips:

- Find a mentor, build your team.
- Start early: Build in time for multiple drafts and mentor feedback.
- Think like a reviewer: Ask critical questions about your aims, clarity, and relevance.
- Proofread carefully: Grammatical or formatting errors signal poor preparation.
- Follow the guidelines exactly: Many applications are marked down for failing to address key criteria.
- Explain your budget: Justify requested amounts and provide context (e.g. co-funding or in-kind support).
- Use the rebuttal opportunity: ANZCA allows applicants to respond to reviewer feedback—a rare and valuable feature.
- Novice pathway: New investigators can request pre-submission mentor feedback and revise accordingly.

Tips from the research administration coordinator

- Ensure you budget correctly and appropriately justify the requested budget items.
- There are some excluded items from the budget such as publication costs, ensure you are aware of these.
- Applicants are describing their time commitments (e.g. “manuscript preparation”) instead of providing actual FTE or hourly rates.
- Make sure you include all required—for example, ensure if you list a supervisor, you include their details on the form.
- For the four page proposal, some applicants are including too much background and not enough detail on methodology.

6. Equity and inclusivity considerations

ANZCA now formally recognises career disruptions and limitations of opportunity in grant assessments. This includes:

- Parental and carer responsibilities.
- Illness or disability
- Part-time or interrupted research careers.

Including these considerations allows the college to promote gender equity, cultural diversity, and inclusion in research leadership.

7. The long-term value of small grants

Even modest funding can yield big results:

- Many large multicentre Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) funded by National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) or Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) in Australia began as ANZCA pilot studies.
- Participation in foundation-funded research builds your CV, strengthens collaborations, and helps secure future funding.

Career development benefits:

- Authorship and presentations.
- Enhanced institutional recognition.
- Entry into national networks of clinical investigators.

8. Opportunities for cross-network collaboration

The [PPRN](#) executive is actively exploring partnerships with CTN investigators, especially in:

- Implementation science.
- Translation of trial findings into practice.
- Mixed-methods research on barriers and facilitators to uptake.

Why it matters: These collaborative studies can bridge the gap between traditional RCTs and real-world application, enhancing the clinical relevance and system-wide impact of research findings.

9. Final words of encouragement

Research thrives when supported by funding, mentoring, and a strong community. The ANZCA Foundation, CTN, and affiliated networks offer not just financial backing, but also a deeply invested ecosystem of support.

Whether you're considering your first application or scaling up to multicentre research, there is space for you to grow within the ANZCA research landscape. Start planning now, leverage available resources, and reach out for help, you're not alone on this journey.

Key dates and contacts

- Next Grant Round Opens: 1 December

- Grant Round Closes: 1 April

Core contacts:

- Susan Collins, ANZCA Foundation Research Administration Coordinator: research@anzca.edu.au
- Kathryn Rough, Research Consultation Service: researchconsultation@anzca.edu.au

Access resources:

- ANZCA Library: <https://www.anzca.edu.au/library>
- ANZCA Research and Foundation Pages: <https://www.anzca.edu.au>