

## Applications open Mon 20 July | Applications close Fri 21 August 2026

These grants are made possible with thanks to donors and sponsors of the Epworth Medical Foundation

### Grant Overview

Epworth Innovation Grants support Epworth employees and Visiting Medical Officers (VMO's) by providing the means to **explore, identify and implement new and better ways of caring for our patients** and operating our business. Since being established in 1920 Epworth has always been an organisation which has fostered and encouraged innovation within our hospitals as means of ensuring that we provide the very best patient care possible.

Over the past 100 years this commitment to innovation can be seen in the many innovations achieved by Epworth.

The first private hospital in Australia with an intensive care facility	The first private hospital to perform open heart surgery in Australia	The first private hospital to introduce the NanoKnife in Australia	The first hospital to introduce scalp-cooling across our sites for chemotherapy patients
The first cardio-thoracic ward in a private hospital in Australia	The first hospital in Australia to introduce the da Vinci surgical robot	Providing Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation as an outpatient treatment	Will your project be the next BIG Innovation?

### What is Innovation at Epworth?

Innovation at Epworth is defined as:

- The creation of genuinely original ideas or approaches; and
- Introduction of processes, equipment, products, technologies, or services that are new to Epworth, that improve on or make a valuable contribution to patient care and the patient experience and/or improve operational productivity, efficiency, and cost effectiveness.

Innovation may take the form of:

- Process Improvement
- Patient Experience
- Medical Procedure / Device
- New Operating Model or Service Delivery Model

## Available Funding

General Grants
Up to \$100,000
Up to \$50,000
Up to \$25,000

Discipline Specific Grants
Oncology \$25,000
Intensive Care Unit \$25,000
Mental Health \$20,000

## Eligibility Criteria

Each application must have a nominated Project Lead. The Project Lead will be responsible for all communications regarding the grant, as well as the grant compliance requirements. Additional Project Members are to be listed on the application form. The Project Lead must meet the following criteria.

Employees	VMOs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employed in a permanent ongoing role or have a minimum of 2 years remaining on contract</li> <li>Minimum length of service of 12 months as at application closing date</li> <li>No performance management or attendance management concerns at the time of application</li> <li>Lives the Epworth values in daily interactions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum appointment of 12 months</li> <li>Primary private practice at Epworth</li> <li>No practice restrictions, disclosures or breaches of the By-laws in the past 12 months</li> <li>Lives the Epworth values in daily interactions</li> </ul>

## IT systems and data

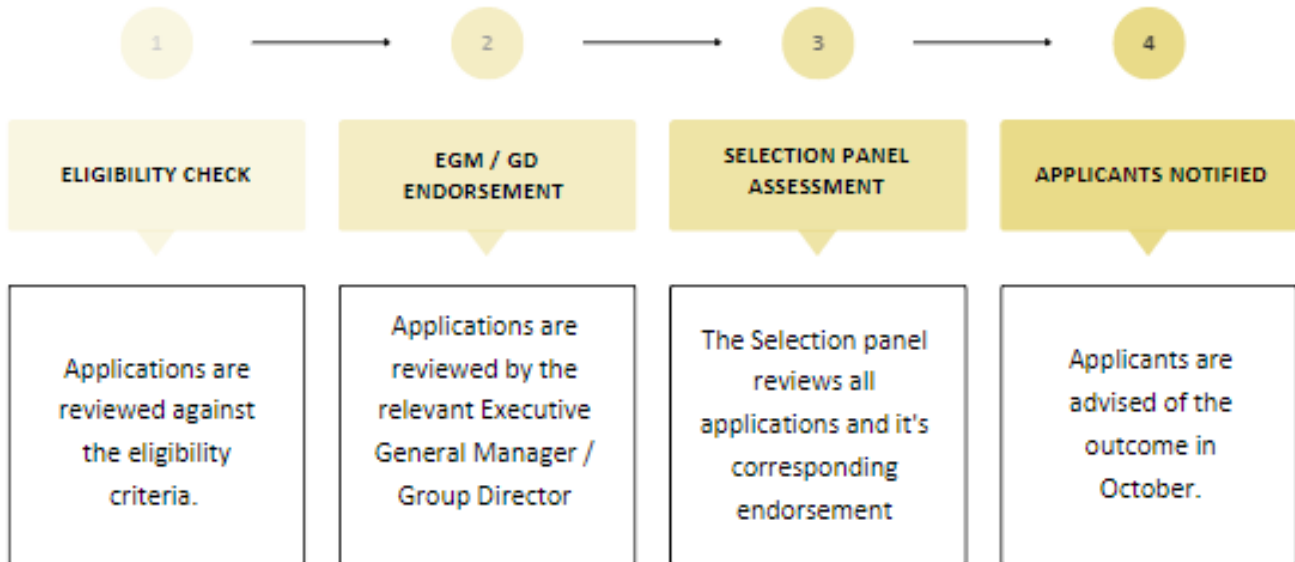
If your project will utilise existing Epworth IT systems or if you are looking to engage an external provider, please ensure that you review [Epworth's Cyber security policies](#).

You will be asked to outline the services and/or products you intend to use as part of your project in the application. This includes confirming that any data handling, cloud-based services and security practices comply with relevant organisational and regulatory policies. Brief details should be provided where applicable.

## Policy and Intellectual Property

As per Epworth's IP policy, where a third party, external to Epworth (e.g. other institution, other individual or a combination of both) will provide services or collaborate in the project or use of the grant funds awarded to the Epworth employee or VMO, an appropriate agreement will be required to be entered into between the grant recipient, the third party and Epworth. In these circumstances, release of the grant funds will be conditional on the execution of the agreement by all the relevant parties.

## Application Process

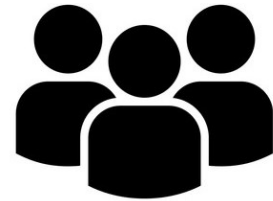


## Selection Criteria

Criteria
<p><b>Strategic Alignment</b> Project works towards supporting one of Epworth’s 4 strategic pillars</p>
<p><b>Impact on patients and/or organisation</b> Implementation of project will do one (or more) of the following: improve the service and delivery of care to Epworth patients; improve operational productivity, efficiency, and cost effectiveness; improve our competitive advantage; deliver better outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Viability</b> Clear budget and implementation plan with reasonable timeframe and target dates to achieve anticipated outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability</b> The project is sustainable, self-funding or has site EGM endorsement for an ongoing budget beyond the life of the grant.</p>
<p><b>Multi-disciplinary and/or multi-speciality and/or multi-site collaboration</b> Project seeks to make improvement and efficiency across the Epworth group or is scalable.</p>
<p><b>Consumer Advice</b> Project plan demonstrates how consumers will be engaged in the design of the project.</p>
<p><b>Experience in Project/Program Management</b> Demonstrated ability to manage execution of grant.</p>

## Selection Panel

The selection panel are responsible for shortlisting submissions. The panel is made up of the **Executive Director** Epworth Medical Foundation and the **Chief Operating Officer** Hospitals (or delegate).



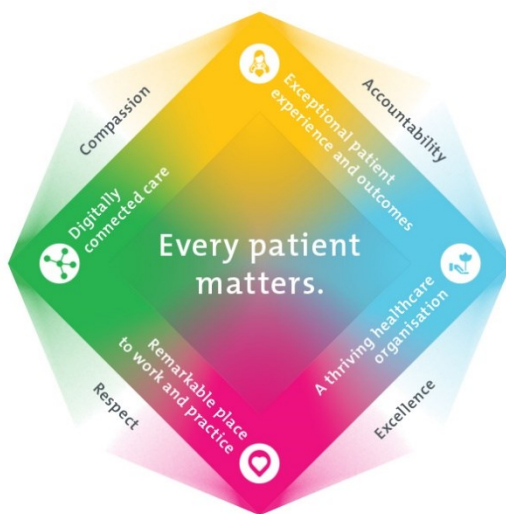
## Budget

All budget items that directly relates to the project development and implementation including fees of third-party providers of goods and services, travel to centres of excellence or labour costs of Epworth staff can be included.

Funds cannot be used for any costs that relate to commercialisation of results or developed assets.

## Epworth Strategic priorities

All applications will be required to meet with one or more of the Epworth Strategies listed below. You will be asked to briefly outline how your scholarship aligns with the strategies you have identified.



### Exceptional patient experience and outcomes

To empower our patients and deliver compassionate, expert and coordinated care.



### A thriving healthcare organisation

To adapt and grow in a changing healthcare landscape by delivering a unique private not-for-profit healthcare organisation.



### Remarkable place to work and practice

To ensure Epworth is an outstanding place to work and practice through a culture of care and investment in our people.



### Digitally connected care

To innovate and improve the digital experience, interactions and outcomes for our patients, staff and doctors.

## Important Dates

Applications Open  
Applications Close  
Outcomes advised  
Mackenzie Dinner - Award Presentation\*  
Grant Activity Period

Monday 20 July 2026  
Friday 21 August 2026  
October 2026  
Monday 30 November 2026  
1 January 2027 – 31 December 2027

\*if you are successful, you are required to attend the Mackenzie Dinner to accept the award.

## For all grant enquiries, please contact:

Grants Team, Epworth Medical Foundation on [grants@epworth.org.au](mailto:grants@epworth.org.au)