



ARC Centre of Excellence for  
All Sky Astrophysics in 3 Dimensions

# Carer Funding Policy

## OVERVIEW

The ARC Centre of Excellence for All Sky Astrophysics in 3 Dimensions (ASTRO 3D) is a Research Centre of Excellence funded over 7 years by a \$30.3 million grant from the Australian Research Council (ARC) and supported by six collaborating Australian universities.

The Centre will ultimately produce a comprehensive picture of the evolution of matter, the chemical elements, and energy in the Universe from shortly after the Big Bang to the present day. ASTRO 3D merges world-leading Australian and international optical, infrared and radio telescope technologies with sophisticated theoretical simulations and ambitious new big data analysis techniques to open a new realm in astrophysics - a 3D understanding of the origins of the Universe and our place within it. Through the Centre, the next generation of scientific leaders will be trained within a cohesive, national and international framework that includes cutting edge science and data intensive infrastructure, highly successful nationwide and worldwide collaborations, leading equity and diversity programs, and large-scale public education and outreach programs.

## SCOPE

Carer Funding is open to ASTRO 3D CIs, AIs, Postdocs and Students whose professional opportunities are impacted by their primary caregiver role.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Code of Conduct
- Equity and Inclusion Action Plan
- Membership Policy
- Equity and Diversity Policy

## DEFINITION

A **Primary Caregiver** is a person who has primary and sustained responsibility for the care of a family member who is a dependent, including children under the age of 18 years, elderly parents and other relatives or family members with a disability or chronic medical condition.

## POLICY

ASTRO 3D recognises that primary care givers can, as a result of carer responsibilities, miss professional opportunities that would enhance the momentum of their research productivity and strengthen their research profile. ASTRO 3D Carer Funding provides support, where it is not available directly from the individual's institution, to ensure that primary carers can participate equitably in ASTRO 3D events and conferences and attend external conferences and/or visit international partner institutions to present ASTRO 3D research or conduct ASTRO 3D related collaborations.

### 1. Use of Grant funds

The maximum amount that can be granted to an applicant is \$2,000 in any one year and may be subject to annual budget constraints.

Funds can be used for, but are not limited to, the following.

- Alternative childcare, nanny or carer services
- Travel expenses for dependent children
- Expenses associated with providing in-home care for the dependent while the primary care giver is away at an approved event e.g. in-home care services or travel for a family member to provide in-home care

Grants will not be considered for existing childcare or other related costs of caring.

## **2. Application process**

To apply, please complete the [Smartsheet Application Form](#) and provide the following information. Applications will be considered monthly by the Executive Management Committee.

Applications need to demonstrate that an application has first been made through the carer funding (or similar) program at the individual's home institution, or that their institution has no such program.

Carer expenses exceeding the amount granted to a successful applicant must be covered from other sources, such as personal funds.

## **3. Payment of Funds**

It is the responsibility of successful applicants to make their own travel and carer arrangements. Approved funding will be provided via reimbursement of actual expenses on presentation of tax invoices or receipts only, not as a lump sum prior to travel.

Any Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) incurred as a result of receiving Carer Funding is the responsibility of the applicant's home institution.