



# mcCr

Monaro Committee for Cancer Research

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

*Providing practical financial support for  
individuals or families struggling with the  
challenges of a cancer diagnosis*

---

mcCr AIMS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
OUR COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT CANCER  
RESEARCH AND LOCAL CANCER CARE FACILITIES

---

*The Monaro Committee for Cancer Research (mcCr) is a non profit organisation with the (FAS) being established firstly as a pilot scheme in 2011 and then endorsed in 2012. Money collected through mcCr local fundraising activities are the only source of funding for the scheme.*

## **The Financial Assistance Scheme**

It is widely recognised that people coping with cancer and the side effects of its treatment are often faced with major financial difficulties. The mcCr has identified a gap in the provision of locally available financial support.

The Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) aims to provide practical financial support for individuals or families struggling with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis and related treatment issues for the population of the Snowy Monaro Regional Council.



## Features of the scheme

The scheme will assist in lessening immediate financial difficulties faced by individuals or families who experience a cancer diagnosis or re-diagnosis.

- Local residents receive financial support from money raised through local events.
- No direct cash payments to applicants are made, a focus on ensuring basic necessities are available, payments for necessary utilities and other assistance to ensure treatment or recovery can proceed.
- Timely availability of assistance.
- Low administrative overheads with pro bono approach to service administration.
- An eligibility criteria that is focussed on assisting individuals or families with cancer.

## Scheme administration

The Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) is a subcommittee of the mcCr Committee.

The FAS has a financial management system independent of the mcCr system with mcCr providing the total operating budget for the scheme.

## The assessors

The FAS team are skilled volunteers with different professional experience and backgrounds who administer all aspects of the scheme and meet regularly to independently assess every application.

## Professional development

Twice yearly the FAS team will undertake training. Topics to establish the service have included types of cancer, treatment, confidentiality, health equity and management of the scheme.

Community nurses and other referring health professionals are offered professional development on completing a FAS assessment form and the FAS processes.

## How to apply

To make an application for financial assistance ask your healthcare professional or general practitioner for an application form. The FAS form can also be downloaded.

- Are you eligible to apply? See the eligibility criteria overleaf.
- Complete the application form yourself or ask your supporting health professionals to assist. You may add additional information on a separate sheet if necessary.
- Your supporting health professional must sign the form. (General Practitioner, Community Nurse, Allied Health Professional).
- To claim for expenses that have already been incurred, attach the original invoice of the unpaid item, with payee details.
- The completed application should be emailed to [fas@mccr.org.au](mailto:fas@mccr.org.au)

To contact the FAS team for further information email [fas@mccr.org.au](mailto:fas@mccr.org.au)

Over a twelve month period eligible applicants may make more than one application.

## Eligibility Criteria

- Diagnosed or re-diagnosed with cancer, or be an immediate family member of a person diagnosed or re-diagnosed with cancer within the past 12 month. A cancer treatment plan or cancer management strategy must be in place.
- Resident of the Snowy Monaro Regional Council.

## The assessment process

The FAS has developed a system and a protocol to ensure confidentiality of client details. Full details of the Confidentiality Protocol can viewed on our website.

The service uses de identified client data for the purpose of reporting. This means no name will be added to any report, but data on age, gender and other group characteristics will be used.

## Eligible Items

- Household bills including telephone, insurance, gas and electricity
- Car registration
- Car repairs
- Fuel / Transport
- Pharmacy - cancer related
- Medicare "Gap Fees"
- Accommodation for treatment
- Telehealth psychological counselling support
- Other items may be approved by mcCr FAS

## Excluded Items

- Funerals
- School fees
- Credit Card bills
- Bills for non-essential services (e.g Pay TV)

Funds will be distributed in a fair and equitable manner.

- Each application is assessed on the eligibility criteria and information that has been included in the application form.
- Other criteria that will determine what financial support is offered is dependent on the amount of funds available, and the number of applicants. The FAS team will use discretion to ensure that funds are distributed equitably. The team may also suggest that an applicant make more than one application.
- A team member may contact an applicant or a referrer when an application detail requires clarification.
- The FAS assessment team aims to provide a response to the application within two weeks by payment of your account directly. Where necessary emergency assistance will be offered. If the claim cannot be met applicants will be notified.

The FAS team can only be contacted by email at [fas@mccr.org.au](mailto:fas@mccr.org.au)

**Contact your health care professional  
or visit our website for an application form**



**Email: [fas@mccr.org.au](mailto:fas@mccr.org.au)  
[www.mccr.org.au](http://www.mccr.org.au)**