

Cancer Council Queensland

Accelerating Collaborative Cancer Research Grants

Instructions for Applicants

Expressions of Interest open:	8 April 2019
Expressions of Interest close:	23 May 2019
Shortlisted applications announced:	8 July 2019
Full Applications close:	30 August 2019
Successful applications announced:	15 November 2019
Funding commences:	Wednesday, 1 January 2020
Enquiries:	Email: researchgrants@cancerqld.org.au Phone: 07 3634 5265

Instructions for applicants are available from:
<https://cancerqld.org.au/research/research-grants-program/cancer-research-funding/>

Late applications will not be accepted

OVERVIEW

Cancer Council Queensland (CCQ) is Queensland's leading non-government community organisation involved in cancer control. Established in 1961 as the Queensland Cancer Fund in response to an increasing need for cancer-related services across the State, today it employs about 200 staff state-wide and has more than 1300 registered volunteers.

CCQ is a member of Cancer Council Australia and works in global affiliation with the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). The mission of CCQ is to reduce the burden of cancer. CCQ raises funds that are dedicated to improving quality of life for people living with cancer, through research, patient care, prevention and early detection.

A key priority for CCQ is to invest in Queensland-led cancer research with demonstrable potential to improve the survival and/or well-being of cancer patients.

In 2019, CCQ is introducing a new mechanism for cancer research funding called the Accelerating Collaborative Cancer Research (ACCR) grants. The ACCR grants will replace CCQ's long-running Cancer Research Project Grants.

Two ACCR grants will be awarded in 2019 for funding to commence on January 1, 2020. Grants will be of four years' duration and will provide funding of \$500,000 per annum for four years, comprising \$350,000 per annum from CCQ and a cash contribution of \$150,000 per annum from the Administering Institution.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the ACCR grants are to encourage effective research collaboration between universities, health services and medical and scientific research institutes, and to accelerate the translation of cancer research outcomes into practice and policy to improve the survival and well-being of cancer patients.

The ACCR grants aim to:

- Stimulate innovative, collaborative cancer research in areas of need
- Develop the capacity of high-quality cancer research groups in Queensland
- Accelerate the progress of research translation to improve cancer control

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications are invited from multidisciplinary teams based in research institutions in Queensland.

Suitable applicants are research teams that have an established and active program of cancer research, a focus on rapid translation of research findings to practice and policy, with the demonstrated ability to generate high quality research results.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be Australian citizens or hold permanent resident status.

Applications will be accepted from research groups who will be conducting the research at a host institution in Queensland. The institution can be within a university, affiliated to a university or major hospital, or an appropriate independent medical or scientific research institute.

The first-named Chief Investigator must work in a Queensland institution and have the primary role in leading the proposal.

Applications must include at least one Chief Investigator who is a clinician currently working at a clinical centre, either public or private.

Applicants who hold an active CCQ project grant in 2019 are eligible to apply.

Persons who are applicants for, or in receipt of, tobacco industry funding are not eligible to apply for, or receive funding from CCQ. Staff of institutions receiving funding from the tobacco industry will also not be eligible to apply for or receive funding from CCQ. A declaration signed by the responsible officer of the institution that the institution is not in receipt of tobacco industry funding will be required.

HOW TO APPLY

The application process will be a two-stage process involving initial expressions of interest followed by full applications by invitation.

Stage 1: Expression of interest

Interested applicants must submit Expressions of Interest electronically, via the Cancer Council Queensland Grants Management System.

Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by the CCQ Medical and Scientific Committee and short-listed applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

Expression of Interest are intended to provide a high-level overview of the proposed program of research, the research team, and the budget summary. Expressions of Interest will include:

- The scientific or clinical question, research aims, research plan and the translational outcomes expected from the research (maximum 1000 words)
- Plain English summary describing the aims of the research and expected outcomes in a manner the general public would understand (maximum 200 words).
- The investigator team, the team's capability, and track record of team collaboration (maximum 500 words)
- Summary budget and justification (500 words)
- A letter of support from the Administering Institution signed by the Chief Executive Officer confirming the availability of the required cash co-contribution

Stage 2: Invitation to submit a full application

Full applications will be by invitation only and must be submitted electronically via the Cancer Council Queensland Grants Management System.

Full applications will include:

Research proposal (maximum 4000 words)

- background, scientific or clinical question(s), aims and/or objectives, an outline of the research plan and appropriate performance indicators and corresponding timelines.

Research team track record

- 500 words summary track record for each Chief Investigator, that in combination demonstrate the research team's high level of scientific achievement consistent with the objectives of the grant and of sufficient quality to merit support.

Budget and budget justification (maximum 1000 words)

- salary costs and levels, PhD stipends, and amount requested for each staff member to be supported by the grant. Chief Investigators' salaries are not eligible for funding under the ACCR grants.
- proposed small equipment purchases, maintenance and consumable items, and travel costs.
- funding from other sources that will contribute to the research program (excluding the required co-contribution from the Administering Institution).

Applicants must respond to each of the following criteria (maximum 500 words each)

1. Focus on research translation

Describe how the translation of your research will be accomplished and how potential challenges will be addressed. Demonstrate the team's record of achievement in research translation including influence on policy or practice.

2. Significance of the research to improved cancer outcomes

Demonstrate the significance of the research in improving clinical practice or policy and in improving outcomes for cancer patients.

3. Scientific leadership and research capacity

The leadership of the team must display a strong vision for development of the team and its research program. Demonstrate the first-named Chief Investigator's ability to dedicate a sufficient proportion of their time to the proposed research and research team leadership.

Demonstrate by reference to the skills available within the research team, or to established working relationships with partners, that the team possesses relevant clinical and related skills. Demonstrate a collaborative approach to the planned research and how the grant would assist in developing collaboration and research workforce capacity.

4. Consumer engagement

Discuss consumers' and community members' involvement in the development, conduct and/or communication of the proposed research in line with the "*NHMRC Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research*" (2016).

<https://nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/statement-consumer-and-community-involvement-health-and-medical-research>

ASSESSMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

Applications will be assessed by an independent Grant Review Panel (GRP). The GRP may seek advice from independent external assessors. The awarding of the ACCR Grants will be totally within the discretion of the CCQ Board of Directors.

GRP members and independent assessors will be required to declare any conflicts of interest and to withdraw from considering individual applications where such conflicts exist.

The outcomes of the review will be announced in mid-November 2019. All applicants will be advised of the assessment outcome. Detailed feedback and copies of assessment reports will not be provided to applicants.

CCQ will enter into a Funding Agreement with the Administering Institution prior to the commencement of funding.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

By submitting an application to CCQ applicants consent to the information supplied as part of their application being disclosed for assessment and purposes connected with the establishing and administration of the grant. Such disclosure includes, but is not limited to, members of the CCQ Medical and Scientific Committee, members of the Grant Review Panel, independent assessors requested by the Grant review Panel to provide expert advice, and relevant employees of CCQ.

Applicants acknowledge that announcement of the successful applicants will involve dissemination of information to the public about the general nature of the ACCR Grant funded by CCQ including the lay description provided in the application, the amount of funding awarded, the applicants involved in the grant, details of the Administering Institution, and any actual organisations at which the work funded by the grant is being carried out.