



## Cancer Council Queensland Accelerating Collaborative Cancer Research (ACCR) Grants

### Instructions for Applicants

Expressions of Interest open:	30 March 2020 at 9am
Expressions of Interest close:	14 May 2020 at 5pm
Shortlisted applications announced:	6 July 2020
Full Applications close:	28 August 2020 at 5pm
Successful applications announced:	12 November 2020
Funding commences:	1 January 2021
Enquiries:	Email: <a href="mailto:researchgrants@cancerqld.org.au">researchgrants@cancerqld.org.au</a> Phone: 07 3634 5393

Instructions for applicants are available from:

<https://cancerqld.org.au/research/research-grants-program/funding-opportunities/>

**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.

CCQ has implemented a new scheme for cancer research funding called the Accelerating Collaborative Cancer Research (ACCR) grants scheme. The ACCR grants scheme has replaced CCQ's long-running Cancer Research Project Grants scheme.

Up to two ACCR grants will be awarded in 2020 for funding to commence on 1 January 2021. 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 survival and well-being of cancer patients.

## 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.

Applications must address the objectives of the ACCR grants as outlined above. Applications can be either for a specific project or a planned program of research working towards a specific research question or questions. The scheme is not targeted specifically to one or the other.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for funding, applications must meet the following requirements:

Applicants must be Australian citizens or hold permanent resident status.

The research must be conducted 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 Investigator must be employed by the Administering Institution and have the primary role in leading the proposal.

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

Applicants who hold an active CCQ project grant in 2020 are eligible to apply.

### Rules concerning the holding of concurrent ACCR grants:

To ensure that CCQ fulfils its aims of supporting cancer research across a broad base in Queensland, CCQ has established the following rules concerning the holding of concurrent ACCR grants:

- The first-named Investigator of an active ACCR grant is not eligible to apply as the first-named Investigator on additional ACCR grant applications.
- Subject to the above, an Investigator (including the first-named Investigator) of an active ACCR grant may be a co-Investigator on another ACCR grant application provided the application is demonstrably different from the active grant. If CCQ determines that there is substantial overlap between an active ACCR grant and a grant application from one or more of the same investigators, then the application will be ineligible.

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.

## CO-CONTRIBUTION FROM THE ADMINISTERING INSTITUTION

The ACCR scheme entails a significant financial commitment from CCQ on behalf of its donors and it is the intention of CCQ's Board of Directors that the required \$150,000 per annum contribution from the administering institution should be a cash commitment of "new money".

The cash contribution from the Administering Institution:

- may not include in-kind contributions (e.g. existing laboratory costs, administration costs, infrastructure costs, floor space etc.);
- may not include the salaries of existing positions at the Administering Institution;
- may not include the salaries of Investigators whether or not they are employed at the Administering Institution;
- may not include funds obtained through other grants.

The Administering Institution will be responsible for guaranteeing the required new funding of \$150,000 per annum. The Administering Institution will need to provide a written assurance to CCQ of this. It is an internal matter for the Administering Institution as to whether some or all of the institutions who are collaborating in the application contribute to its co-funding contribution.

## HOW TO APPLY

The application process is 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 <https://ccq.smapply.io/prog/accr/>.

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 and research plan (maximum 1000 words);
- Translational outcomes expected from this research (maximum 250 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 research team, the team's capability, and track record of team collaboration (maximum 500 words);
- Summary budget (template provided; please see additional information below regarding budget items);
- A letter of support from the Administering Institution signed by the Authorised Representative confirming the availability of the required cash co-contribution.

### Stage 2: Invitation to submit a full application

Full applications are 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.
- up to two figures/diagrams supporting the research proposal are permitted to be uploaded. A schema for complex projects is encouraged.

#### **Research team track record**

- 500 words summary track record for each 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.

**Note:** Any changes to research team membership from the Expression of Interest application must be approved by CCQ prior to submission.

#### **Budget and budget justification**

- salary costs and levels, PhD stipends, and amount requested for each staff member to be supported by the grant. 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).

**Note:** The budget may only include costs directly related to research activity as outlined in the research proposal; costs related to facility, administrative or other indirect costs that would be

provided by an institution in the normal course of undertaking and supporting health and medical research are not to be included. A structured budget template is provided for this section.

**Applicants must respond to each of the following criteria:**

- 1. Focus on research translation (maximum 500 words)**  
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 (maximum 500 words)**  
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 (maximum 500 words)**  
The leadership of the team must display a strong vision for development of the team and its research program. Demonstrate the first-named 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, research workforce capacity and career-stage diversity. Demonstrate how the project will provide development opportunities for early and mid-career researchers.

- 4. Consumer engagement (maximum 200 words)**  
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) and the complementary "*Toolkit for Consumer and Community involvement in Health and Medical Research*" (2020).

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

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/consumer-and-community-engagement#download>

## **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 2020 with a formal award ceremony to be held in late November 2020. 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.