



## **Cancer Council Queensland**

### **Accelerating Collaborative Cancer Research (ACCR) Grants**

#### **Instructions for Applicants**

Expressions of Interest open:	28 March 2022 at 9am
Expressions of Interest close:	12 May 2022 at 4pm
Shortlisted applications announced:	4 July 2022
Full Applications close:	25 August 2022 at 4pm
Successful applications announced:	10 November 2022
Funding commences:	1 January 2023
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 1,300 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 prevent cancer or improve the survival and/or well-being of cancer patients.

CCQ's scheme for cancer research funding is 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 2022 for funding to commence on 1 January 2023. 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 OF ACCR GRANTS

The objectives of the ACCR scheme are to:

- Stimulate innovative, collaborative cancer research to make major advances in areas of need.
- Accelerate the translation of research findings into improved prevention, outcomes, clinical practice or health policy to improve the survival and well-being of cancer patients
- Develop the capacity of high-quality cancer research groups in Queensland by encouraging effective research collaboration between universities, health services and medical and scientific research institutes.

These aims are considered of equal weight in this scheme.

## 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 justify how the work proposed addresses 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 FOR ACCR GRANTS

- 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.
- 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.

### Investigator team:

- The first-named Investigator must be employed by the Administering Institution and have the primary role in leading the proposal.
- The majority of Investigators named on the application must be based in Queensland. The first-named investigator must notify CCQ of their intention to include any interstate or international investigators prior to submission, including the name of the investigator, their institution, and the expertise that they bring. CCQ will review these on a case-by-case basis.
- All named Investigators must be Australian citizens or hold permanent resident status. Inclusion of international investigators must receive approval from CCQ prior to submission (as above).
- Applications must include at least one Investigator who is a clinician (medical, nursing or allied health professional) currently working in cancer care, either public or private.

### Scientific overlap and funding from other sources:

- Scientific overlap occurs when substantially the same research or portions of the research are funded by two or more sources. This includes the situation in which a specific research objective and the research design for accomplishing the objective are the same or closely related in two or more funding awards (from NIH Grants Policy Statement, 2019).
- Scientific overlap between this proposal and research for which you have already received funding (current or past), or between this proposal and a current or intended application to another funding body, must be declared as part of the Expression of Interest application.
- Applicants will have the opportunity to speak to the novelty of this proposal in the Expression of Interest application.
- If CCQ determines that there is substantial overlap between this proposal and research that is or has been funded by another funding body, then an ACCR grant will not be offered or, if already offered, may cease or be reduced if the other funding is taken up.

### 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 point, 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 deemed ineligible.

## 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;
- may include new Research Higher Degree scholarships provided by the Administering Institution.

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.

## BUDGET

- The proposed 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.
- Funds must be utilised within Queensland and are not able to support salaries of personnel outside of Queensland. If a research activity as outlined in the research proposal is unable to be performed in Queensland (for example, a specialised lab technique that can only be undertaken in an interstate or overseas laboratory), these will be reviewed by CCQ on a case-by-case basis.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ACCR GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT

The ACCR Grant Funding Agreement, outlining the terms and conditions of the grant, is available on CCQ's website [here](#).

**PLEASE NOTE:** As part of your Expression of Interest, the Administering Institution must indicate their agreement to these terms and conditions. It is therefore important that you provide sufficient time for the Administering Institution to review these terms and conditions prior to the Expression of Interest due date.

## 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 (MSC) and short-listed applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

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

Expressions 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 research question, research aims and research plan (maximum 1000 words);
- Details of Investigators named on the application, including a brief outline of their contribution to the proposal;
- The research team, the team's capability, and track record of team collaboration (maximum 500 words);
- How the research addresses each of the three key objectives of the ACCR Grants Scheme (as outlined on page 2) (maximum 500 words per objective);
- Details of requests, planned requests, or funding from other sources for a substantially similar proposal, if applicable (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);
- Summary budget ([template provided](#); please see Budget section above for further information regarding budget items);
- A letter of support ([template provided](#)) from the Administering Institution signed by the Authorised Representative confirming the availability of the required cash co-contribution and agreement of the terms and conditions of the ACCR grant funding agreement, if awarded.

### 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 research 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 and justification

- 500 words summary for each Investigator (including track record and clear justification of role in the proposal) 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).

A structured budget template is provided for this section. Please see Budget section above for further information regarding budget items.

**Applicants will be asked to outline how their proposal will meet the objectives of the scheme.**

### **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 at 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 2022 with a formal award announcement to be held in late November 2022. All applicants will be advised of the assessment outcome.

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 confidentially 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 announcements 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.