



The CRT Collaborative Cancer Research Grant 2023 “The Grant” GUIDE TO APPLICANTS/CONDITIONS OF AWARD

WHAT IS OUR OBJECTIVE?

The Grant has been established to support, energise and fund collaborative and innovative Cancer Research in Western Australia (**WA**). The Grant will provide support for teams of high calibre researchers to pursue broad based, multi-disciplinary cancer activities, to increase the inter-institutional collaboration of cancer researchers in WA and to increase their competitiveness for State, National and International cancer research funding.

The purpose of The Grant is to enable a multi-disciplinary group of researchers with established track records to collaborate and generate new and important knowledge for cancer treatment and/or control. Applications that involve the recruitment of senior researchers with outstanding track record (preferably from outside WA), as well as more junior researchers (with the clear potential to become research leaders), who are committed to relocating to, or working for a substantial part of their time in WA, will be viewed favourably. This is a unique opportunity, offering substantial funding of up to \$1 million pa from the Cancer Research Trust (**The Trust**) for 5 years. Applicants will be expected to provide a minimum additional 30% through matching funds. These must be “new” monies. “New” money must not include National Health and Medical Research Council (**NHMRC**) grants, overheads levied by any administering institution (including indirect costs of research or research infrastructure), existing infrastructure or other existing services.

The Grant is potentially renewable on satisfactory review for an additional 4 years (i.e. a total of 9 years’ potential funding). There will be **no indexation** of the amount awarded under The Grant.

All applicants must demonstrate that their institutions have the ability to fund their contributions.

Proposals will normally list a single Chief Investigator (**CI**) and other Associate Investigators (**AI**).

HOW TO APPLY

Collaboration

Inter-Institutional collaboration will be a key success factor in the evaluation of applications. Applications must involve a minimum of two institutions within WA, but three or more will be preferred.

Submission Process

Expression of Intent Stage

The Expression of Intent (**EOI**) process requires a summary of the proposed program of research, the proposed institutions and a list of the proposed researchers. It must provide a brief bio-sketch of the CI and her/his role in the proposal. Confirmation of the stipulated percentage and actual dollar co-contribution from applicant/s sourced funding are essential.

The Chief Investigators of current CRT grants will not be eligible to apply for new CRT funding for the duration of their projects.

The purpose of the EOI is to shortlist applicants. Those EOIs considered to be uncompetitive will not be invited to submit a full proposal.

The EOI will remain confidential and will be used only for the purpose of assessing eligibility for the full Grant.

Application forms for the EOI will be made available for applicants on The Trust website (www.cancerresearchtrust.org.au).

Closing Date for Expressions of Intent: 30 November 2022 (see *timeline below*)

EOIs will be assessed by a Panel comprising internationally recognised cancer researchers (**Assessment Panel**).

Full Application stage

Full Applications will ONLY BE ACCEPTED from groups who have submitted an EOI by the deadline, and have been invited to the full application stage. Successful EOI applicants will be provided with a Full Application form.

Full Applications are due before 4.00pm on Wednesday 31 May 2023

Full Application Assessment

Applications will be assessed by the Assessment Panel

Interviews: Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by the assessment panel.

How do we decide what research is funded?

Assessment Criteria

The application is to be assessed on its relevance to cancer treatment and control, with **priority given to those projects that bring different disciplines and institutions together while attracting and/or retaining research talent in Western Australia.**

The application will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. Scientific excellence including innovation, potential for translation and contribution to knowledge
2. Research achievements of the team:
 - i. Track record: including “10 most important papers” and advances made over the past 5 years
 - ii. Key contributions to translation (e.g. commercialisation, clinical outcomes, public health changes, other cancer control strategies).
3. Research Strategy should be feasible and consistent with research that is broadly based, multidisciplinary and collaborative. Consideration should be given to:
 - i. Innovative ‘big picture’ research activities
 - ii. National and international competitiveness;
 - iii. Strategy for attracting external peer review funding; and
 - iv. Specified Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) outlining the projected outcomes.
4. Collaborative Gain and Capacity Building:
 - i. Strategies for:
 - o Integration of the research teams, particularly across institutions and between disciplines;
 - o Network building; and
 - o Intellectual exchange

- ii. Given the importance of WA capacity building, applications must detail their commitment to building capacity for cancer research within WA and how the applicants intend to achieve this including development of team skills as well as recruitment, retention and development of senior and/or Early Career Research (ECR) Investigators.
5. Outcomes for Cancer – significance to cancer research and health outcomes.
6. Demonstrated consumer involvement.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION

Chief Investigator(CI)

The CI from the Administering Institution (see below) is responsible for completion and lodgment of the application. The CI must be based at an eligible institution in WA for the bulk of each year of the grant period.

An eligible institution (as defined by NHMRC) must be nominated as the Administering Institution and must be based in WA.

The Trust would expect to see documentary collaborative arrangements between all collaborating Institutions.

It is expected that the CI of The Grant should have a major commitment to research and, hence, a significant commitment of effort to the research program. This effort should be detailed and the role of the CI in the program explained.

Associate Investigators (AI)

Teams should include AIs for each participating institution who will contribute in a meaningful manner to the proposed program of research. An AI may be based elsewhere in Australia or overseas. In all cases the role of each AI to the program of research should be explained and percentage time commitment indicated.

Equipment

An Administering Institution to which equipment is entrusted must undertake to maintain the items in good and working condition and in a location where the sponsored research project is being conducted. Equipment bought using funds from The Grant remains part of the project but, provided that the project is satisfactorily completed, the equipment becomes the property of the Administering Institution. The Administering Institution shall not acquire any equipment or apparatus for the project with the Grant funds other than as disclosed in the grant application without the consent of the Trust. No consent is required for pieces of equipment with a purchase price of less than \$50,000.

Consumables

Support for consumables should be based on NHMRC guidelines.

Other Funding Sources

In addition to the matching funds that are required as a condition of this application, applicants are encouraged to leverage monies in this grant to obtain additional funding support at times during the duration of the award. Successful awardees are expected to use this award as base for future funding from category 1 funding sources

Funds received from organisations that are in conflict with the prevention of cancer will be examined closely to determine if, in fact, a conflict of interest exists and may lead to forfeit of any award or ineligibility to apply for funding from The Trust.

It is important to note

In circumstances where documentation in the form of guidelines, rules or practices relating to the administration of The Grant are not explicitly addressed, any determination will be guided by the rules and practices of NHMRC <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply-funding/program-grants>.

Timeline

A proposed time line for the schedule of application events is:

| Stage | Date |
|--|----------------------------|
| Announce Grant opportunity | Monday 18 July 2022 |
| Deadline for Expression of Intent | Wednesday 30 November 2022 |
| Notification of applicants for full submission | Tuesday 28 February 2023 |
| Close of Full Application submission | Wednesday 31 May 2023 |
| Week in which Interviews are to be held | w/c 17 July 2023 |
| Notification of Applicants | Friday 28 July 2023 |

Grant Recipient and Obligations of Administering Institutions

The Grant will be managed by the Trust or entrusted to a group of people on behalf of the grantors. There will be only one Administering Institution for each grant. The Trust will make grant payments to the Administering Institution nominated in the successful grant application. That institution will be held responsible for the proper administration and expenditure of The Grant and for ensuring that all reports required are provided on time.

Publicity and Acknowledgment

Public awareness of the Trust's role in funding research is crucial.

Where a media release or conference is planned, it is the responsibility of both the CI and the institution's media office to give the Trust adequate notice of the release or organisation of the conference, and to accommodate reasonable requests for the Trust's participation in the publicity.

In addition, researchers may be called on to participate in the Trust's promotional initiatives.

Publications arising from grants

The Trust encourages the publication of results and the dissemination of other information from the funded research. Such publications would occur through the normal acceptable scientific channels and there should always be an acknowledgment of the Trust that Grant funding has been provided (with the following footnote included: "This work was carried out with the support of The Grant provided by the Cancer Research Trust ", or words to this effect). Notification of published papers should be included in annual reports submitted to the Trust.

Reporting Obligations

A short explanatory abstract which could be understood by a lay person is required for the use of The Trust. It should describe the short and long term implications of the research project.

In fulfillment of the conditions of an award, an annual report of the project shall be submitted at the end of each year for which the Grant has been awarded. The report must be submitted within two months of the end of each year. Failure to submit a report by this may jeopardise ongoing funding of the project. The reports will be used by the Trust to monitor progress and use them in the review process to determine whether or not to extend The Grant. A reporting template will be provided by Trust. The CI (or appropriate representative) shall attend CRT Board meetings every 6 months to provide informal, verbal updates on progress with the project.

Intellectual Property

If, as a result of any research pursuant to The Grant, any Intellectual Property is developed or there be any commercialisation of any invention (together "IP"), then that IP shall be shared between all financial contributors to the development of the IP in proportion to their respective contributions and it shall be recorded or registered as such. If all affected contributors to the development of the IP, negotiating in good faith, are not able to agree their respective shares in the IP, then the shares shall be determined by a senior counsel appointed by the Law Society of Western Australia, acting as an expert and not as an arbitrator, and his or her decision shall be final.

Grant Conditions

1. Payments commence no earlier than 1 August 2023 and will be made quarterly in advance.
2. Payments in respect of any grant shall be within the terms and conditions specified in the grant offer.
3. The research must commence within a 6 month period from the date of fund availability. Commencement delays of more than 6 months from the date of fund availability required endorsement from the Trust. Failure to obtain this endorsement will result in forfeiting The Grant.
4. Amounts granted are exclusive of GST. All claims are to be made via a tax invoice from the Administering Institution, including the institution's ABN. This is to avoid paying withholding tax which would effectively reduce the overall grant by 48.5%. Please keep in mind that you must also invoice the Trust for GST on top of the total grant (i.e. your invoice must include 10% extra for the GST).
5. Grants are paid in quarterly installments on receipt of a tax invoice from the Administering Institution. The initial invoice for claims must be generated at the commencement of the research.
6. At the conclusion of the funded research, any variations of 10% or more from the expenditure against individual budget categories outlined in the original application need to be reported to the Trust for approval by the Trust.
7. It is a requirement of the Trust that you disclose when your project is receiving funding from other sources.
8. In exceptional/extenuating circumstances, and upon formal application, the Trust may, at its discretion, approve a variation to the payment method outlined above.
9. At the completion of the grant period, all funds that are uncommitted must be repaid to the Trust unless permission is sought and obtained in writing to use any residual funds to complete work specified in the original application.
10. The Grant must be spent wholly for the purposes for which it was requested and so certified by the investigators and the Administering Institution.
11. In the event where a need arises for the administration of The Grant to be transferred from one institution to another, a written request for this transfer must be made to the Trust giving reasons for the transfer. The transfer must not be made without the written agreement of the Trust.

Further enquiries:

Executive Officer, Cancer Research Trust

Telephone: +61 (0) 427 437 336

E-mail: leonore.fuchter@cancerresearchtrust.org.au