



The Hospital Research
Foundation Group

Competitive Research Grant Round

Precision Medicine Approaches to Advancing
Cancer Treatment

Guidelines v1.0

Stage 1 Expressions of Interest Open: Wednesday 16th September 2026 at 10:00am (ACST)

Stage 1 Expressions of Interest Close: Wednesday 14th October 2026 at 4:00pm (ACDT)

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1. About The Hospital Research Foundation Group

[The Hospital Research Foundation \(THRF\) Group](#) exists to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. Our purpose is simple:

“Together, fight for better health and wellbeing for our community through life-changing medical research and improved healthcare.”

THRF Group is a profit-for-purpose organisation which raises funds through community donations, corporate support and proceeds from The Hospital Research Foundation Home Lottery programs. These proceeds enable us to fund and facilitate medical research and patient care services across more than 60 areas of disease and illness, from birth to end of life.

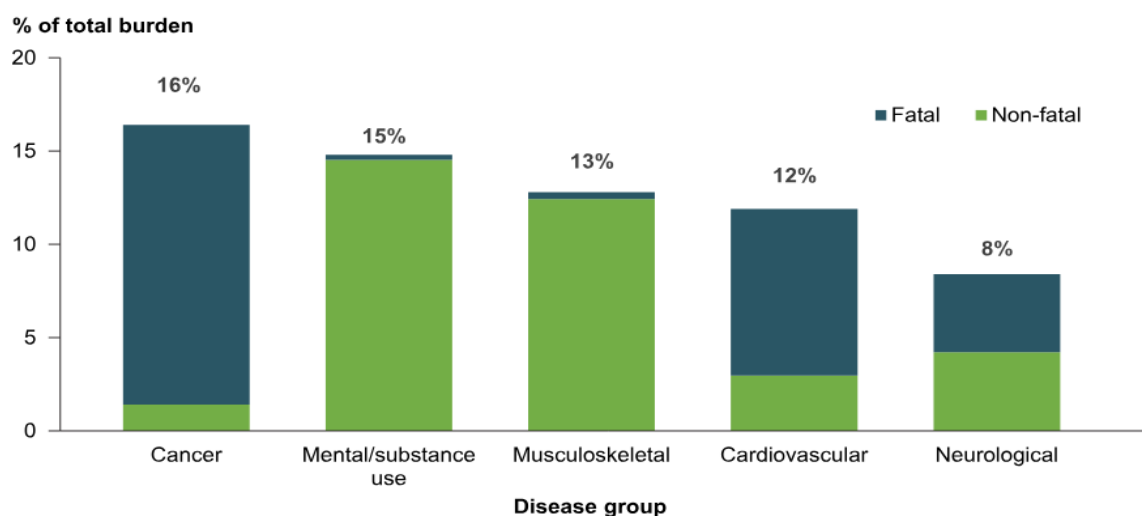
THRF Group consists of 11 charities which work together to maximise health and wellbeing and allow supporters to choose an area of healthcare that matters most to them. Through our Group structure, we are committed to delivering a progressive research and grants program that is sustainable, promotes collaboration and delivers impact for the community.

2. About the Round

2.1 Round Objectives & Desired Outcomes

The Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW) [Australian Burden of Disease Study 2024](#) identifies cancer as having the highest overall burden of disease, and highest fatal burden of disease in Australia.

Figure 2.3: Proportion (%) of total burden, and fatal and non-fatal composition of total burden, for the leading 5 disease groups in 2024



Source: AIHW Australian Burden of Disease Database - [Australian Burden of Disease Study 2024](#)

The overall objective of the round is to reduce the burden of disease from cancer, by advancing precision medicine approaches to treating cancer in humans.

The desired outcomes of the round are to:

- Progress precision medicine treatments for cancer in humans.
- Support early-to-mid-career researchers to gain experience as project leaders.
- Foster collaboration between cancer researchers and clinicians.

The precision medicine approaches and the disease focus areas considered “in scope” for this funding opportunity are further described below, along with expectations on engagement with consumers.

2.2 Precision Medicine

Most medical treatments are designed as a one-size-fits-all-approach for the "average patient", which may

be successful for some patients but not for others. Precision medicine, sometimes known as "personalised medicine", leverages advances in technologies, computing power and data accessibility to tailor treatments or interventions to an individual's (or group of individuals') biology, characteristics of the disease itself, environment, and/or lifestyle. The goal of precision medicine is to optimise therapeutic benefit by targeting the right treatments to the right patients at the right time.

THRF Group seeks proposals for innovative research projects that will advance precision medicine approaches to treatments or interventions for cancer in humans, particularly for the cancer focus areas identified in Section 2.3, leveraging current and continuing progress in areas such as (but not limited to):

- **'Omics capabilities** – where high-throughput technologies such as genomics, metabolomics, microbiomics, proteomics, transcriptomics, phenomics can be used to understand individual, multi-factorial disease profiles and tailor treatment approaches
- **Data availability** – digitally-enabled datasets, across different health, medical and lifestyle domains, and over the life-course (e.g. electronic health records), are growing in size, coverage and number and are increasingly available for interrogation.
- **Analytical capabilities** – advances in computing power such as bioinformatics and statistical modelling, propelled by increasingly powerful artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities, enhance the ability to integrate and interpret complex health data to guide and target person-specific treatments and interventions.
- **Biological / medical technological capabilities** – advances in targeted treatment capabilities such as immunotherapies, precision engineering / medical physics, and regenerative cellular technologies.

2.3 Cancer Focus Areas

While any type of cancer occurring in humans may form the basis for a precision medicine research proposal in this round, proposals focusing on one of the cancer areas indicated below are strongly encouraged:

- Breast cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Blood cancers
- Brain cancers
- Skin cancers
- Lung cancers
- Digestive system cancers, e.g. colorectal, pancreatic, oesophageal & hepatobiliary.

2.3.1 Connection with South Australian Cancer Plan

SA Health has developed the [SA Cancer Plan 2025-2029](#) “(the Plan)”. The Plan aims to provide clear guidance and consistency for SA Health and its partners about the priorities, future direction and approach to cancer care in South Australia, with an agreed overall vision to drive cancer prevention and control through personalised care.

As reflected in the assessment criteria for this round, THRF Group encourages proposals that align with the goals, principles and priorities of the Plan.

2.4 Supporting Early and Mid-Career Researchers

THRF Group has a strategic objective to assist in growing research capability and capacity, particularly with respect to emerging research leaders. As further described in Section 3.5 below, applications in this round must be led by an eligible Chief Investigator A (CIA) who is within 15 years (or equivalent) of conferral of their Higher Degree by Research (or equivalent).

Applications must also indicate suitable mentoring and support arrangements for the CIA (irrespective of CIA's level of experience) and outline how these arrangements will support the CIA's career advancement, professional development, and leadership (i.e. beyond scientific expertise per se).

2.5 Collaboration with Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory

As THRF Group's coverage extends into Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, we will particularly welcome proposals involving collaborators from WA and/or the ACT.

While such collaboration is not a mandatory requirement, applicants may contact THRF Group via grants@hospitalresearch.org.au for advice if seeking potential collaborators.

2.6 Engagement with Consumers

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) defines consumers as people who have lived experience of a health issue, including patients and potential patients, carers, and people who use health care services. Consumers can also be people who represent the views and interests of a community or wider constituency.

To optimise the potential for project success, multiple consumers (i.e. more than one) should be clearly and meaningfully engaged and involved in the proposed program of research. Such engagement and involvement should incorporate:

- Demonstrable reflection of consumers' input to formulation of the proposed project. This may be, for example, by prior consultation, reference to published information from third parties, or other evidenced mechanisms.
- Clear mechanisms to meaningfully involve consumers over the project timeline, including defined feedback and advisory structures. This should include, for example, the involvement of consumers as part of the project team (e.g. Associate Investigators) and/or as part of a formalised project advisory group.
- Budgetary allowance to support, implement and acknowledge consumer participation (e.g. honoraria and payments, additional time to support involvement activities, administration support, consultations, training and associated events).

Different consumers may be involved at different project stages. Further guidance on consumer/community involvement in research can be found in the following resources:

- [Consumer and Community Involvement Program](#) website.
- [NHMRC Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research](#).

It is recommended that applicants complete the free 30-minute [Consumer and Community Involvement and Grant Writing](#) online course.

It is encouraged that all personnel associated with the application complete the free online 30-minute [Consumer and Community Involvement in Health Research](#) course (or equivalent).

2.6.1 Proposals with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

For proposals with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, applicants must ensure the following are taken into account when formulating the proposal:

- [The South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Accord 2026–2036](#) ("the Accord")
- [NHMRC Ethical guidelines for research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples](#); and
- [The AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research](#).

THRFG is a signatory to the Accord and, if applicable, applicants will be asked to describe how their proposal meets the Accord principles.

Where applicable, applicants should also familiarise themselves with the [CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance](#). These are people-oriented and purpose-oriented, reflecting the crucial role of data in advancing Indigenous innovation and self-determination. These principles encourage appropriate, respectful and ethical data use and are complementary to the [FAIR data principles](#) for data to be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

3. Eligibility and Requirements

THRF Group has developed a set of general [FAQs](#) available on its website to assist applicants. In the event of inconsistency between these Guidelines and the FAQs, these Guidelines will prevail.

3.1 Round Exclusions

Noting the objective of the round is to support projects that advance treatments or interventions for cancers using precision medicine approaches, applications must not solely or predominantly focus on:

- biomarker discovery
- mechanistic aetiology of disease
- disease diagnosis, profiling, monitoring or characterisation
- addressing side-effects of cancer treatment.

Applications must not duplicate or substantially overlap with existing projects or pending applications.

THRF Group reserves the right at its sole discretion to exclude from further consideration any applications breaching these exclusions.

3.2 Research Ethics and Research Governance

Research must be carried out in accordance with [The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#), NHMRC Approved Standards & Guidelines, and all relevant policies, codes and legislation.

As applicable, research ethics approvals must be obtained from the relevant ethics committees (human and/or animal), and research governance authorisations (also known as site specific assessment or access request review approvals) must be obtained from each relevant institution/site involved in the project or providing access to data, participants or tissue samples.

3.3 Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Application Preparation

Generative AI (GenAI) may be used to support application preparation, but such use must accord with the [NHMRC Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Grant Applications and Peer Review](#), and any of the applicant's own organisational policies that may apply.

The use of GenAI for application preparation and the nature of the use must be disclosed as part of the application.

3.4 Eligible Administering Institutions

Applications to this round must be submitted via one of the Eligible Administering Institutions listed below:

Research Organisations	Local Health Networks
• Adelaide University • Flinders University • South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) • Torrens University	• Central Adelaide Local Health Network • Northern Adelaide Local Health Network • Rural Support Service (as coordinating agency for the SA regional Local Health Networks) • Southern Adelaide Local Health Network • Women's & Children's Health Network

The Eligible Administering Institution:

- must be able to commit and manage the time contribution of the Chief Investigator A (CIA) as a

salaried employee to the project. A CIA with more than one formal, salaried appointment must only nominate one Eligible Administering Institution for the purposes of this Program

- must ensure the application meets all eligibility criteria as set out in these Guidelines.
- will be accountable for the governance and financial management of any funding awarded, and
- will be responsible for ensuring the provision of the general facilities and supporting resources necessary for the project's conduct.

If an application is approved for funding, THRF Group will enter into a [Funding Agreement](#) with the nominated Eligible Administering Institution detailing the appropriate management and administration requirements for the approved project.

3.5 Chief Investigators

3.5.1 Chief Investigator A / Project Leader

The first-named investigator on an application, Chief Investigator A (CIA), will be considered the Project Leader, and will have primary responsibility for project delivery and reporting if funded.

At the time of submission, the CIA must meet (and demonstrate within the submission) all the following requirements:

Qualifications and Research Experience

- (i) Hold a Higher Degree by Research (HDR), either a Masters by Research or a PhD, in line with Australian Qualifications Framework Levels 9 or 10 from a recognised tertiary education institution; and
- (ii) Have the cumulative equivalent of no more than 15 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) years of research experience (relative to opportunity*) since HDR conferral.

Or, where the CIA does not hold an HDR, they must instead:

Demonstrate an equivalent research capability through a combination of relevant research skills, training and experience to points (i) and (ii) above, including not more than 15 FTE years of research experience (relative to opportunity*).

Evidence for any claims of equivalence and/or career disruption is to be provided in the CIA's biosketch and corroborated by their Eligible Administering Institution.

*The above CIA eligibility requirements will be considered in line with the [NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy](#) and [Statements of Expectations](#).

Employment and Location

- (iii) Be employed[#] as a salaried staff member of the nominated Eligible Administering Institution for the duration of the grant.

Details of the CIA's employment arrangements are to be included in their biosketch as part of the application.

[#]Investigators whose only appointment with the Eligible Administering Institution is by a non-salaried honorary, visiting or affiliate appointment, cannot be CIA.
- (iv) Reside physically in South Australia for at least 80% of the grant period.
- (v) Not be enrolled in a Higher Degree by Research program at the time of application.

Commitment and Support	
(vi)	Provide a meaningful time commitment sufficient to lead and deliver the project. As a general guide, the minimum time commitment expectation from CIA is 0.2 FTE. Lower commitments may be justified in the application, but will be taken into account during assessment.
(vii)	Be supported by an identified mentor, ideally a member of the project team, as described in 2.4.
Other Requirements	
(viii)	Meet the project team requirements outlined in Section 3.5.2.
(ix)	Have no outstanding reporting obligations for any THRF Group funding program in any year (excluding approved extensions).

3.5.2 Chief Investigator Project Team

Applications must include between two (2) and four (4) Chief Investigators (CIs) including the CIA.

Further, to assist the potential for translational impact of research into clinical cancer care settings, the overall project team of Chief Investigators must include representation from at least one Local Health Network and at least one Research Organisation as described in the table below:

Minimum Chief Investigator Project Team Requirement
At least one CI who is a salaried employee of an eligible Local Health Network listed at 3.4 <i>and</i> At least one CI who is a salaried employee of an eligible Research Organisation listed at 3.4

Further to the above requirements, all CIs must:

- be able to demonstrate professional career experience (and/or lived experience if involved in the project CI team as a consumer) relevant to the field of the application.
- provide a distinct contribution to the project with a meaningful time commitment over the full duration of the grant period.
- not be a currently enrolled HDR candidate.
- have met their obligations regarding previous THRF Group-funded projects, including submission of satisfactory reporting as per the relevant funding agreement/s.

Please note: Changes in the CI team composition between Stage 1 and Stage 2 will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. It is therefore strongly advised that the CI project team composition be carefully considered and confirmed prior to submission of the Stage 1: Expression of Interest.

If exceptional circumstances arise, a request to change the team composition must be submitted in writing by the Eligible Administering Institution, providing the case for the proposed change, at least ten (10) business days before the Stage 2 closing date. THRF Group reserves the right to decline any such request and reserves the right at its sole discretion to exclude from further consideration any application(s) contravening the foregoing.

3.5.3 Application Limits

For this round:

- An applicant may only submit a maximum of one (1) application as the CIA.

- CIs can be involved in no more than two (2) applications (including involvement as CIA).

THRF Group may, at its sole discretion, exclude from further consideration any, some or all application(s) contravening the above limits. Further, if multiple applications are, in THRF Group's opinion, substantially similar in project team composition (regardless of CI order), THRF Group reserves the right to progress the assessment of one, some, all, or none of those applications.

3.6 Collaborating Personnel / Organisations

Further to the Chief Investigator Project Team requirements indicated under section 3.5, other personnel contributing to the project can be indicated as Collaborators/Associate Investigators. These collaborating personnel may include consumers, mentors, as well as personnel contributing 'as needed' (e.g. analytical/technical expertise), or those providing an intermittent/low time commitment. Currently enrolled HDR candidates contributing to the project can only be listed as Collaborators/Associate Investigators.

Personnel listed as Collaborators/Associate Investigators may be self-employed, employed by an Eligible Administering Institution, or other collaborating organisations such as:

- public and/or community health service organisations
- community groups
- non-government organisations and charities
- federal, state, or local government agencies
- professional organisations
- other research organisations.

Applications incorporating collaboration from personnel across different organisations, including with industry and other sectors are encouraged. Such collaboration could include:

- research teams combining suitably experienced research and clinical personnel; and
- transdisciplinary research approaches combining ideas and techniques from different fields and organisations. This could be via the involvement of personnel or technologies from engineering, computer science, or other suitable "non-medical" disciplines, and/or suitable industry organisations.

Projects must not involve any organisation that is part of an industry producing products or services reasonably recognised as contributing to poor physical health or mental wellbeing of the community.

Letters of support from collaborating organisations are not required as part of the application, but the Eligible Administering Institution must obtain (and retain) sufficient written agreement of all relevant personnel and organisations before application submission. Cash co-contributions from the Eligible Administering Institution or collaborating organisations are welcome but not mandatory.

4. Funding

4.1 Funds Available

Applications may request up to a total of \$250,000 (ex GST) over (up to) two years.

It is anticipated that up to 6 applications may be awarded funding but, depending on assessment and funding recommendations, the total number of applications awarded, and the funding approved may be varied.

A fully detailed budget will only be required if a Stage 1: Expression of Interest is successful in being invited through to a Stage 2: Full Application. All budget items should be adequately described and justified, and budgets must be calculated accurately, as requests for additional funding post-award will not be considered and THRF Group will not underwrite any costs beyond the funding awarded.

Organisational overheads, infrastructure levies, or administrative costs are not to be included in funding requests. Further information on the use of funding support is provided below.

4.2 Funding Use

4.2.1 Salary Support

Salary support may be requested to employ personnel necessary for conduct of the project. The need for any such salary support must be well-justified. It is a general expectation that there will be meaningful in-kind time commitment from project personnel. For the avoidance of doubt, salary support may be requested for Chief Investigators, Collaborators, and Associate Investigators, but such requests must be very well-justified in terms of need and explained with respect to existing salary support mechanisms. THRF Group reserves the right to award different salary support funds from those requested.

Requests for salary support must include the base salary and direct on-costs, such as leave accruals and the superannuation guarantee contribution. Such on-costs are limited to a maximum 30% of the base salary request. Applicants must verify the relevant employing organisation's base salary scales and rate of on-costs before finalising budgets in the Full Application form. Project staff are to be appointed at standard award conditions, commensurate with experience, as determined by the Eligible Administering Institution.

Due to the limited term of the funding, stipends for HDR students are not to be included in budget requests.

4.2.2 Direct Research Costs

Direct research costs are those non-salary costs directly related to the conduct of the project. Funds may be used for costs relating to effective consumer engagement (in line with NHMRC consumer engagement principles) and travel for the purposes of conducting the research project. Direct research costs may also include consumables, services, software, and minor equipment (<\$10,000-unit cost) required to undertake the project. Applicants will need to justify the proposed request for direct research costs.

Student stipends, conference participation/travel, publication costs, open access fees, patenting and/or intellectual property (IP) protection costs are not eligible to be included as part of the requested direct research costs.

5. Application Stages and Assessment

This round will follow a three-stage assessment process:

- Stage 1. Expression of Interest (EOI)
- Stage 2. Full Application (by invitation based on EOI assessment)
- Stage 3. Further Information and/or Interview

These stages are described in further detail below.

5.1 Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI)

Using THRF Group's online platform (SmartyGrants), applicants must submit their EOI incorporating a two-page CIA biosketch (using the [provided biosketch template](#)) and Eligible Administering Institution endorsement on the [prescribed EOI endorsement form](#).

Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and compliance by the THRF Group. Applicants and their relevant Eligible Administering Institution/s may be contacted with follow-up queries to assist this review.

Eligible applications will be assessed against the Assessment Criteria (Appendix A) by a suitably experienced reviewer panel convened by THRF Group. Conflicts of Interest will be treated in accordance with THRF Group's conflict of interest management framework. Top-ranked shortlisted applications will be invited through to the next Stage to submit a Full Application.

If two (2) or more submitted applications are, in THRF Group's opinion, substantially similar in scope or project team composition, THRF Group reserves the right to progress the assessment of only one (1), some, all or none of such applications. In the case that no eligible EOIs are considered competitive to progress to Stage 2, THRF Group may close the round and not award funding.

Further details on the assessment scoring system are provided in Appendix A. All assessment criteria will be considered in the context of the Round Objectives, and THRF Group's Purpose more broadly. Please note that assessors will follow the [NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy](#), and will be required to deal with applications and assessment matters confidentially.

It is the CIA's responsibility to ensure that the authorised delegate of their Eligible Administering Institution certifies the EOI in [the specified format](#) as part of the submission process.

5.2 Stage 2: Full Application (by invitation)

Shortlisted EOI applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application via THRF Group's SmartyGrants platform.

Full Applications must provide further detail on need, approach, feasibility, outcomes & impacts, and include a detailed budget. Full Applications must also include [biosketches](#) for CIB–CID (as applicable) in the project team, and be formally certified by the Eligible Administering Institution on the [prescribed Full Application endorsement form](#).

Stage 2 applicants will be required to nominate at least two impartial, non-conflicted external reviewers to assess their Full Application and will be able to advise the names of assessors not to be approached. While reasonable efforts will be made, THRF Group are unable to guarantee that assessments will be provided by the nominated external reviewers.

Information surplus to that requested in the Full Application form will not be considered in the assessment of the application.

Eligible Full Applications will be reviewed and assessed by a review panel, with input from specialist reviewers against the assessment criteria listed in Appendix A. All assessment criteria will be considered in the context of the Round Objectives, and THRF Group's Purpose more broadly. Please note that assessors will follow the [NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy](#), and will be required to deal with applications and assessment matters confidentially.

In the cases where the panel recommends that no Full Applications are competitive for funding, THRF Group may close the Round without awarding funding, or return to the EOI application pool and issue further Full Application invitations.

Lay language components of the EOI and Full Application may be used to engage consumers in aspects of the assessment process.

It is the CIA's responsibility to ensure that the authorised delegate of their nominated Eligible Administering Institution certifies the Full Application in [the specified format](#) as part of the submission process.

5.3 Stage 3: Further Information and/or Interview

Following assessment and provisional ranking of Stage 2 Full Applications, THRF Group may request further information from applicants and/or their Eligible Administering Institution. Shortlisted applicants may also be interviewed by a panel convened by THRF Group.

5.4 Funding Decision

The final funding decision will be made by THRF Group, informed by assessor reviews, and determined by funding availability. THRF Group reserves the right not to fund any application for any reason, including where the relevant project personnel and/or organisations have not fulfilled their obligations under previous THRF Group funding agreement/s, including but not limited to reporting, financial acquittal, and acknowledgement requirements. All funding decisions are final and no further negotiations will be entered into.

Final outcomes will be advised to applicants and their respective Eligible Administering Institutions by THRF Group and will remain under embargo until an announcement is made by THRF Group. Applicants

and all related parties must withhold announcements, public statements, social media posts or issue of media releases before such announcement.

5.4.1 Alex Tanner Emerging Cancer Researcher Award

The highest-ranked and funded proposal led by a female CIA will be recognised through the **Alex Tanner Emerging Cancer Researcher Award**, named in honour of Alex Tanner (dec. 2026), whose passion for advancing cancer research and improving outcomes for patients continues to inspire others. This Award celebrates her legacy by supporting the next generation of emerging cancer researchers.

In addition to project funding, the Award recipient will receive \$10,000 to support research dissemination and translation activities during the project, including conference participation and travel, publication costs, open access fees, community engagement initiatives, or commercialisation activities. The Award is named with the permission of the Tanner family.

5.5 Round Timeline

Stage 1 EOI Opens	Wednesday 16 th September 2026 at 10:00am (ACST)
Stage 1 EOI Closes	Wednesday 14 th October 2026 at 4:00pm (ACDT)
Stage 2: Invitation to Full Application for shortlisted EOIs	Indicatively 4-6 weeks after Stage 1 closes <i>EOIs not shortlisted will be notified at this stage</i>
Stage 2: Full Applications Close	Approximately 4-6 weeks after Invitation to Full Application
Stage 3 Interview	Indicatively 6 weeks after Full Applications close
Final Outcomes	Indicatively 8 weeks after Stage 2 closes

Please note this timeline is indicative and may change without notice.

6. Funding Terms and Conditions

If an application is approved for funding, THRF Group and the Eligible Administering Institution will enter into a formal Funding Agreement detailing the funding terms and conditions (provisional funding agreement available [here](#)). Unless otherwise agreed, the project must commence within six (6) months of receiving notification of the award, but not before the Funding Agreement has been fully executed. In accordance with *The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, the Eligible Administering Institution will be responsible for ensuring all relevant ethics approvals and collaborative agreements are in place to enable the project to proceed.

The Funding Agreement between THRF Group and the Eligible Administering Institution will include (but not be limited to) provisions that recipients must:

- provide 6-monthly progress reports (via SmartyGrants) on the project and achievement against agreed milestones and at any other point as reasonably requested.
- provide a 6-monthly financial statement of project expenditure and at any other point as reasonably requested.
- report any unexpected delays or changes to the project plan to THRF Group in a timely manner.
- provide a Completion Report and final financial acquittal upon conclusion of the project period, and a Follow-up Report 12 months after completion.
- appropriately acknowledge THRF Group in all presentations and publications of the work.
- provide updates upon request to THRF Group.
- participate in media opportunities coordinated by THRF Group where requested and practicable, including local radio and local and national media announcements.

- seek in advance THRF Group's approval for content, timing and release of public announcements, media releases, and/or online information relating to the project.
- assist in future grant reviews if requested by THRF Group (where reasonably practicable).
- if a first-time awardee of THRF Group funding and where reasonably practicable, attend one of THRF Group's regular grantee information meetings within the first year of funding.

6.1 *Incomplete, False or Misleading Information*

All information submitted to THRF Group must be complete, current and accurate at the time of submission, and free of false or misleading information.

Examples of false or misleading information include, but are not limited to, providing:

- dishonest statements regarding employment arrangements or time commitments to the research project for which support is being sought.
- incomplete or inaccurate facts regarding other sources of funding.
- inaccurate claims in publication records.
- incomplete or misleading information of ethics and governance requirements or other factors that may impact the researcher's ability to commence the research project in a timely manner.

If THRF Group becomes aware of omissions or inclusion of misleading information in an application, it may choose to exclude an application from assessment, withdraw funding, and/or refer the matter to the relevant Eligible Administering Institution.

7. How to Apply

Applications must be completed and submitted online through THRF Group's SmartyGrants platform. Please note:

- Only electronic submissions through the SmartyGrants system will be accepted.
- Applicants must click on the "Submit" button when the application is finalised to lodge the application. Applicants are advised to check their registered email for confirmation of submission, and if the confirmation email is not received (after checking junk/spam folders), applicants should assume that the submission has not occurred and re-attempt submission.
- The downloadable preview of application forms available from the SmartyGrants portal may not display all required content as some sections of the form are conditional. It is strongly recommended that applicants work through the online form within the SmartyGrants system well in advance of the deadline, to ensure all information required to complete the application is understood.
- A complete application must be submitted via the SmartyGrants portal prior to the closing date and time, after which the portal closes and no further submissions will be accepted. Applicants are advised to submit well ahead of the round closure as problems encountered because of last-minute submission will not be considered grounds for extension/exemption.
- Unless otherwise specified in the application form, all uploaded files should be provided in PDF format. File names should include a short description of the item followed by the CIA's family name, for example "Transcript_Smith.pdf".

Apply at:

<https://hospitalresearch.smartygrants.com.au/2026-CP-PMAACT>

Stage 1: Close Wednesday 14th October at 4:00pm (ACDT)

All queries should be directed to grants@hospitalresearch.org.au

Incomplete, late or incorrectly submitted applications will not be considered

APPENDIX A – Assessment Criteria

All Assessment Criteria will be considered in the context of the round objectives, and the overall purpose of THRF Group.

Unmet Need/Opportunity (20%)	
The extent to which the application articulates the importance of the unmet need/opportunity and: - its demonstrated significance to consumers. - its alignment with the Program objectives. - describes how if addressed and resolved, its significance for improving clinical care and health outcomes (with reference to the SA Cancer Plan where applicable).	
Approach, Innovation and Feasibility (30%)	
The extent to which the proposed project's approach: - addresses the defined unmet need/opportunity. - applies innovative ideas, methodologies and technologies. - meaningfully engages consumers across project elements. - is cost-effective and value for money. - will achieve its stated aims.	
Significance & Impact (30%)	
The extent to which the project: - will advance the field (e.g. shift current practice or make breakthroughs). - will deliver outcomes that are significant and relevant to the unmet need. - has a credible future translation pathway to sustainably deliver positive patient/healthcare impacts (and can contribute to the SA Cancer Plan objectives where applicable).	
Project Team (20%)	
Relative to opportunity, the extent to which the CIA, project team and participating organisations can successfully undertake the project, incorporating: - a suitable diversity of collaborating personnel and organisations, with appropriate and relevant individual contributions to the project. - the combined capacity and capabilities to deliver the stated outcomes and progress beneficial impacts. - clearly demonstrated access to all necessary resources, infrastructure, data and technologies. - meaningful support and mentoring arrangements to assist the CIA as an emerging early to mid-career researcher and project leader.	

Applicant responses against the assessment criteria above will be rated using the scoring rubric indicated in the following table.

Score	Band	Description
5	Top 5%	Outstanding: Of the highest quality - no issues, queries, or concerns.
4	Next 10%	Very Good: high quality – a limited number of minor issues, queries, or concerns
3	Next 15%	Good: solid - with some issues, queries, or concerns

2	Next 20%	Reasonable: acceptable but with several issues, queries, or concerns
1	Bottom 50%	Uncompetitive: Poor with many significant issues, queries, or concerns