

# Cancer Council SA Metastatic Bowel Cancer Project Grant

## 2027 Application Guidelines

<b>EOI open:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>EOI close:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
<b>Full application open: (by invitation only)</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2026
<b>Full application close:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2026
<b>Outcomes Advised:</b>	December 2026
<b>Enquiries:</b>	Cancer Council Grants email: <a href="mailto:grants@cancersa.org.au">grants@cancersa.org.au</a>

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# 1. Cancer Council SA Research Program

Cancer Council SA is committed to expanding research to cover prevention, understanding the biology and causes of cancer, early detection, treatment, survivorship and the wellbeing of people affected by cancer. By investing in the best and brightest South Australian researchers through our grant program, we are helping to ensure South Australia plays a critical role in developing the next generation of cancer prevention, detection and treatment breakthroughs.

## 2. About Metastatic Bowel Cancer Project Grant

Through the generosity of dedicated donors and supporters, Cancer Council SA is pleased to offer a one-off Special Project Grant to support research focused on metastatic bowel cancer.

This dedicated funding opportunity aims to support innovative research projects that will improve the prevention, detection, treatment, survivorship, quality of life, and care of people living with metastatic bowel cancer.

## 3. The application process

Selection is via a two-stage, competitive process:

### Stage 1: Expression of Interest

Expression of Interest close

Eligibility check

Evaluation by The Assessment Committee

Shortlisting and teams invited to complete a Full Application



### Stage 2: Full Application

Full Applications close

Evaluation by the Assessment Committee

Cancer Council SA reviews recommendations and makes funding decision

Funding agreement is entered into with successful teams

## 4. Grant selection process

The selection process is illustrated in Section 3. In the event of a significant change to the selection process, we will notify all impacted parties to the best of our ability and inform applicants of any changes.

Eligible applications are assessed through a competitive grant process. The grant Assessment Committees, comprising of independent researchers and people affected by cancer from outside of SA, evaluate each application against the selection criteria and generate a single, overall score for each application. This overall score is used to rank applications and determine which applicants are invited to the next selection round (Stage 2).

The same process is followed at Stage 2 assessment, with the Assessment Committee providing funding recommendations based on application ranking. Cancer Council SA makes the final funding decisions, taking into account the recommendations of the Assessment Committee and the availability of grant funds. Cancer Council SA reserves the right not to award in any given year or category.

## 5. Grant Objective

The objective of this grant is to support research that addresses significant unmet needs in metastatic bowel cancer and has the potential to improve outcomes for patients and their families.

Applications may include:

- Basic and translational research
- Clinical research
- Health services research
- Public health research
- Survivorship and supportive care research
- Implementation science
- Consumer-led or co-designed research

Projects must demonstrate clear relevance to metastatic bowel cancer.

## 6. Available funding

Cancer Council SA will provide a 3-year financial package (\$390,000 total; \$130,000/year). The administering institution is expected to support the project through existing infrastructure, governance arrangements and any required institutional support. No matched funding is required for this one-off Special Project Grant.

- The grant will be for a 3-year period and will not be renewable. Applications for a no-cost extension may be considered and are at the full discretion of Cancer Council SA.
- The application must articulate a case to be funded and justify the requested budget. Allocation of budget can be for salary support, direct research costs and dissemination support. Budget must be directly related to the proposed research project; the expense must be incurred between the grant start and end dates, and the majority of the funding must be spent in South Australia.

### Eligible expenditure items

- **Salary support** for personnel involved in the project such as research assistants, technical staff, biostatistical support, research nurses. Salaries for investigators can be included where appropriately justified.
- **Direct research costs:** Includes costs such as consumables, software, recruitment, imaging and diagnostic fees, and travel to conduct the research (e.g., data collection). No more than 10% of the total grant funding can be used to purchase equipment. Cancer Council SA grants cannot be used to fund

institutional on costs.

- **Consumer Engagement Costs: This is a required budget line** and refers to the expenses related to involving consumers (patients, caregivers, or community members) in research or decision-making activities. Please detail the specific costs for compensating consumers, covering honoraria, travel, training, and communication materials. This budget line will help demonstrate that consumer engagement is planned thoughtfully, and the budgeted costs are adequate for successful involvement. If a consumer has chosen to waive these costs, please mention this clearly in the application for the reviewers' consideration".
- **Dissemination support:** Travel (economy) and conference registration fees to present work directly related to this grant, capped at \$5,000.

#### **Ineligible expenditure items**

- Corporate and infrastructure overheads.
- PhD student stipend top-ups.
- Building works
- Major equipment purchases exceeding 10% of total funding
- Publication fees such as article processing charges.
- Investigator relocation expenses

## **7. Eligibility**

Applications may be submitted by individual investigators or multidisciplinary teams. This grant is open to research scientists, public health professionals, professionals in health services administration, clinicians and allied health professionals. Each Project Grant must be administered by a single Administering Institution. The Administering Institution guarantees the infrastructure necessary to support the research will be available. Its explicit support for and commitment to the application is essential before any application can be considered. The Administering Institution will be held responsible for the proper administration and expenditure of the grant and for ensuring that all reports required are submitted by the due date.

Project Grant is led by the Chief Investigator (CI) A and by up to nine additional CIs (B-J). The Administering Institution certifies that the CIA:

- Be an Australian citizen or graduate from overseas with permanent Australian resident status at the time of submitting their expression of interest.
- Not currently hold an existing grant from Cancer Council SA as the lead investigator.
- Consideration will be given to research opportunity. (See *Section 8. Career Disruption/Research Opportunity* section below)
- Be employed by, or hold an appointment at, an eligible South Australian research institution with more than 50% of the research work occurring in South Australia.
- Institutions may submit multiple applications however applicants can only be CIA on one application.
- The CIA can have salaries from multiple sources, in addition to this grant, however, cannot exceed a maximum FTE of 1.0.

#### **The research proposal:**

- Relevance to cancer is the fundamental criteria for eligibility. The primary focus of the project must relate to discovering and improving prevention, detection and treatment of cancer and care opportunities for people affected by cancer. The proposal must include relevance and significance to cancer in the application. The application will be considered insufficiently relevant if the relevance and significance to another disease is greater than to cancer, or if the impact on cancer control is low. The proposed activities must not already be fully funded from another source.

## 8. Career disruption/Research opportunity

Where applicable, applicants (Chief investigators) may wish to claim a career disruption for consideration by the review panel. Cancer Council SA has chosen to align with the ARC [Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence \(ROPE\) | Australian Research Council](#) definition of career disruption relevant to opportunity. The ROPE policy takes a holistic approach to assessing researchers' achievements in light of their opportunities. It includes traditional disruptions such as illness or caring responsibilities, but also broader considerations such as unemployment, non-research employment, clinical duties, or limited access to research resources.

## 9. Declaring other funding sources

Funding will not be granted where funding from another source is already accepted for the same funded activity/activities. Applicants must declare any accepted or pending funding related to the proposed project. Applicants may seek funding from other sources for the submitted project or similar applications. However, if funding is obtained for activities covered under Cancer Council SA funding, the awardee will be required to decline or relinquish one of the grants. For the purposes of clarity, there must be no overlap or duplication of Cancer Council SA grant activities, and we may request verification that there is no overlap.

Applications will be assessed on the activities for which funding is sought from Cancer Council SA. If additional funding is expected or had been received from other sources for the project, the applicant must clearly outline the activities which will be funded through the Cancer Council SA grants and how they will benefit the larger project in the full application stage (not required at the EOI stage).

Details of the other funding sought are to be provided including:

- Name of funding body, grant title and status of application.
- The aims and objectives included in the other application/s.
- The similarities and differences between the applications.
- Likely impacts/ justification for requesting Cancer Council South Australia funding.

## 10. Selection criteria

All applications are assessed against the criteria described below. The selection criteria are consistent for all application stages.

### **Criterion 1: Significance, Innovation and impact** Weighting 30%

- The significance, innovation and potential impact of the project on discovering and improving prevention, detection, treatment and care for people affected by metastatic bowel cancer, including quality of research design, methodology and rationale.

### **Criterion 2: Strength of the Research Team and Environment** Weighting 25%

- The research team's expertise, achievements, and contributions to cancer research, together with their capacity to undertake the proposed project. Consideration will also be given to the quality of the research environment, including relevant infrastructure, resources, collaborations, and institutional support.

### **Criterion 3: Milestones, deliverables, feasibility and budget** Weighting 25%

- The clarity, appropriateness, and achievability of the proposed milestones and deliverables, including the capacity of the research team to deliver them within the project timeframe.
- At the EOI stage a high-level budget will be required.
- For applications that are invited to stage 2, the detailed budget's justification, feasibility, value for money, and alignment will be strongly assessed against the proposed research activities, milestones, deliverables, and anticipated outcomes.

#### **Criterion 4: Involvement of people affected by cancer** Weighting 20%

- Cancer Council SA values the input and participation of people affected by cancer in health and medical research and meaningful involvement is a critical part of the application.
- This criterion has two parts
  - (a) Demonstrated active involvement of people affected by cancer in the design of the research.
  - (b) A plan to support ongoing active involvement of people affected by cancer throughout the conduct and dissemination of the research.

Resources: See Appendix A for support addressing this criterion.

#### **A few notes on terminology related to the selection criteria:**

- We acknowledge there are multiple terms used to describe people with lived experience of cancer such as 'community member', 'consumer', 'stakeholder' and 'representative'. In our guidelines and selection criteria, we use 'people affected by cancer' to refer to those diagnosed with cancer and their family, friends and carers.
- We acknowledge there are multiple ways to describe how people affected by cancer will work with researchers. We use the term 'involvement' in our guidelines and selection criteria as an umbrella term for describing how researchers and people affected by cancer actively work together in all research stages. Involvement is not about people participating in the research as a research participant.
- The study design phase includes any work before the research commences (e.g., development of research questions, protocol development, recruitment and consent approach, funding applications, ethics submission). The research conduct phase includes both the execution and dissemination of the research.

## **11. Notification of outcomes**

Applicants will be advised of the outcome in writing. If successful, we will advise of any specific conditions attached to the grant. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

## **12. Expectations of Awardees**

There are contractual, reporting and promotional activities attached to this grant.

### **12.1 Funding agreement**

Cancer Council SA will enter into a funding agreement with the administering institution of the successful applicant. Payments will be made to the South Australian Administering Institution nominated in the grant application and will be paid biannually upon receipt of a tax invoice and satisfactory progress. The final payment will be subject to receipt and acceptance of a final progress report within 3 months of the end of the grant. The administering institution must agree to meet any additional employment-related expenses for the recipient. This includes regular overhead and operating expenses of the institution, as required to support the project.

### **12.2 Commencement date**

The commencement date is negotiable but must be within 3 months of the formal date of offer and before June 30<sup>th</sup> of the relevant funding year.

### **12.3 Supporting Cancer Council SA fundraising efforts**

We may ask successful applicants to work with Cancer Council SA's fundraising and communications teams to meet with prospective donors to assist in fundraising. This may include attending fundraising events, facilitating a tour of your site, or being available for public communications.

## 12.4 Approvals and governance requirements

The Administering Organisation agrees to certify that all relevant approvals, infrastructure, and insurances are in place, or will be secured, prior to the commencement of the project. This may include Site Specific Approval, Human Research Ethics Approval, Liability Insurance and any safety approvals as required. Ethics and biosafety approvals must be obtained from the appropriate institutional committees or approval bodies before the relevant components of the research begin. The anticipated timeframe for obtaining such approvals must be factored into the overall project timeline. Please note that no additional funding will be provided to cover delays resulting from the approvals process. Copies of all relevant approvals must be provided to Cancer Council SA upon request.

## 12.5 Recognition

Awardees are required to:

- Establish an email signature block that acknowledges their Cancer Council SA grant and
- Acknowledge support from Cancer Council SA in all publications, presentations and media announcements produced in relation to this funding. The acknowledgement must state **Supported by Cancer Council SA Research** and where possible use the *Cancer Council SA Research* logo.

## 12.6 Publicity, reporting and keeping Cancer Council SA updated

- Successful applicants cannot make any public announcement regarding their grant or Cancer Council SA without the prior written approval of Cancer Council SA, unless such announcement is required by law or a regulatory body.
- Cancer Council SA' grants officer will liaise with researchers to provide further details on reporting requirements. An agreement with the Administering Institution will be finalised setting out terms and conditions of funding including research and financial status reporting requirements. These reports facilitate the administration of grant payments and maintain accountability while also supporting the evaluation and monitoring of the grant. We also use this information to keep donors updated on your progress and parts of these reports may be published on the Cancer Council SA website. Failure to submit reports may result in the termination of the grant and make researchers ineligible for further Cancer Council SA research funding.
- At the completion of the grant, any unexpended funding must be returned to Cancer Council SA.
- Chief Investigator must advise Cancer Council SA if anything is likely to affect the grant activity, organisation or ability to achieve agreed milestones. If the research team or the Administering Organisation become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, Cancer Council SA must be notified immediately.

# 13. Tobacco policy

Funding will not be offered for individuals or institutions that receive support directly or indirectly from, or are involved with, organisations that are part of or funded by the tobacco industry. Applicants are asked to disclose any current or recent relationship with the tobacco industry. Unless counterevidence is supplied, such relationships will be taken as conflict of interest and render applicants ineligible.

# 14. Privacy policy

The names and photos of successful applicants and project information, including funding amount and lay project summaries, will be listed on the Cancer Council South Australia website. By applying for this grant, applicants consent to the use of the supplied information being disclosed for the purposes of grant administration, evaluation and monitoring, and promotion in accordance with the [Cancer Council SA Privacy Policy](#).

## 15. Application process

The application process is in two stages. Applicants must disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interests (financial and non-financial) that are, or could appear to be, relevant to the proposed research. This may include funding from an industry or interest group, company shares, affiliations with an organisation that could benefit from the proposed research, or current and past professional and social relationships.

- **Stage 1** Complete an Expression of Interest application. This application includes a description of the proposal, the intended outcomes and how the findings might lead to a significant advance in cancer knowledge. Curriculum vitae of all chief investigators in the project team (see Appendix B) will need to be attached. Certification from the Research Administration Office will be required.
- **Stage 2** If shortlisted, applicants will be invited to complete a Full Application (form provided at time of invitation). The Full Application includes a detailed proposal and certifications by the Research Administration Office. Applicants will also need to provide Career Disruption support letter (if applicable) and CV.

## 16. Application submission

Complete the relevant application form and Certification Document and submit them through the online grants portal at [cancersa.org.au/grantapply](https://cancersa.org.au/grantapply). We encourage applicants to use gender-neutral language in the application. File naming information is listed below.

### File naming structure and examples

#### Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI)

Structure: MBC2027\_[ApplicantSurname-Initials]\_EOI\_category

- Example: MBC2027\_Heywood-DW\_EOI\_Basic Science.pdf

#### Stage 2: Full application

- Structure: MBC2027\_[ApplicantSurname-Initials]\_FullApplication\_category
- Example: MBC2027\_Heywood-DW\_FullApplication\_Health Services\_Public Health.pdf

#### Please note:

- Applicants and Research Administration Officers may contact us if an error in a submitted application is identified. We are not required to accept any additional information, nor requests to correct an application after closing. Modification to applications after final submission that change the nature of the application will not be accepted.
- If we find an error, or information that is missing or incomplete, we may ask for clarification or additional information (e.g., more information on another grant application) from the applicant or Research Administration Officer, noting that any additional information may not change the nature of your application.
- Cancer Council SA must be notified of any changes that may impact on the application such as if an applicant's employment circumstances change.
- Administering Organisations may implement earlier closing dates to allow for internal processing before submitting to Cancer Council SA by the closing dates. Applicants are encouraged to contact their Research Office for more information.

## 17. Enquiries

For questions regarding eligibility or application processes, contact the Cancer Council SA grants team at [grants@cancersa.org.au](mailto:grants@cancersa.org.au)

# Appendix A. Involving people affected by cancer in research

Many research institutions, universities and health services have internal resources and consumer groups or reference committees which applicants can draw upon.

## A strong application:

- Clearly demonstrates how people affected by cancer with expertise and lived experience specific to the proposal were involved in the development of the research and what the result of the involvement was;
- Clearly describes how people affected by cancer will be involved over the course of the project in a way that positively impacts both the research project and the individuals affected by cancer;
- Has a clear communication strategy between the researchers(s) and the people affected by cancer to support ongoing involvement over the course of the research.

## The below list are prompts for consideration

- Explain why the form and level of involvement is appropriate to the research and who was involved in making these decisions
- Describe how you determined the roles and scope of involving people with lived experience (i.e., the how, when, what roles)
- Describe how people with lived experience are embedded in project governance and project oversight
- Describe how the people affected by cancer involved in the research are representative and appropriate to the research. Similarly, where groups or individuals are excluded or not available, explain why and any alternative to involvement (e.g., in cancers with high mortality rates it can be challenging to directly include people with this specific cancer diagnosis and alternatively, the close others of these individuals can provide the lived experience perspective)
- Describe how the plan for involvement has considered capability building of individuals affected by cancer involved in the research
- Describe how the budget supports people affected by cancer to be involved in the research and who was involved in developing the budget
- Describe how the involvement and contributions will be recognized and whether living authorship agreements include the individuals affected by cancer

## Resources

The below resources may support applicants involve people affected by cancer in research. Note the list is not exhaustive and there is no requirement that applicants utilise any of the below in the application.

## Toolkits and practical guidance

- NHMRC's 2020 Consumer Toolkit ([link](#))
- VCCC Consumer Engagement Toolkit ([link](#))
- Western Australian Health Translation Network: How to Involve Consumers in Health and Medical Research ([link](#))
- Western Australian Health Translation Network: Consumer and Community Involvement and Grant Writing ([link](#))
- Health Translation SA: Consumer Engagement 101 Panel Session ([link](#))
- Western Australian Health Translation Network: Consumer and community involvement (CCI) handbook ([link](#))

# Appendix B. Curriculum Vitae

Include the following information in the curriculum vitae under the following headings. The curriculum vitae must be limited to 3 pages (if no career interruption) or 3.5 pages if career interruption is claimed. Use 11-point Arial font, single spaced and margins must remain the same as the Application Form. Listing of qualifications, positions, awards, publications, and presentations must be in reverse chronological order (i.e., newest first). Do not include information such as home address and date of birth.

## Qualifications

Provide a list of professional qualifications. For each entry include the name and location of the institution, the degree received (if applicable), the month and year of end date and the field of study.

## Positions

List the positions (paid and unpaid) held that are relevant to this application.

## Awards and grants

Provide a list of awards and grants received. For each listing include the name of the award/grant, year it was awarded, start/end date (if applicable), the amount awarded and whether you were the Principal or Chief Investigator A.

## Publications

List your publications highlighting those that relate to your current application. For unpublished work, list only those that are submitted or accepted for publication. Each listing must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence they appear in publication) and full reference information (e.g., article and journal title, book title, volume and page numbers, year of publication, DOI).

## Presentations

List up to five major presentations (e.g., invited lectures, conference presentation). Each listing must include the presentation title, name of conference or symposia, date of presentation and location.

## Career interruption (if applicable)

Describe the career interruption. A career interruption is a significant (min. 60 days) interruption to your capacity to work in research due to events such as pregnancy; illness; caring responsibilities; or clinical, administrative or teaching workloads. The interruption must have occurred after the date the PhD thesis was awarded and have directly resulted in reduced ability to work in research since PhD award date. This information is used as part of eligibility confirmation.