

**CANCER COUNCIL SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
RESEARCH PROGRAM- PROJECT GRANTS  
(NEAR MISS IDEAS GRANTS)**



Applications for funding in 2027

**KEY DATES**

**Applications open: 13 March 2026**

**NHMRC Closing date: 6 May 2026 ([NHMRC Ideas Grant application](#))**

**CCSA Project Grants (Near Miss Ideas) Closing Date: 3 July 2026** (Cancer Council SA Supplementary Questions)

**CCSA Project Grants (Near Miss Ideas) Submission: via [Grants portal](#)** (Hosted by CCNSW. Select 'Cancer Council SA' on page 1)

**OVERVIEW**

The Cancer Council South Australia (CCSA) project grants consider near miss applications to the NHMRC Ideas Grant round for supplementary funding. Processing of applications for Cancer Council SA supplementary funding is jointly managed by Cancer Council New South Wales (CNSW) and CCSA.

Cancer Council SA project grants supplementary funding is available to applications that are:

- Based on any aspect of cancer, including its causes, mechanisms, prevention, treatment and care, and the organisation and performance of cancer control services
- 1 year in duration
- Have an adjusted 12-month timeline and budget up to a value of \$100,000
- Based in South Australia

Researchers wishing to apply to the Cancer Council SA project grants must complete:

- An NHMRC Ideas Grant application in SAPPHIRE
- The Cancer Council SA supplementary questions via the CCNSW [Grants portal](#)

**HOW TO APPLY**

**1. NHMRC IDEAS GRANT APPLICATION**

Visit the NHMRC website for information about submitting an NHMRC Ideas Grant application and how to access Sapphire. Once an Ideas Grant application is started in SAPPHIRE, select 'Cancer Council' under the '*Funding Sources*' Tab. Failure to do so will mean NHMRC is unable to forward the application to Cancer Council.

**2. SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

In addition to the NHMRC Ideas Grant application, applicants will need to complete a set of Supplementary Questions via the CCNSW [Grants portal](#). Please select 'Cancer Council SA' on page 1 to be considered for Cancer Council SA Project Grants funding.

**Important to note:**

In order for NHMRC to pass on application data to Cancer Councils, applicants need to select "Cancer Council" as the funding option in SAPPHIRE, under the 'Funding Source' Tab.

Under the 'Application Details' tab in SAPPHIRE, applicants also need to provide consent to the privacy clause for the NHMRC to be able to release the application.

The same application ID must be used on the NHMRC application form and on the CCNSW [grants portal](#).

For applicants who wish to apply to both Cancer Council SA and Cancer Council NSW supplementary funding, only one application on the CCNSW [grants portal](#) needs to be completed.

The Supplementary Questions will not be available to the NHMRC Grant Review Panels (GRPs) but will be for the exclusive use of the Cancer Council SA Research Program to assist in funding decisions. Applicants are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with the Specific State Criteria which are identified below.

**SPECIFIC STATE CRITERIA**

In the supplementary questions on the [CCNSW grants portal](#) (Specific State criteria), Cancer Council SA funding applicants must demonstrate the following attributes:

- **Research Design, Rationale and Quality:** Briefly describe the scope of your project in relation to the funding provided by Cancer Council South Australia; quality of research design and rationale (maximum of 2000 characters).
- **Scientific impact and Innovation:** Outline significance, innovation and potential impact of the project on discovering and improving prevention/detection/treatment or care for people affected by cancer (maximum of 1500 characters). Applicants should demonstrate (if applicable) how their research addresses any health inequities in priority areas in South Australia, including but not limited to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Culturally and Linguistically diverse and rural and remote areas.
- **Collaboration:** include clear evidence of collaboration in the past five years at a local, national and international level (e.g., as in grant applications, co-authorship of papers and conference presentations). The roles of any collaborating partners in the present proposal should be clearly outlined. Collaborators may include other researchers, policy makers, service providers and/or community representatives (maximum of 1500 characters).
- **Consumer and Community Engagement:** Outline the Consumer and Community engagement strategy associated with this application (maximum of 1500 characters).
- **Modifications:** Outline how the project has been adapted from the original application to align with the funding and timeline offered by Cancer Council South Australia. If your application is not under review by NHMRC and/or Cancer Australia, and no modifications have been made to the project, please indicate N/A. (Max 2500 characters).
- **Project Timeline:** Include a timeline which details the measurable milestones you expect to achieve in each 6-month interval of your funding term. (maximum of 2500 characters)

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS**

Applicants ineligible to apply for NHMRC Ideas Grant funding are still eligible to apply via the NHMRC process for Cancer Council SA Project Grants.

Applicants need to adhere to Cancer Council SA Project Grants eligibility criteria as well as that of the NHMRC if they are applying for funding from both organisations. These are available on their respective websites.

Eligible applications may come from across the research spectrum including clinical, health-services and population-health and biomedical research.

## **ASSESSMENT**

All cancer research grant applications will be assessed and ranked via the NHMRC Ideas Grant process. Applications will be assessed based on NHMRC ranking and Specific State Criteria.

Please note: While all cancer research grant applications will be assessed via the NHMRC process, Cancer Councils will continue to make the funding decisions and reserve the right not to grant funding in any grant round.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Applications are to follow the NHMRC format. The relevance of the research to cancer must be explicit in the application and research must be carried out in South Australia.

Only one project per Chief Investigator (CI) will be funded. It is permissible to submit the same grant for funding to Cancer Australia, Cancer Council NSW and Cancer Council SA Research Program but funding would be forthcoming from one source only.

### **Sequence of investigators**

The list and sequence of all named Chief Investigators on the application must be the same as that of the NHMRC application.

### **Duration and funding available for a given grant**

Projects funded will generally be for one year beginning 1st January 2025. Cancer Council SA Project Grants funding should not be used as a source of ongoing salary funding for senior career scientists. Up to \$100,000 will be available per project.

Cancer Council SA Project Grants Funding will generally not fund the salary of Chief Investigator A (CIA). Salary requests for CIB, CIC, CID etc will be permitted provided the salary is not being requested to support someone who is a group leader or head of laboratory.

## **Payment of funds**

Grant payments will be made to the South Australian Administering Institution nominated in the successful grant application. Grants are paid in two instalments on receipt of a tax invoice from the Administering Institution. Amounts granted are exclusive of GST.

## **Publicity**

Successful applicants may be asked to assist with promotion of funded research and of funding partners. It is possible for example that there will be requests to provide media publicity through interviews or other means and we hope that successful applicants will be able to participate when these opportunities arise. We shall also ask successful applicants to advise the Cancer Council SA Research Program secretariat if promotion of funded work is planned through host institutions. All publications resulting from this funding should include the following acknowledgment: **“This research was supported by the Cancer Council SA Research Program- Project Grants, on behalf of its generous donors.”**

## **Reporting**

You will be required to report against the first six months of the grant for the first reporting period and the remaining six months of the grant in the next reporting period. Failure to submit a report may render investigators on the grant application ineligible for further funding until the report is received.

## **Successful applicants**

An agreement with successful applicants will be finalised setting out terms and conditions of funding.

## **Tobacco Policy**

Funding will not be offered for individuals or institutions who 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.

## **Use of Research Funds**

The funds offered are a grant-in-aid and will not be supplemented. It is the responsibility of the grant holder to manage salaries and other expenditure within the limits of the grant.

## **Unspent Funds**

Unexpended money must be returned to Cancer Council SA. Funding may not be carried over into the following year.

## KEY DATES FOR CANCER COUNCIL SA PROJECT GRANTS AND IDEAS GRANT PROCESS

Date	Milestone
13 March 2026	NHMRC Ideas Grant process opens – includes Cancer Council SA Project Grants
08 April 2026	Closing date for submission of NHMRC Ideas Grant minimum data via Sapphire
6 May 2026	Closing date for applications to the NHMRC Ideas Grant applications via Sapphire
3 July 2026, 5pm AEST	Closing date for submission of Cancer Council Project Grants application via the Cancer Council online grants portal
Approx. December 2026	Anticipated assessment of applications via NHMRC Grant Review Panels
February 2027	Applicants advised of NHMRC and Cancer Council funding outcomes

## KEY CONTACTS

If you have any questions relating to this process or the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact:

### **Cancer Council SA**

Tel: 08 8291 4370

Email: [grants@cancersa.org.au](mailto:grants@cancersa.org.au)

### **NHMRC**

For enquiries about the NHMRC application process contact your institutions Research Office or the NHMRC's Research Help Centre on Tel: 1800 500 983 email: [help@nhmrc.gov.au](mailto:help@nhmrc.gov.au)

### **Cancer Council NSW**

For any issues regarding the CCNSW [Grants portal](#) for the Cancer Council SA Supplementary questions, please contact:  
Research Grants Coordinator, CCNSW  
Email: [research@nswcc.org.au](mailto:research@nswcc.org.au)