

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia Priority Impact Research Award (PIRA) Guide for Applicants

Part 1: Overview Information

Organisation	Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA)
Funding Category	Strategic Priority Research
Grant Name	PCFA Priority Impact Research Award (PIRA)
Description	<p>Through this mechanism, Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) launches its first call for applications under its new Research Strategy that will support strategic priority research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using existing, predominantly Australian, repositories of biological samples from men with prostate cancer to better predict prostate cancer progression, or • examining the impact of prostate cancer on men's lives and the lives of their partners and their families.

Important Dates

Program Launch Date	Friday 8 March 2019
Application Submission Deadline	Monday 29 April 2019
Peer Review	May to June 2019
RAC Deliberation Meeting	July 2019
Anticipated Award Notification	September 2019
Funding Start Date	1 October 2019

Part 2. Research Funding Announcement

New PCFA Research Strategy

To ensure that funds raised are invested for greatest benefit, PCFA will align its research program with the needs of men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families.

In implementing this strategy, PCFA's research program aims to:

- Deliver near-term benefits to, and have measurable impacts on, men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families,
- Answer questions identified by consumers, clinicians and prostate cancer service advocates as those most needing research,
- Be fit for purpose and of the highest quality and ethical standards,
- Identify areas of agreed priority where significant PCFA investment can make a major difference in the near term,
- Make the best use of partnership opportunities to achieve strategic research goals,
- Make research capacity development an integral component of PCFA-funded research, and
- Facilitate translation into policy and practice of knowledge gained through PCFA research investments.

PCFA Priority Impact Research Awards (PIRA)

Description

A **PCFA** Priority Impact Research Award will give financial support to researchers and research teams to work on research that PCFA has identified to be of high priority.

Aligning with its research strategy, PCFA is calling for applications for research in two areas:

Priority Research Area 1:

Research that uses existing, predominantly Australian, repositories of biological samples from men with prostate cancer to better predict prostate cancer's progression.

Priority Research Area 5:

Research that advances knowledge and understanding of the impact of prostate cancer on men's lives and the lives of their partners and their families.

The objectives of this call are:

- To promote research use of existing Australian repositories of biological of tissues from men with prostate cancer.

- To support research that addresses the current needs of men with prostate cancer, their partners and families.
- To support research that will yield benefits to men with prostate cancer in the near term (5-7 years).
- To encourage early career researchers to develop interests and skills in research into prostate cancer.

Note;

1. The call is open to research that investigates localised and metastatic prostate cancer or both.
2. Research Area 1 is open to use of samples from non-Australian repositories if at least one Australian repository is used, and the full number of relevant samples required for the research is not available without recourse to non-Australian repositories.
3. Under this call, support for early career researchers should be built into the budgets of projects proposed in response to the call. There will be no separate funding for early career researchers.

Award Information

Funding Instrument	Award
Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards	The total amount budgeted for this funding opportunity and the number of awards is contingent on availability of funds and the submission of scientifically meritorious applications.
Award Budget and Period	The maximum amount of an award is \$200,000 per year for three years. The requested funding amount and the award period are at the discretion of the applicants and must be commensurate with the requirements of the proposed project. Subject to the last, amount and period will not influence award decisions.

Eligibility Information

Eligibility to Apply

PCFA Priority Impact Awards are open to health and medical research scientists, practitioners at all career stages (early, mid and established career researchers) and to collaborating consumers. Investigators who are scientists or practitioners must hold an academic or research appointments at the time applications close.

The proposed research project must address one of the Priority Research Areas.

Priority Research Area 1:

Research that uses existing, predominantly Australian, repositories of biological samples from men with prostate cancer to better predict prostate cancer's progression

Priority Research Area 5:

Research that advances knowledge and understanding of the impact of prostate cancer on men's lives and the lives of their partners and their families.

To be eligible for a PCFA Priority Impact Research Award, the Chief Investigator must:

- Hold a research-based university or equivalent institution higher degree
- Hold an academic or research appointment at an eligible research institution (see information about institution eligibility on page 5)
- Be an Australian citizen or hold permanent residency in Australia and be based in Australia for the duration of the grant
- Demonstrate that they have access to the facilities needed for the proposed research and will be in a research environment that will support their development in accordance with the aims of this award.

Multiple applications from the same Chief Investigator will not be accepted. Any applicant can be a Chief Investigator in one proposal and listed as a Co-Investigator in a maximum of one other application submitted in a single funding round. If the Chief Investigator is named as a Co-Investigator on another proposal, any potential for overlap should be explained.

PCFA expects all research it funds to:

- Have at least one consumer as a Co-Investigator
- Include a realistic plan for engagement of end users (e.g. clinicians, consumers, policymakers) in developing research questions and design and oversight
- Engage, where feasible, research higher degree students and/or other early career researchers (within 5 years of completion of their formal research training), in the conduct of the research

- Lead to publications in peer reviewed journals
- Be available to present brief and easily understood evidence-based summaries for specific audiences when requested by PCFA.
- Bring together consumers, clinicians, researchers and policymakers to explore the implications of the research for policy and practice
- Have a formal and practical research translation plan.

Eligible Institutions

To apply for a PCFA Priority Impact Research Award, applicants must be affiliated with an **eligible institution**, which will accept financial responsibility for the grant, be responsible for the award's administration and provide basic infrastructure support (e.g. office, phone, computer & internet access, laboratory space) to its staff members or students who are involved in the research project.

Eligible institutions must:

1. Be an:
 - Australian tertiary institution or one of their affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes; or an
 - Australian non-governmental, not-for-profit organisations (including community or charitable organisations) with an explicit research or knowledge translation mandate.
2. Be an incorporated body under Australian law.
3. Have the necessary accounting systems and financial controls in place to manage PCFA funds.
4. Ensure that the applicant will have the time and infrastructure needed to pursue the planned research and the freedom to publish the results.

For-profit organisations and organisations without an operating base in Australia **are not** eligible institutions.

Guidelines and Review Process

PCFA Research Program Policies & Guidelines

PCFA research program policies and guidelines can be found on the PCFA website on the apply for funding page (<https://pcfa.org.au/research/apply-for-funding/>). These policies and guidelines apply to the applications submitted and awards made in response to this program announcement and need to be considered in conjunction with this guide for applicants document.

Budget

The application must include a budget that details salary, and other employment costs, and research costs requested.

Allowable expenditure

The following expenditures are allowable from funding received in an Award:

- Salary and other employment costs
- Costs of research consumables and other legitimate costs of research, including research assistance
- one national or international networking **activity** directly relevant to the Award, which may include collaborations, planning, and knowledge exchange activities (i.e. attending and presenting at International and national scientific meetings)

Non-allowable expenditure

- Institutional overhead costs are ineligible for funding
- Tuition and professional membership dues are not allowable expenses
- The award will not support laboratory equipment or other research infrastructure.

Conditions of Funding

Successful applicants funded through this funding opportunity must fully comply with the following conditions:

- Successful candidates must accept their awards within 21 working days of notification. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of the offer.
- Acknowledgment of the funder's support in all publications and presentations that result from the funded research. Wording for the acknowledgement will be provided in the letter of offer to successful applicants.
- Immediate notification to PCFA of all publications resulting from this award when they are accepted for publication.
- Submit to PCFA written interim, final and post-completion scientific progress reports that include a list of all presentations and publication resulting in whole or in part from this award.

It is expected that following the funding period, awardees will continue to contribute to the ongoing success of the funding program by participating in surveys and providing data or reports that will aid program evaluation.

Performance Indicators

Performance, as documented in the Final and 18 months post-completion progress reports, will be measured by the following indicators:

1. Number and details of peer-reviewed publications, including their impact factor and citation index.
2. Additional funding for continuation of the research, leveraged by way of application to other funding sources such as NHMRC, ARC, Cancer Australia, Cure Cancer Australia Foundation and other national and international competitive grant schemes.
3. Evidence of research results translation or progress towards translation

Key Evaluation Criteria

PCFA Priority Impact Awards applications will be evaluated based on the following evaluation criteria:

- **Alignment of the application with its specified priority research area and the likely impact of its outcomes (25%)**
- **Scientific Quality (25%)**
- **Team Quality & Capability relevant to this application (25%)**
- **Likelihood that the research will yield *near-term* benefit to men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families and/or develop Australian capacity to do research into prostate cancer (25%)**

Review Process and Evaluation

Applications will be assessed via a **two-tiered** process as follows:

Phase 1 – At least two and up to three External Expert Assessors will review and score each application using the Key Evaluation Criteria.

Phase 2 – Expert Assessor evaluations are ratified by PCFA's Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and the applications are ranked.

RAC makes recommendations to PCFA's National Board on the ranked submissions to be funded based on available funds. The final decision on which Award applications are funded is made by the Board.

Submission Information

Applications for funding to PCFA's Research Program MUST be submitted to PCFA through the Research Office of the Administering Institution. Direct applications to PCFA will not be accepted.

Please read all instructions before applying and provide the following information:

- **Completed application form.**

Naming Convention: [CI Surname]-2019 PIRA Application Form

The completed application form and Attachments 1-4 below must be submitted attached to a single email message. This can be done two ways

1. Clicking the "Submit" on the application form will generate a submission email with the application form attached. Before sending remember to add attachments 1-4 to this email.
2. If the "Submit" button does not automatically generate an email, the application form and attachments 1-4 can be emailed to research@pcfa.org.au.

All application documents **must** be sent attached to a **single** email. Any documents sent separately will not be accepted.

- **Attachment 1 - Research Proposal**

The research proposal must clearly outline the following elements:

- Central hypothesis or research question
- Specific objectives of the research project
- Background of and rationale for the proposed research
- Description of research methods and proposed statistical analyses
- Research, analysis and publication drafting timetable
- Research knowledge translation plan including detail of all steps taken from the research design phase until after the research has been completed to maximise the probability that translatable findings have good prospects of being translated into practice.

The research proposal is a maximum of **9 pages** including tables, figures and translation plan, but excluding References (**2 pages** maximum). Tables and figures can be embedded in or follow the text within the required page limit.

Naming convention: 1. [CI Surname]-Research Proposal

- **Attachment 2 - Chief Investigator's CV**

A NHMRC style CV must be attached for the CI (maximum 2 pages not counting pages listing papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals); include training and education, degrees, positions and honours and information on grants and awards held (source, type, title, amount/year, duration) over the past 5 years. The publications list should include ONLY peer reviewed papers that are relevant to this proposal and were published within the last 5 years. Do not include abstracts, only publications or reviews.

Naming convention: 2. [CI Surname]-CI CV

- **Attachment 3 - CVs for all co-investigators merged as a single PDF file**

A shorter NHMRC style CVs must be provided for each named Co-Investigator (maximum 1 page); include training and education, degrees, positions and honours, top 5 publications relevant to the proposed research and a clear statement outlining their contribution to the project.

For Consumer Co-Investigators, a brief biography (no more than 1 page) must be provided outlining their relevant skills and experience including; support group roles, advocacy activities, educational qualifications and previous experience with research projects and grant applications.

Naming convention: 3. [CI Surname]-Co-I CVs

Attachment 4 - Signed certification page

Naming convention: 4. [CI Surname]-Certification Page

The attached documents must adhere to the following instructions for presentation and content:

- PDF format
- A4, (21 cm X 29 cm)
- Arial font (regular), minimum 11-point
- Single-spaced text
- 2.54 cm margin on all sides of each page

The **Priority Impact Research Award** application form is online at:

<https://pcfa.org.au/research/apply-for-funding/>

Application deadline: the application and all relevant documents must be submitted via email to Research@pcfa.org.au by **5:00 PM (AEST) on Monday 29 April 2019.**

Terms and Conditions

- 1) PCFA does not make any representation that it will, and disclaims any obligation to, proceed with or to commit to any particular future actions in relation to the subject matter of program call, including without limitation: a) accepting any application or shortlist any applicant; and b) considering, not considering, accepting or rejecting any application.
- 2) PCFA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to initiate another selection process, enter into negotiations with a person or persons who have not been invited to respond to this call for programs or to cancel the program.
- 3) Applicants must pay their own costs and expenses incurred in preparing and submitting an application.
- 4) To the extent permitted by law, PCFA excludes all liability for any loss, costs (including legal expenses) or damages, suffered or incurred by an applicant or any person, arising out of the applicant's participation in the application process.
- 5) The Applicant warrants that it has no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to its participation in the application process or its delivery of the Project other than that is has disclosed in the application.
- 6) No legal or other obligation arises between an Applicant and PCFA in relation to the outcome of the application process, unless and until PCFA executes a contract with the applicants.
- 7) PCFA is not obliged to a) accept any notice of intent to apply and full application or b) enter into any contract with any applicant or c) give reasons for not considering or accepting or rejecting all or any part of any full application, or for cancelling the full application process.
- 8) The Applicants grants PCFA, a non-exclusive license to use for the purpose of this application process, any information, processes, sketches, calculations, drawings, or other data or information submitted with or included in, the response submitted by the Applicant.
- 9) Each Applicant agrees to indemnify PCFA against third party claims arising out of any use of any proprietary information submitting with or included in, the full application.
- 10) Should the Applicant find any material discrepancy, error or omission in this call for applications, the applicant must immediately notify PCFA in writing of the nature of the discrepancy, error or omission.
- 11) The Applicant and team members of the program acknowledge that their details, including any personal details may be disclosed to third parties including peer reviewers, for the purposes of this application process and any related purposes.
- 12) PCFA reserves the right to fund lower rated projects based on specific areas of interest in the requested themes.

Variations

PCFA may vary the requirements set out in this call for full applications and seek further information from the Applicants. Applicants shall supply this information on reasonable request.

PCFA's Rights

PCFA reserves the right to subject the Applicant to a "due diligence" enquiry, which may comprise of:

- A) Verifying whether the represented resources and skills are available; and
- B) Assessing experience and integrity.

PCFA, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to depart from any method of evaluation set out in this call for proposals.

Reliance on Information

PCFA will rely on information provided by, or on behalf of the Applicants at all stages of the application process. In providing information, Applicants represent to PCFA that the information is complete and accurate in all material respects, that it is not misleading and that in preparing the information, reasonable skill and care has been exercised by the Applicant and its personnel and acknowledges that PCFA may rely on that information.

Publicity

Applicants are not to make any public statement in relation to - the notice of intent to apply or the full application process, their response, or their participation in the application process, or contract negotiation process without PCFA's prior written consent.

Contact Information

For questions relating to the Priority Impact Research Award program, please contact:

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