



## Improving First Nations Cancer Outcomes: *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care*

<b>Opening date:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024
<b>Closing date and time:</b>	5:00pm AEDT on 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024
<b>Commonwealth policy entity:</b>	Cancer Australia (Agency)
<b>Administering entity</b>	Cancer Australia
<b>Enquiries:</b>	If you have any questions, contact Cancer Australia via email: <a href="mailto:FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au">FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au</a> Questions should be sent no later than 5:00pm AEDT on 5 working days prior to the closing date.
<b>Type of grant opportunity:</b>	Competitive

## Contents

<b>1. Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care processes .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Introduction .....	5
<b>2. About the grant program.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Improving First Nations Cancer Outcomes Budget measure .....	6
2.2 <i>Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care grant opportunity</i> .....	6
<b>3. Grant amount and grant period .....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Grants available .....	8
3.2 Grant period .....	9
<b>4. Eligibility criteria .....</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?.....	9
4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?.....	10
<b>5. What the grant money can be used for .....</b>	<b>10</b>
5.1 Eligible grant activities .....	10
5.2 Eligible locations .....	12
5.3 Eligible expenditure.....	12
5.4 What the grant money cannot be used for.....	12
<b>6. The assessment criteria .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>7. How to apply.....</b>	<b>15</b>
7.1 Attachments to the application.....	16
7.2 Joint (consortia) applications .....	17
7.3 Timing of grant opportunity processes.....	17
7.4 Late applications .....	18
7.5 Questions during the application process.....	18
<b>8. The grant selection process .....</b>	<b>18</b>
8.1 Assessment of grant applications .....	18
8.2 Who will assess applications? .....	20
8.3 Who will approve grants? .....	20
<b>9. Notification of application outcomes.....</b>	<b>20</b>
9.1 Feedback on your application.....	21
9.2 Further grant opportunities .....	21
<b>10. Successful grant applications .....</b>	<b>21</b>
10.1 The grant agreement .....	21
10.2 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards.....	21
10.3 How we pay the grant .....	22
10.4 Grants Payments and GST.....	22
<b>11. Announcement of grants .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>12. How we monitor your grant activity.....</b>	<b>23</b>
12.1 Keeping us informed .....	23

12.2	Reporting .....	23
12.3	Financial declaration .....	24
12.4	Grant agreement variations .....	24
12.5	Record keeping.....	24
12.6	Evaluation .....	24
12.7	Acknowledgement.....	24
<b>13.</b>	<b>Probity.....</b>	<b>24</b>
13.1	Enquiries and feedback .....	25
13.2	Conflicts of interest .....	25
13.3	Privacy .....	25
13.4	Confidential Information .....	26
13.5	Freedom of information.....	27
<b>14.</b>	<b>Glossary.....</b>	<b>28</b>
	<b>Appendix A. 2023-24 Improving First Nations Cancer Outcomes Budget measure .....</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>Appendix B. Alignment with national strategies.....</b>	<b>33</b>

## 1. Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care processes

**The Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care grant opportunity is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives.** This grant opportunity is part of the above funding decision which contributes to Cancer Australia PBS Outcome 1: Minimised impacts of cancer, including through national leadership in cancer control with targeted research and clinical trials; evidence informed clinical practice; strengthened national data capacity; community and consumer information and support. This Budget measure also supports the Department of Health and Aged Care's PBS Outcome 1: Health Policy, Access and Support, Program 1.3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Cancer Australia works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines](#) (CGRGs).



### **The grant opportunity opens**

We publish the grant opportunity guidelines on [GrantConnect](#).



### **You complete and submit a grant application**

You complete the application form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.



### **We assess all grant applications**

We assess the applications against eligibility criteria. We assess your eligible application against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with money and compare it to other applications



### **We make grant recommendations**

We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.



### **Grant decisions are made**

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.



### **We notify you of the outcome**

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



### **We enter into a grant agreement**

We will enter into a grant agreement with you if successful. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.



### **Delivery of grant**

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We [or other entity if applicable] manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



### **Evaluation of the grant opportunity**

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the grant opportunity as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

## 1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Improving First Nations Cancer Outcomes: *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant opportunity.

You must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by **Cancer Australia**.

Cancer Australia was established by the Australian Government in 2006 to benefit all Australians affected by cancer, their families and carers. As the national cancer control agency, Cancer Australia aims to reduce the impact of cancer, address disparities, and improve outcomes for people affected by cancer by leading and coordinating national, evidence-based interventions across the continuum of care. The *Cancer Australia Act 2006* specifies the Agency's role in providing financial assistance for the implementation of programs in cancer control. A key role of Cancer Australia is to lead and coordinate implementation of the Australian Cancer Plan.

## 2. About the grant program

Cancer Australia is delivering the *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant program to support implementation of innovative approaches to embed culturally safe, accessible, and responsive cancer care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Up to \$16,875,000 is available through the grant program across the three-year funding period 2024-2027.

Addressing equity and cultural safety issues in mainstream health services where specialist cancer care is delivered will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access and complete high quality treatment and experience better cancer outcomes.

The *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant program will:

- fund innovative service level approaches to design, implement, and embed cultural safety initiatives within cancer services
- support cancer services to provide locally tailored approaches for culturally safe, responsive, and accessible care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through partnerships with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations
- establish and facilitate a Community of Practice for grant recipients and key stakeholders to share learnings on culturally safe and responsive cancer care

- evaluate the grants program to determine effectiveness in meeting the intended outcomes.

The grant program aligns with priority actions in the [Australian Cancer Plan](#) to implement strategies to embed culturally safe care within cancer-related services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## **2.1 Improving First Nations Cancer Outcomes Budget measure**

The *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant program is part of the *Improving First Nations Cancer Outcomes* Budget measure.

The \$238.5m *Improving First Nations Cancer Outcomes* funding measure aims to address inequities in the cancer control system in Australia, beginning a longer-term reform agenda set out in the [Australian Cancer Plan](#) and the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan](#).

The Budget measure responds to cancer being the leading cause of death for First Nations Australians and the significant inequities across cancer incidence, access to treatment and survival rates compared to non-Indigenous Australians.<sup>1</sup>

Under the Budget measure, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) has been allocated \$197.9 million to help improve cancer outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through providing programs to support cancer prevention, screening, early diagnosis, treatment and wrap around support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cancer patients and their families.

Approximately \$36.5 million has been allocated to Cancer Australia to ensure mainstream health services are culturally safe and accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Funding will also support national cancer research to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and build the capacity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research sector.

Projects led by Cancer Australia under this measure:

1. *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant program
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander postgraduate scholarship program
3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research grants
4. Refresh of the Optimal Care Pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer

## **2.2 Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care grant opportunity**

This *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant opportunity will be conducted as an open competitive selection process during 2024-25.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2023). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework. Retrieved from [indigenousephf.gov.au/measures/1-23-leading-causes-mortality](https://indigenousephf.gov.au/measures/1-23-leading-causes-mortality)

Funding will support implementation of innovative approaches to embed culturally safe and responsive cancer care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are able to determine whether a service is culturally safe and effectively recognises and responds to the needs of patients, their families and communities. It is essential that the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are embedded into the design and measurement of approaches to drive innovation and strengthen cultural safety within health service delivery.

To ensure the grant program delivers activities that are informed by needs and benefits defined by local service users and communities, it is expected that organisations will form partnerships between mainstream cancer services and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations to deliver grant activities.

This partnership model will require demonstration of a shared and continuing commitment between cancer services and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations across the co-design, implementation, and evaluation of activities.

Activities funded through the grant program should achieve the following outcomes:

- **Outcome 1: Care access, experiences, and outcomes:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by cancer report improved cancer care experiences and outcomes, including improved cultural safety and equity of access to cancer services.
- **Outcome 2: Care delivery and capability:** Cancer services have greater and sustained capacity to provide care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that is culturally safe, accessible, and responsive to local needs (as defined by local communities and service users).
- **Outcome 3: Partnerships:** There are strengthened and sustained partnerships and trust between cancer services and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations and stakeholders.
- **Outcome 4: Self-determination:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more actively involved in care decisions and in the leadership, design, delivery and evaluation of cancer services and care.
- **Outcome 5: Evidence, collaboration, and learning:** There is increased evidence, collaboration and sharing of learnings between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, cancer services, health agencies and other stakeholders across the country.

The grant program will be monitored and evaluated over the three-year grant period to measure the effectiveness of grant activities against intended outcomes. Cancer Australia has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework (MEF) in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders that will inform future monitoring and evaluation activities. Implementation of this framework will be undertaken progressively over the grant period. Grant recipients will be invited to contribute to the evaluation of the grant program.

### **Definition of cultural safety**

The provision of high-quality, person-centred, culturally safe care is an important requisite for improved health outcomes and experiences. Strengthening cultural safety within mainstream health services can improve access to appropriate care for Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander people affected by cancer. A culturally safe system is one where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural values, strengths and differences are respected, and racism and inequity are addressed.<sup>2</sup>

There are many definitions of cultural safety in use across Australia that are broadly underpinned by the following overarching concepts:

- Cultural safety is about how care is provided, rather than what care is provided
- Cultural safety is determined by the experience of the recipient of care and is not defined by the caregiver
- Cultural safety requires healthcare systems, organisations, and professionals to reflect on their attitudes, practices, and behaviours and how these may impact care for the patient and their family

In determining the appropriate definition and scope of cultural safety for the purpose of this grant opportunity, Cancer Australia is aligning implementation of the grant program with the [Culturally Safe and Responsive Care Statement](#) developed by the National Health Leadership Forum.

- *Cultural safety is central to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their relationships with the health system. Cultural safety describes a state, where people are enabled and feel they can access health care that suits their needs, are able to challenge personal or institutional racism (when they experience it), establish trust in services and expect effective, quality care.*

In line with the principles of the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan](#) developed by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), cultural safety requires healthcare professionals and healthcare organisations to examine themselves and the potential impact of their own culture on clinical interactions and healthcare service delivery. Accordingly, cultural safety requires healthcare professionals and their organisations to influence healthcare to reduce bias and achieve equity within the workforce and working environment.

### 3. Grant amount and grant period

Up to \$16,875,000 is available through the *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant program across the three-year funding period 2024-2027 (Table 1 below).

#### 3.1 Grants available

Cancer Australia will award up to 20 grants, with up to \$1 million available for each partnership over the 3-year grant period.

Funding allocations will depend on the scope, demonstrated need, impact, complexity and potential reach of the proposed project.

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<sup>2</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2023). *Cultural safety in health care for Indigenous Australians: monitoring framework*. Retrieved from <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/indigenous-australians/cultural-safety-health-care-framework>



Table 1: Grant Opportunity Funding Available

Grant opportunity funding	2024-2025 F/Y (GST exc.)	2025-2026 F/Y (GST exc.)	2026-2027 F/Y (GST exc.)	Total (GST exc.)
<i>Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care</i>	\$5,625,000	\$5,625,000	\$5,625,000	\$16,875,000

Funds would be expected to be expended by the end of the grant activity period on 30 June 2027. The total amount allocated to successful grant applicants will not exceed the amount of available funds for the grant opportunity.

### 3.2 Grant period

The grant period will run from December 2024 to 30 June 2027.

## 4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

### 4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To apply for the grant, applicants will need to demonstrate a partnership between a cancer service and at least one Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation to deliver activities that improve and maintain the delivery of culturally safe and accessibility care experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In making an application, partnerships should provide for a lead organisation that is solely accountable to the Commonwealth for the delivery of grant activities and is an eligible entity as per the list below [see below 7.2 Joint (consortia) applications].

Eligible organisations include:

- Cancer services that support the diagnosis, management, and treatment of people with cancer, their families, and communities.
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations that provide primary and supportive care to support the holistic needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities
- Not-for-profit organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by cancer.

Cancer services would be required to demonstrate partnership/s with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations, including by supplying letters of support from relevant stakeholders/consortia partners (see 7.2).

All partnership member organisations must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for the purposes of GST
- have an account with an Australian financial institution.

Be one of the following entity types:

- a partnership

- a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation
- an Australian local government body
- an Australian state or territory government body
- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.

If you are applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust, the Trustee must have an eligible entity type as listed above.

## **4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?**

You are not eligible to apply if you are an organisation that does not meet the criteria outlined in Section 4.1.

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#) on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](#) on the non-compliant organisations list.

# **5. What the grant money can be used for**

## **5.1 Eligible grant activities**

Grant recipients will be expected to demonstrate how funding will be used for innovative initiatives that extend beyond existing responsibilities and expectations relevant to cultural safety for health care services as directed by national and jurisdictional policies.

Funding cannot be spent on 'business as usual' organisational activities. Activities which have previously demonstrated success in delivering enhanced culturally safe care can be considered eligible grant activities provided:

- these activities are assessed as being innovative in a local context through active engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders
- the activities have the potential to expand a smaller, successful pilot program into a broader, established, sustainable activity or suite of activities
- the activities cannot currently be funded by local or jurisdictional health networks.

For applications seeking support for continuing previous activities (e.g. extension of an effective pilot program) relevant documentation of evaluation and reasons for discontinuation of previous activities will be required as part of an application, together with a proposal for building on the achievements of these previous activities.

Grant applications should aim to demonstrate how the following will be achieved:

- Establishing partnerships between cancer services and at least one Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation
- Strengthening and embedding culturally safe and accessible care practices into the delivery of cancer care

- Alignment with the [\*Optimal Care Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer\*](#)
- Establishing co-design, consultation, and communication activities developed for and in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities
- Consideration of the sustainability of grant activities beyond the grant funding period including partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

Successful grant recipients will be required to undertake the following:

- Active and ongoing participation in the grant program Community of Practice
- A commitment to broadly share outcomes and learnings of activities funded through the grant program
- Alignment with, and enhancement of, relevant existing national and jurisdictional guidelines on the provision of quality health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Data collection and analysis for purposes of monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of grant activities
  - as noted, Cancer Australia is designing a monitoring and evaluation framework that will inform future monitoring and evaluation activities. The design of this framework will be undertaken progressively over the grant period and data collected from grant activities will inform this framework
- Appropriate project management systems including governance, administrative, and reporting activities relating to the grant.

As set out in 2.2, activities funded through the grant program should achieve the following outcomes:

- **Outcome 1: Care access, experiences, and outcomes:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by cancer report improved cancer care experiences and outcomes, including improved cultural safety and equity of access to cancer services.
- **Outcome 2: Care delivery and capability:** Cancer services have greater and sustained capacity to provide care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that is culturally safe, accessible, and responsive to local needs (as defined by local communities and service users).
- **Outcome 3: Partnerships:** There are strengthened and sustained partnerships and trust between cancer services and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations and stakeholders.
- **Outcome 4: Self-determination:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more actively involved in care decisions and in the leadership, design, delivery and evaluation of cancer services and care.
- **Outcome 5: Evidence, collaboration, and learning:** There is increased evidence, collaboration and sharing of learnings between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, cancer services, health agencies and other stakeholders across the country.

## **5.2      *Eligible locations***

Applications will be sought from all states and territories to participate in the grants program, linking metropolitan and regional cancer services with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations.

## **5.3      *Eligible expenditure***

Organisations should not use grant funding for any activity not agreed upon in their grant agreement. Eligible expenditure items include:

- recruitment, employment, and training of specified cancer-related positions, including on-boarding costs
- domestic travel required to deliver this activity
- development and distribution of resources and information packs relating to activities for the delivery of this program
- feasibility studies, data scoping and literature reviews
- health promotion program costs and supporting health promotion merchandise
- communications campaigns
- activities related to monitoring, evaluation, and reporting that demonstrate success and support sustainability of grant activities
- select assets in line with the purpose and outcomes of the grant program which will specifically contribute to enhanced cultural safety and access, provided there is commitment from partnering organisations to fund ongoing costs beyond grant period
- program management, including governance and secretariat support.

You must incur the expenditure on your grant activities between the start date and end or completion date of your grant activity for it to be eligible.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your grant activity may be eligible for grant funding or be considered to represent value for money. Cancer Australia may determine that certain budget items might not merit the funding requested and the funding offer reduced accordingly.

Recommendations will be made to the Decision Maker in relation to the quantum of funding recommended for each grant to achieve value with relevant money and any matters for consideration as part of the grant agreement negotiation process.

The Decision Maker makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure as well as any adjustment of funding offered to successful applications to ensure value for money.

## **5.4      *What the grant money cannot be used for***

You cannot use the grant on the following:

- costs that are a continuation of an existing project

- ongoing organisational activities that have been established to meet local, jurisdictional, and/or national policies to support the delivery of culturally safe health care services
- service delivery by health professionals-health services already covered by the Medicare Benefits Schedule or the National Health Reform Agreement
- assets (hardware and property) unless the purchase is accompanied by a commitment from partnering organisations to fund ongoing costs of these assets beyond the grant period
- scholarships, research, PhD funding, cash support
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone, and rent
- major construction/capital works
- overseas travel
- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory, or local government bodies have primary responsibility.

## 6. The assessment criteria

Assessment of applications will be weighted towards those which demonstrate:

- how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander joint leadership and decision making will occur
- positive impacts for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander service users and communities
- mutual benefit and appropriate reimbursement of all partners
- creation or testing of innovative practices
- co-funding opportunities and sustainability of activities beyond the life of the grant
- embedding best practice and optimal care standards.

You **must** address all of the following assessment criteria in the application form. We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion. Please apply a word limit of no more than 500 words in addressing each criterion.

We will only award funding to applications that score **Average** or above against all assessment criteria.

Assessment criteria and weightings	Assessment criteria details
1. Partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities - 30%	<p>Applicants must demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong evidence of joint partnership between cancer service and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation/s</li> <li>• Mechanisms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leadership, consultation, and decision making in development, implementation, and measurement of activities</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity of the partnership/s to deliver the proposed activities to ensure grant outcomes will be met within the grant timeframe</li> </ul>
2. Project innovation - 20%	<p>Applicants must demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation or testing of locally tailored, innovative approaches that strengthen the provision of care in line with community defined measures of cultural safety</li> <li>Alignment with evidence-based best practice for the delivery of care, such as the <a href="#"><u>Optimal Care Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer</u></a></li> </ul>
3. Project design, feasibility, quality, and sustainability - 25%	<p>Applicants must demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How partnership and proposed activities align with the objectives and outcomes of the grant opportunity</li> <li>Appropriate scope of work, timeline, and resources</li> <li>Sustainability of proposed activities beyond the life of the grant funding period based on integration into practice of best evidence outcomes</li> <li>Alignment with relevant jurisdiction and national mandates and guidance on the provision of cultural safe health care, and evidence-based best practice for the delivery of care, such as the <a href="#"><u>Optimal Care Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer</u></a></li> <li>Monitoring, measurement, and reporting of grant activities to contribute to evaluation of the grant program</li> <li>Acknowledgement of ongoing, active participation in the Community of Practice</li> <li>How proposed activities and budget will provide value for money, including co-funding arrangements (either in-kind or financial), if applicable</li> </ul>
4. Benefit and significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities - 25%	<p>Applicants must demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service users and communities, and potential scale of impact</li> <li>Evidence of mutual benefit, reciprocity, and appropriate reimbursement of all partnership participants</li> </ul>

## 7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines and the Application Form.

These documents may be found at the Cancer Australia granting system, 'Can-Grant', at [grants.canceraustralia.gov.au](https://grants.canceraustralia.gov.au). By registering on Can-Grant, you will be automatically notified of any changes to this grant opportunity.

To apply you must:

- complete the Application Form on Can-Grant;
- provide all the information requested;
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria; and
- include all necessary attachments.

### Register for a Cancer Australia 'Can-Grant' granting system account

Applications for the *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant program can be prepared and submitted using your web browser. Please note there are known compatibility issues with the Safari web browser. Users are advised to use an alternative browser for their application.

Applicants interested in applying for a *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant program should visit the Cancer Australia granting system, 'Can-Grant', at [grants.canceraustralia.gov.au](https://grants.canceraustralia.gov.au).

If you do not already have an account, click on 'Register now' to create a new one. Please be sure to check your email to activate your account.

Once your user account has been created, enter your login details at the main landing page to login to 'Can-Grant'. For added security, you have the option of adding two factor authentication to your login. To turn on two factor authentication, click on your account profile at the top right of the screen and select 'Account settings'. In the Account settings you have the option to change your username, password, and time zone, and turn on/off two factor authentication.

You may invite other users to either view your application or edit your application by selecting 'Invite user to register or share application' at the top of the screen. In the access menu, click on 'Add another user' and add their details. Under 'Modify access', select if you wish to give the user view or edit privileges. You can remove a user's access at any time by clicking the bin icon at the right side of the screen.

### Creating a new grant application

The available *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant opportunity is listed under 'Grant opportunities'. To apply for a *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant, click on '+ Apply now' to begin your application.

A pop-up window will appear asking you to name your application. Please note this is the name of your application file, not the name of your grant proposal. Choose a name for your application file and click 'Done'.



## Grant applications in progress

Your progress is saved automatically every time you advance to the next screen. You can manually save your progress at any time by clicking 'Save' at the top of the screen.

If you have any applications in progress, you will be able to access the applications in the 'Your activities' section under 'Applications'. From this menu, all your current applications are listed. Click on the relevant application and the application will open at the introduction page and you will need to click on the relevant section on the menu tab on the left side of the screen to take you to the next section that requires input. Alternatively, you can keep clicking 'NEXT' to ensure that you have not missed a response to a question. Double-clicking on an application will expand the row and provide you with the additional options to copy the application, invite another user to register or share an application, to rename the application, or delete the application.

You may download a copy of your current application (before it is submitted) by clicking on the 'Preview' button at the top of the screen.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code 1995](#) and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately at [FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au).

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents. We will acknowledge that we have received your application within two working days. If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you are unable to submit an application via email, please contact us at [FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au).

### **7.1**      *Attachments to the application*

In addition to information provided against criterion 3 in Section 6, we require the following documents with your application:

- an activity work plan
- a risk management plan
- an indicative activity budget
- an organisational chart
- letters of support from key stakeholders (e.g. local health service providers)
- letters of support from the relevant consortia partners, e.g. participating ACCHO.

For applications made on behalf of a Trust, the application must be made in the name of the Trustee as listed in the Trust Deed. The applicant must be prepared to provide a copy



of the Trust Deed as in force at the time the application is made if requested, and other information (including financial information) for both the Trust and the corporate Trustee.

If you do not attach the requested documents, your application will not progress further in the process.

## **7.2 Joint (consortia) applications**

It is expected that organisations will form partnerships to deliver a grant activity. Accordingly, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. Only the lead organisation may submit the Application Form. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group. All organisations must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 4. Only the lead organisation will enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The lead organisation must have the authority to do so on behalf of the consortium members. Letters of support are required for all members of the consortium.

Each letter of support should include:

- details of the partner organisation
- an overview of how the partner organisation will work with the lead organisation and any other partner organisations in the group to successfully complete the grant activity
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the partner organisation will bring to the group
- the roles/responsibilities of the partner organisation and the resources they will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

It is the responsibility of the lead organisation to ensure that all parties and subcontractors comply with the relevant aspects of the written agreement.

Lead organisations must also identify all partner organisations that are included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' ([www.nationalredress.gov.au](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au)).

A formal agreement must be in place between all consortium members and provided to Cancer Australia, prior to the execution of the grant agreement.

## **7.3 Timing of grant opportunity processes**

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates of the grant opportunity. The expected timing of the grant opportunity is detailed in the Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Expected timing for this grant opportunity**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expected Timeframe</b>
Assessment of applications	October – November 2024
Approval of outcomes of selection process	November 2024
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	November - December 2024

Activity	Expected Timeframe
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	November - December 2024
Earliest start date of grant activity	December 2024
End date of grant activity or agreement	30 June 2027

#### **7.4 Late applications**

We will not accept late applications unless an applicant has experienced exceptional circumstances that prevent the submission of the application. Broadly, exceptional circumstances are events characterised by one or more of the following:

- reasonably unforeseeable
- beyond the applicant's control, and/or
- unable to be managed or resolved within the application period.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits and in accordance with probity principles.

Applicants seeking to submit a late application will be required to submit a late application request via email to [FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au) with "Late Application Request - GOXXXX" in the subject line.

The request should include a detailed explanation of the circumstances that prevented the application being submitted prior to the closing time. Where appropriate, supporting evidence can be provided to verify the claim of exceptional circumstances.

The assessment committee Chair or their appointed representative will determine whether a late application will be accepted. Once the outcome is determined, the department will advise the applicant if their request is accepted or declined.

#### **7.5 Questions during the application process**

If you have questions relating to clarification of information of the available grant, technical issues or process during the application period, please contact [FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au). Cancer Australia will respond to emailed questions within three working days.

Requests for clarification may form the basis of a response that will be posted on the Cancer Australia website in the Frequently Asked Questions document relating to this grant opportunity. Any questions will be de-identified. Registered applicants will be notified of updates to the documents via email.

Cancer Australia cannot assist you to address assessment criteria, determine eligibility or complete your application.

## **8. The grant selection process**

### **8.1 Assessment of grant applications**

We first review your application against the eligibility criteria in Section 4.

Only eligible applications and applications that meet other specified requirements, including compliance, will move to the next stage. We consider eligible applications through a competitive grant process.

We will rate your application using the Assessment Criteria Scoring Matrix in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Assessment Criteria Scoring Matrix**

<b>Rating (for individual criterion)</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>Excellent</b> – response to this criterion, including all sub-criteria, exceeds expectations.	5
<b>Good</b> – response to this criterion addresses all or most sub-criteria to a higher than average standard.	4
<b>Average</b> – response to this criterion addresses most sub-criteria to an average but acceptable level.	3
<b>Poor</b> – poor claims against this criterion but may meet some sub-criteria.	2
<b>Does not meet criterion at all</b> – response to this criterion does not meet expectations or insufficient or no information to assess this criterion.	1

Only applications scoring **Average** or above, based on the Rating Scale in Table 3, against each of the four assessment criteria will be considered for funding. We may contact you during the assessment period to request clarification or additional information.

Cancer Australia will consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the eligibility and selection criteria
- how it compares to other applications
- whether it provides value with relevant money.

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to:

- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant;
- the relative value of the grant sought and the indicative budget;
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the objectives and outcomes of the grant opportunity; and
- how the grant activities will target and benefit groups or individuals within the community or region.

Cancer Australia will aim to maximise national geographic coverage through this grant opportunity. Consideration for the size and complexity of projects and potential variation in costs in different locations will be taken into account when assessing the application's value for relevant money.

In the event negotiations are unsuccessful with any applicant who is recommended for funding, or there is a surplus of funding remaining after funds have been allocated to the successful applicant, Cancer Australia may, at the sole discretion of the Decision Maker (see Section 8.3), offer a grant agreement to other suitable applicants.

Submitting a grant application does not guarantee that you will receive a grant.

## **8.2 Who will assess applications?**

Cancer Australia will establish an assessment team to assess eligible applications.

The assessment team will comprise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and may include members of the *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* Working Group, Cancer Australia's Leadership Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Control, together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers and health representatives. The assessment team may also comprise staff from across Cancer Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care. Where appropriate, members will undertake training to ensure consistency in assessment.

After applications are assessed, they will be quality assured and referred to an assessment committee for further consideration, including value for relevant money. The assessment committee will be made up of staff within Cancer Australia, representatives from other areas of the Department of Health and Aged Care, and experts in Indigenous Health. The Chairperson of the assessment committee will be the Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Control Section. Any non-Commonwealth employees will be expected to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRGs.

We may ask external advisors to inform the assessment process. Any advisor, who is not a Commonwealth Official, will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRGs.

The assessment committee may seek additional information about you, your partner organisation(s) or your application. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. The assessment committee may also consider information about you that is available through the normal course of business.

The assessment committee recommends to the Decision Maker (see Section 6.2 below) which applications to approve for a grant.

## **8.3 Who will approve grants?**

The Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Australia (the Decision Maker) decides which grant(s) to approve considering the recommendations of the assessment committee and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant opportunity.

The Decision Maker's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

## **9. Notification of application outcomes**

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

### **9.1      *Feedback on your application***

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to receive feedback. A request for individual feedback should be made to Cancer Australia within 20 days of being notified of the outcome by emailing [FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au). We will respond to your request for feedback within 10 days.

### **9.2      *Further grant opportunities***

Where there are insufficient suitable applications received, Cancer Australia may seek to fill any gaps in policy objectives through subsequent grant opportunities.

## **10.   *Successful grant applications***

### **10.1      *The grant agreement***

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. We will offer successful applicants a Commonwealth Standard Grant Agreement for this grant opportunity.

Each agreement has standard grant conditions that cannot be changed. A sample grant agreement is available on GrantConnect as part of the grant documentation. We will use a schedule to outline the specific grant requirements.

You will have twenty (20) business days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

You may request changes to the grant agreement. However, we will review any changes to make sure they do not affect the grant as approved by the Decision Maker.

### **10.2      *Specific legislation, policies and industry standards***

#### **The Multicultural Access and Equity Policy obligations**

The Multicultural Access and Equity Policy obliges Australian Government agencies to ensure that cultural and linguistic diversity is not a barrier for people engaging with government and accessing services to which they are entitled. For example, providing access to language services where appropriate.

#### **Commonwealth Child Safe Framework**

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the need for organisations to adopt child safe practices including appropriate screening of staff, mandatory reporting and adoption of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The Australian Government committed to a new Commonwealth-wide framework to protect children and young people it is responsible for – the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

The Australian Government is considering appropriate ways to apply the requirements of the CCSF to grant recipients. A child safety clause is likely to be included in a grant agreement where the Commonwealth considers the grant is for:

- services directly to children; or
- activities that involve contact with children that is a usual part of, and more than incidental to, the grant activity.

A child safety clause may also be included in the grant agreement if the Commonwealth considers the grant activity involves children more broadly.

The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations included in the grant agreement published with this grant opportunity or notified to the successful applicant prior to execution of the grant agreement.

Irrespective of the child safety obligations in the grant agreement, you must always comply with your state and territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

The Australian Government has commissioned the Australian Human Rights Commission to develop a series of tools and resources to assist organisations to implement the [National Principles](#).

### **10.3      *How we pay the grant***

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid
- any financial contributions you must make
- any in-kind contributions you will make
- any financial contribution provided by a third party
- the key performance indicators.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress.

### **10.4      *Grants Payments and GST***

Payments will be GST Exclusive. If you are registered for the [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#), where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a [Recipient Created Tax Invoice](#).

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#). We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

## **11.    *Announcement of grants***

If successful, your grant will be listed on the [GrantConnect](#) website 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.3 of the [CGRGs](#).

## 12. *How we monitor your grant activity*

### 12.1 *Keeping us informed*

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your organisation or consortium:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

### 12.2 *Reporting*

The minimum reporting requirements for the grant agreements are:

- six monthly progress reports
- annual progress reports
- work plans for each calendar year
- a final report.

#### **Progress reports**

Progress reports must:

- include evidence of your progress towards completion of agreed activities and outcomes
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date, including underspends
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant activities).

We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.

You must discuss any reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

#### **Ad-hoc reports**

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your grant. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the project.

#### **Final report**

When you complete the project, you must submit a final report.

Final reports must:

- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement



- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred
- be submitted within 60 days of completion
- be in the format provided in the grant agreement.

### **12.3 Financial declaration**

We may ask you to provide a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money.

### **12.4 Grant agreement variations**

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by contacting your Funding Arrangement Manager, at Cancer Australia.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

### **12.5 Record keeping**

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

### **12.6 Evaluation**

The grant program will be monitored and evaluated over the three-year grant period to measure the effectiveness of grant activities against intended outcomes. Cancer Australia has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework (MEF) in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders that will inform future monitoring and evaluation activities. The implementation of this framework will be undertaken progressively over the grant period.

We may use information from your application and reports for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the grant program. We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

### **12.7 Acknowledgement**

If you make a public statement about an activity funded under the program, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

'This [name of activity] is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the *'Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care.'*

## **13. Probity**

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRGs.



### **13.1 Enquiries and feedback**

Cancer Australia's [Complaint Handling Process](#) apply to complaints about this grant opportunity. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to [FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:FirstNationsGrants@canceraustralia.gov.au).

If you do not agree with the way the department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#). The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the relevant Commonwealth entity.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072

Email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)

Website: [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#)

### **13.2 Conflicts of interest**

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the department's staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/ grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the department in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on the [Australian Public Service Commission's website](#).

### **13.3 Privacy**

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect

- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on [GrantConnect](#) as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the department would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

### **13.4 Confidential Information**

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you, your employees, agents and/or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
2. the information is commercially sensitive
3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- the committee and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery

- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

### **13.5      *Freedom of information***

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [\*Freedom of Information Act 1982\*](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail:            Freedom of Information Coordinator  
                          *FOI Unit*  
                          *Department of Health*  
                          *GPO Box 9848*  
                          *CANBERRA ACT 2601*

By email:        [foi@health.gov.au](mailto:foi@health.gov.au)

## 14. Glossary

Term	Definition
Assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings
Can-Grant	is Cancer Australia's online grant management portal. The Can-Grant portal is for investigators, reviewers, Research Administration Officers, eligible organisations, and Cancer Australia staff to manage the entire lifecycle of the grants process from application to the post-award activities.
Commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
Completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
Community of Practice (CoP)	a group of people who share a common experience, a set of problems, or area of interest and who come together to fulfill both individual and group goals. CoP facilitate social learning and knowledge translation, encouraging learning within a relational, collective and reciprocal context. CoP focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge to advance a domain of professional practice
Cultural safety	<a href="#">Cultural safety</a> is central to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their relationships with the health system. Cultural safety describes a state, where people are enabled and feel they can access health care that suits their needs, are able to challenge personal or institutional racism (when they experience it), establish trust in services and expect effective, quality care (refer section 2.2)
Date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable
Decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
Eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria
Commonwealth entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act

Term	Definition
<a href="#">Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)</a>	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
Grant	for the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. under which relevant money<sup>3</sup> or other <a href="#">Consolidated Revenue Fund</a> (CRF) money<sup>4</sup> is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and</li> <li>b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.</li> </ul>
Grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake
Grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant
<a href="#">GrantConnect</a>	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs
Grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process
Grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
Grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant
Lead organisation (of a consortium)	is the consortium member organisation which will sign the grant agreement, receive the funding and assume legal responsibility for performing the grant agreement

<sup>3</sup> Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See Section 8, Dictionary.

<sup>4</sup> Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See Section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
PBS Program	described within the entity's <a href="#">Portfolio Budget Statement</a> , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
Selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
Selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria
Value with money	<p>value with money in this document refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the quality of the project proposal and activities;</li> <li>2. fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives;</li> <li>3. that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved; and</li> <li>4. the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.</li> </ol>

## *Appendix A. 2023-24 Improving First Nations Cancer Outcomes Budget measure*

### **Preamble**

Cancer is now the leading cause of death for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Improved survival rates have been observed in non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the past 30 years.<sup>5</sup> However, improvements in cancer survival rates are not experienced uniformly within the Australian population. The gaps in cancer incidence and mortality rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are widening. Cancer is a key contributor to the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other Australians.

In the 2023-24 Budget, the Australian Government announced \$238.5 million over four years to address inequities and improve cancer outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the *Improving First Nations Cancer Outcomes* Budget measure.

### **Portfolio objectives**

The *Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care* grant program falls under:

- Cancer Australia PBS Outcome 1: Minimised impacts of cancer, including through national leadership in cancer control with targeted research and clinical trials; evidence informed clinical practice; strengthened national data capacity; community and consumer information and support.

The grant opportunity is also linked to:

- The Department of Health and Aged Care's PBS Outcome 1: Health Policy, Access and Support, Program 1.3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Programs contributing to Cancer Australia Outcome 1 include 1.1 Improved Cancer Control and 1.5 Preventative Health and Chronic Disease Support.

### **Overall program goal**

This four-year funded measure aims to close the gap in life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to improve cancer outcomes, and provide culturally safe care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Activities funded under this measure include:

- Actions to ensure mainstream health services are culturally safe and accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Funding to support national cancer research to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and build the capacity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research sector
- Building the capacity of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations health services to support cancer care.

This investment will contribute to achieving health and life expectancy targets under the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) and demonstrates a strong commitment to the

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<sup>5</sup> The number of people surviving at least five years after a cancer diagnosis has improved from 52% in 1989–1993 to 70% in 2014–2018. Data taken from the forthcoming Australian Cancer Plan, p.4

Priority Reforms, particularly partnership and shared decision-making, building the community-controlled sector and transforming the mainstream system.

Under the 2023-24 Budget, approximately \$36.5m million has been provided to Cancer Australia to ensure mainstream health services are culturally safe and accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Funding will also support national cancer research to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and build the capacity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research sector.

### ***Program parameters - Partnerships for culturally safe cancer care grant program***

Cancer Australia is leading multiple activities focused on improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by cancer.

As part of the 2023-24 Budget measure, this includes the development of a national grant program to ensure culturally safe, respectful, and responsive cancer care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Activities funded through the grant program should achieve the following outcomes:

- **Outcome 1: Care access, experiences, and outcomes:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by cancer report improved cancer care experiences and outcomes, including improved cultural safety and equity of access to cancer services.
- **Outcome 2: Care delivery and capability:** Cancer services have greater and sustained capacity to provide care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that is culturally safe, accessible, and responsive to local needs (as defined by local communities and service users).
- **Outcome 3: Partnerships:** There are strengthened and sustained partnerships and trust between cancer services and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations and stakeholders.
- **Outcome 4: Self-determination:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more actively involved in care decisions and in the leadership, design, delivery and evaluation of cancer services and care.
- **Outcome 5: Evidence, collaboration, and learning:** There is increased evidence, collaboration and sharing of learnings between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, cancer services, health agencies and other stakeholders across the country.

The grant program will be evaluated to determine effectiveness in meeting the intended outcomes.

The grant program will strive to complement workforce activities implemented by the NACCHO under the 2023-24 Budget measure.



## *Appendix B. Alignment with national strategies*

### **(i) Australian Cancer Plan**

- The [Australian Cancer Plan](#), launched in November 2023, aims to improve prevention, screening, treatment and management of all cancers for all Australians, with a particular focus on achieving equity in cancer outcomes and experiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Fifteen of the 46 actions in the Plan are specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and were identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These actions are closely aligned to the four [Closing the Gap Priority Reforms](#), and the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan](#).
- The Plan was developed by Cancer Australia in consultation state and territory governments, First Nations communities, clinicians, researchers, people affected by cancer and support organisations. Implementation of the plan is a shared responsibility across the sector.

### **(ii) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan**

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan aims to change cancer experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The plan provides a long-term approach that supports community responses to deliver positive outcomes in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- The plan was co-designed with the First Nations health sector and is owned and delivered by NACCHO.
- Synergies exist between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan and the Australian Cancer Plan.

### **(iii) National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards**

- In determining the appropriate scope of cultural safety for the purpose of this grant opportunity, Cancer Australia is aligning implementation of the grant program with the [National Safety and Quality Health Service \(NSQHS\) Standards](#).
- Developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, the NSQHS Standards provide a nationally consistent statement of the level of care consumers can expect from health service organisations.
- The NSQHS Standards outlines six specific actions tailored to address the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These actions are further detailed in terms of practical strategies in the [NSQHS Standards User Guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health](#).
- Implementation of these actions will help orientate the health system to provide all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the health care they need.