

OCRF NATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
	The Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF).....	3
	The OCRF's Research Objectives	3
	Overview of the OCRF's National Research Grants Program	5
	Purpose.....	5
	Process.....	6
	Eligibility.....	7
	Administering Institutions.....	7
	Chief and Associate Investigators.....	7
	Types of research.....	8
	Research costs.....	9
	Application.....	11
	Registration and submission	11
	Project vs. Pilot Grant Categories.....	11
	Expressions of Interest (EOI).....	12
	Full Application.....	14
	Assessment.....	17
	International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC)	17
	Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP).....	17
	Assessment Criteria: Expression of Interest (EOI) stage.....	18
	Assessment Criteria: Full Application stage.....	19
	Conflicts of Interest.....	20
	Feedback on Applications.....	21
	Grant Administration	21
	Funding Agreement.....	21

Reporting requirements.....	21
Research Integrity.....	22
Media and community engagement.....	23
Privacy and Confidentiality.....	23

1 Introduction

The Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF)

The Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF) is Australia's leading independent funder of ovarian cancer research, dedicated to transforming outcomes for the most lethal women's cancer. In Australia, fewer than 50 per cent of women and girls diagnosed with ovarian cancer will survive more than five years - a figure unchanged for decades, highlighting disparities and gender inequity in research and care that demand urgent action.

The OCRF is rewriting this story. Our vision is a future where those impacted by ovarian cancer can live healthy, vital lives. To achieve this, we are catalysing change and accelerating progress by increasing awareness, advocating for greater investment and equity, collaborating nationally and internationally, and strategically funding high impact medical research.

Every dollar we raise comes from the Australian community, driven by a shared determination to make our vision a reality. Together, we will overcome ovarian cancer.

Our Vision

A healthy vital future for all those impacted by ovarian cancer.

Our Purpose

We exist to drive step-change in funds raised, awareness, and research undertaken, for the most lethal gynaecological cancer in Australia.

Our Values

Integrity | Ambition | Collaboration | Accountability | Heart

The OCRF's Research Objectives

[OCRF's Research Impact Strategy 2025-30](#) presents three research objectives, all of which relate to improving survival outcomes for ovarian cancer. All research grants supported by the OCRF are required to demonstrate potential for real-world impact against one or more of the following objectives:

1. Better ways to treat ovarian cancer

Advancing treatment strategies that improve survival and quality of life, while also addressing the challenge of recurrent and resistant disease. This may include, but is not limited to, exploration of novel targets, drug screening and repurposing, investigation of combination therapies, improved understanding of disease biology to inform therapeutic development, and exploring strategies to prevent, delay, or better manage recurrence and drug resistance.

TREAT	Potential avenues in treatment research	Real world impact
	• <i>New or targeted therapies and immunotherapies</i> • <i>New treatment combinations</i> • <i>Investigating drug repurposing options</i> • <i>Personalised and precision medicine approaches</i> • <i>Ways to overcome treatment resistance and recurrence</i>	• More effective treatment options for ovarian cancer • Reduced disease recurrence • Better quality of life and reduced side effects • Broader access to effective therapies • Lives saved

2. Better ways to detect ovarian cancer

Discovery and validation of accurate, reliable, non-invasive, and equitable methods for the early detection and screening of ovarian cancer to enable diagnosis at the earliest and most treatable stage.

DETECT	Potential venues in detection research	Real world impact
	• <i>Identification and validation of biomarkers to detect ovarian cancer</i> • <i>Feasibility of their application in different clinical settings, including triage and diagnosis</i> • <i>Feasibility and practical application of a screening tool for ovarian cancer</i>	• More ovarian cancers diagnosed at an early stage • Fewer misdiagnoses • Recurrences identified more quickly • Better prognosis for those diagnosed • Improved survival rates through earlier intervention • Lives saved

3. Better ways to prevent ovarian cancer

Advancing knowledge to uncover the biological mechanisms that drive ovarian cancer risk and initiation, with the goal of informing prevention strategies such as targeted risk reduction, prophylactic interventions, and recurrence prevention.



Potential avenues in prevention research	Real world impact
• <i>Investigating the origins and progression of ovarian cancer</i> • <i>Identification of genetic and environmental factors contributing to ovarian cancer development</i> • <i>Understanding modifiable factors that can reduce ovarian cancer risk</i> • <i>Development of risk prediction tools</i> • <i>Identification and development of interventions that can reduce risk</i>	• More accurate identification of those at risk • Empowered decision-making through personalised risk information • More options, and informed choice for people who want to reduce risk • Cost savings for individuals and healthcare systems • Reduced incidence of ovarian cancer • Lives saved

Overview of the OCRF's National Research Grants Program

Purpose

The National Research Grants Program is OCRF's flagship program that supports innovative discovery research. This program is delivered as an annual grants round, with applications received via the OCRF's online grants management portal, [Omnistar](#).

The OCRF funds research aligned with at least one of our research objectives, as determined in consultation in 2024 with ovarian cancer researchers, clinicians, and those with ovarian cancer lived experience. Pursuing these objectives, proposals should aim to improve the length and quality of life of those affected by ovarian cancer as the ultimate goal.

Process

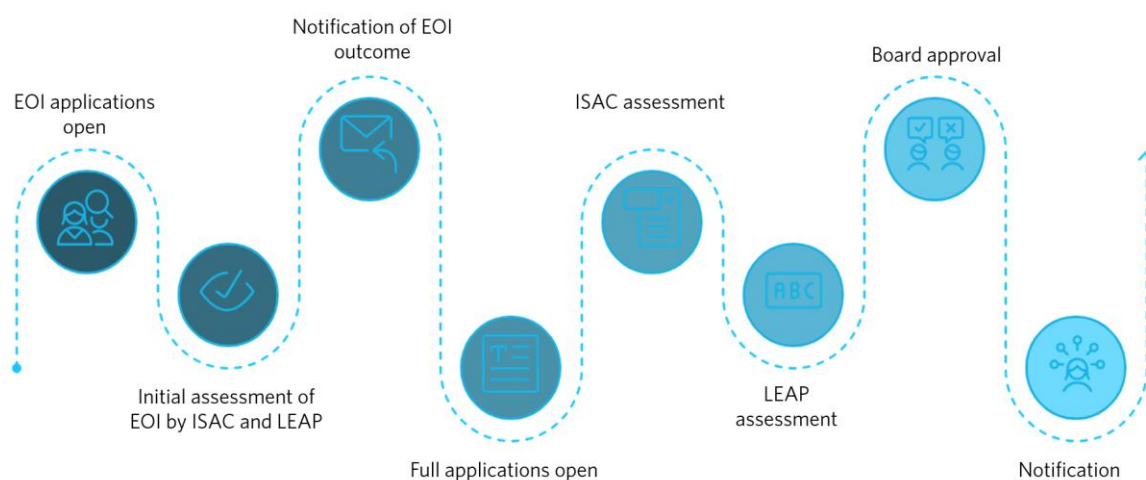
Robust assessment is provided through the OCRF's International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) and Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP). Based on recommendations from these groups, final grant-making decisions are made by the OCRF Board.

Two recent modifications have been made to the OCRF's National Research Grants Program.

- In 2025, following consultations with researchers, the OCRF introduced an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** stage to our assessment process.
- In 2026, following consultations with assessing committees, the OCRF introduced a **Pilot project** category.

Further details on these modifications can be found in subsequent sections of the guidelines.

Figure 1. Summary of National Research Grants Program application and award process.



The updated overarching grant-making process is visualised in Figure 1 above. The steps are as follows:

1. **Expression of Interest (EOI):** Researchers are invited to submit a brief EOI outlining the proposed project's aims, significance, methodology, and indicative budget. EOIs are assessed by the International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) and the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP).
2. **Invitation to Full Application:** Applicants whose EOIs are deemed competitive will be invited to submit a full application. Progression to this stage is dependent on the availability of funding and the quality of EOIs received. Last year, approximately 40% of applications were invited to submit a Full Proposal.

3. **Full Proposal Submission:** Invited applicants submit a detailed proposal, including a detailed project plan, lay summary, budget justification, personnel details, a lived experience engagement plan, and translational outcomes.
4. **Scientific and Lived Experience Assessment:** Full applications undergo in-depth review by the ISAC and LEAP.
5. **Final Funding Decisions:** Following panel discussions, funding recommendations are made based on assessment scores, and final approvals are determined by the OCRF Board.
6. **Notification and Funding Agreements:** Applicants are notified of outcomes, and successful projects proceed to contract negotiations and execution of funding agreements.

Eligibility

Administering Institutions

- i. The proposed project must be located, managed, and operated under the auspices of a tertiary institution, hospital or major research institute (MRI) located within Australia or New Zealand.
- ii. A single institution must be nominated as the Administering Institution.
- iii. The Administering Institution must have in place policies and procedures for the management of public funds, for the management of Intellectual Property, and for the proper conduct of research in relation to ethics and scientific conduct.
- iv. The Administering Institution will be provided a copy of the Funding Agreement upon awarding of the grant and must review and agree to perform the proposed project on the terms of that Funding Agreement for funding to be received.
- v. The Administering Institution is responsible for maintaining and renewing required insurances and supplying the OCRF with a copy for the duration of the grant.

Chief and Associate Investigators

- i. The Chief Investigators must demonstrate career excellence and a commitment to carry out research projects that aim to have a significant impact on ovarian cancer. Each application must nominate a Lead Chief Investigator (Lead CI) who takes the lead role in the conduct of the research project and is the investigator who takes responsibility for completion and lodgement of the application as well as the preparation of Progress and Final Reports should the grant be awarded.

- ii. A Lead CI can nominate additional Chief Investigators on the application. All Chief Investigators must show a significant and material contribution to the project that justifies their appointment (and where relevant, their salary) in their role. A researcher that serves an advisory only function to the project should be nominated as an Associate Investigator rather than a Chief Investigator.
- iii. The Lead CI may also nominate Associate Investigators who provide intellectual input into the research and whose participation warrants inclusion of their name on publications. Associate investigators cannot draw a salary from the grant.
- iv. Researchers are strongly encouraged to include consumer (lived experience) representatives as Investigators and to engage them meaningfully throughout the entire research lifecycle.

At the time of application, Chief Investigators must have:

- i. A strong and demonstrated track record of research excellence, skills and experience appropriate to Chief Investigator status;
- ii. A salary level commensurate with same;
- iii. Demonstrated understanding of OCRF's expectations as set out in these Guidelines, and preparedness to sign the proposal (and later, contract) to indicate the same.

The Lead Chief Investigator and minimum of 50% of the nominated Chief Investigators must:

- i. Reside in Australia or New Zealand (or intend to reside in Australia) throughout the funding period.
- ii. Be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, have resident status or have an appropriate visa to work in Australia or New Zealand for the entire duration of the funding period.

In addition, the Lead CI must remain the same for the duration of the project funding period, unless discussed and agreed prior.

Types of research

We invite applications from investigators focused on both discovery and translational laboratory-based research, including experimental methods such as (but not limited to) molecular biology, biochemistry, biomolecular analysis, omics studies, development of novel therapeutics including drug repurposing, functional assays, bioinformatics, screening platforms and/or *in vivo* and *ex vivo* approaches.

Exclusions

Proposals involving epidemiology, psychosocial research, palliative care, allied health, health economics, clinical trials or behavioural research are not currently considered to be eligible for OCRF funding through the National Research Grants Program.

Research costs

The OCRF offers grant funding for most aspects of research-related costs. Research proposals may include the salaries of research personnel and other personnel directly or proportionately involved in the project that are not otherwise funded. The costs of consumables, service costs and minor equipment are also included.

Funding is offered from 1 July of the year after application: that is, a successful application submitted in 2026 commence funding from 1 July 2027. This is due to the nature of the grants assessment process and annual fundraising calendar.

Whilst the OCRF aims to fully fund successful research proposals, there is a limit to the funds available for granting each year. The OCRF therefore reserves the right to ask applicants to review and revise their budgets or to offer reduced or part funding of projects. This will be discussed in a clear and timely manner with research teams and the administering institution.

In the event that funding for a research project is offered concomitantly by another funding body (for example, NHMRC or other philanthropic foundation), or post-award of funding from the OCRF, the applicant must notify the OCRF immediately. The OCRF retains the right to withdraw funding or to elect to top up the funds from the alternative funding agency rather than awarding the full amount requested for the grant in order to maximise the impact of our grant-making activity in Australia.

A detailed budget breakdown will only be required at the full application stage. At the Expression of Interest stage, applicants need only provide an estimated total funding request.

Salaries

Applicants may apply for the salaries of any research staff they deem appropriate to ensure successful completion of the project. This may include early-, mid- and senior level career researchers, research assistants, research officers, research nurses, postdoctoral fellows, PhD students, and specialist personnel such as bioinformaticians.

Proposals must include salary information inclusive of details of the personnel's current relationship to the Administering Institution, as follows:

- i. current employee base salary or wage
- ii. full-time equivalent fraction (FTE) to be allocated only to the OCRF-funded project

- iii. on-costs applied by the Administering Institution's model up to a maximum of 25%
- iv. any other salary-related expenditure required to support individuals to participate fully and effectively in the project.

Minor equipment and maintenance

Expenditure relating to minor equipment must be fully itemised and justified. Expenditure relating to consumables and other maintenance costs can be shown as an aggregate figure for items with individual costs less than or equal to \$2000 and must be fully itemised for items with individual costs greater than \$2000.

Consumables

Grant funds may be used to cover the cost of consumables that are directly related to the delivery of the project. This includes, but is not limited to reagents, laboratory disposables, assay kits, cell culture materials, and any other perishable or single-use items essential for the research.

Services

Funding may be requested for research-related services critical to project success. These may include sequencing, mass spectrometry, flow cytometry, imaging, animal facility charges, bioinformatics services, and other core facility services, with cost estimates based on established facility rates.

Indirect and overhead costs

Grant funds cannot be used for indirect institutional overhead costs, often referred to as the 'cost of research' or 'research levies', unless discussed with the OCRF Research Director well in advance of submission.

Application

This section provides further detail on the information to be submitted as part of the application. Please ensure you complete all sections of the application and adhere to any word limits outlined in the application form. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Registration and submission

Applicants must create an OCRF Grants Portal account (<https://grants.ocrf.com.au/>) and apply for a grant via this portal. PDF applications will **not** be accepted.

Grant applications will close by **9am AEST** on the closing day, however it is highly recommended that Lead CIs submit well in advance of the closing date. Signatures can be uploaded to the portal as image or PDF files; it therefore recommended that all relevant signatures should be sought well before the closing date. An acknowledgment of application receipt window will immediately follow successful grant submission. For any enquiries, please email grants@ocrf.com.au.

Project vs. Pilot Grant Categories

In 2026, the OCRF introduced application categories for the National Research Grants Program:

1. Pilot Grants (*new in 2026*): max \$300,000 over up to 18 months.

Designed to support preliminary studies that test new ideas, approaches or methodologies with the potential to advance ovarian cancer research. Pilot Grants may be suited either to early and mid-career investigators establishing a research track record, or more senior investigators pursuing new research directions.

2. Project Grants: no funding cap, up to 3 years.

Designed to support more established research projects with strong preliminary data, a clear methodology and a well-defined path to translational impact. Budgets are not capped but must be realistic, clearly justified and demonstrate value for money.

Additional information:

- Applicants must specify which stream they are applying for at the time of application and may not apply to both in the same year.

- Both categories of application will be assessed and awarded as outlined in these Program Guidelines. Eligibility and assessment criteria are the same for both.
- Word counts for the Full Proposal differ for each category. EOI application word counts are the same for both (direction for applicants is provided in the OCRF Grants Portal).

Expressions of Interest (EOI)

This section provides an overview of the information that will be requested through the application portal in the EOI Application stage.

SECTION 1: Contact Details

<i>Lead Chief Investigator - Contact</i>	See Guidelines Section 6: Eligibility for details.
<i>Administering Institution - Contact</i>	The contact person responsible for coordinating the Funding Agreement, invoices and annual progress reports alongside the Lead CI.

SECTION 2: Project Proposal

<i>Study Abstract</i> Max 800 words.	A concise overview of your project, including the background, preliminary evidence, aims, hypothesis, methodology, and anticipated outcomes. One A4 figure (with multiple panels if needed) may be included and must be legible. The figure legend is not included in the word count and should be attached separately.
<i>Translational Impact</i> Max 200 words.	Describe the translational impact of this project, and its ability to improve outcomes for ovarian cancer patients.
<i>Collaboration</i> Max 200 words.	Outline any collaborative components of the project, including partnerships with other researchers, institutions, or networks that will strengthen the proposal and enhance impact.

SECTION 3: Project Planning & Management

<i>Investigator Summary List</i>	Please list all investigators involved in the project, including their full name, affiliated institution, and estimated percentage contribution to the project.
<i>Other Funding</i>	Please list any current or prior funding related to the proposed research.

	Include the funding body, grant amount, and duration. Additionally, indicate any pending applications for funding related to this research, specifying the funding body and expected decision timeline.
<i>Budget</i>	Provide a single estimated total project cost (numerical value only). The estimate should align with guidance provided in Section 5: Funding Information and reflect realistic expectations for project delivery. A detailed budget will be requested at the full application stage.

SECTION 4: Lived Experience Review

<i>Lived Experience Engagement 300 words</i>	Indicate how individuals with lived experience have been involved in the development and planning of this research proposal. Describe the nature of their involvement to date and outline how meaningful engagement with these individuals will be maintained throughout the project, appropriate to the stage and type of research.
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SECTION 5: Certification

Lead Chief Investigators must confirm that all investigators have agreed to participate, the project is institutionally supported and compliant with relevant standards and certify the accuracy of the information provided and agreement to abide by the OCRF Research Grant Guidelines and conditions. Certification by the Administering Institution and the Department Head is required at the Full Application stage only.

Full Application

Successful EOI applications will be subsequently invited to submit a full application. This section outlines the information that will be requested through the application portal in this application stage.

SECTION 1: Contact Details

As per EOI Stage.

SECTION 2: Project Proposal

<i>Synopsis</i>	Should include background, aim(s), methodology, impact and significance.
<i>Proposed Study</i>	Background information, preliminary data, aim(s), methodology, and an overview of the research strategy and plans for the duration of the research project. Please be as concise as possible. Relevant critical reference should be included. Please attach any relevant images/figures in this section as a single pdf file and clearly label them with figure legends. Pilot grant application: • Proposed study plan 1500-word limit • Statistical analysis 500-word limit • 1-2 focused aims Project grant application: • Proposed study plan 3000-word limit • Statistical analysis 1000-word limit
<i>OCRF Research Objectives and Relevance</i>	Outline the overall direction, contribution, and significance/relevance of the research project to ovarian cancer research and how the project aligns with the OCRF Research Objectives.
<i>Translational Impact</i>	Discussion of the potential for translational impact of the research and how the outcomes of the research project may in the short, medium and/or long-term impact on ovarian cancer in Australia and/or New Zealand.

SECTION 3: Project Planning and Management

<i>Milestones and Deliverables</i>	Milestones should outline significant events or outcomes that you aim to reach throughout the research period. Deliverables are of a short-term nature and there should be measurable goals throughout each reporting period. These will be used to determine the progress and success of your research project.
<i>Project Timelines</i>	Timetable the major activities to be conducted in each year including the expected timeframes. This should align with your research strategy/plans as outlined in the proposed study section.
<i>Budget and Justification</i>	Provide a detailed budget and a clear justification for each salary (if requested) and any other research support. Titles and salary figures must be commensurate to the position and involvement of the staff member. Costs must align with the funding outlined in these guidelines.
<i>Other Funding</i>	All funding secured from additional sources (e.g., host institution, university, government agencies, other not-for-profit organisations) must be reported in this section and itemised. This allows the OCRF to assess and articulate the value proposition of its funding to a range of supporters and the community.
<i>Ethics</i>	Lead CIs need to complete this section acknowledging whether ethics approval needs to be, has been sought, or has been, achieved. Successful Lead CIs will need to provide final ethics clearance(s) to the OCRF before project commencement and the release of funding.

SECTION 4: Research Team

<i>Investigator – Contact Details</i>	Please ensure this is completed for all Investigator/s. Lead CI details do not need to be provided again as they were completed in Section 1.
<i>Citizenship & Visa Status</i>	As stated in these guidelines, the Lead CI and at least 50% of the nominated Chief Investigators must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, an Australian or New Zealand Permanent Resident or hold a relevant visa to work in Australia or New Zealand. Lead CIs who have not yet been granted a relevant visa status may apply provided that such status has been sought. Evidence must be provided with the application.
<i>Participation in Project</i>	Outline the percentage of time each Chief Investigator will be contributing to the research project and include a brief overview of their role on the project. Ensure this aligns with any CI salaries included in your budget.

<i>Research and Professional Experience</i>	Include a brief biography which will be utilised in any marketing and communication material and the website for the OCRF should the application be successful. Provide a career chronology including any awards and honours and any current memberships on advisory committees. Include only the top 5 publications over the past 5 years, and any representative earlier publications pertinent to this application. Please include citations where possible.
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SECTION 5: Consumer Review

<i>Lay Description</i>	Lead CIs must include a brief description of the research project IN LAY TERMS. It is essential that care is taken to provide a non-scientific summary in simple, easy-to-understand, non-technical language, which explains the rationale, research objectives and the relevance of the project to OCRF's purpose and ovarian cancer research. Lead CIs are encouraged to work with their institution's communications staff and consumers on this section. If successful, the lay description may be used in the production of a range of printed, digital and other communication materials and channels, promoting research funded by the OCRF. Be mindful to spend a majority of the word limit on describing your research as opposed to outlining the ovarian cancer landscape.
<i>Relevance, Equity and Alignment</i>	Highlight ways in which the potential research outcomes could benefit an ovarian cancer population or group that has a high burden of illness, has been under-studied or has poorer outcomes. Alternatively, please describe how the research outcomes could provide widespread benefit to the ovarian cancer community.
<i>Translation and Impact</i>	Describe how the research outcomes will be clinically translated to positively impact ovarian cancer incidence, prevention, diagnosis or management. Response should include details of these impacts in the short, medium, and long term.
<i>Lived Experience Engagement</i>	Indicate how individuals with lived experience have been involved in the development and planning of this research proposal. Describe how these individuals have been engaged and ways in which this will continue throughout the duration of the project, consummate with the stage and type of research.

SECTION 6: Certification

All Chief Investigators must certify that all the details given in the application are correct and that they agree to carry out the project according to the conditions determined by the OCRF.

The Lead CI must ensure that the Administering Institution and the Head of the relevant Department within the Administering Institution which will host the project have approved the application and authorised the Lead CI to submit the application by completing the relevant certification section. Incomplete certifications will not be considered.

Assessment

All applications submitted to the OCRF are reviewed through a rigorous and transparent assessment process involving both scientific and consumer panels. Applications are evaluated based on clearly defined criteria, with final funding recommendations made to the OCRF Board.

All submissions will be screened by the OCRF Research Team for completeness and compliance with the Guidelines. Incomplete applications, or those missing required documentation at the time of the deadline, will not proceed to assessment. As the number of applications received consistently exceeds the available funding, late submissions or additional documentation cannot be accepted under any circumstances. Lead Chief Investigators are strongly encouraged to submit well in advance of the closing date.

International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC)

The ISAC is made up of leading ovarian cancer researchers and clinicians from Australia and around the world. Members are selected to ensure a range of expertise across disciplines relevant to the OCRF's research objectives. ISAC members independently assess each application (where there is no conflict of interest), and their insights ensure that OCRF-funded research is aligned with international best practice and positioned to deliver meaningful outcomes for people affected by ovarian cancer.

Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP)

The LEAP is made up of individuals with lived experience of ovarian cancer, either as patients, survivors, carers, or family members. Their role is to assess the potential impact of the project on the ovarian cancer community and the quality of lived experience involvement in each proposal. The LEAP is a core part of the OCRF's commitment to embedding the voice of those affected by ovarian cancer into all funding decisions.

Applicants should note that the LEAP is not a general public audience. While lay language is essential, members are well-informed about the disease and its research landscape. Therefore, applicants are not expected to explain basic clinical or prognostic information. Instead, emphasis should be placed on the project plan, lived experience engagement plan, and how the project can improve outcomes for those affected by ovarian cancer.

Assessment Criteria: Expression of Interest (EOI) stage

EOIs are assessed by the ISAC and the LEAP against the following five criteria:

Criteria	Description	Assessors	Weighting
Innovation	The novelty of the research concept, approach, or direction. This may include the use of emerging or innovative technologies, tools, or methodologies that have the potential to drive significant progress in ovarian cancer research.	ISAC	1/6
Quality and scientific feasibility	The strength of the scientific rationale, clarity and logic of the research plan, and overall likelihood of successful project delivery. Includes assessment of how the project advances current knowledge in the field.	ISAC	2/6
Translational capacity	The potential for the research to generate meaningful outcomes that can ultimately be translated into clinical practice, or for patient or community benefit.	ISAC	1/6
Relevance and potential impact	The project's potential to improve outcomes or experiences for people affected by ovarian cancer. This includes the project's alignment with our community's (and therefore OCRF's) priorities.	LEAP	1/6
Lived Experience engagement	The quality and authenticity of proposed consumer involvement throughout the research process. This includes the inclusion of consumers as Investigators and a clear plan for ongoing engagement.	LEAP	1/6

Assessment Criteria: Full Application stage

Both the ISAC and the LEAP assess full applications, generating a ranked list of projects recommended for funding. Full applications for both Pilot Grants and Project Grants are assessed concurrently through a single, integrated process. Feedback from both panels compiled and presented to the OCRF Board who are responsible for making the final funding decisions.

Selection Criteria: ISAC

The ISAC conducts an in-depth evaluation of the scientific merit and feasibility of each full application, based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Description	Weighting
Innovation	Novelty of the research concept, approach, or direction. This may include the use of emerging or innovative technologies, tools, or methodologies that have the potential to drive significant progress in ovarian cancer research.	1/5
Quality and outcomes	Scientific rationale, clarity of the research proposal, likelihood of success, potential translational impact, and contribution to current knowledge.	2/5
Research team	Experience and qualification of researchers (including publications, citations, presentations and committee involvement), evidence of collaboration, and success relative to opportunity.	1/5
Project management	Feasibility of the project plan, including timelines, budget justification, and capacity to deliver within the proposed timeframe.	1/5

*Note: Please ensure that **Section 2A** of the application form clearly outlines the **anticipated outcomes** of your proposed project, as well as **any alternative approaches** that may be considered. The International Scientific Advisory Committee views this as a critical element of a strong application.*

Selection Criteria: LEAP

The LEAP evaluates applications from a lived experience perspective, focusing on the following equally weighted criteria:

Criteria	Description	Weighting
Relevance, Equity and Alignment	Assesses the alignment of the proposal with OCRF's mission, including the significance of the issue being addressed and its potential to benefit either a broad population or an underserved group with a high burden of illness, is under-studied or has poorer outcomes.	1/3
Translation and Impact	Evaluates whether the project includes strategies, collaborations, or dissemination plans that enhance the likelihood of translation into further research, clinical practice, or community benefit.	1/3
Lived experience engagement	Reviews the extent and authenticity of consumer involvement in the design, conduct, and communication of the research. The level of engagement should be appropriate to the stage and type of research being proposed.	1/3

Conflicts of Interest

To ensure a fair and unbiased assessment process, all members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) and the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) are required to declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest prior to receiving applications.

A conflict of interest exists when a panel member has a personal, professional, or financial interest that could improperly influence, or be perceived to influence, their evaluation of an application. This includes, but is not limited to:

- i. Current or recent collaboration with any applicant (within the past three years)
- ii. Employment at the same institution as an applicant
- iii. Personal relationships with any member of the applicant team
- iv. Financial interest in a company or product related to the proposed research

- v. Any other situation that may compromise objectivity

All assessors are required to submit a formal COI declaration prior to receiving any application materials. If a conflict is identified, the assessor will be excluded from reviewing, scoring, or participating in any discussion relating to the affected application(s). Conflicted members will not be present during discussions related to the relevant proposal.

Feedback on Applications

The OCRF does not provide feedback on unsuccessful applications by default. However, brief written feedback may be supplied upon request, with the aim of assisting applicants strengthen future submissions.

Grant Administration

Funding Agreement

Upon awarding of a grant, a Funding Agreement will be prepared and issued to the Administering Institution for review and signature. This Funding Agreement will certify that the institution endorses the application, is willing to administer the Research, and has the appropriate facilities and services to be made available for use by the Lead CI.

All parties must accept the terms of the Funding Agreement and sign the Agreement before payments are made. Projects must be conducted as set out in the Funding Agreement.

Variations to Funding Agreement

Lead CIs can request to extend the duration of the grant for up to 12 months without any additional OCRF funding. Extensions will be reviewed by the International Scientific Advisory Committee for the currency of the research and approval will need to be granted by the Board.

Extensions beyond 12 months will not be approved.

Reporting requirements

As a not-for-profit organisation, the OCRF is committed to ensuring responsible stewardship of the funds we invest in research. Successful Lead CIs will be required to submit Progress Reports on an annual basis in our Grants Portal, against the following categories:

1. Progress against stated aims

Grant recipients must demonstrate accountability that the project is on track to deliver upon the stated outcomes. Progress reports are assessed by the ISAC.

Failure to demonstrate sufficient progress towards stated aims may have a bearing upon milestone payments and could result in the termination of the Funding Agreement (see Payment of Milestones).

2. Impact reporting

Grant recipients are required to provide information to assist the OCRF's storytelling and communications with our community. This includes 'lay' summaries of scientific progress; summaries of dissemination such as peer reviewed journal articles; information about researchers involved in the project; career progression and collaborative networks.

3. Commercial interests

The OCRF wishes to understand each project's potential path to real-world application and commercialisation. In order to facilitate this, recipients are required to outline all commercial partners and interests at the application stage and notify the OCRF of any changes as soon as is practicable.

4. Financial acquittal

All OCRF funds must be acquitted transparently and satisfactorily by the relevant progress review committee, as well as by Research and Finance team members at the OCRF.

We strongly encourage researchers to maintain open and ongoing communication with the OCRF, particularly if they encounter any challenges, rather than waiting for formal reporting periods. The OCRF reserves the right to modify the mode and content requested for submission in the annual reports. Failure to submit reports on time may lead to the suspension of future funding.

Research Integrity

Research Integrity is of fundamental importance to the OCRF. Ongoing ethical practice, in keeping with all the requirements in the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) ('the Code', 2018), is an ongoing requisite of funding from the OCRF.

The OCRF's Funding Agreements outline specific requirements that apply to every research grant provided by the OCRF.

Media and community engagement

Media and community engagement is a very important aspect of terms of engagement with the OCRF. It supports delivery of our donor promise to community and partners.

Details of media and community related requirements can be found in the OCRF Funding Agreement. This includes acknowledgement of OCRF contribution to the research project across its life cycle.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The OCRF values your privacy and takes reasonable steps to protect your personal information (that is, information that identifies or may reasonably be used to identify you). The OCRF is bound by the *Privacy Act 1988* (the Privacy Act) as well as applicable state/territory legislation so your personal information will be handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

The OCRF only collects personal information from you that is necessary for it to perform its functions. For these purposes, your information may be shared with trusted third parties and OCRF's service providers. If you choose not to provide certain personal information to the OCRF, we may not be able to process your grant application or communicate with you.

Our *Privacy Policy* tells you what kinds of information we may collect about you, how we usually collect, use and disclose your personal information, how you can complain about a misuse of your personal information and how you can ask for access to it. You can view our *Privacy Policy* by visiting ocrf.com.au/privacy-policy/.