

Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme 2017

Rules for Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants Applications

Application documents available	23 December 2016
Applications open:	11 January 2017
Young Investigator online eligibility form completed	By 25 January 2017
Minimum data entered into RGMS	15 February 2017
Application deadline	5:00pm (AEDT) 15 March 2017



Australian Government
Cancer Australia



Every Cancer.
Every Australian.

How to use this guide?

This guide is divided into four sections and seven appendices, and provides applicants with information about the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme (PdCCRS) Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants, eligibility parameters, and essential rules on how to complete the application documentation.

Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner strongly encourage applicants to read these Rules **before** completing the application documentation.

Potential applicants should determine if this funding scheme is appropriate for their research project before completing the PdCCRS Questions Form.

Any questions regarding PdCCRS applications **must be sent in writing** to Dr Christopher Poon, Senior Project Officer, Research Australia at: grants@canceraustralia.gov.au

Other important information in the 2017 round of the PdCCRS

In 2015, the NHMRC introduced a New Investigator Eligibility Confirmation process for applicants wishing to apply to the NHMRC New Investigator and the PdCCRS Young Investigator Categories.

Applicants who wish to apply as an NHMRC New Investigator **and/or** PdCCRS Young Investigator **must** complete the mandatory New Investigator online eligibility form in RGMS. Information relating to NHMRC New Investigator eligibility is on the NHMRC website (<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply-funding/project-grants>). This form must be completed by **the 25 January 2017** deadline.

No further New Investigator eligibility information will be accepted once this form has been submitted.

The early application and notification process for New Investigators is intended to allow the applicant(s) time to adjust the CI team if they do not meet the eligibility criteria.

Applicants applying to the PdCCRS Young Investigator scheme will have their eligibility confirmed following the close of applications in March 2017.

- **This process applies to ALL applicants submitting an application for funding to the NHMRC New Investigator and/or to the PdCCRS Young Investigator schemes.**
- **Applicants who fail to undertake this process:**
 - **Will be INELIGIBLE for funding as a New Investigator by the NHMRC**
 - **Will not have their application reviewed as a Young Investigator grant through the PdCCRS. Rather applications will be reviewed with other standard project grants and consideration will not be given to the early career status of the individual applicant.**

Further instructions on this process are available on the [NHMRC website](#).

Eligibility for funding through the PdCCRS by Cure Cancer Australia

In any one round of the PdCCRS, only one application (Category B, Category C or Category D) per applicant will be funded or co-funded by Cure Cancer Australia.

Researchers holding a Young Investigator Category C (two-year) PdCCRS grant being funded or co-funded by Cure Cancer Australia are **ineligible** to apply for further funding in the PdCCRS Young Investigator categories from Cure Cancer Australia in the first year of their two year grant.

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Section 1: The Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme

Program background

The Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme is a category 1¹ annual competitive national research project grants scheme which funds cancer research in identified priority areas to help reduce the impact of cancer in the community and improve outcomes for people affected by cancer.

The PdCCRS was established by Cancer Australia in 2007. Between 2007 and 2016 322 research grants totaling \$113 million have been funded by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partners.

Currently, the PdCCRS supports funding for two types of research grants:

- Priority-driven Standard Project Grants
- Priority-driven Young Investigator Grants

These Rules relate to **Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants**. Separate Rules are available on the Cancer Australia website (www.canceraustralia.gov.au) for the Priority-driven Standard Project Grants.

PdCCRS aims

The PdCCRS aims to:

- fund research in tumour areas that place a high burden of disease on the Australian community;
- fund **applied cancer research projects** that **directly relate to the identified priorities** of Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partners; and
- fund research that can **directly** improve cancer outcomes by influencing clinical practice, policy and/or care.

¹ The PdCCRS is listed on the Australian Competitive Grants Register. Higher Education Providers can include funding by the PdCCRS in their applications to the Department of Education for additional infrastructure funding through the Research Infrastructure Block Grants Scheme (RIBG)

Section 2: Partnerships

A hallmark of the PdCCRS is its ability to bring together funders of cancer research in a national and coordinated scheme to maximise cancer research investment across Australia.

Cancer Australia

Cancer Australia was established by the Australian Government in 2006 to benefit all Australians affected by cancer, and their families and carers. Cancer Australia works to reduce the impact of cancer and improve the well-being of those diagnosed by ensuring that evidence informs cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and supportive care.

Cancer Australia works collaboratively and liaises with a wide range of groups, including those affected by cancer, key stakeholders and service providers with an interest in cancer control. The agency also focuses on populations who experience poorer health outcomes, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people living in rural and remote Australia.

As the lead national cancer control agency, Cancer Australia also makes recommendations to the Australian Government about cancer policy and priorities.

2017 Funding Partner

The Funding Partner in the 2017 round of the PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants is Cure Cancer Australia.

Cure Cancer Australia

Cure Cancer Australia invests exclusively in Australia's brightest early-career researchers across ALL cancer types and ALL areas of cancer research. Since Cure Cancer Australia was established 50 years ago (1967), it has funded 316 scientists, 483 research projects, and has invested close to \$27.5 million in cancer research grants. Many of the rising stars that Cure Cancer Australia has funded are now at the forefront of medical research and have been part of significant advances in cancer research.

Cure Cancer Australia aims to reduce the impact of cancer in Australia through:

- Supporting research into cancer;
- Identifying outstanding early-career researchers and providing them with a pathway to establishing independence;
- Promoting the prevention or control of cancer; and
- Raising awareness about cancer in the general community.

National Health and Medical Research Council

The PdCCRS is aligned with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) project grants scheme. The NHMRC facilitates registration and initial assessment of grant applications, and endorses grant applications funded through this scheme in recognition of their scientific merit. The review of grant applications by

the NHMRC provides the scheme with a transparent, quality, highly-respected merit-based peer review research grant process.

The NHMRC is Australia's leading expert body promoting the development and maintenance of public and individual health standards. The NHMRC consolidates within a single national organisation the often independent functions of research funding and development of advice. One of its strengths is that it brings together and draws upon the resources of all components of the health system, including governments, medical practitioners, nurses and allied health professionals, researchers, teaching and research institutions, public and private program managers, service administrators, community health organisations, social health researchers and consumers. The functions of the NHMRC come from the statutory obligations conferred by the [National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992](#).

Section 3: About the Grants

Type of grant

Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants for funding from January 2018.

Duration and budget of the grants

There are three categories of PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Grants:

Category B

- Relevant Funding Partners: Cancer Australia and Cure Cancer Australia
- Grants for one year duration with maximum funding of \$100,000 (GST exclusive) to support post-doctoral researchers with 1-3 years post-doctoral experience, or 1-3 years after graduation from medical school.

Category C

- Relevant Funding Partners: Cancer Australia and Cure Cancer Australia
- Grants for two years duration with maximum funding of \$200,000 (GST exclusive), with a maximum in any one year of \$100,000 (GST exclusive), to support post-doctoral researchers with 4-7 years post-doctoral experience, or 4-7 years after graduation from medical school.

Category D

- Relevant Funding Partners: Cancer Australia and Cure Cancer Australia
- Project grants will be awarded in the field of bioinformatics for cancer research
- Grants for one year duration with maximum funding of \$100,000 (GST exclusive), to support post-doctoral researchers with up to 7 years post-doctoral experience, or up to 7 years after graduation from medical school.

Special attributes of the grants

PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Grants **must** demonstrate the following attributes:

Priority-driven

Grant applications must **directly** relate to a research priority area/s specified by Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner in this document.

Track record relative to opportunity for early-career researchers

Applicants must list publications, their role in the publications, and their research experience.

Career development

Applicants are required to describe their career development objectives for the next five years.

Relevance to cancer control

Applicants must describe how their proposed research is relevant to cancer control

Involvement of consumer representatives

Grant applications must indicate whether consumers have been consulted about the study and outline how consumer involvement could be included in the development of this project.

Research Priorities

A full list of research priority areas identified by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner is at **Appendix 2**.

Please review the research priority areas to ensure that your proposed research **directly aligns** with the research priority area/s of Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner.

Eligibility for grant review through the PdCCRS

Applicants must comply with the following criteria in order for their grant applications to be considered eligible for funding through the PdCCRS by Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner.

Alignment with research priorities

To be considered for funding, the proposed research must **directly align** with at least one research priority area specified by Cancer Australia or its Funding Partner.

Please note: if your research project does not **directly align** with the selected research priority area/s, Cancer Australia and/or the Funding Partner are under **no obligation to consider your project for funding**.

Number of years post-doctoral or after graduation from medical school

An applicant's eligibility to apply for Category B, Category C, or Category D funding is determined by the number of years which has elapsed after they graduated from their PhD or medical degree.

The table below identifies the edibility criteria for Category B, Category C, and Category D PdCCRS grants. Any applicant applying for Category B, Category C, or Category D grants who does not meet the criteria in this table will be deemed **ineligible** for funding.

Eligibility			
Years after attaining PhD/MBBS qualification (as of 15 March 2017)	Category B	Category C	Category D
Up to 1 Year	Can apply for 1 year of funding	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 2 Years	Can apply for 1 year of funding	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 3 Years	Can apply for 1 year of funding	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 4 Years	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 2 years of funding	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 5 Years	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 2 years of funding	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 6 Years	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 2	Can apply for up to 1

		years of funding	year of funding
Up to 7 Years	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 2 years of funding	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
7 Years or over	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible

Duration of funding

The research project cannot exceed 1 year (Category B or Category D) or 2 years (Category C) in duration. Applications which exceed these timeframes will be deemed **ineligible** for funding.

Number of applications submitted

An applicant (named as Chief Investigator A [CIA]) can only submit a **maximum of two applications** for each round of the PdCCRS, that is, a maximum of:

- one application to the PdCCRS Standard Project Grants category and one application to either PdCCRS Young Investigator Category B, Category C, or Category D; or
- two applications to PdCCRS Young Investigator Category B, Category C, or Category D.

Further Important Advice about Eligibility for funding by Cure Cancer Australia

In any one round of the PdCCRS, only one application (Category B, Category C, or Category D) per applicant will be funded or co-funded by Cure Cancer Australia.

Researchers already holding a Young Investigator Category C (two-year) PdCCRS grant being funded or co-funded by Cure Cancer Australia are **ineligible** to apply for further funding in the PdCCRS Young Investigator categories from Cure Cancer Australia in the first year of their two year grant.

If you are uncertain of your eligibility to apply for funding from Cure Cancer Australia, please contact Dr Christopher Poon at Cancer Australia (grants@canceraustralia.gov.au).

Applications will be deemed INELIGIBLE for funding and will not be reviewed by Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partners if:

- the PdCCRS Questions Forms is incomplete;
- a question in the PdCCRS Questions Form is not responded to;
- 'not applicable' / 'not relevant' or equivalent wording is provided as a response to any PdCCRS Question; or
- in responding to an PdCCRS Question an attempt is made to justify that the question is not applicable or relevant.

Please note that there are **two different** PdCCRS Questions forms for 2017:

- PdCCRS Questions - Priority-driven Standard Project Grants
- PdCCRS Questions Form - Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants

Please ensure that you complete the **correct PdCCRS Questions form**. Grant applications will be deemed **ineligible** if they submit the incorrect PdCCRS Questions form.

New Investigator online eligibility form

Applicants who wish to apply as an NHMRC New Investigator **and/or** PdCCRS Young Investigator **must** complete the mandatory New Investigator online eligibility form in RGMS. Information relating to NHMRC New Investigator eligibility is on the NHMRC

website (<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply-funding/project-grants>). This form must be completed **by the 25 January 2017** deadline.

The early application and notification process is intended to allow the applicant(s) time to adjust the CI team if they do not meet the eligibility criteria.

Applicants applying to the PdCCRS Young Investigator scheme will have their eligibility confirmed following the close of applications in March 2017.

Applicants who fail to undertake this process:

- Will be **ineligible** for funding as a New Investigator by the NHMRC

If a Young Investigator applicant to the PdCCRS Category B, Category C or Category D grants fails to complete the NHMRC's New Investigator online eligibility form, the Young Investigator **will not** be deemed ineligible, however, their application/s will be reviewed as a standard project grant and consideration will not be given to the early career status of the applicant. Please note, this may impact on the score the grant receives.

Timing of submission

Applicants are required to complete the New Investigator online eligibility form by 5:00pm AEDT 25 January 2017.

Minimum data for applications must be entered into RGMS by 5pm AEDT 15 February 2017. Please refer to Section 3 of the [NHMRC Project Grants Scheme-Specific Funding Rules](#) for further information.

Completed PdCCRS Questions forms must be submitted directly to Cancer Australia by 5:00pm AEDT 15 March 2017. Submission of PdCCRS Questions forms after this time will deem the application **ineligible** for funding.

Tax

Taxation

Applicants are advised to carefully consider the likely taxation treatment of any funding provided by the Commonwealth prior to submitting an application. For some general guidance on the taxation treatment of Grant and funding from the Commonwealth, applicants may wish to refer to the Australian Tax Office website at www.ato.gov.au. However, applicants are advised to seek independent advice on this issue from a taxation professional.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Due to recent changes to the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (GST Act) from 1 July 2012, a payment will not be subject to GST if all of the following apply:

- the payment is made by a government related entity (GRE) to another government related entity for making a supply;
- the payment is covered by an appropriation under an Australian law or is made under a specified intergovernmental health reform agreement;
- the payment satisfies the non-commercial test.

As a consequence of these amendments to the GST Act, GST will no longer be included in instances where all of the above requirements are satisfied.

Two-phase application and assessment process

A two-phase assessment process is used to ensure that projects funded by the PdCCRS align with the identified research priorities of Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner.

Phase 1

- All PdCCRS grant applications are submitted through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Research Grants Management System (RGMS) applications process (<https://www.rgms.nhmrc.gov.au>).
- Applications are assessed and ranked via the NHMRC Project Grant peer review process.
- As part of this process, the NHMRC Grant Review Panels (GRPs) will review the proposed budget and justification by the applicant, in terms of the requirements of the proposal as assessed by the GRP and its knowledge of the costs associated with the research. A review of the budget by GRPs will be conducted for all applications deemed Category 5 or above.
- The scores from the NHMRC grant review process relating to:
 - Scientific Quality;
 - Significance of the Expected Outcomes and/or Innovation of the Concept; and
 - Team Quality and Capability relevant to the application – relative to opportunity, taking into account career disruptions where applicable.
- The NHMRC scores contribute **50% of the final PdCCRS assessment score**.

Phase 2

- Applicant's responses to the four *PdCCRS Questions* for Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants are assessed by Cancer Australia and Funding Partners' Grant Review Committees. Grant Review Committees score the response to each of the *PdCCRS Questions*. The aim of the *PdCCRS Questions* is to assess each application for the following elements:
 - Track record of applicant (relevant to opportunity);
 - Career development;
 - Relevance of project to cancer control; and
 - Consumer involvement.
- Scores for the *PdCCRS Questions* contribute **50% of the final PdCCRS score**.
- The alignment of the proposal to the identified research priority area/s of Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner is also assessed by the Grant Review Committees.

Scores assigned to the *PdCCRS Questions* responses together with the scores received by the NHMRC are weighted and combined to provide a single final score. Applications are ranked by this final score and funding is assigned in merit-based rank order until the available budget is expended.

Further information about the assessment is provided at Appendix 1 (page 18).

Funding decisions

Approval of funding

The CEO Cancer Australia will approve the recommendations for funding or co-funding to be offered by Cancer Australia. Each Funding Partner will approve the grants that they are funding/co-funding.

Advice to applicants

Once final funding approvals have been received from Cancer Australia and all Funding Partners, applicants will be advised verbally and by letter of the outcome of their application. Letters to successful applicants will contain details of any specific conditions attached to the funding. The successful applicants will be provided with a timeframe in which to accept or decline the offer of funding.

Cancer Australia will notify all unsuccessful applicants, in writing, by 31 December 2017. Unsuccessful applicants seeking feedback about the *PdCCRS Questions* component of their application should contact, in writing, the Cancer Australia Contact Officer at grants@canceraustralia.gov.au. Please note that feedback will only be provided on the applicant's responses to the *PdCCRS Questions*. Feedback cannot be provided on the RGMS component of the application.

Complaints handling

Should an applicant wish to lodge a dispute or complaint about the application and assessment process, they should do so in writing to the Cancer Australia Contact Officer at: grants@canceraustralia.gov.au. Disputes and complaints must be lodged within 28 days of the Chief Investigator A receiving notification of the application outcome. The complainant should provide details of the basis upon which the dispute or complaint is being lodged, including:

- a clear statement as to what the complainant considers was defective in the funding process;
- copies of, or references to, evidence supporting the complaint; and
- a statement as to what the complainant wishes to achieve from the complaint process.

Receipt of the complaint will be acknowledged in writing within 5 working days of receiving the complaint. If further correspondence or information is required, the complainant will be given no less than 15 working days to respond to any communication from Cancer Australia.

Further information is provided in the [Cancer Australia Procurement and Grants Complaint Handling Policy \(DOC 47.5KB\)](#)

Section 4: Applying for funding

Types of research funded

The Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants are designed to principally support **applied cancer research projects** that relate to the research priority area/s of Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner and which have the potential to **directly** improve cancer outcomes by influencing clinical practice and/or policy.

Applicants should review these Rules, research priorities and the associated PdCCRS Questions form to determine if their proposed research is appropriate for this funding scheme.

Please note that funding will be provided for research, including clinical trials research, but **not** for clinical service delivery or infrastructure for clinical services.

Please also note that Categories B, C and D funding **cannot** be used to provide a salary or other support for a young investigator as **part of a larger Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research project grant application**.

Who can apply for funding?

Grant applications will be accepted from appropriately qualified researchers who will be conducting research at an NHMRC approved Administering Institution in Australia.

Chief investigators or co-investigators on current NHMRC program grants or project grants who form research collaborations **are** eligible to apply for funding from Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner. Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner require applicants to adhere to all the NHMRC guidelines unless otherwise stated.

NHMRC approved Administering Institutions

The Administering Institution can be within a university, affiliated to a university or major hospital, or an appropriate independent medical or scientific research institute and must meet NHMRC Administering Institution requirements (<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/admininst.htm>).

What is the role of the NHMRC approved administering institution?

Should the grant application be successful, the NHMRC approved Administering Institution is required to enter into a Funding Agreement with Cancer Australia. The conditions in the agreement cover standard grant contract areas including acknowledgement, intellectual property, reporting requirements, etc.

It is a condition of application that the Administering Institution agrees to comply with the terms and conditions in the *Cancer Australia Funding Agreement*.

Applying for funding

All grant applications for the PdCCRS are aligned with the NHMRC project grants scheme. As such applicants **must complete** the NHMRC's RGMS Application Form as well as the Cancer Australia *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017* form.

For further information on preparing applications, including step-by-step guidance on completing the NHMRC RGMS and Cancer Australia *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven*

Young Investigator Project Grants 2017 form, please see **Appendix 3 – Instructions to applicants** (page 23) of this document.

Important dates

The submission process for PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Project grants will be via the NHMRC Project Grants process. Applicants will submit their RGMS grant applications directly to the NHMRC, adhering to all the NHMRC guidelines, unless otherwise stated.

New Investigator Eligibility

All applicants to the PdCCRS Young Investigator scheme must complete the New Investigator eligibility form in RGMS by **5:00pm AEDT 25 January 2017**.

Minimum Data

All applicants must enter minimum data for their applications into RGMS by **5:00pm AEDT 15 February 2017**.

Closing date

The closing date for NHMRC Project Grants and PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Project grants is **5:00pm AEDT 15 March 2017**.

The PdCCRS Questions Form - PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants must be submitted **directly to Cancer Australia** as a PDF file.

Applications **MUST** be submitted through the relevant Administering Institution Research Administrative Office (RAO), which may have closing dates that are earlier than the NHMRC closing date. **Please check with your institution for any local rules.**

Late or incomplete grant applications **will not** be accepted.

Major dates

The following dates apply to the 2017 PdCCRS process:

Date	Process
23 December 2016	PdCCRS application documents available on Cancer Australia website
11 January 2017	Call for grant applications open
25 January 2017	Final date for seeking confirmation of New Investigator status by NHMRC. Young Researcher applicants applying to the Cancer Australian and/ or its funding partner through the PdCCRS MUST also complete this form by the indicated date.
15 February 2017	Minimum application data must be entered into RGMS
15 March 2017	Closing date for receiving Project Grant applications through RGMS and PdCCRS Questions forms
March - September 2017	NHMRC and Cancer Australia /Funding Partners' Grant Review Committees Assessments
October-November 2017	Cancer Australia will advise applicants of funding outcomes

Co-applications for funding from Cancer Australia, NHMRC and the Cancer Councils

When submitting their applications to RGMS for funding of project grants, some applicants may apply for funding to Cancer Australia (PdCCRS) and/or the NHMRC and/or the Cancer Council.

After the assessment processes are complete, the NHMRC, Cancer Council and Cancer Australia will work together to identify which grant applications applying to these organisations will be funded by each organisation.

Appendix 1: Assessment process

PdCCRS grant applications will be assessed in two Phases.

Assessment phase 1

PdCCRS grant applications will be assessed and ranked via the NHMRC Project Grants grant review process. Applicants are to indicate their preferred Peer Review Area (PRA) in RGMS for NHMRC's consideration (refer to the [Guide to Peer Review Areas for Project Grant Applications](#)) which is available on the [NHMRC webpage](#).

Prior to the GRP meeting, applicants will have an opportunity to respond (via rebuttal) to the reviews provided by up to two external assessors and their application's spokespersons.

After spokespersons have considered the rebuttal and re-scored applications, NHMRC will collate the final scores provided by the Primary and Secondary Spokespersons for each application and identify the least competitive 50% of applications. These applications will be considered by the GRP for removal in advance of the GRP meeting (the Not for Further Consideration [NFFC] Process). The GRP will review all remaining applications. NB: Applications to the PdCCRS Young Investigator Categories given a notional rating of GRP Category 5 or more will be exempt from consideration as NFFC.

Grant applications that are rated NFFC by the NHMRC or are reviewed by an NHMRC GRP and receive a GRP score of less than 4.0, and/or receive a score for scientific quality of less than 4.0 will not enter the Cancer Australia and Funding Partners' Phase 2 assessment process.

Scores from the NHMRC grant review process relating to scientific quality, significance and/or innovation and team quality and capability relevant to this application will be provided to Cancer Australia.

These scores will contribute 50% of the final PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Project grant score.

Assessment phase 2

Cancer Australia and Funding Partners' Grant Review Committees will score grant applicant's responses to the *PdCCRS Questions* for Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants on each of the following elements:

Question 1 – track record of applicant (relevant to opportunity);

Question 2 – career development;

Question 3 – relevance of project to cancer control; and

Question 4 – consumer involvement.

In total, the scores for the PdCCRS Questions assessment phase will contribute 50% of the final PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Project grant score.

The alignment of research projects to the research priority area/s of Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner will also be assessed.

Cancer Australia and Funding Partners' Grant Review Committees will include consumer representation. Contemporary research suggests while researchers are best placed to assess the quality and feasibility of research, judgements on the

broader significance of the research and impacts on society, benefit greatly from an assessment by consumers².

Seeking consumer input at all stages of research from conception through to dissemination and implementation of study findings across the research spectrum is an important element of the assessment criteria.

Cancer Australia and Funding Partners' Grant Review Committees will also comprise representatives from Funding Partners, the NHMRC and Cancer Australia.

The criteria for funding decisions

The scores assigned to the *PdCCRS Questions* responses together with the scores received by the NHMRC are weighted and combined to provide a single final score. All applications are ranked according to this final score and funding is assigned in rank order until the available budgets for Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner are expended.

In making a final decision on which applications will be offered funding, consideration will be given to the whether the proposal will make an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of Commonwealth resources, as required by Commonwealth legislation, and consideration will also be given to alignment with published research priorities.

The assessment criteria

Assessment criteria for the Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants are summarised in the table below.

Science (Team Quality and Capability relevant to the application – relative to opportunity, taking into account career disruptions where applicable)	50%
Track record of the applicant in regard to opportunity	30%
How the research will contribute to the career development of the applicant	10%
Relevance to cancer control	5%
Consumer involvement in the development of the project	5%

² Saunders C, Girgis A, Butow P, Crossing S, Penman A: Operationalising a model framework for consumer and community participation in health and medical research (<http://www.anzhealthpolicy.com/content/4/1/13>) accessed 10 July 2013

Conflict of interest for grant reviewers

The PdCCRS aims to support high-quality research and, in order to do this, advice and assistance from expert researchers is sought. The consequence of this strategy is that, from time to time, members of Grant Review Committees may have an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest with an application under review.

To ensure probity and transparency in the PdCCRS grant review process, a mechanism is in place to identify and manage conflicts of interest. Specifically:

- Grant Review Committee members must sign a Deed of Confidentiality in relation to confidential information and conflict of interest;
- Grant Review Committee members are required to disclose to Cancer Australia any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest;
- Cancer Australia will determine the appropriate action in response to the declared conflict of interest. These actions may include:
 - Declaration that the conflict is minor/insignificant and should result in no further action;
 - Declaration that the conflict is significant and the member should not participate in the assessment process (discussion or scoring) of the application in question.
- Applicants named as a Chief Investigator for any 2017 PdCCRS application/s will be excluded entirely from participating in the grant review process for the 2017 round of the PdCCRS.

Appendix 2: 2017 PdCCRS research priorities

Cancer Australia

Cancer Australia's framework of research priorities relate to specific areas of cancer research, tumour types and populations with poorer outcomes. In looking to support research in these areas, Cancer Australia encourages research which focuses on emerging issues, innovation and novel approaches.

Origins and causes of cancer

Aetiology

- Exogenous Factors in the Origin and Cause of Cancer.

Prevention of cancer

Prevention

- Personal Behaviours That Affect Cancer Risk;
- Nutrition, Chemoprevention, or Vaccines.

Early Detection and Treatment of cancer

Early Detection, Diagnosis & Prognosis

- Technology and/or Marker Evaluation or Testing in a Clinical Setting.

Treatment

- Discovery and Development of Localized Therapies;
- Clinical Applications of Localized Therapies, Systemic Therapies or Combinations of Localized and Systemic Therapies.

Cancer Control, Survivorship & Outcomes

- Patient Care, Survivorship Issues, or End-of-Life Care including Complementary and Alternative Approaches;
- Health Services, Economic and Health Policy analysis and Surveillance;
- Behaviour, Education and Communication.

Tumour types

Research addressing cancers of the lung, colon and rectum, pancreas, cancer of unknown primary, lymphoma, kidney, bladder, stomach or oesophagus is strongly encouraged.

Translational research

- Translational research involving the testing or application of technologies, markers and therapies in a clinical setting;
- Translational research associated with surveillance and prevention of cancer;
- Translational research to improve: patient care, survivorship, supportive and end of life care, health services, economic and health policy.

Populations with poor and unwarranted variations in cancer outcomes

Cancer research focusing on populations who experience poor and unwarranted variations in cancer outcomes is strongly encouraged, including variations by:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status;
- socioeconomic status;
- geographic location.

Cure Cancer Australia Foundation wishes to fund innovative, high-achieving, early-career researchers, and will be assessing the applicant's track record and publications (relative to opportunity). Cure Cancer Australia Foundation funding may be used for the applicant's own salary, or the salary of a research assistant, and/or research materials for the specified project. Applicants are advised to consider the following research priorities in their applications:

Priority One: General Priorities (Categories B and C applicants only):

Cure Cancer Australia aims to provide 'start-up' funding to support post-doctoral researchers with less than seven years post-doctoral or less than seven years post-MBBS experience at the time of application;

Cure Cancer Australia selects for leadership and innovation as well as scientific excellence, therefore the applicant must nominate themselves as sole Chief Investigator of their project. This assists early-career researchers to advance their research and to increase their competitiveness for funding from other granting agencies in the future. Please note that this funding cannot be used as part of a larger PdCCRS project grant application.

- Project grants will be awarded in any field of research (including basic laboratory, epidemiology, psychosocial, translational, and clinical) into malignant disease;

Priority Two: Bioinformatics for cancer research (Category D applicants only)

Cure Cancer Australia aims to provide 'start-up' funding to support post-doctoral researchers with less than seven years post-doctoral or less than seven years post-MBBS experience at the time of application;

Cure Cancer Australia selects for leadership and innovation as well as scientific excellence, therefore the applicant must nominate themselves as sole Chief Investigator of their project. This assists early-career researchers to advance their research and to increase their competitiveness for funding from other granting agencies in the future. Please note that this funding cannot be used as part of a larger PdCCRS project grant application.

- Project grants will be awarded in the field of bioinformatics* for cancer research;

*bioinformatics is defined as the analysis of biological information, using computers and statistical techniques, to accelerate and enhance cancer research including research related to genomes, proteomes, three-dimensional modeling of biomolecules and biologic systems.

Appendix 3: Instructions to applicants

How to apply for a PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grant

Applications **MUST** be submitted through the relevant Administering Institution Research Administrative Office (RAO). The RAO may have closing dates that are earlier than the NHMRC closing date. **Please check with your institution for any local rules.** The NHMRC's Research Grants Management System (RGMS) must be used to access/enter your CV and Profile, or submit a Project Grant Application.

- Visit the [NHMRC website](#) for information about applying for project grants and for downloading all NHMRC instructions and Rules including:
 - NHMRC Funding Rules 2017 incorporating the Project Grants scheme-specific funding rules for funding commencing in 2018;
 - The NHMRC Advice and Instructions to Applicants 2017 incorporating the Project Grants scheme-specific advice and instructions to applicants;
 - The RGMS User Guide; and
 - Other relevant guidelines and funding policies.
- The *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017* form can be downloaded from the Cancer Australia website (www.canceraustralia.gov.au).
 - The *PdCCRS Questions* form **must** be completed when applying to Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner.
 - Grant applications **will not be considered** if the *PdCCRS Questions* Form is not fully completed and submitted by 5:00pm (AEDT) 15 March 2017.
 - Grant applications **will not be considered** if the incorrect *PdCCRS Questions* Form is submitted. Please ensure you complete the correct *PdCCRS Questions* Form.
 - Grant applications **will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered** if any question in the *PdCCRS Questions* Form is not answered or a response of 'not applicable'/'not relevant' (or equivalent) is provided for any question.
 - Grant applications **will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered** if in responding to a *PdCCRS Question* an attempt is made to justify that the question is not applicable or relevant.
 - While the *Detailed Background and Research Plan* PDF **must** be submitted to the NHMRC by your RAO, the **completed PdCCRS Questions PDF must be submitted directly to Cancer Australia at grants@canceraustralia.gov.au.**

Instructions for completing the New Investigator online eligibility form

Applicants who wish to apply as an NHMRC New Investigator **and/or** PdCCRS Young Investigator **must** complete the mandatory New Investigator form in RGMS by **the 25 January 2017** deadline.

To assist in completing this eligibility form, the NHMRC has developed an [RGMS User Guide](#) available on the [NHMRC Project Grants website](#).

Instructions for using NHMRC's RGMS

When preparing your application for submission to NHMRC's Research Grants Management System (RGMS), please refer to the NHMRC [Advice and Instructions to Applicants 2017 incorporating the Project Grants scheme-specific advice and instructions to applicants](#). [RGMS User Guides](#) have been developed to assist in completing your application.

In addition to the requirements set out in the NHMRC Advice and Instructions and scheme-specific documentation, applicants for New Investigator and PdCCRS Young Investigator are advised to adhere to the additional requirements listed below.

PART B – APPLICATION DETAILS

B–AIProj: Application information

New Investigator

- **Is this application for New Investigator Funding?**

This question asks if this application is for New Investigator funding. You must select **'No'** if you wish to **only** be considered for a PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grant. You must select **'Yes'** if you are applying to both the NHMRC New Investigator and the PdCCRS Young Investigator schemes.

Funding Organisation

- This question asks you to select the organisation/s from which funding is sought and provides you with three check box options:
 - NHMRC
 - Cancer Australia and Funding Partners
 - Cancer Council
- You **MUST select the 'Cancer Australia and Funding Partners' box** to ensure your application is considered by Cancer Australia and Funding Partners for the PdCCRS
- You may also select NHMRC and/or Cancer Council as appropriate

Funding Source consideration based on Funder Box/s selected by applicant

At the completion of the NHMRC peer review process and based on the funders selected, your application will be considered for funding, as follows:

Funder Box selected by applicant	Organisation which will consider application for funding		
	Cancer Australia & Funding Partners	NHMRC	Cancer Council
Cancer Australia & Funding Partners	Yes	No	No
Cancer Australia & Funding Partners & NHMRC	Yes	Yes	No
Cancer Australia & Funding Partners & Cancer Council	Yes	No	Yes
Cancer Australia & Funding Partners & NHMRC & Cancer Council	Yes	Yes	Yes

Cancer Australia Young Investigator

Applicants must select YES to be considered for Young Investigator categories of Cancer Australia's Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme.

PdCCRS Young Investigator applicants must meet NHMRC submission deadlines in addition to any Cancer Australia deadlines.

Consent to disclose personal information to other organisations

- This question asks whether the CIA has sought consent from the other Chief Investigators to provide the application, snapshot reports and information about the results of NHMRC's assessment of the application to other organisations. The 'YES' answer should be selected.

Associate Investigators

This question asks if you have sought agreement from Associate Investigators (AI) for their name to be included in this application. The 'YES' answer should be selected. Select the appropriate option from the drop down box. Written evidence will need to be provided to your RAO that all AIs have agreed to be named on the application.

B-GP: Grant Proposal

This section requires that the *Grant Proposal* is uploaded as a PDF file and that the *Grant Proposal* be structured according to given headings and contain all relevant scientific information relating to your research proposal, including community involvement.

The information provided about community involvement should be consistent with that provided in the *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017* form.

The *Grant Proposal* should be structured as follows:

- Research Proposal - nine (9) pages;
- References – two (2) pages;
- Team Quality and Capability relevant to this proposal – one (1) page

- D. *CI track record including the Top 5 publications in the last 5 years– two (2) pages per CI;*
- E. *Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria, if applicable - two (2) pages*
- F. *Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grant, if applicable – one (1) page per Young Investigator (see below)*

Note: Young Investigators submitting a Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017 application as well as an NHMRC project grant application for the same project, or a closely related project, must include the text below as an additional page at Item F of the pdf of the *Grant Proposal*.

Text to be included at Item F:

This proposal is to be considered for funding from NHMRC and PdCCRS

Funding from **NHMRC** is sought for a project addressing the following aims:

Aim 1:

Aim 2:

Aim 3: Etc

Funding from the **PdCCRS** is alternatively sought for the same project modified to one/two year/s. In the one/two year/s timeframe the project will only address the following aim/s:

Aim 1:

Aim 2:

A maximum of one page in Item F in the *Grant Proposal PDF* is permitted for this information. No other information is to be included in this part of the *Grant Proposal PDF*.

Applications that do not comply with the above guidelines could be deemed ineligible and excluded from further consideration. For further information refer to Section 5 of the [NHMRC Funding Rules 2017](#).

Please note that applicants must also submit their completed *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017* form directly to Cancer Australia (grants@canceraustralia.gov.au) as a separate PDF file.

This means that if you are seeking funding from Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner you will provide **two** PDF files:

- *Detailed Background and Research Plan* to the NHMRC via RGMS (<https://www.rgms.nhmrc.gov.au>); and
- *PdCCRS PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017* form to Cancer Australia at grants@canceraustralia.gov.au.

If you are seeking funding from Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partners **and** Cancer Council (and NHMRC) funding you will provide **three** PDF files:

- *Detailed Background and Research Plan* (up to 10 pages) to the NHMRC via RGMS (<https://www.rgms.nhmrc.gov.au>); and

- *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017* form to Cancer Australia at grants@canceraustralia.gov.au); and
- Cancer Council *Supplementary Questions* (to the Cancer Council at CancerCouncilGrants@cancervic.org.au).

B–PB: Proposed Budget – DRC and Equipment

Please ensure you refer to the relevant advice in the [NHMRC Funding Rules 2017 incorporating the Project Grants scheme-specific funding rules for funding commencing in 2018](#) and the [NHMRC Advice and Instructions to Applicants 2017 incorporating the Project Grants scheme-specific advice and instructions to applicants](#). Further details on permitted uses of NHMRC funds and setting of budgets can be found in [NHMRC Direct Research Costs Guidelines](#).

When applying to Cancer Australia and Funding Partner please ensure your budget **does not exceed** \$100,000 (GST exclusive) for Category B and Category D and \$200,000 (GST exclusive) for Category C. Your application **will not be considered** if it exceeds these amounts. For Category C projects, the budget for either year may not be greater than approximately \$100,000 (GST exclusive).

If you are also seeking funding from other organisations, such as the NHMRC and/or Cancer Council, and your budget is in excess of the limit specified by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner, please, explain at **Item I - Budget** of the **PdCCRS Questions** form how the project will be amended to accommodate a revised budget.

Please note that applications exceeding the budget limits specified by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner and which do not provide a modified budget and/or explanation of the research that will be conducted with the modified budget will be deemed **ineligible for funding** and not considered further.

How to Complete the PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017 Form

PdCCRS Questions Form

The Cancer Australia *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017* form seeks information specific to the PdCCRS. The form can be downloaded from the Cancer Australia website (www.canceraustralia.gov.au). Submission of the *PdCCRS Questions Form* and your selection of 'Cancer Australia & Funding Partners' within NHMRC's RGMS Application software (Funding Source) identifies that you are submitting your grant application for consideration by Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partners.

Please note that in this current 2017 round of the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme there are two different *PdCCRS Questions Forms*:

- *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Standard Project Grants 2017*
- *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017*

Please ensure you download and use the correct form.

Answers to the *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants* are used to evaluate alignment of the research to research priority area/s; track record of applicant; career development; relevance of the project to cancer control; and consumer involvement.

These *PdCCRS Questions* will be used by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partners to assist them in their funding decisions. The NHMRC will not include answers to these questions in its review process.

The *PdCCRS Questions Form* also includes the Common Scientific Outline (CSO) classification system. The CSO is the result of collaborative effort between the National Cancer Institute in the US, the National Cancer Research Institute in the UK, and their partners. It is a classification system organised around six broad areas of scientific interest in cancer research, plus subgroups (Full descriptions of the Common Scientific Outline categories are available at: <https://www.icrpartnership.org/CSO.cfm>). Cancer Australia uses the CSO coding to classify successfully funded grants. The CSO is not formally assessed or scored.

Please note: responses to *PdCCRS Questions* will be assessed independently of the rest of the grant application (including the *Detailed Background and Research Plan* and the *Cancer Council Supplementary Questions*). Responses to the *PdCCRS Questions* should be provided in a manner which **can be read without reference** to the *Grant Proposal*.

Please ensure that the *PdCCRS Questions form* can be read as a standalone document. Do not refer to tables, text or other information provided in the *Detailed Background and Research Plan* or the *Cancer Council Supplementary Questions*, as assessors reviewing the *PdCCRS Questions* **will not** have access to these documents.

The *PdCCRS Questions* must be submitted to Cancer Australia as a separate PDF file from your NHMRC *Grant Proposal* PDF file. The file name must be:
'[App ID]_CancerAustralia_AddQs_[CIA Family Name].pdf'
eg '123456_CancerAustralia_AddQs_Smith.pdf'

Please insert **your NHMRC application ID and CIA surname** in the header.

**Please submit *PdCCRS Questions* directly to grants@canceraustralia.gov.au
Deadline for receipt of *PdCCRS Questions forms* is 5:00pm (AEDT) 15 March 2017**

Guidance for Completing the *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017 form*:

- Responses to *PdCCRS Questions* must be provided in text boxes provided. Response must be in **Arial 10 point font**.
- The character limit (including spaces) provided for each *PdCCRS Question* must be strictly adhered to. The **text which exceeds the specified character limit will not be reviewed**.
- Please limit the use of acronyms and define any acronyms used in the *PdCCRS Questions Form*.

PART 1 – Project details and eligibility

Responses to PART 1 will determine the eligibility of applications and the alignment of projects to the identified research priority area/s of Cancer Australia and Funding Partner.

A – Chief Investigator A (CIA)'s details

The applicant must list themselves as sole Chief Investigator (CIA) of their project. Please ensure CIA is the same as named on the NHMRC application form, details are correct and all fields are completed.

B – Administering Institution details

Please ensure that details of the Administering Institution are the same as named on the NHMRC application form, details are correct and all fields are completed.

C – Eligibility

Eligibility of applicants applying for Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grant Funding in Category B, C, or D is summarised in the Table below:

Eligibility			
Years after attaining PhD/MBBS qualification (as of 15 March 2017)	Category B	Category C	Category D
Up to 1 Year	Can apply for 1 year of funding	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 2 Years	Can apply for 1 year of funding	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 3 Years	Can apply for 1 year of funding	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 4 Years	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 2 years of funding	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 5 Years	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 2 years of funding	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 6 Years	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 2 years of funding	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
Up to 7 Years	Ineligible	Can apply for up to 2 years of funding	Can apply for up to 1 year of funding
7 Years or over	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible

Please indicate which funding category you are applying to and provide the date on which your PhD or equivalent was approved.

Number of applications submitted

An applicant (named as Chief Investigator A [CIA]) can only submit a **maximum of two applications** for each round of the PdCCRS, that is, a maximum of:

- one application to the PdCCRS Standard Project Grants category and one application to either PdCCRS Young Investigator Category B, Category C, or Category D; or
- two applications to PdCCRS Young Investigator Category B, Category C, or Category D.

Further Important Advice about Eligibility for funding by Cure Cancer Australia

In any one round of the PdCCRS, only one application (Category B, Category C, or Category D) per applicant will be funded or co-funded by Cure Cancer Australia.

Researchers holding a Young Investigator Category C PdCCRS grant being funded or co-funded by Cure Cancer Australia are **ineligible** to apply for further funding in the PdCCRS Young Investigator categories from Cure Cancer Australia in the first year of their two year grant.

If you are uncertain of your eligibility to apply for funding from Cure Cancer Australia, please contact Dr Christopher Poon at Cancer Australia (grants@canceraustralia.gov.au).

D – Exceptional circumstance

Please outline any exceptional circumstances relating to your eligibility for consideration of a Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grant.

The ONLY exceptional circumstances that will be taken into consideration are:

- maternity leave and/or
- carer responsibilities including parental leave and care for immediate family (e.g. spouse, children or elderly parent), and/or
- sick leave subsequent to obtaining doctoral qualification.

NOTE: periods of teaching or clinical practice are not regarded as exceptional circumstances

E – Scientific Title and plain English description of your project

Please ensure the Scientific Title of your project is the same title as used on the NHMRC application form.

Please ensure that your plain English description of your project does not exceed 4-5 lines. You may utilise the short plain English description provided to the NHMRC to answer this question.

F – Please provide a one page synopsis of your research project.

Applicants are encouraged to utilise the synopsis (limit 2000 characters) provided to the NHMRC to answer this question. The applicant may wish to tailor their synopsis to ensure the assessment panel can determine the areas and aims of their research. Please ensure that the aims of your research directly align with those specified in the *Grant Proposal* (uploaded to RGMS at section B-GP).

G – Which research priority area/s does your grant application relate to?

Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner will consider co-funding successful grant applications. Applicants are encouraged to review the list of research priority areas and to **select ALL research priority area/s** that **directly** relate to the proposed research project.

Please select research priority area/s by placing an 'X' in the box to the left of the priority.

Applicants **must** ensure their research project **directly aligns** with at least one priority area/s of Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner.

H – Research in identified priority area/s

For **each** priority area selected at **Item G** the applicant should justify how their research directly relates to each of the priority area/s selected.

For each selected research priority, please:

- Delete '[insert priority]' and replace with the research priority area/s;
- Delete '[insert Funding Partner]' and replace with the name of the Funding Partner;
- Use a **separate box for each selected research priority area**.

Please note that space is initially provided on the form for two research priority area/s. Applicants should add additional boxes as required to address each selected research priority.

For example, if three research priority areas are selected from a single Funding Partner, then three boxes must be completed; one for each research priority area.

Please limit the answer at Item H to 2000 characters (including spaces) in total.

Your response to this question will determine the funding or co-funding of your grant by Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partners, if successful.

I – Budget

In the boxes provided, please specify the budget requested under Funding Category B or Category D for the 12 months OR Funding Category C – for 12-24 months.

The total budget for Funding Category B for post-doctoral researchers with 1-3 years post-doctoral or since graduation from medical school **cannot exceed** a budget of \$100,000 (GST exclusive) **and is limited to one year**.

The total budget for Funding Category C for post-doctoral researchers with 4-7 years post-doctoral or since graduation from medical school **cannot exceed** a budget of \$200,000 GST exclusive (with a maximum in any one year of \$100,000 (GST exclusive) **and is for 1-2 years**.

The total budget for Funding Category D in the field of bioinformatics for cancer research for post-doctoral researchers with 1-7 years post-doctoral or since graduation from medical school **cannot exceed** a budget of \$100,000 (GST exclusive) **and is limited to one year**.

Applications that exceed these amounts will not be considered eligible for funding by the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme.

Budget modification

If the application has been submitted for consideration for funding to NHMRC and/or Cancer Council and the proposed budget was above that specified by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner, the budget must be modified to be in line with the funding provided by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner.

If the proposed budget is within the limit specified by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner, place an 'X' to the left of 'Yes', and go to Item J.

If the proposed budget **exceeds** the limit specified by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner, place an 'X' to the left of 'No' and, in the text box provided, describe how the project will be amended to accommodate the modified budget.

Please ensure that the modified budget **directly aligns** with the reduced project scope detailed in the *Grant Proposal* (uploaded to RGMS at section B-GP).

Applications exceeding the budget limits specified by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner, and which do not provide a modified budget and explanation of the research that will be conducted with the modified budget will be deemed **ineligible** for funding.

J – Additional funding opportunities

If your application is unsuccessful in the PdCCRS, with your permission, Cancer Australia may pass your application on to other funders of cancer research for consideration.

By selecting '**yes**' at Item J(i) and J(ii) you are providing your permission to Cancer Australia to pass your contact and application details on to other funders.

K – Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest may exist, for example, if the applicant or any of its personnel:

- Has a relationship (whether professional, commercial or personal) with a party who is able to influence the application assessment process;
- Has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicant in 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 as a result of the granting of funding under the PdCCRS.

Each applicant will be required to declare as part of their application (Item K), existing conflicts of interest or that to the best of their knowledge there is no conflict of interest, including in relation to the examples above, that would impact on or prevent the applicant from proceeding with the project or any funding agreement it may enter into with the Australian Government.

If you indicate that you have a conflict of interest **please specify the nature of this conflict**.

Where an applicant subsequently (after submission of the *PdCCRS Questions*) identifies that an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest exists or might arise in relation to this application for funding, the applicant must inform Cancer Australia in writing immediately.

L – Agreements

The applicant must agree to the conditions outlined. Please **circle** 'Yes' or 'No' to indicate whether you agree to each statement. Failure to comply will deem applications **ineligible** for funding through this scheme.

Cancer Australia Funding Agreement terms and conditions

Please indicate whether the Administering Institution is willing to comply with the terms and conditions outlined in the Cancer Australia Funding Agreement

Confidentiality and Protection of Personal Information

Each applicant will be required to declare as part of their application, their ability to comply with **Item 24 – Compliance with Laws and NHMRC Approved Standards and Guidelines** in the funding agreement it may enter into with Cancer Australia.

The Protection of Personal Information Clause requires the Participant to:

- comply with the Privacy Act (1988) ('the Privacy Act'), including the 13 Australian Privacy Principles (APPs), as if it were an agency under the Privacy Act;
- refrain from engaging in direct marketing (s 16F of the Privacy Act), to the extent that the APPs and/or s 16F apply to the Participant; and
- impose the same privacy obligations on any subcontractors it engages to assist with the Project.

The Confidentiality Clause imposes obligations on the Participant with respect to special categories of information collected, created or held under the Agreement.

The Participant is required to seek Cancer Australia's consent in writing before disclosing Confidential Information.

Further information can be found in the PdCCRS Funding Agreement available on www.canceraustralia.gov.au.

Use of funds

Each applicant must declare that they will use the funds to undertake activities as outlined in this research proposal and not use funds for activities that do not relate directly to this application, without prior approval from Cancer Australia.

Funding from the tobacco industry

Each applicant must acknowledge that they are ineligible for funding, or funding may be terminated, if the applicant, or the applicant's administering institution receives funding from the tobacco industry, as outlined at Appendix 4.

Naming of successful applications

Each applicant must acknowledge that if successful, their name, the name of their administering institution and the title of their project and amount of funding will appear on the websites and may be used in media releases and other reports/publications by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partners.

M – Common Scientific Outline

Applicants should place an '**X**' against a maximum of **two** categories which are applicable to their project, and also indicate with * the **one** category which best describes the main research focus of their project.

PART 2 – Assessable criteria

*PART 2 comprises **four questions**. The Cancer Australia and Funding Partners' Grant Review Committees assess answers to these questions and allocate each with a score. These scores are weighted and combined with the scores provided by the NHMRC to produce the final score for each application.*

Question 1 – Track record of the applicant in regard to opportunity

Question 1 (i) – List of Publications

The Applicant (CIA) should list all their publications including refereed journal articles, book chapters and key conference presentations. Publications should be listed in ascending chronological order (most recent last).

Question 1 (ii) – Key publications and patents

The applicant should list their key publications and patents and describe their exact role in the producing the research which has led to the publication and patents.

Question 1 (iii) – Research experience

The applicant must provide details of previous research experience highlighting the most significant contributions, evidence of novel approaches, and those most relevant to the proposed research.

Question 1 (iv) – Other relevant experience

The applicant must provide details of clinical training and practice relevant to cancer if any (and whether your involvement in clinical practice will impact on your ability to carry out the proposed project), details of postgraduate teaching if any (indicating whether you are/were the sole or co-supervisor, and whether any of your students have completed their degrees), and details of any administrative responsibilities (including laboratory, departmental, institutional, or external).

Question 1(v) – Academic Qualifications/Awards

The applicants must provide **up to 20** of their academic qualifications or awards, starting with the most recent. Please indicate date, and where obtained.

The answer to Question 1 constitutes 30% of the final score

Question 2 – How the research will contribute to the career development of the applicant

Question 2(i) - Career development objectives

The Applicant must outline their career development objectives for the next five years and how the proposed project will foster these. If relevant, please describe any collaborations that will be facilitated by the project.

Question 2(ii) – Research Environment

The applicant must describe their reasons for choosing the laboratory or place where you plan to work. The applicant must also describe the mentoring arrangements that will be in place for the duration of their proposed research project.

The answer to Question 2 constitutes 10% of the final score

Question 3 – Relevance to Cancer Control

The applicant should describe how their proposed research is relevant to cancer control. The description should be written in lay language.

The answer to Question 3 constitutes 5% of the final score

Question 4 – Involvement of consumer representatives

The applicant should indicate whether consumers have been consulted about the relevance of the study or its design and the applicant should outline how consumer involvement could be included **in the future** development of this project.

What is the definition of a consumer?

Consumers and consumer representatives are defined in accordance with NHMRC's [Statement on Consumer and Community Participation in Health and Medical Research](#).

Specifically, **consumers** are defined as:

“Patients and potential patients, carers, organisations representing consumers' interests, members of the public who are targets of health promotion programs and groups asking for research because they believe that they have been exposed to potentially harmful circumstances, products or services”.

A **consumer representative** is defined as:

“member of a committee, steering group or similar, who voices the consumer perspective and takes part in the decision making process on behalf of consumers”.

Who is NOT considered a cancer consumer in the context of this question?

- Patients who are participating in a research study/trial but who are not providing **direct feedback** into the **design or conduct** of the research;
- Community (lay) representative member of an ethics committee that reviewed the grant but who has no further input into the conduct of research or communication of the research;
- Research colleagues or individuals with a specific research role in the project;
- Lay members of the community who contribute administrative and other support to the study and have no specific interest or involvement with cancer consumer groups (e.g. lawyers, accountants, nurses etc).

Engagement of these individuals does not constitute consumer representation in the context of this question.

Consumers may be invited through a number of avenues: direct advertisement; invitation through specific consumer organisations: eg; general cancer advocacy organisations; specific cancer organisations such as those in breast cancer or leukaemia; service organisations such as National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation for Indigenous consumer representatives etc.

There are many opportunities for consumer involvement at all stages and all types of research. Consumers can be involved in the planning, conduct, publication and translation of research. Researchers are encouraged to include, where possible, a **minimum of two consumers** in their research to enable consumers to support each other and represent potentially different consumer viewpoints (e.g. carers and survivors).

A reasonable and appropriate level of consumer involvement may vary, depending on the nature of the research being undertaken, but could include almost any kind of interaction between consumers and researchers. There is no single 'best' method of consumer involvement in research but bidirectional consumer engagement is required. Some examples are:

- Work with researchers to identify the topic to be researched
- Work with researchers on defining or refining the research topic and developing a research proposal
- Be included in project/institution advisory committees relating to research
- Be involved in recruiting and/or disseminating information to participants in research.
- Conduct lay reviews of research proposals.
- Support the development of lay summaries.
- Review and comment on patient information sheets
- Assist researchers to pilot a research questionnaire.
- Produce newsletters for members of their organisation that chart the progress of research.

- Contribute to conferences and journal articles, especially for lay audiences

In answering this question, applicants should describe consumer involvement in the project design and ongoing consumer involvement through the life of the project. In particular applicants should consider describing:

- How will consumers be engaged? How will they be identified? Will they be representatives/nominees from a particular consumer group and why?
- The type of activities/role and extent of consumer involvement at the different stages of the research project from design and planning to ongoing conduct and monitoring, and publication and translation of research results.
- The bi-directional involvement of the consumers with the research collaborative.
- The processes/structures which link the researchers with the consumers.
- How will consumers represent the target group under study?

While the level of consumer involvement will be dependent on the nature of the research project; sample responses are provided below.

Example 1:

To ensure consumer input into all stages of this project, Ms Rita Wong and Mr John Ward have agreed to be associate investigators. Ms Wong and Mr Ward were identified through Consumer Organisation X and Y. Ms Wong has experience in representing the views of people affected by lung cancer as a survivor. She is also an active member of consumer organisation X and is able to attend all meetings related to the project. Mr Ward has experience in representing the views of people affected by mesothelioma as a carer. Mr Ward is a member of consumer organisation Y. Ms Wong and Mr Ward have been consulted during the design of the research project and have had an opportunity to directly input into the project design. This input has helped us refine the questions in our patient questionnaire and we have included an additional study group comprised of carers of patients with lung cancer. Ms Wong and Mr Ward will continue to be involved in reviewing the progress of the research and will have the opportunity to provide direct input into the course of the research through monthly teleconferences. Ms Wong and Mr Ward will be provided with draft copies of reports and publications generated from the project, so that their input can be incorporated prior to publication. Ms. Wong and Mr Ward will present at the annual Australian lung cancer meeting and will produce written summaries of this project for inclusion in newsletters of consumer organisation X and Y. Ms Wong and Mr Ward will also be responsible for arranging regular presentations for relevant consumer support groups related to this research project, to optimise effective communication and feedback opportunities from a broad stakeholder group.

Example 2:

We have engaged two consumer representatives, Mr Brown and Ms Singh, through a public application process. Mr Brown and Ms Singh were selected through a merit-based process. Mr Brown has cared for a family member with cancer X and Ms Singh is a member of cancer X support group. Although the initial research plan was developed before Mr Brown and Ms Singh were engaged, they have had an opportunity to review the proposed research and provide input prior to the submission of this research project to the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer

Research. Their input has shaped our patient recruitment strategy for this study. If successfully funded, Mr Brown and Ms Singh will assist us in the development of lay summaries of our research for publication in relevant newsletters. Mr Brown and Ms Singh will also review and participate in presentations designed for consultation with both consumer and professional groups. Feedback from these consultations will also be integrated into the project. Mr Brown and Ms Singh will also be kept fully informed of the progress of the project and be involved in regular teleconferences throughout the life of the project to provide ongoing feedback and direction. Mr Brown and Ms Singh will also advise us on the most appropriate techniques for optimal dissemination of the results to relevant consumer groups.

Example 3:

The initial research proposal was developed through consultation with the Consumer organisation Y, and the questionnaire reviewed by an expert consumer panel. Ms. Jones and Mr Smith (from Consumer organisation Y) will work closely with us, reviewing all documents that will be provided to patients to ensure that they are easily understood and fully describe what is asked of them. Both Ms. Jones and Mr Smith and an expert panel from Consumer organisation Y will be consulted regularly throughout the project and will have an opportunity to have input into the ongoing conduct of the project. Ms Jones and Mr Smith will assist in the communication of the projects' aims and findings. Organisation Y will play an important role in the translation of results into outcomes for the community through the public presentation of the research results in their newsletters and public lectures.

Researchers are encouraged to consult with the following documents from the Cancer Australia and NHMRC when addressing this criterion:

- National Framework for Consumer Involvement in Cancer Control <http://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/publications-resources/cancer-australia-publications/national-framework-consumer-involvement-cancer>
- A Model Framework for Consumer and Community Participation Research: http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/r33.pdf
- Resource Pack for Consumer and Community Participation in Health and Medical Research, <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/r22-r23-r33-r34>
- Investigators proposing to undertake research that specifically relates to the health of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, or which includes distinct Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander populations, biological samples or data must be aware of, and refer to the following documents in formulating their proposal:
 - The Indigenous Research Excellence criteria available at Section 6.3 of the NHMRC Funding Rules 2016: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/book/nhmrc-funding-rules-2016/6-assessment-criteria>
 - Values and Ethics - Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research available at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e52syn.htm> The NHMRC Road Map II: A strategic framework for improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through research available at:

http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/r47.pdf

- Cultural Competency in health: A guide for policy, partnerships and participation, <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/hp19-hp26>

The answer to Question 4 constitutes 5% of the final score

Checklist

Applicants must review and complete the Checklist (on page 45) before submitting their *PdCCRS Questions* form to Cancer Australia.

Please place an 'X' in each checkbox to indicate that you have completed the specified task.

Appendix 4: Awarding of grants

How are the grants administered?

Offers will be made by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner to the Chief Investigator A. The Chief Investigator A is responsible for organising and managing the research collaboration, and reporting to Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner.

What approvals are required?

Relevant ethical and other approvals are required as set out in the NHMRC Funding Rules incorporating the Project Grants scheme for funding commencing in 2018. Evidence of final ethics clearance/s is not required at the time of application. However, all relevant ethical and other approvals must be obtained prior to the commencement of the research project. It is the responsibility of the Chief Investigator A to ensure that all relevant ethical and other approvals have been obtained by collaborating partners.

Will grants be made to researchers associated with the Tobacco Industry?

Cancer Australia and its Funding Partners will not make a research grant to a researcher who:

- is an applicant for, or is in receipt of funds from, the tobacco industry or organisations deemed by Cancer Australia to be associated with the tobacco industry, regardless of whether the funds are received directly, through collaborators or by other means;
- is employed in a research institute or organisation or, in the case of universities, Faculty or School that allows applications or receives funds from the tobacco industry, whatever the use of those funds may be; or
- is employed in a University that accepts funds from the tobacco industry for health related research or services, wherever in the University that research may be done or those services supported.

Cancer Australia will terminate its support for a research project if the above provisions relating to support from the tobacco industry are breached or it believes that the integrity of the research is threatened by influence from tobacco interests.

Appendix 5: Conditions of Funding

Contracting arrangements

Should the grant application be successful, the NHMRC approved Administering Institution is required to enter into a Funding Agreement with Cancer Australia. The conditions in the agreement covers contract areas including acknowledgement, intellectual property and reporting requirements. A copy of the PdCCRS Funding Agreement can be found at www.canceraustralia.gov.au.

Reporting requirements

If your grant application is successful you will be required to provide Annual Progress Reports. The reporting requirements will be set out in the Schedule to the Funding Agreement. Broadly:

- Successful applicants will be required to provide an Annual Progress Report, and/or a Final Report at the cessation/completion of their research project.
- The Annual Progress Reports will include (but not be limited to):
 - A financial statement against the approved project grant budget
 - Date of report, project title, principal investigator, project progress (outlining research progress to date or barriers to progress), the involvement of consumers, any publications arising from the award, and whether the research has influenced clinical practice or policy
- The Final Report will include (but not be limited to):
 - An audited financial report against the approved project grant budget
 - Date of report, project title, principal investigator
 - Project outcomes including what achievements were made in the performance of the project and where applicable, an explanation as to why any of the outcomes and aims of the project were not achieved
 - The relevance of the outcomes of the project to cancer control
 - The role of consumers
 - Academic output

Annual Progress Report and/or Final Report templates will be made available from Cancer Australia and are to be submitted electronically to Cancer Australia.

Where a Grant recipient fails to submit a satisfactory report, Cancer Australia may determine that funds have not been used in accordance with conditions applicable to the Grant as stipulated in Clauses 4.1, 6 and 16 of the PdCCRS Funding Agreement. In this situation, Cancer Australia may:

- request that all or part of the Grant be repaid; or
- require the project period of the grant be extended so completion and reporting of the research can be undertaken. Please note that in this situation, no further funds will be available from Cancer Australia and/or its Funding Partner.

Monitoring

The Chief Investigator A will be required to actively manage the delivery of the project. Cancer Australia will monitor progress against the funding agreement through assessment of progress reports and by conducting site visits as necessary.

Evaluation

An evaluation by Cancer Australia will determine how the funding has contributed to the objectives of the PdCCRS. Funding recipients will be required to provide information to assist in this evaluation for a period of time, as stipulated in the Funding Agreement, after funding has been provided.

Appendix 6: Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if I want to apply to both NHMRC and the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme for a project grant to a young investigator?

Young Investigators may apply to **either or both** NHMRC and the PdCCRS for project grant funding. If applying to both NHMRC and the PdCCRS, applicants must adhere to the Cancer Australia and its Funding Partners' eligibility criteria as well as all NHMRC eligibility criteria (outlined in the NHMRC Funding Rules incorporating the Project Grants scheme for funding commencing in 2018).

If applying to the NHMRC as a New Investigator or the PdCCRS Young Investigator Categories for project grant funding, you will need to seek confirmation of your status as a New Investigator (outlined in the NHMRC Funding Rules incorporating the Project Grants scheme for funding commencing in 2018).

Young Investigators submitting an application for a *Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grant* as well as an NHMRC project grant for the **same project**, or a **closely related project**, must also specify in their *Grant Proposal* how they will modify the scope of the project to be in line with the funding and duration limits provided by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner. In the instances where an application is to be submitted to **both** NHMRC and PdCCRS, young Investigators **must include the text below** at Item G of the pdf of the *Grant Proposal*. **Do not submit two separate applications through RGMS or two separate PdCCRS Questions Forms.**

Text to be included on a separate page:

This proposal is to be considered for funding from NHMRC and PdCCRS

Funding from **NHMRC** is sought for a project addressing the following aims:

Aim 1:

Aim 2:

Aim 3: Etc

Funding from the **PdCCRS** is alternatively sought for the same project modified to one/two year/s. In the one/two year/s timeframe the project will only address the following aim/s:

Aim 1:

Aim 2:

A maximum of one page at Item G in the PDF *Grant Proposal PDF* is permitted for this information. No other information is to be included in this part of the *Grant Proposal PDF*.

Please note that applicants must also submit their completed *PdCCRS Questions Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants 2017* form directly to Cancer Australia (grants@canceraustralia.gov.au) as a separate PDF file.

What if my project is also submitted to the NHMRC and/or Cancer Council and exceeds the value of the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme funding category/s?

If applicants would like to be considered for funding through Cancer Australia/ its Funding Partner and NHMRC and/or Cancer Council, they must adhere to the Cancer Australia and its Funding Partners' eligibility criteria as well as all NHMRC and/or Cancer Council eligibility criteria (outlined in the NHMRC Funding Rules incorporating the Project Grants scheme for funding commencing in 2018).

In the *PdCCRS Questions Form* (Item I - Budget) applicants have the opportunity to detail how their project can be modified to comply with the budget and duration limits specified above. Applications exceeding the budget limits specified by Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner and which do not provide a modified budget and/ or explanation of the research that will be conducted with the modified budget will be deemed **ineligible** for funding.

What are the limitations on funding for researchers and institutions?

The first named chief investigator (Chief Investigator A) must have an appointment at an NHMRC approved administering institute.

If applying solely for funding from Cancer Australia or its Funding Partners through the PdCCRS, there is no limit to the number of grants held by any one researcher, university department, hospital or medical research institute. However, an applicant (named as Chief Investigator A [CIA]) can only submit a **maximum of two applications for each round of the PdCCRS**.

However, in any one round of the PdCCRS, only one application (Category B, Category C, or Category D) per applicant can be submitted for funding or co-funding consideration by Cure Cancer Australia.

Researchers holding a Young Investigator Category C (two-year) PdCCRS grant being funded or co-funded by Cure Cancer Australia are ineligible to apply for further funding in the PdCCRS Young Investigator categories from Cure Cancer Australia in the first year of their two year grant.

Will I receive the budget I ask for?

Consistent with the nature of the funding, a grant may not necessarily be funded for the entire amount of money sought. As part of the assessment process, the NHMRC Grant Review Panels (GRPs) will review the proposed budget and justification by the applicant, in terms of the requirements of the proposal as assessed by the GRP and its knowledge of the costs associated with the research. Cancer Australia and its Funding Partner will use the budget suggested by the NHMRC to inform their decisions regarding budget allocation.

Funding Research Activities Overseas

Applicants may request funding to support specific research activities to be undertaken overseas. In doing so, the applicants must clearly demonstrate that the research activity is critical to the successful completion of the project; and that the equipment/resources required for the research activity are not available in Australia.

Funding for research support staff based overseas may only be considered where this is essential to achieve the aims of the research.

Checklist

Please complete this checklist before submitting your *PdCCRS Questions* to Cancer Australia

Before you begin

- Read all information in the *Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme 2017 Rules for Young Investigator Project Grant Applications*
- Ensure that you read and understand the assessment criteria for applications to the *PdCCRS Priority-driven Young Investigator Project Grants*
- Understand that by submitting an application, your Group/Organisation is agreeing to adhere to the PdCCRS Funding Agreement should you receive funding

Completing your application

Ensure that in completing your application you have:

- Used the correct *PdCCRS Questions Form* for the 2017 PdCCRS
- Answered all *PdCCRS Questions* and ensured answers make use of the maximum character limit specified but do not exceed the specified length

Submitting your application

- Ensure you have completed the New Investigator online eligibility form by 5:00pm AEDT 25 January 2017
- Ensure you have entered the minimum data into RGMS by 5:00pm AEDT 15 February 2017
- Check that ALL relevant sections of the *PdCCRS Questions Form* are complete
- Ensure that the Budget is within the stipulated limit and provide justification if the budget is less than that requested in your NHMRC and/or Cancer Council Project Grant Application
- Submit one complete **electronic copy** of your *PdCCRS Questions Form* in PDF format

End of PdCCRS Questions form