



# 2007-08 Victorian Cancer Agency Research Funding Program

## Introduction

The Victorian Cancer Agency is a Consultative Council to the Victorian Minister for Health, created to link cancer research with patient care for improved patient outcomes. The first priority of the Victorian Cancer Agency is the development of a cancer research strategy for Victoria.

The 2007-08 Victorian Cancer Agency research funding program is designed to begin the process of enhancing Victoria's capacity and capability in cancer research, during the development phase of the cancer research strategy.

## What will be considered for funding?

The 2007-08 Victorian Cancer Agency Cancer Research Funding Program is specifically designed with flexibility in its funding structure to enable a range of opportunities to be considered.

The following funding opportunities are available in 2007-08:

- Clinical trials and tumour stream research program
- Supportive care in cancer research program
- Regional cancer research enabling program
- Link and learn grants
- Early career seed grants
- Expression of interest for platform technology capacity building grants.

Detailed guidelines and application forms are available on the website: [www.victoriancanceragency.org.au](http://www.victoriancanceragency.org.au).

### Clinical trials and tumour stream research program

Within this program, funding will be available to build Victoria's capacity and capability in the area of cancer clinical trials. Funding will be offered for a twelve-month period only.

Support will also be available to build Victorian capacity in translational research and to strengthen research institution / hospital / university partnerships with the aim of enhancing the translation of research into practice. One-off, short term and two year periods of funding are available through this program.

### Supportive care in cancer research program

The supportive care program offers targeted funding for supportive care in cancer research. This funding is available in the form of infrastructure support, fellowships or scholarships.

### Regional cancer research enabling program

The regional research support program offers targeted support for cancer research across regional Victoria, in the form of twelve months of infrastructure support, research workforce support, or two years of fellowship funding.

### Link and learn grants

Ten, one-off 'link and learn' grants of up to \$5000 each will be provided to allow opportunities for collaborations or acquisition of specialised skills in another lab in Victoria, nationally or internationally.

### Early career seed grants

Four, one-off 'early career seed grants' of \$50,000 are aimed at supporting early career clinician-researchers, or laboratory researchers, to encourage and retain talented individuals in the field of cancer research.

### Expression of interest for platform technology capacity building grants

Expressions of interest are sought from individuals, or organisations, seeking support in the effective utilisation of platform technologies within Victoria. This support may be in the form of training or workforce for example.

## Generic criteria for research funding

The Victorian Cancer Agency will give greater consideration to projects that are innovative and non duplicative of other efforts. Applicants must clearly demonstrate:

- how the research proposal or project will result in improved patient outcomes;
- that the project or proposal is collaborative in nature (demonstrates collaboration across multidisciplinary approaches and / or multi site and / or that key researchers in this field are involved in the project); and,
- how the project or proposal builds cancer research capacity and capability in Victoria.

## How much is available?

The Victorian Government commitment to these funding programs is between \$5 million and \$7 million.

## Who can apply?

Any organisation that is, or will be involved, in the conduct of cancer research in Victoria is eligible to apply for funding through this program.

## How to apply

Please go to the website for details of how to apply for each of the funding programs: [www.victoriancanceragency.org.au](http://www.victoriancanceragency.org.au). Alternatively, contact [victorian.canceragency@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:victorian.canceragency@dhs.vic.gov.au).

The closing date for all applications is 2 pm Monday 29 October 2007.

## How will the applications be evaluated?

**29 October 2007:** Applications close.

**Early November 2007:** The Victorian Cancer Agency Consultative Council review all applications.

**Mid November 2007:** An independent panel assesses the clinical trials and tumour stream research proposals, supportive care scholarships & fellowships, and the regional research enabling grants.

**December 2007:** The Victorian Cancer Agency Consultative Council will meet to finalise funding allocation to projects. Individuals notified of outcomes of review process.

The Agency reserves the right to enter into direct negotiations, or to request further information, from all applicants to assist in the assessment process.

## Further information

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Agency via email on [victorian.canceragency@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:victorian.canceragency@dhs.vic.gov.au) or by phone on 03 9635 5481.