

2023



Prostate Cancer
Foundation of Australia

RESEARCH
AWARENESS
SUPPORT

PRIORITY IMPACT RESEARCH AWARDS – FUTURE LEADERS (PIRA-FL) 2023/2024 Grant Round

Guide for Applicants

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 5PM (AEDT)
FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 2023

Contents

Overview Information	3
Important Dates.....	3
Research Funding Announcement.....	3
PCFA’s Research Strategy.....	3
2023/2024 Priority Impact Research Awards – Future Leaders (PIRA-FL).....	4
Description.....	4
Award Information	5
Eligibility Information	5
Eligibility to Apply.....	5
Allowable Career Interruptions.....	5
Research Areas.....	6
Eligible Institutions.....	7
Guidelines and Review Process	8
PCFA Research Program Policies & Guidelines	8
Budget	8
Allowable expenditure	8
Non-allowable expenditure.....	8
Conditions of Funding.....	8
Payment Schedule – ECR \$200,000.00.....	9
Payment Schedule – MCR \$300,000.00.....	9
Reporting Schedule.....	9
Performance Indicators	10
Key Evaluation Criteria	10
Review Process and Evaluation	11
Submission Information	12
Completed Application Form.....	12
Attachment 1 – CV of Chief Investigator (ECR/MCR).....	12
Attachment 2 – Scientific Mentor - Letter of Recommendation and Mentorship Plan	12

Attachment 3 – Consumer Advisor Mentor - Letter of Recommendation and Mentorship Plan	13
Attachment 4 - Signed certification page	13
Application deadline.....	13
Terms and Conditions.....	13
FAQs.....	14
Who are consumers?.....	14
Who is eligible to apply for a PCFA Priority Research Impact Award – Future Leaders (PIRA-FL)?	14
I am a research higher degree student. Can I apply for a PCFA Priority Research Impact Award – Future Leaders (PIRA-FL)?.....	14
I am not a prostate cancer researcher, am I eligible to apply?	15
I am currently located at an overseas institution; can I apply for a PIRA?.....	15
What is the term of the Awards?	15
What is the maximum funding I can request?.....	15
Can I budget for non-salary expenses and how much can I request?.....	15
What is PCFA's peer review process?	15
What is meant by “Be available to be used by PCFA to present brief and easily understood evidence-based summaries for specific audiences”?	15
What are the Priority Research Areas for this PIRA call?.....	16
Terms and Conditions.....	17
Reliance on Information	18
Confidentiality	18
Contact Information.....	18

Overview Information

Organisation	Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA)
Funding Category	Strategic Priority Research – Future Leaders
Grant Name	PCFA Priority Impact Research Award – Future Leaders (PIRA-FL)
Description	<p>PCFA is committed to helping build Australia’s capacity to generate knowledge that will improve the lives of men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families. To achieve this, a constant supply of well trained and capable investigators is required to build and expand the prostate cancer workforce.</p> <p>PCFA’s Priority Impact Research Award – Future Leaders (PIRA-FL) provides a funding mechanism to support the career development of early career researchers (ECRs) and mid-career researchers (MCRs) working on prostate cancer.</p> <p>The award provides funds for the investigator’s salary and an undertaking that the applicant can commit at least 50% of their time to prostate cancer-focused research.</p>

Important Dates

Program Launch Date	Mid-September 2023
Application Submission Deadline	5pm AEDT, Friday 27 October 2023
Expert Panel review and deliberations	November – December 2023
Anticipated Award Notification	March 2024
Funding Start Date - flexible	Available from 1 April - Negotiable, within 6 months of accepting the award

Research Funding Announcement

PCFA’s Research Strategy

To ensure that funds raised are invested for greatest benefit, PCFA will align its research

program with the needs of men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families.

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

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

PCFA's research priority areas include:

1. Application of precision approaches to therapies across the prostate cancer continuum, including hormone sensitive prostate cancer
2. Research (basic, translational, epidemiological) that capitalises on existing repositories of biological samples and clinical data from men with prostate cancer
3. Better understanding the impact of prostate cancer on men's lives and improving the quality of life of men diagnosed with prostate cancer, their partners and their families
4. Better understanding the basis of, and approaches to address disparities in, prostate cancer outcomes based on ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and location
5. Bringing precision approaches to survivorship strategies (e.g. exercise, nutrition, mental and psychosocial supports)

2023/2024 Priority Impact Research Awards – Future Leaders (PIRA-FL)

Description

A PCFA Priority Impact Research Award – Future Leaders will give financial salary support to an early career researcher (ECR) or mid-career researcher (MCR) to work on research in any of the below areas:

- Basic Science
- Survivorship/Psychosocial/Health Services and implementation research
- Clinical Research including Nursing

The objectives of this call are to support junior researchers as they develop the skills and track record required to become established prostate cancer researchers.

Award Information

Funding Instrument	Award
Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards	The total amount budgeted for this funding opportunity and the number of awards is contingent on availability of funds and the submission of scientifically meritorious applications.
Award Budget and Period	Four funding packages will be awarded: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 x \$200,000 – Early Career Researchers• 2 x \$300,000 – Mid-career Researchers The term of the award will be for two years. *The funding rounds for 2023 and 2024 have been combined to provide four 2-year awards in lieu of two independent funding rounds.

Eligibility Information

Eligibility to Apply

PCFA Priority Impact Research Award – Future Leaders grants are open to:

- **Early career researchers** - with less than five years of full-time research experience that hold a PhD at a research-based university or equivalent institution higher degree or
- **Mid-career Researchers** - with five to ten years of full-time research experience with a PhD at a research-based university or equivalent institution higher degree.

Applicants must hold an academic or research appointment at their host institution for the duration of the award and provide written certification that any shortfall and/or oncosts will be covered by their institution at the time of submission of their PIRA-FL application. If this remuneration is for less than full-time employment the maximum amount of the award will be reduced proportionally unless additional expenses are specifically requested (see “Budget” section below).

Allowable Career Interruptions

Allowable career interruptions are based on those for Australian Research Council’s Discovery Early Career Researcher Award as follows:

Reason for career interruption	Allowable time to claim
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity or parental leave • Medical condition or disability • Unemployment • Part-time employment • Non-research employment that is not concurrent with research employment 	<p>The period of time that is commensurate with the career interruption</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International or national travel 	<p>The period of time that is commensurate with the career interruption not exceeding three months per relocation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary carer responsibilities for a dependent child (includes carer's responsibilities and maternity or paternity leave) 	<p>Two years per dependent child, inclusive of any period of maternity or other parental leave, with no maximum identified.</p> <p>A further extension beyond two years may be granted with justification in the case of extensive care responsibilities (illness or disability) for a dependent child.</p>

Research Areas

Applications are welcome from Prostate Cancer Researchers across a range of specialties including:

- Basic Science
- Survivorship/Psychosocial/Health Services and implementation research
- Clinical Research including Nursing

To be eligible for a PCFA Priority Impact Research Award – Future Leaders, the investigator must:

- Hold a PhD or equivalent higher degree at a research-based university or institution. For further information, particularly for nursing/clinical researchers, please see FAQs.
- ECRs – have up to five years post higher degree full-time research experience by the grant submission deadline; or
- MCRs – have between five to ten years post higher degree full-time research experience by the grant submission deadline.
 - If applicable, details of career disruption must be provided in the space available on the application form and supporting documents supplied.
- Hold an academic or research appointment at an eligible research institution (see below for more information) for the duration of the award.
- Provide evidence of working within an established research group and demonstrate that they have access to the facilities needed for the proposed research and will be in a

research environment that will support their development in accordance with the aims of this award.

- Provide an undertaking that they can commit 50% of their remunerated research time to the funded project.
- Name a scientific mentor and a consumer advisor mentor who will advise in the planning, direction and execution of the award. The scientific mentors should be recognised as accomplished investigators in research and have a track record of success in mentoring early and mid-career researchers. The mentors must be primarily based in Australia for the duration of the grant.

PCFA expects all research it funds to:

- Be informed by consumer engagement and consideration of consumer needs.
- Include a realistic plan for engagement of end-users (e.g., clinicians, consumers, policymakers) in developing research questions and design and oversight.
- Be published in peer reviewed journals.
- Be supported by brief and easily understood evidence-based summaries for specific audiences, at the request of PCFA.
- Bring together consumers, clinicians, researchers and policymakers to explore the implications of the research for policy and practice.
- Have a formal and practical research translation plan.

Eligible Institutions

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

Eligible institutions must have:

1. Certification as an Australian tertiary institution or one of their affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes; or an
2. Certification as an Australian non-governmental, not-for-profit organisations (including community or charitable organisations) with an explicit research or knowledge translation mandate.
3. Incorporated status under Australian law.
4. Appropriate accounting systems and financial controls in place to manage PCFA funds.
5. Adequate resources to enable the research and publish the findings.

A list of eligible institutions can be found on the NHMRC website [here](#).

For-profit organisations and organisations without operations in Australia **are not** eligible institutions.

Guidelines and Review Process

PCFA Research Program Policies & Guidelines

PCFA policies and guidelines apply to the applications submitted and awards made in response to this program announcement and must be consulted in parallel with this Guide to Applicants. A copy of the PCFA Research Program Policies and Guidelines can be found on the PCFA website [here](#).

Budget

If the funding is not being used to cover the salary of the ECR/MCR, then the application will still be considered but must also include a budget in the application form that details what the funding will be used for.

Allowable expenditure

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

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

Non-allowable expenditure

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

Conditions of Funding

Successful applicants funded through this funding opportunity must:

- Confirm acceptance of the award within 21 days of notification. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of the offer.
- Acknowledge PCFA's support in all institutional, industry and external publications and

presentations that result from the funded research, using prescribed wording provided by PCFA in Letters of Offer.

- Immediate notification to PCFA of all publications resulting from this award when they are accepted for publication.
- Submit to PCFA a written Scientific and Financial Report 3 months after the conclusion of the term, that includes a list of all presentations and publication resulting in whole or in part from this award.
- Agree to partake in reasonable requests to support PCFA publicity and promotional activities in support of prostate cancer research.
- Seek PCFA's prior consent and involvement in all media and publicity activities, with appropriate acknowledgement of support.

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

Payment Schedule – ECR \$200,000.00

Payment #	Invoice Due	Amount Payable (exl GST)
8 payments	Quarterly instalments	• \$25,000 x 8

Payment Schedule – MCR \$300,000.00

Payment #	Invoice Due	Amount Payable (exl GST)
8 payments	Quarterly instalments	• \$37,500 x 8

Reporting Schedule

The following reports are required as part of this award:

Type of Report	Due Date	Report Template
Interim Scientific Report	12 months after the award term commences	Link to template available here .
Interim Financial Report	12 months after the award term commences	The financial report must be an audited financial report supplied by the Administering Institution. All expenditure reported should be in accordance with the budget requested in the application. The financial

		report must include justification for funds unspent, to be carried over or returned. Carry-over of funds remaining up to 25% of the grant budget must be justified; funds remaining over 25% will automatically revert to PCFA.
Final Scientific Report	3 months after award term ends	
Financial Acquittal Report	3 months after award term ends	The financial report must be an audited financial report supplied by the Administering Institution. All expenditure reported should be in accordance with the budget requested in the application. The financial report must include justification for funds unspent, to be carried over or returned. Carry-over of funds remaining up to 25% of the grant budget must be justified; funds remaining over 25% will automatically revert to PCFA.

Performance Indicators

Performance, as documented in the Scientific and Financial Report, will be measured by the following indicators:

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

Key Evaluation Criteria

PCFA Priority Impact Research Awards – Future Leaders applications will be evaluated based on the following evaluation criteria:

- **Team Quality & Capability relevant to this application (60%)**

- **Applicant** – track record relative to opportunity, potential to develop as an independent and productive researcher.
- **Mentors** - Appropriateness of the scientific Mentor’s research qualifications, quality and extent of both Mentor’s proposed roles in providing guidance and advice to the applicant.
- **Likelihood of proposed Research Plan and Environment to facilitate applicant’s career progression and enable undertaking of high quality research that is aligned with PCFA Priority Areas (30%)**
- **Likelihood that the research will yield benefit to men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families and/or develop Australian capacity to do research into prostate cancer (10%)**

Review Process and Evaluation

Applications will be assessed and ranked by 2-3 experts relevant to the proposal, who may include individual members of PCFA’s [Research Advisory Committee](#) (RAC), and the whole RAC.

Shortlisted applicants will undergo a brief online interview with the RAC, from which the top-ranked applicants will be selected.

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

Submission Information

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

The application and all relevant documents must be submitted via email to Research@pcfa.org.au

The documents listed below must also be attached to this email – all application documents must be sent attached to a single email.

Any documents sent separately will not be accepted.

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

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

Please read the instructions below before applying and include the following documents in your submission.

Completed Application Form.

The Application Form can be downloaded from the PCFA website [here](#). Please note, the form is a fillable PDF. It cannot be opened directly by clicking on the link, instead it first needs to be saved to your computer, then opened. If necessary, you can request a copy of the form by emailing Research@pcfa.org.au.

Naming Convention: [CI Surname]-2023 PIRA-FL

Attachment 1 – CV of Chief Investigator (ECR/MCR)

A NHMRC style CV, (maximum 4 pages not counting pages listing papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals); including training and education, degrees, conference presentations, positions and honours and information on grants and awards held (source, type, title, amount/year, duration).

Naming convention: 1. [CI Surname]-PIRA-FL CV

Attachment 2 – Scientific Mentor - Letter of Recommendation and Mentorship Plan

Letter in support of the applicant, not more than 2 pages, addressing the following:

- Strength of the applicant's research.
- Confirm that the applicant is working within a research group and that they will have access to the facilities needed for the proposed research.
- Provide a research environment that will support the applicant's development in accordance with the aims of this award.
- Provide details of mentorship plans for the applicant during the Award duration.
- To be submitted in a standard letter format

Naming convention: 2. [FL Surname]-SCIMentor Letter

Attachment 3 – Consumer Advisor Mentor - Letter of Recommendation and Mentorship Plan

Letter in support of the applicant, not more than 1 page, addressing the following:

- Summary of the mentor's knowledge of and previous interactions with the applicant
- Mentor's experience as a consumer advisor and/or experience of living with cancer
- Relevance of the applicant's research to cancer patients
- Provide details of mentorship plans for the applicant during the Award duration (eg meeting frequency and inputs to the applicant's research program).
- To be submitted in a standard letter format

Naming convention: 3. [FL Surname]-CAMentor Letter

Attachment 4 - Signed certification page

The Certification Page can be downloaded from the PCFA website [here](#).

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

Application deadline

The application and all relevant documents must be submitted via email to Research@pcfa.org.au by **5:00 PM (AEDT) on Friday 27 October 2023**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Terms and Conditions

Please refer to the following page for Frequently Asked Questions and Terms and Conditions.

FAQs

Who are consumers?

Men diagnosed with prostate cancer, their partners, families, and carers.

What is the definition of 'Consumer Engagement & Ambassadorship'?

We consider consumer engagement as being active, two-way involvement with consumers in the development of a project, ongoing involvement, and dissemination of research outcomes. Of particular importance to the current round, there needs to be a mentorship plan in which the consumer will provide insight into this type of engagement and a patient perspective.

Ambassadorship refers to experience and/or willingness to be involved in promoting research outcomes arising from PCFA funding through media (social/traditional), in-person events and/or online interviews, and leadership skills in these areas. The ambassador would be the applicant/researcher (with the aid of both mentors).

What is the definition of 'Environment'?

Environment refers to the facilities and access to equipment expertise. It also includes the clinical/intellectual environment.

Who is eligible to apply for a PCFA Priority Research Impact Award – Future Leaders (PIRA-FL)?

Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and Mid-Career Researchers (MCRs) are eligible to apply as per the below criteria:

- **Early career researchers** - with less than five years full time research experience that hold a PhD at a research-based university or equivalent institution higher degree or
- **Mid-career Researchers** - with five to ten years full time research experience with a PhD at a research-based university or equivalent institution higher degree.

Applicants must hold an academic or research appointment at their host institution for the duration of the award and provide written certification of the willingness of the institution to supplement any shortfall in salary and/or oncosts at the time of submission of their PIRA-FL application. If this remuneration is for less than full-time employment the maximum amount of the award will be reduced proportionally.

For clinical and nursing researchers working toward higher degree qualifications, these timeframes should be interpreted as the time elapsed since commencing research-based activities.

I am a research higher degree student. Can I apply for a PCFA Priority Research Impact Award – Future Leaders (PIRA-FL)?

Yes, provided you will have completed and passed your research higher degree by the latest start date of the award.

I am not a prostate cancer researcher, am I eligible to apply?

Yes, provided that the project addresses one of the areas of research listed and your existing skills and knowledge translate well to the proposed project. You must, however, have at least one person with experience in prostate cancer research or practice as a mentor.

I am currently located at an overseas institution; can I apply for a PIRA?

Yes, however, all PCFA grants must be administered by an Australian institution and the applicant must be working in Australia during the life of the award funding period.

What is the term of the Awards?

2 Years (24 months) for a PIRA-FL. Requests for extensions to the award term must be detailed on the application form.

What is the maximum funding I can request?

Four funding grants are being offered at the following fixed values:

- 2 x \$200,000 – ECRs
- 2 x \$300,000 - MCRs

Can I budget for non-salary expenses and how much can I request?

These awards are intended to cover the salary of the Chief Investigator (Young Investigator). This award is conditional on the applicant's research institute guaranteeing the appointment of the applicant for the duration of the grant. You can, however, apply for salary support for research support personnel or consumables if your salary is already covered by a fellowship or your institution. Salary requests must be in line with NHMRC personnel support or salary support packages. Details can be found [here](#).

What is PCFA's peer review process?

For Future Leaders Awards, applications will be assessed and ranked by experts in the field including members from PCFA's [Research Advisory Committee](#) (RAC). Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by the RAC before a final decision is made.

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

What is meant by "Be available to be used by PCFA to present brief and easily understood evidence-based summaries for specific audiences"?

PCFA reserves its right to promote your research findings, including information and images, in presentations to various audiences. These audiences include but are not limited to: donors, investors and funding bodies, consumers including men with prostate cancer, their partners and families, PCFA staff and Board members, media, and the general public. This may include representations of your research on the PCFA website and on PCFA's social media channels.

PCFA will not share any of your unpublished research findings without your written permission.

What are the Priority Research Areas for this PIRA call?

The Area of Research is not restricted for this funding call, other than having a focus on prostate cancer. Applications are welcome from Prostate Cancer Researchers in:

- Basic Science
- Survivorship/Psychosocial/Health Services and implementation research
- Clinical Research including Nursing

Is DGR status required to apply?

Applicants are not required to have a DGR status.

Terms and Conditions

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

Variations

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

PCFA's Rights

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

- a) Verifying whether the represented resources and skills are actually available; and
- b) Assessing experience and integrity.

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

Reliance on Information

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

Confidentiality

All applications and negotiations of funding must be held in confidence by all parties. Any breach of confidentiality will result in potential disqualification of the application.

Contact Information

For questions relating to the 2023/2024 Priority Research Grant program, please contact:

Ms Hannah Lunnay
Governance and Research Executive
Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

Via email to research@pcfa.org.au.