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| Expression of interest |
| Program 8 Health Equity Project Support Funding  IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES |
| **December 2022** |

Contents

[Introduction 3](#_Toc109390383)

[VCCC Alliance Health Equity Program 3](#_Toc109390384)

[Purpose of funding 3](#_Toc109390385)

[Eligibility 3](#_Toc109390386)

[Page limit 4](#_Toc109390387)

[Timetable for Selection and Awarding 4](#_Toc109390388)

[Criteria for assessment 5](#_Toc109390389)

[Expression of Interest Form 6](#_Toc109390390)

# Introduction

Victoria has some of the best cancer outcomes in the world and is recognised as having a leading cancer system. However, these positives are not experienced equally by all Victorians. People living outside of metropolitan areas, from lower socio-economic backgrounds, who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, are more likely to be diagnosed with late stage or preventable cancer and have poorer outcomes.

There is an urgent requirement to better understand the needs of people in our community who are underserved by the current systems of cancer care, and for the development of effective responses for all, regardless of geography, social, cultural, physical or economic circumstances. The Health Equity Program will build on existing achievements, learnings, resources and data, engaging across and beyond the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance (VCCC Alliance) to establish new partnerships and strategies to contribute to addressing inequities in cancer outcomes.

## VCCC Alliance Health Equity Program

A fundamental goal of the VCCC Alliance is improving outcomes for all Victorian patients with cancer. There is increasing recognition that to improve outcomes for all and eliminate health disparities between communities, more targeted and strategic work needs to be done. Research has provided evidence both of inequity, and of the many challenges in addressing inequity. The Health Equity Program was introduced as part of the VCCC Alliance’s current Strategic Program Plan 2021-2024, to build capacity and capability across the VCCC Alliance and beyond to improve equity in cancer treatment, experience and outcomes.

Equity Advisory Group

The VCCC Alliance Health Equity Advisory Group was established as an initiative of the Health Equity Program. Reducing the evidenced disparities in cancer outcomes requires an intersectional approach and carefully targeted and strategic action. The Equity Advisory Group provides high-level expertise to the Health Equity Program and to VCCC Alliance members on the development and implementation of strategies to maximise the contribution of the alliance to addressing inequities in cancer outcomes across Victoria.

The Equity Advisory Group will provide oversight and management of the successful project. The maximum amount available for Project Support Funding in this round is $71,000. Only one project will be awarded funding in this round.

## Purpose of funding

The purpose of this Project Support Funding is to support a project that addresses a clear need and priority within culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

## Eligibility

This funding is only available to staff from VCCC Alliance member organisations.

## Page limit

The completed EOI should be 4-6 pages in total, exclusive of CVs and track record. Word limits apply to the EOI.

## Accompaniments to application

* A copy of the applicant’s CV (2-page maximum, with current and prior positions and/or experience (last 5 years)
* A 100-word statement of impact of the applicant’s track record of research with culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Relevant publications may be included.

## Timetable for Selection and Awarding

The Project Support Funding involves two stages:

1. Initial Expression of Interest (EOI) (4-6 pages) submitted
2. Following EOI review, 2 shortlisted applicants will be invited to present an outline of their project, followed by a short Q&A

The EOIs and Full Applications will be reviewed using the following process:

1. Completeness of application, including accompaniments to application
2. Ranking and shortlisting against criteria (below)

The EOI and Full Application evaluation panel will consist of:

1. Chair, Equity Advisory Group, VCCC Alliance
2. Consumer member, Equity Advisory Group, VCCC Alliance
3. Culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse Member of the Equity Advisory Group, VCCC Alliance
4. Senior Manager, Research Implementation, VCCC Alliance
5. Health Equity Manager, VCCC Alliance

**NB: Only one project will be awarded funding in this round**

**Key Dates**

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| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Activity** |
| 9th December 2022 | EOI opens |
| 5pm AEST, 6th February 2023 | EOI closes |
| 13th – 17th February 2023 | Review, ranking and shortlisting of applications |
| 17th February 2023 | Shortlisted applicants notified and invited to present their project to the evaluation panel |
| 27th February – 3rd March | Project presentations |
| 6th March 2023 | All applicants notified of outcome |

# Criteria for assessment

**Impact, significance, and sustainability (40%)**

* Demonstrated prioritised need for the project with culturally and linguistically diverse communities
* Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve the activity objectives for all stakeholders
* Demonstrate a connection and active commitment to a culturally and linguistically diverse community. This includes people from migrant or refugee background or ancestry. Eligible organisations include social enterprises, youth, local councils, not-for-profit organisations or a regional or state-wide peak multicultural/interfaith organisation, or faith-based or community-led organisations representing multicultural communities.
* A clear description of the existing practice/project that this project builds on
* Project will result in benefits for culturally and linguistically diverse people affected by cancer
* Evaluation or review report against a baseline is planned to document project impact
* Plans for sustainability post-project completion must be addressed
* Identifies how the project may contribute to the field beyond the timeline of the project
* Project is innovative in its design or implementation

**VCCC Alliance alignment, collaboration, and support (40%)**

* Project includes multiple VCCC Alliance organisations (minimum of two)
* Project has host organisation support
* Aligns with Health Equity Program deliverables and outcomes and/or the VCCC Alliance [Strategic Program Plan](https://vcccalliance.org.au/about-us/strategy/strategic-planning/strategic-program-plan-2021-24/) objectives

**Project budget and duration (20%)**

* Budget is clear and realistic
* Project funding is used for permissible purposes (short-term project-related personnel, project expenses)
* Total project duration is no longer than 12 months from award date

# Expression of Interest Form

**Instructions for Submission:**

Expressions of Interest are due for submission to the VCCC Alliance by 5pm AEST on 6th February 2023 via [gunatillake.t@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gunatillake.t@unimelb.edu.au).

**Project title:** (50 words maximum)

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**Please list organisations involved in this project:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | The Royal Melbourne Hospital (Melbourne Health) |  | Royal Women’s Hospital |
|  | The University of Melbourne |  | St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne |
|  | Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre |  | The Royal Children’s Hospital |
|  | The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research |  | Western Health |
|  | Austin Health (including the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute and Austin Lifesciences) |  | Murdoch Children’s Research Institute |
|  | Additional organisations: Click or tap here to enter text. | | |

**What identified and prioritised area of need by a culturally and linguistically diverse community (or communities) does this project address? (250 words maximum)**

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**Brief plain language project summary (300 words maximum):**

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**Describe how this project works in collaboration with other VCCC Alliance member organisations and/or Multicultural Community Organisations (250 words maximum)**

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**Briefly describe ongoing sustainability of project deliverables post-funding (200 words maximum)**

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**Outline the budget for this project. Please note, the total project duration is no longer than 12 months from award date (Maximum available funding: $71,000)**

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| **Total Funding Requested (incl. GST)**  (Breakdown of expenditure can be included here if known) | $ |

**Declarations**

Applicant declaration:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *I certify that the information in this Expression of Interest is accurate and has been compiled in accordance with the Program 8 Health Equity Seed Funding Guidelines 2021/22.*  *The EOI has been discussed with relevant stakeholders, including my line manager, consumers and any listed partner organisations.* | | |
| Name: |  | |
| Position: |  | |
| Signature: | Date: |  |

Nominated Executive representative declaration:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *I certify that this EOI has organisational support* | | |
| Name: |  | |
| Position: |  | |
| Signature: | Date: |  |

Partner organisation declaration: \*

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| *I fully support my organisation’s involvement in this potential project* | | |
| Name: |  | |
| Position: |  | |
| Organisation: |  | |
| Signature: | Date: |  |

\* Optional. Attach up to 5 additional Declarations if more than one partner organisation engaged.