



## GUIDELINES

Expressions of interest (EOI) close date

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

Full application (by invitation)

Will open approximately 4-6 weeks after the EOI closes

### 1.0 Introduction and Intent

These guidelines contain information about the Health Translation SA (HTSA) Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Catalyst Grant Scheme (Catalyst).

The Catalyst aims to focus South Australian effort around the MRFF's Principles and Priorities and strengthen the competitiveness of South Australian led MRFF grant applications that address local health system needs. It provides targeted funding to develop a pipeline of collaborative research projects undertaken by teams with members from at least 2 different health services organisations<sup>1</sup> and at least 2 different academic research organisations/health and medical research institutes that address health system needs in South Australia.

Funding of \$20,000 to \$60,000 per project is available, for a maximum of a 1-year grant period. The total budget available for the 2024 Catalyst is \$480,000. Funding for the Catalyst is provided through generous support from [The Hospital Research Foundation Group](#) (THRF Group) the [Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation](#) (WCH Foundation) and the [Cancer Council SA](#) (CCSA), contributing \$240 000, \$120 000 and \$120 000, respectively.

### 2024 Catalyst Funding Streams

- **Stream A: Chronic Condition Preventive Health for Priority Populations: Addressing modifiable risk factors to improve health outcomes (Funded by the THRF Group)**  
Funds provided by THRF Group will support innovative and collaborative approaches in developing primary prevention interventions for chronic conditions that seek to improve health outcomes for priority population(s) by addressing modifiable risk factors.
- **Stream B: Maternal/paediatric health and wellbeing (Funded by the WCH Foundation)**  
Funds provided by the WCH Foundation will be for projects that address maternal and/or paediatric health and wellbeing, where maternal health and wellbeing includes issues relating to fertility, pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period.
- **Stream C: Cancer (Funded by the CCSA)**  
Funds provided by CCSA will be for projects that address bowel, breast, or gynaecological cancers.

This funding scheme is led and coordinated by HTSA (and administered by SAHMRI as HTSA's administering institution) and oversight is provided by an Advisory Group. The Advisory Group comprises consumers, funders, and health system representatives.

### Points of Difference for this Funding Scheme

The Catalyst is different to existing state-based health research funding schemes in the following ways:

- It is **multi-institutional** and rewards meaningful collaboration across the health system, health service organisations and academic research organisations/institutes.
- It focusses on health consumer, community and/or clinician defined priorities to **address an unmet health/healthcare need** affecting the South Australian healthcare system.
- It supports projects that align with **MRFF Principles and Priorities** to demonstrate local **impact** with potential to **scale beyond South Australia**.



The Project Team Composition outlined below is key to ensuring this point of difference.

### Project Team Composition

The Project Team can include up to 10 members, of which 5 make up the Core Project Team.

The Core Project Team must include:

- team members from TWO DIFFERENT **health service organisations**<sup>1</sup>, of which at least 1 must be SA-based.
- team members from TWO DIFFERENT academic **research organisations/health and medical research institutes**, of which at least 1 must be SA-based.
- ONE **health consumer/community representative**

One of these Core Project Team members must be designated as the Principal Lead (see Section 3.0 for requirements). There is no requirement as to the roles for the remainder of the Project Team.

Inclusion of EMCRs (as post-doctoral researchers or those with equivalent experience) as members of the Project Team is encouraged.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are invited in the first instance. EOIs open 20<sup>th</sup> May and close 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Shortlisted EOIs will be invited to submit a Full Application 4-6 weeks following EOI.

**This document should be read prior to completion of the HTSA MRFF Catalyst Grant Scheme Expression of Interest (EOI) Application and Full Application online forms.**

**Note: These guidelines may be updated prior to the invitation for a Full Application.**

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of the Catalyst, the term *health service organisation* is defined as per the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. **Refer to the FAQs for further detail.**



## 2.0 Goal and objectives of the HTSA MRFF Catalyst Grant Scheme

The Catalyst provides targeted funding to research projects that are aligned with the [MRFF Principles and Priorities](#) and Funders' criteria, with the goal of increasing the number of successful SA-led applications to the MRFF.

The objectives of the Catalyst are to:

1. Support translational research projects that address an unmet health/healthcare need affecting health services in South Australia.
2. Foster the formation of diverse teams and collaborations between and across multiple health service organisations and health research organisations/institutes.
3. Build a pipeline of research projects that are "MRFF-ready".

**It is expected that a project funded through the Catalyst will result in an application to an MRFF Grant Opportunity. As such, the design of the Catalyst's eligibility criteria, application process and assessment criteria are heavily informed by the associated MRFF frameworks. You will be expected to demonstrate alignment with the MRFF.**

**There are 3 funding streams:**

You will be required to select the stream(s) you wish to apply under, noting the stream specific criteria (section 3.0).

Please note that more than one stream may be selected, provided your proposal demonstrably aligns with the selected streams.

- Stream A: Chronic Condition Preventive Health for Priority Populations: Addressing modifiable risk factors to improve health outcomes (*Funded by THRF Group*)
- Stream B: Maternal/paediatric health and wellbeing (*Funded by the WCH Foundation*)
- Stream C: Cancer (*Funded by the CCSA*)

## 3.0 Eligibility Criteria

All applications must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. The Administering Institution must be a HTSA Partner (Appendix A)
2. The Principal Lead must hold a salaried position at the Administering Institution
3. The Principal Lead is only listed as a Principal Lead for ONE application to the HTSA MRFF Catalyst Grant Scheme
4. The application includes a maximum of up to 10 team members - of which 5 make up the Core Project Team and one of these is designated as the Principal Lead
5. The Core Project Team must include:
  - team members holding salaried positions from TWO DIFFERENT **health service organisations**, of which at least 1 must be SA-based
  - team members holding salaried positions from TWO DIFFERENT academic **research organisations/health and medical research institutes**, of which at least 1 must be SA-based
  - ONE **health consumer/community representative**
6. The project can be delivered within 1 year of commencement.

In addition, applications must address the objectives of the Catalyst (refer Section 2.0) and will be assessed as outlined in Section 5.0.



### Stream Specific Criteria

The following stream-specific eligibility criteria apply. For proposals electing to be considered in more than one stream, all criteria from each selected stream must be met.

- 1. Stream A: Chronic Condition Preventive Health for Priority Populations: Addressing modifiable risk factors to improve health outcomes**  
This stream will support innovative and collaborative approaches in developing primary prevention interventions for chronic conditions that seek to improve health outcomes for priority population(s) by addressing modifiable risk factors.  
Proposals must address at least one chronic condition<sup>2</sup> in at least one priority population<sup>3</sup>.
- 2. Stream B: Maternal/paediatric health and wellbeing**  
This stream will support projects that address maternal and/or paediatric health and wellbeing, where maternal health and wellbeing includes issues relating to fertility, pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period.  
Proposals must include at least one Core Project Team member who holds a salaried position at a WCHN service, or who holds a salaried position with a HTSA Partner institution with a WCHN service as their primary workplace<sup>4</sup> (see Appendix A).
- 3. Stream C: Cancer**  
Proposals must address bowel, breast, or gynaecological cancers.

### 4.0 What types of activities will be considered for a grant?

Funding is available for a variety of activities which contribute to strengthening MRFF applications. Applicants must choose to submit either a:

- **Refinement Project:** to strengthen an existing concept/previously trialled project/submitted MRFF application so that it is competitive for MRFF funding.  
For example, Refinement Projects could request funding to:
  - a) undertake activities to build a stronger evidence base e.g., consumer engagement, evidence review including data synthesis
  - b) access methodologists to strengthen study design e.g., health economists, statisticians, implementation scientists
- OR**
- **New Project:** to design and/or pilot a new project; or to scale up previously undertaken pilot work that could subsequently underpin or strengthen an MRFF funding application.  
For example, New Projects could request funding to:
  - a) expand the delivery of a previously trialled model of care in a new health service/LHN
  - b) adapt an intervention for use in a new patient group or specific population.

These are examples only. Other activities or specific expenditure may be eligible where they support achievement of the MRFF Principles and Priorities and Funders Criteria.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of the Catalyst, the term *chronic conditions* is based on the definition used in the National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions (2017). **Refer to the FAQs for further detail.**

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of the Catalyst, the term *priority population(s)* is based on the definition used in the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2021-2026) **Refer to the FAQs for further detail.**

<sup>4</sup> Services under the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN) include the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH), the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), the Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS), Metropolitan Youth Health, the Cedar Health Service and the Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service.



## 5.0 Review, Assessment and Approval Process

Applications will be reviewed by a Review Panel, chaired by the HTSA Independent Board Chair, and comprised of members with experience in:

- health service delivery,
  - consumer engagement,
  - implementation science,
  - research excellence,
- along with:*
- representation from the Funders and HTSA Board.

### EOI Review Process

Prior to panel review, EOIs will undergo the following checks:

1. Eligibility Review
  - As outlined in Section 3.0
  - Undertaken by HTSA
2. Health System Desirability Check
  - To ensure projects meet the Catalyst objective “to address an unmet health/healthcare need affecting the South Australian health system, applications will be reviewed against the following criteria:
    - Strategic alignment with health service organisations
    - Shared priorities across multiple health service organisations

Following successful completion of these checks, EOIs will be assessed by the Review Panel to evaluate the application’s alignment with the Catalyst’s objectives (refer to Appendix B). Top ranked EOIs will then be shortlisted for invitation to submit a Full Application. This decision will be reviewed by the Funders before progressing to a Full Application.

### Full Application Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Review Panel.

Applicants may be required to present to the Panel at a date and time to be determined.

### Funding Decision

The Review Panel will be asked to endorse Applications and make recommendations to HTSA Board of Partners and Funders regarding suitability and funding allocation.

For successful applications SAHMRI, as HTSA’s administering institution, will enter into a Funding Agreement with your administering institution. The project cannot commence until all required agreements are in place.

## 6.0 Funding Available

This round of the Catalyst has a budget of \$480,000 available to provide funding of between \$20,000 and \$60,000 per project for a maximum of a 1-year grant period. Project commencement date must be within 6 weeks of the formal date of offer (see Section 7.0 regarding ethics).

THRF Group funds for this scheme (\$240,000) will be directed towards projects that support innovative and collaborative approaches in developing primary prevention interventions for chronic conditions that seek to improve health outcomes for priority population(s) by addressing modifiable risk factors.

WCH Foundation funds for this scheme (\$120,000) will be directed towards projects that address maternal and/or paediatric health and wellbeing.

Funds provided by CCSA (\$120,000) will be directed towards projects that address bowel, breast, or gynaecological cancers.

Budget requests can cover salary costs, including principal and ancillary project/research/administrative staff, infrastructure (excluding institutional overheads) and direct research costs. Direct research costs are those directly related to the conduct of the project and may include research reagents, consumables, services, software, minor equipment (<\$10,000 unit cost),



and travel for the purposes of conducting the research program. For clarity, conference attendance, publication, open access fees, patenting and/or IP protection costs are not considered direct research costs and should not be included in proposal budget requests. Requests for funding for personnel must be fully justified, including the salary requested. Information on reimbursement for consumers is available [here](#).

Projects that are duplicative, have previously been or are currently being undertaken or have been awarded funding will not be funded. Projects that strengthen previous work however will be considered. You will be expected to outline how this work differs from and builds on existing/prior work. Funds offered will not be supplemented. No additional claims may be made to increase awarded funding. Funding provided will apply for the duration of the project. Any unexpected delays or proposed changes to the Project’s conduct must be advised to HTSA as soon as practicable. HTSA/SAHMRI reserves the right not to fund applications.

## 7.0 Ethics

Approval of the research activity by relevant institutional committees and approval bodies, particularly in relation to ethics and biosafety, must be sought and obtained prior to the commencement of the research, or the parts of the research that require their approval. The time to obtain ethics must be built into the duration for the project. No additional funding will be provided to projects to meet delays associated with obtaining approvals.

## 8.0 Reporting Requirements

Reporting requirements for the Project will be the responsibility of the Principal Lead for the term of the Project (financial, progress, and final reports). Reporting may also be required by the Funders as requested. Following project completion reporting will also be required to review the outcomes and impact of the grant at one-year post completion and beyond. This information will be shared with Funders.

It is an obligation of the Principal Lead to adhere to all reporting requirements requested of them.

The timeline, outputs/outcomes and deliverables detailed in the submission will be used to determine the progress and success of the project.

Any changes to the delivery of milestones will require submission of a Variation Request.

## 9.0 Publicity / Acknowledgement

Requirements of the Funders (THRF Group, the WCH Foundation and CCSA) and HTSA in relation to appropriate acknowledgements and publicity will be outlined in the funding agreement for successful applicants.

## 10.0 Important Dates

Expression of interest open	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Expression of interest close	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, 5pm
Full application (by invitation only) close	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024
Endorsement (HTSA Board of Partners)	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Projects to commence	6 weeks from date of formal offer





## 11.0 How to Apply

The following documents are required for submission:

### **Expression of interest – close 19<sup>th</sup> June, 5pm ACST**

- Completed EOI online application.
- 2-page CVs for the Principal Lead.
- EOI link will be available from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 [here](#).

**Full application (by invitation only – Principal Lead to be contacted)** – will open approximately 4-6 weeks after the EOI closes.

Applications must be submitted by the due date specified above. You will receive an acknowledgement email upon completion online. Please get in touch via [enquiries@healthtranslationsa.org.au](mailto:enquiries@healthtranslationsa.org.au) if you do not receive this email.



## Appendix A: Background to the MRFF, HTSA, and Funders

### Medical Research Future Fund

The MRFF, established under the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015* (MRFF Act), provides grants of financial assistance to support health and medical research and innovation to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians. It provides a long-term sustainable source of funding for endeavours that aim to improve health outcomes, quality of life and health system sustainability.

This MRFF investment is guided by the *Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2021-2026* (the Strategy, which outlines seven guiding **Principles**) and related set of *Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2022-2024* (the **Priorities**), developed by the independent and expert Australian Medical Research Advisory Board following extensive national public consultation.

### Health Translation SA

HTSA is a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) accredited Research Translation Centre (RTC). It is a whole-of-state collaborative network which brings together academic, research and healthcare agencies and the community to accelerate the translation of health and medical research findings into policy, education, and clinical practice to improve health outcomes for South Australians.

Our **11 Partners** are SA Department of Health and Wellbeing including 10 Local Health Networks (LHNs), the Adelaide Primary Health Network, the Country SA Primary Health Network, the Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health (CEIH), the Aboriginal Health Council of SA, SAHMRI, Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia, Torrens University and CSIRO. This funding scheme has the endorsement of the HTSA Board of Partners.

### HTSA MRFF Catalyst Advisory Group

The MRFF Catalyst Advisory Group is coordinated by HTSA and comprises consumers, funders, and health services. It guides the development and governance of The Catalyst by advising on:

- health service needs and the connection to the scheme,
- how this process can best link to MRFF funding objectives and
- the establishment of the grant administration processes.

### Funders

#### The Hospital Research Foundation Group

THRF Group is a profit-for-purpose organisation which raises funds through community donations, corporate support and proceeds from The Hospital Research Foundation Home Lottery program. These proceeds enable us to fund and facilitate medical research and patient care services across more than 50 areas of disease and illness, from birth to end of life.

THRF Group consists of 12 charities which work together to maximise health and wellbeing and allow supporters to choose an area of healthcare that matters most to them. Through our Group structure, we are committed to delivering a progressive research and grants program that is sustainable, promotes collaboration and delivers impact for the community

#### The Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

The Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation) improves the health and wellbeing of women, children and families under the care of the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN) and beyond, through a strong focus on health and medical research, and evidence-informed improvements to healthcare.

Services under the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN) include the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH), the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), the Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS), Metropolitan Youth Health, the Cedar Health Service and the Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service.

The WCH Foundation contributes more than \$2.5 million annually to health and medical research led by South Australian institutions and researchers, through the Bloom Research Program, scholarships, fellowship and various other specific-purpose research funding schemes. The WCH Foundation works closely with its partners, including the Women's and Children's Hospital





and Health Network, academic and research institutions, and Health Translation SA to ensure that the evidence generated through our research program is translated into positive changes to health systems, policy and practice.

Cancer Council SA

Cancer Council is Australia’s leading cancer charity, and the only Australian charity working across every aspect of every cancer. Cancer Council SA has worked resolutely since 1928 to deliver cancer research, prevention, and support services, and helps people from the point of diagnosis through to treatment and survivorship. It is state’s leading independent, cancer-related, non-government organisation, dedicated to reducing the impact of cancer for all South Australians.



## Appendix B: Criteria to assess alignment of applications against the Catalyst objectives

<p><b>Unmet health/healthcare need and co-design (30%)</b> The project addresses an unmet health/healthcare need affecting health services in South Australia</p> <p>Does the project address an unmet health/healthcare need that is a priority for the health system in South Australia? Is it a priority for multiple health service organisations? Is the proposed project informed by, and co-designed with consumers? Have consumers been meaningfully engaged at all stages of the project? Will the project improve health outcomes?</p>
<p><b>Diverse collaboration (20%) *</b> The project fosters the formation of diverse teams and collaborations between and across multiple health service organisations and health research organisations/institutes</p> <p>Does the team include members from a diverse range of genders, career stages, cultures/ethnicities? Will the project contribute to achieving equity in health outcomes for priority populations? Does the team include a mix of professions to increase the likelihood of translation and impact e.g. researchers, clinicians, clinician researchers, policy makers, health economists, implementation scientists/practitioners? Does the team include national and international collaborators?</p>
<p><b>Alignment with the MRFF (30%)</b> The application will contribute to building a pipeline of projects that are “MRFF-ready”</p> <p>How well does the project address MRFF Principles? How well does the project address MRFF Priorities? How strong is the project’s strategy for research design and translation? Does the project develop a solution to a health/healthcare problem that is scalable and impactful? How will funding strengthen the team’s competitiveness to win MRFF funding for SA?</p>
<p><b>Feasibility (20%) *</b> The project will be successfully completed with the time and other resources available</p> <p>Will the project demonstrate an efficient use of funding? Will the project demonstrate good value for money? What risks may impact on the timely conduct of the project and how will these be managed? How will partners contribute to the project?</p>

\*to be assessed at the Full Application stage