



**Call for**  
**Expression of Interest**

**CANCER RESEARCH LEADERS PROGRAM**

**APPLICANT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

***CLOSING DATE: Monday, 20 August 2007***

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**1. Overview of Cancer Institute NSW research programs guiding principles, priorities and criteria**

*Background to Cancer Institute NSW*

The Cancer Institute NSW was established in July 2003 through the Cancer Institute NSW Act 2003 as a response to the need to further decrease the devastating impact of cancer on our society and is Australia's first state-wide, government supported cancer control agency.

The Cancer Institute NSW is charged with substantially improving cancer control in NSW. This will be achieved by:

- reducing the incidence of cancer in NSW;
- increasing the survival rate for people diagnosed with cancer;
- improving the quality of life for cancer patients and their carers; and
- become a source of expertise on cancer and provide expert advice to patients, the public, health care professionals and the Government

The state's first cancer plan covered the period 2004-2006 and was developed in consultation with NSW Department of Health and other key stakeholders to build on and enhance the valuable work already in progress in this State.

The NSW Cancer Plan 2007-2010 is set within the context of two broader planning processes: the NSW State Health Plan 2006-2010 and the NSW State Plan. The Plan will focus on five high priorities most likely to improve cancer results. These are:

- Preventing cancer
- Detecting cancer early
- Improving cancer services and professional education
- Accelerating improvement through research
- Relevant data and information

*Introduction to Research Program*

Cancer research is providing the evidence that will drive rapid improvement in cancer prevention, treatment and the subsequent improvements in survival and quality of life of cancer patients. The cancer research supported in NSW must be performance driven and deliver meaningful and highly significant outcomes.

The acceleration of better cancer control will be driven by new cancer research discoveries. The NSW Cancer Plan 2007-2010 aims to make these discoveries more quickly available to cancer patients and clinicians through research grants and more support for clinical research staff in hospital.

*Guiding Principles*

The Cancer Institute NSW Research Program is not a duplication of the grants available from the NHMRC or ARC for cancer in NSW. Rather it is strategically designed to specifically address issues of capacity, relevance and competitiveness

raised by the Wood's Report and the Cancer Institute's own reviews of cancer research in NSW.

#### *NSW Cancer Research Priorities*

Cancer research will drive improvements in cancer control in NSW under the NSW Cancer Plan 2007-2010. To stimulate further innovation and new approaches to cancer control, cancer research in NSW must be at the international cutting edge and well connected to international centres of excellence. Cancer researchers in NSW should access the best available research expertise available by increasing collaborations through scientific networks and planning to develop key expertise collaboratively and over the longer term.

The State Cancer Research Priorities which were embodied within the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006, will be further developed in the NSW Cancer Plan 2007-2010. The aims of the Cancer Research Program are to:

- Support cancer research that can be quickly translated into benefits for cancer patients, for the prevention of cancer or its early detection.
- Recruit and support researchers in NSW to become more skilled and more internationally competitive.
- Provide enabling infrastructure to improve international competitiveness and relevance.

#### *Program Overview 2007-2010*

The Cancer Institute NSW Research Division is represented by the breakdown into the three main programs:

- Translational Research Program
- Research Careers Program
- Cancer Research Infrastructure Program
- Clinical Trials Research Program

During the NSW Cancer Plan 2004-2006 several reviews were conducted to identify the strengths, gaps and opportunities to make cancer research more effective for cancer control in NSW and to make NSW more internationally competitive. The reviews conducted included:

- Review of Cancer Research Activity in NSW 2001-2003
- Review of Research Platforms and Technologies
- Review of Cancer Institute NSW Funded Research
- Ethics Review of Cancer Research Activity
- Cancer Research Round Table

#### *NSW Cancer Research Criteria*

The Cancer Institute NSW is committed to pursuing and supporting excellence and innovation in cancer research as a key method to improve cancer outcomes in NSW.

The State Cancer Research Priorities and the above guiding principles provide the framework for the allocation of funds within the Cancer Institute NSW Research Program.

Applications in each of the programs will be reviewed and supported based on the specific criteria for each program and their adherence to the following broad criteria:

- Programs that are consistent with the State Cancer Research Priorities.
- Commits to excellence and innovation at an international leading edge.
- Commits to rapid translation of research findings to clinical practice.
- Focuses on the importance and the outcomes of the research.
- Supports the development, recruitment and support of excellent cancer researchers for NSW.
- Promotes, enhances or complements areas with existing outstanding research strength in NSW including molecular or cell biology, cancer genetics, clinical research, population research, health services research or addresses major cancer problems facing NSW.
- Promotes attainment of additional scientific depth by collaboration, co-location, amalgamation or research involving a number of research disciplines.
- Uses and strengthens key research infrastructure, platforms, technologies and research expertise to increase the productivity of research.
- Supports the development of links with key national or overseas research programs and industry.
- Develops the research culture within the NSW health system.
- Identifies the relevance of the research to NSW.
- Responds to National and State priorities and community opinions about research.

All research disciplines will be supported by the Cancer Institute NSW Cancer Research Program including behavioural, biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, health services, and psycho-social research unless otherwise stated within the individual program.

Additional information regarding the Cancer Institute NSW Research Programs can be found in the NSW Cancer Plan 2007-2010, located on the website [www.cancerinstitute.org.au](http://www.cancerinstitute.org.au).

## **2. Introduction to the Cancer Research Leaders Program**

A major research program developed by the Cancer Institute NSW to support these objectives is the *Cancer Research Leaders Program*.

This program is designed to strengthen cancer research capacity by facilitating new academic posts and outstanding research teams at NSW universities, hospitals and/or other institutions. This program will be directed to attracting outstanding researcher leaders from interstate and/or overseas, as well as their core team of researchers (Research Leader and at least two senior researchers).

The key strategic goals of the *Cancer Research Leaders Program* are to:

- Increase critical mass in cancer research in NSW and promote scientific depth.
- Attract outstanding research teams of international capacity to NSW.
- Provide complimentary scientific depth to areas of strength in NSW.

The Cancer Institute NSW is now inviting Expressions of Interest from key NSW universities, hospitals and/or other institutions, to partner with the Cancer Institute NSW in the *Cancer Research Leaders Program*. Preference will be given to applications made by joint institutions partnering to attract the best possible candidates.

An Expression of Interest will include a named Cancer Research Leader who can demonstrate:

- Excellence in cancer research.
- Research is of international significance and importance.
- Research is consistent with State Cancer Research Priorities.
- Proven ability for establishing collaborations (multi-group, multi-disciplinary, multi-site).
- Outstanding capacity to attract peer review and other funding, such as commercial and philanthropic funds.
- Outstanding publication record.
- Capacity to provide mentorship to younger researchers, and to develop training and career development opportunities for researchers within his/her team.

Following the submission of an Expression of Interest the Cancer Institute NSW will enter into direct negotiations with selected organisation(s) and may request additional information.

The Cancer Institute NSW support for a Research Leaders Program grant is valued up to \$650,000 per annum, for a total of five years. Funds will be directed towards salaries and the research program. It is anticipated that the applicant institution(s) will provide additional considerable support to enable the successful establishment of the

Research Leader and his/her team. The Cancer Institute NSW and successful applicant institutions may negotiate the exact funding arrangements.

The Research Grants Review Committee will review the Expressions of Interest and may seek advice from additional experts. Any such advice will be treated as confidential by the Committee and the Cancer Institute NSW.

### **3. *Criteria for assessment of Expression of Interest***

Institution(s) making application will need to demonstrate:

- It is a centre of cancer research excellence, providing a major strength to cancer research in NSW.
- Ability to provide considerable support for a Cancer Research Leader and his/her team in terms of infrastructure and additional funds to ensure the successful establishment of the new team.
- Research is consistent with the State Cancer Research Priorities
- Clear support and a plan for the Cancer Research Leader and his/her research team.
- A proposed research program.
- The research direction of the proposed new program is significant and provides depth to existing strength.

The Research Leader must be identified at application and the application will need to demonstrate:

- International track record, evidenced by:
  - Outstanding capacity to attract peer reviewed and other research funding.
  - Outstanding peer review publication record.
  - Record for collaboration and links with significant cancer research teams/institutions.

### **4. *Submitting an Expression of Interest***

The Expression of Interest should address:

- Proposed institution(s) at which the Cancer Research Leader and accompanying team will be located.
- Proposed academic position for the Cancer Research Leader. It is anticipated that the Cancer Research Leader will be appointed at Professorial level.
- Proposed timeframe for appointment.
- The criteria for assessment of Expression of Interest (up to 5 pages).

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**Expression of Interest**

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- Level of support, both financial and in kind, for the Cancer Research Leader and his/her team (up to 2 pages). A proposed budget outline should be included, identifying Cancer Institute NSW funding and other financial support.

*Format*

Paper: Double sided, A4  
Margin: 2cm on each side  
Font: At least 11 point, preferred fonts are Times New Roman, Arial and Helvetica.

*Submission date*

Applicants must submit 16 hard copies (1 original plus 15 copies). Expression of interest must be received by close of business on **Monday, 20 August 2007**.

Original documents should be sent to:

**Courier address**

Research Secretariat  
Cancer Institute NSW  
Level 1, Biomedical Building  
Australian Technology Park  
1 Central Avenue  
EVELEIGH NSW 2015

**OR**

**Mail Address**

Research Secretariat  
Cancer Institute NSW  
PO Box 41  
ALEXANDRIA NSW 1435

In addition, applicants must submit an **electronic version** of the expression of interest to:

[research.secretariat@cancerinstitute.org.au](mailto:research.secretariat@cancerinstitute.org.au)

**Please put the Applicants name, and Leaders Program into the subject of the email.**

*Enquiries*

Enquiries about the Cancer Institute NSW Research Leaders Program can be directed to the Cancer Institute NSW Research Secretariat at the above email or on 02 8374 5638.

## **5 – CERTIFICATIONS**

### **Privacy Notice**

Applicants (researchers and research institutions) consent to the information supplied as part of the expression of interest being disclosed for the purposes of the assessment of their expression of interest and for purposes connected with the making and administration of the Program. Such disclosure includes, but is not limited to, disclosure to members of the Research Grants Review Committee, independent readers/assessors requested to provide advice, and relevant representatives and employees of the Cancer Institute NSW research programs process. Documents containing personal information are handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 which sets standards for the collection, storage, use and disclosure of, and access to, personal information.

#### **5.1 Applicant**

##### **Certification by the Applicant**

I certify that

1. To the best of my knowledge and belief, information contained in this expression of interest is complete, true and correct and I understand that the provision of false or misleading information may attract substantial penalties.
2. I consent to this expression of interest being peer-reviewed by persons who will remain anonymous.
3. I have read and agreed to the Privacy Notice above.

Name of Applicant	Signature	Date

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## 5.2 Administering Institution

Institution	
ABN	

Administering Institute contact person for management of the grant and funding (this would be nominee from the Research Office or Finance Department; it can not be the applicant themselves):

Name	
Title	
Address	
Email	
Phone no.	

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## 5.3 Certification by the Administering Institution

I certify that:

1. I am authorised to sign the application form on behalf of this Administering Institution.
2. All funds for the Program will only be spent for the purposes for which they were provided.

Name	
Title	
Signature	
Date	

#### **5.4 Research Institution**

##### **Certification by the Head of the Research Institution (or delegate)**

I certify that:

1. I am authorised to sign the application form on behalf of this research organisation.
2. I am prepared to have the Cancer Institute NSW Research Leaders Program carried out in my institution/organisation under the circumstances set out in this expression of interest.
3. To the best of my knowledge and belief, information contained in this expression of interest is complete, true and correct and I understand that the provision of false or misleading information may attract substantial penalties.
4. The Program will be accommodated within the general facilities of this institution/organisation, and appropriate infrastructure is available.
5. The Program will not be permitted to proceed until appropriate ethics clearance(s) have been obtained.

Name	
Title	
Signature	
Date	

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#### **5.5 Certification by Head of Department/Unit**

1. I certify that I have read this application and fully support this research being carried out in my department in accordance with this application.

Name	
Title	
Address	
Email	
Signature	
Date	