



PROFESSOR IAN OLVER AM PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY RESEARCH ACCELERATION GRANT FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Guidelines for Applicants

22nd January 2025

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1. Key Information

- Applications open: 22nd January 2025
- Submission deadline: 30th April 2025
- Recipient announced: 30th June 2025
- Funding available: Up to AUD \$50,000
- Project duration: 18 - 24 months

2. Background

2.1 Summary

Canteen is providing AUD \$50,000 in funding to create the **Professor Ian Oliver AM Psycho-Oncology Research Acceleration Grant for Early Career Researchers**. The grant is an AYA Cancer Global Accord initiative and is intended to support the development of innovative international psychosocial research project/s to improve outcomes for young people impacted by cancer.

There is limited international research investigating the psychosocial needs of AYAs impacted by cancer. In part, this might be due to the difficulty of establishing an international network of researchers. Therefore, the grant aims to:

- Provide an early career researcher with an opportunity to lead an international psychosocial research project.
- Address funding disparities between mainstream medical research and psychosocial, health services, and survivorship research.
- Increase the number of successful large research grant applications by providing funding to support necessary preparatory work.

The grant will support an early career researcher and their organisation to:

- Conduct international pilot research to strengthen opportunities for further grant funding.
- Develop a full-scale program of research in the chosen priority area for AYAs impacted by cancer.
- Strengthen international research collaborations.
- Receive peer mentoring and consultation to support the development of an international research project.

2.2 The AYA Cancer Global Accord



The AYA Cancer Global Accord is an international partnership between three organisations: Teen Cancer America, Teenage Cancer Trust (UK), and Canteen (Australia). The aim of the Accord is to invest in and support a growing multidisciplinary workforce who are committed to improving the lives of AYAs diagnosed with cancer, worldwide. The AYA Cancer Global Accord has the potential to drive sector-leading research at an international level.

2.3 Canteen

Canteen is the Australian organisation for young people living with cancer and has been providing life-changing support for young people impacted by cancer for over 40 years. Canteen is committed to undertaking high quality research and evaluation that enhances our knowledge, understanding and insight into the needs of young people living with cancer and the most effective ways of supporting them. Canteen has established a reputable research program, and as a consumer-led organisation, Canteen has extensive experience engaging AYA patients.

3. The Professor Ian Olver AM Psycho-Oncology Research Acceleration Grant for Early Career Researchers

3.1 What the Grant offers

The **Professor Ian Olver AM Psycho-Oncology Research Acceleration Grant for Early Career Researchers** will provide the successful research team with AUD \$50,000 to aid in the development of an ongoing international research project, where the project lead is an early career researcher.

Early Career Researchers applying for funding should have projects that are conceptually well-developed however, they may require support to practically develop their project to be feasible on an international level. During the funding period the successful applicants will:

- Develop an international research project.
- Refine their research protocol design and/or methodology to suit international research.

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- Collect pilot data to guide the advancement of an international research study.
 - Establish international research networks.
 - Work towards setting up an international research collaboration at multiple sites.

The grant will aid the successful applicant to build upon their research project, broaden their research networks and contacts, assist in grant applications and publications, and provide guidance to create a sustainable international research project. In addition, experienced international researchers will be available as a Mentor Group to provide support throughout the funding period to the successful applicant.

The Mentor Group will act as peer consultants to provide advice on:

- Research project execution
- Building international research connections
- Undertaking a sustainable international research project
- Ensuring research outcomes are delivered, communicated and used.

3.2 Grant Expectations

The funding is intended to aid the creation of a research project addressing an international research priority area for AYAs living with cancer. By the end of the funding period, it is expected that the project will have:

- Established a pilot study at a single site or multiple sites (preferably internationally).
- Collected pilot data at a single site or multiple sites (preferably internationally).
- Provided evidence of international research collaboration.
- Submitted an abstract of the study to the Global AYA Cancer Congress 2026.
- Provided evidence of grant applications for on-going funding.

4. Application Process

4.1 Application Process

The application form has been sent to workshop applicants. It will also be available on the Global Accord website (<https://globalayacancer.org/>). The completed form must be submitted via email to AYAGlobalAccordGrant@Canteen.org.au. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the submission is complete and accurate. An email will be sent to the applicant within 7 days confirming receipt of the application.

Submissions must be received by 30th April 2025. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

4.2 Eligibility

To be eligible to receive the Professor Ian Olver AM Psycho-Oncology Research Acceleration Grant for Early Career Researchers you must meet the following conditions:

- The lead researcher must be an early career researcher who was awarded their PhD (or equivalent) within the past five years (relative to opportunity, for example, career disruption due to pregnancy, serious illness or carer responsibilities).
 - Current PhD students with substantial prior research experience and early career researchers with alternative post-graduate research degrees will also be considered. Please enquire through the email address regarding eligibility.

- At least one member of the research team must be based in Australia.
- At least one member of the research team must have attended the workshop *Methods, models, and measuring what matters in AYA psychosocial oncology research* at the AYA Global Accord Congress in Melbourne in December 2024.
- The research project should address an established AYA* psychosocial research priority with reference to peer-reviewed literature, a government report or similar.
- The activities to be funded must have the potential to contribute to the development of an international research collaboration which is focused on the psychosocial wellbeing of AYA.
- The applicant's budget must not exceed AUD \$50,000.
- Proof of a submitted ethics application must be attached to the grant application.
 - Funds will not be released until ethics approval is granted.
- The project milestones must be within the specified timeframe of 18 - 24 months.
- The applicant must agree to abide by their institutes' policies or equivalent for the proper conduct of research in relation to ethics and good scientific conduct.
 - For example, the Australian NHMRC Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research
- The applicant must confirm that adequate infrastructure is available to allow the research (as outlined in the grant) to be completed.

Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be eliminated from the application process.

**Note: The term AYA has different international definitions. Each applicant should clearly define and provide justification for the chosen age range.*

4.3 Assessment Process

All applications that meet the eligibility criteria will be forwarded to the Assessment Panel for review. The Assessment Panel will comprise experienced researchers from the AYA Global Accord.

Each application will be assessed against the Assessment Criteria in Table 1. All selection criteria will be rated using a 3-point scale within three broad categories (Low, Medium, and High). Further details will be available outlining the selection criteria on the Global Accord website, but in general the assessment criteria are as follows:

- **Low Impact:** To be rated as low impact, a proposal will be unclear, have an underdeveloped argument, and/or show little to no potential to develop an international psychosocial research collaboration. A low impact proposal will have *several major concerns* and will not be considered for further evaluation.
- **Medium Impact:** To be rated as medium impact, a proposal will be clear, develop a good argument, and show some potential to develop an international psychosocial research collaboration, but have several concerns. A medium impact proposal is not likely to be competitive enough for further evaluation.
- **High Impact:** To be rated as high impact, a proposal will be highly coherent, develop a strong argument, and show strong potential to develop an international psychosocial research collaboration, with only *minor clarifications* needed. High impact proposals will be considered for further evaluation.

Table 1. Grant selection criteria

1. Research Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skillset and experience of research team• Position of lead researcher relative to opportunity
2. Project Synopsis (Background and project details)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides an accurate summary of current knowledge and identifies gaps in the literature• Relates to an identifiable research priority• Provides clear rationale, study aims and objectives• Methodology and design address the study aims• Explains how AYAs will be involved in the development of the project• Identifies research outcomes for AYAs• Evidence of international collaboration• Project milestones (6-monthly and final)
3. Project Plan (Including collaboration, and mentoring and grant support)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborative arrangements between participating institutions• Assignment of research tasks and responsibilities• Identifies the need and purpose for the Professor Ian Olver AM Psycho-Oncology Research Acceleration Grant for Early Career Researchers
4. Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The budget outlines appropriate costs which align with the project activities.

5. Project Commencement

Once the successful applicant is announced, it is anticipated that project activity will commence as soon as possible. A funding contract agreement will be signed between Canteen and the lead investigator's institution. It is expected that this will be completed by August 2025. Amendments to the funding contract agreement will not be possible following its execution; therefore, it is the researcher's responsibility to ensure that all clauses are acceptable to their Research Office. Any delays in signing the funding contract agreements may jeopardise funding.

6. Conditions of Funding

6.1 Funding restrictions:

The purposes for which the funding may be used include but are not limited to:

- Staff support (a minimum of 50% of the total budget must be spent on staffing).
- Communication needs.
- Domestic and international flights.

The funding may not be used:

- To support an organisation's overhead costs.
- For a study that already has grant funding.

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- Where the applicant is not the lead researcher.
 - To purchase goods such as computers, phones, and tablets.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Canteen via the email provided to discuss the eligibility of activities that fall outside the scope of those listed above.

6.2 Payment of funds

The release of funds will be linked to obtaining ethics approval and submitting a 12-month progress report. Half of the funds (AUD \$25, 000) will be released once proof of an approved ethics application has been provided. The remaining funds will be payable upon approval of the completed 12-month progress report (AUD \$25, 000). Evidence of milestone achievements must be provided to secure funding for activities. No additional funds can be provided if the project has difficulties that lead to additional expenses. These must be covered by the applicant's institution.

6.3 Reporting Requirements

As a condition of funding, the successful applicant will be expected to submit 6-monthly progress reports throughout the project and a final report to the Canteen which addresses their progress in relation to the milestones outlined in their application.

The applicant is expected to promptly notify Canteen of any project difficulties. Any funds not expended by the applicant within the project period will need to be returned to Canteen.

6.4 Recognition of Support

All members of the successful research team are required to acknowledge the support of Canteen and the AYA Cancer Global Accord in all publications and presentations including social and traditional media relating to the project supported by the grant. More details on appropriate acknowledgement will be provided with the letter of offer.

6.5 Underperformance

Canteen reserves the right to suspend the funding at any stage of the project if progress is unsatisfactory or expenditure is not consistent with the approved proposal.

7. Privacy and Confidentiality

All information contained in applications will be regarded as confidential. Documents containing personal information will be handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of the [Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998](#). Personal information will only be disclosed with the permission of the individual to whom it relates or where the Act allows.

Applicants consent to the information supplied as part of their application being disclosed solely for the purposes of the assessment and administration of the grant. Such disclosures include but are not limited to: members of the assessment panel; independent experts requested by the assessment panel to provide advice on the application; and TCA, TCT, and Canteen staff involved with the funding process.

8. Enquiries

Enquiries about the **Professor Ian Olver AM Psycho-Oncology Research Acceleration Grant for Early Career Researchers** should be directed to AYAGlobalAccordGrant@Canteen.org.au.