

CCRI Collaboration Grants

Funding Guidelines

Applications open 31 August 2026 | Applications close 5:00 pm Friday 30 October 2026

Funding at a glance

Funding	Up to \$15,000 per project; applicants may request less
Funding allocation	A small number of projects will be supported, based on application quality and available funding
Duration	Up to 12 months; expected commencement early 2027
Funding deadline	All funds must be fully spent by 31 December 2027
Core requirement	Active University of Newcastle and CCLHD collaboration, with a University of Newcastle researcher as formal grant holder

1 Purpose

The CCRI Collaboration Grants support collaborative research between the University of Newcastle and the Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD) that responds to Central Coast health and wellbeing priorities. This funding is intended to help teams develop, test or strengthen research projects and support their progression beyond the funded period.

The grants are designed to strengthen collaboration, generate evidence and learning, and support pathways to future funding, translation, implementation or partnership development.

2 What we are looking to fund

Projects may align with one or more of CCRI's four focus themes:

- Healthy Beginnings and Women's Health
- Healthy Ageing
- Food, Nutrition and Health
- Mental Health, Trauma and Family Safety

Projects may also address other health and wellbeing priorities relevant to the Central Coast.

Suitable projects may include pilot or feasibility research, evidence-building, co-design or community-informed research, testing or evaluation of a model or approach, and translation, implementation or partnership-building activity. Projects should have a clear output within the funded period and identify a next step beyond the grant.

Applicants must explain the Central Coast health or wellbeing priority being addressed and the basis for identifying it as a priority. This may draw on local data, research or policy, clinical or service priorities, community or lived experience insight, current gaps or opportunities, or CCRI workshop findings. CCRI workshop reports will be available on the CCRI website as an optional resource for all applicants, regardless of whether they attended a workshop.

3 Eligibility and collaboration

To be eligible, an application must:

- include at least one named collaborator from both the University of Newcastle and CCLHD;
- nominate an eligible University of Newcastle academic staff member as the formal grant holder;
- demonstrate active collaboration between the University of Newcastle and CCLHD, with collaborators from both organisations having a substantive role in shaping and delivering the project;
- be feasible within 12 months and include a high-level project plan and completed budget;
- identify likely ethics, governance, data, site or service approvals; and
- describe the intended future opportunities beyond the funded period.

University of Newcastle grant holder eligibility

The University of Newcastle formal grant holder may be from any College or School and must meet the following requirements:

- HDR students are not eligible to apply as the University grant holder;
- professional staff are not eligible to apply as the University grant holder;
- conjoint academic staff are eligible to apply;
- at the time of application, the grant holder must have a reasonable expectation of an appointment through to 31 December 2027, with a likelihood of extension; and
- Head of School endorsement is required before submission. Applicants will confirm this in the application form.

CCLHD participation

The CCLHD collaborator must have approval from their manager before submission. Applicants will confirm this in the application form.

The primary project contact may be from either the University of Newcastle or CCLHD. An individual may be the primary project contact on one application only but may be named as a collaborator on other applications.

Community and partner collaboration

Collaboration with community and other relevant stakeholders is encouraged. This may include consumers, carers, people with lived experience, community organisations, Aboriginal organisations, primary care, NGOs, industry, local government and other regional partners.

4 What the funding can cover

Budgets should be proportionate to the proposed work and directly support project delivery. Funding may support staff time where it is directly attributable to the funded project. Reasonable external partner costs directly related to project delivery may also be included.

Eligible costs may include	Not eligible
Staff time directly attributable to project delivery, including research assistant, project support or appropriate backfill costs	General salary support or staffing costs not specifically attributable to the funded project
Consumer, carer or lived experience contributor reimbursement	UON teaching buy-out

Eligible costs may include	Not eligible
Data, statistical, transcription, analysis, workshop or engagement costs	Conference travel
Project materials, software or licences directly required for project delivery, local project travel and reasonable external partner costs	Equipment
Other justified project costs directly related to project delivery	Activities already fully funded through another source

5 How to apply

Applications will be submitted through the Microsoft Forms application. Applicants will provide concise information about:

- the project, team, relevant CCRI theme(s), duration and funding requested;
- the Central Coast priority and rationale;
- the proposed approach and expected outputs;
- collaboration and any relevant community, consumer or service-user involvement;
- likely approvals, risks and dependencies;
- a completed CCRI Collaboration Grants Budget; and
- the intended next step beyond the funded period.

Applicants may contact CCRI during the open round with questions about the funding round or for support identifying a University of Newcastle or CCLHD collaborator. Named University of Newcastle and CCLHD collaborators and agreed project roles must be in place by submission. Contact: ccri@newcastle.edu.au.

6 Assessment

Applications will be assessed against the criteria below by an assessment panel with University of Newcastle, CCLHD and CCRI representation.

Criterion	Weight
Central Coast relevance and benefit	25%
Strength and authenticity of collaboration	25%
Alignment with CCRI themes and/or priorities	15%
Feasibility, budget and timeline	15%
Community, consumer, carer or service-user relevance	10%
Pathway to future funding, translation, implementation or impact	10%

The panel may approve the amount requested or recommend partial funding. Funding decisions will be based on application quality and available funding. Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback.

7 Funding conditions

Successful teams will be expected to use funds for approved purposes, complete the project within the agreed timeframe, obtain any required approvals before relevant activities commence, and provide a short progress update and final report. All grant funds must be fully spent by 31 December 2027. Teams may also be asked to provide a plain-language project summary or participate in a CCRI showcase or update.

8 Key dates

Date	Activity
31 August 2026	Applications open
5:00 pm Friday 30 October 2026	Applications close
Late 2026	Applicants notified of outcomes
Early 2027	Projects expected to commence