



National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy 2022 Guidelines

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Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact: Tony Rothnie Director, National Research Infrastructure Program Management 02 6240 2463 NCRIS@education.gov.au Questions may be sent at any time.
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1. National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy 2022 Guidelines

The National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Education (Education) Outcome 2.6. Education works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines*¹.



The grant opportunity opens

These Guidelines implement urgent measures agreed by the Government in its consideration of the 2021 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap. They complement earlier NCRIS Guidelines by refreshing and resetting investment levels to 30 June 2028 to ensure continuing operation of priority projects from 2023-24 to 2027-28 only.

Eligible parties are invited to submit information on potential grants.



You submit information to Education

You provide information that addresses the challenges in the 2021 National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap. You address all eligibility and other criteria to be considered for a grant.



We assess all information received

We assess all data collected during the submission process, which may include advice from sources other than submissions from entities seeking grants.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of the funding package based on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your submission if it proposed a grant. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

We will enter into a grant agreement with you if successful. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved. If you have been successful in a previous Research Infrastructure Investment Plan, your previous grant agreement may be varied to include this additional grant.

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines>



Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.

We may seek to vary the activity following other activities to implement the 2021 and/or future NRI Roadmaps.



Evaluation of NCRIS

We evaluate your specific grant activity and NCRIS as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) grants to implement actions in response to the 2021 NRI Roadmap².

Grants under NCRIS are awarded through investment planning processes. These processes respond to recommendations in a National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program and grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how potential grants are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

2. About the grant program

Objectives

The objectives of NCRIS are:

- to catalyse and support a national network of research infrastructure projects
- through this network, support high quality research that will drive greater innovation in the Australian research sector and the economy more broadly
- offer seamless access to National Research Infrastructure to empower Australian researchers to address key national and global challenges
- to support collaboration between researchers and other end users, such as industry both nationally and internationally.

Context

NCRIS was established by the Government following the March 2004 *Final Report of the National Research Infrastructure Taskforce*. In establishing NCRIS, the Australian Government recognised its role in bringing a more strategic direction to Australia's investment in research infrastructure. In the 2004-05 Budget, the Government announced that NCRIS would be implemented to provide the greater focus and coordination required.

NCRIS adopts a principles-based approach through the development of Roadmaps. The following Roadmaps³ have been developed and released by the Government:

- 2006 NCRIS Strategic Roadmap
- 2008 Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure
- 2011 Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure
- 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap
- 2021 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap.

² <https://www.education.gov.au/national-research-infrastructure/2021-national-research-infrastructure-roadmap>

³ <https://www.education.gov.au/national-research-infrastructure>

Roadmaps have been guided by relevant Principles. The principles have evolved over time and build on the foundation of previous Roadmaps. In the 2021 Roadmap a new set of NRI Principles were adopted which are complemented by a separate set of NRI Investment Principles that guide funding decisions. The NRI Principles as set out in the 2021 Roadmap are:

- NRI maximises the capability of the research and innovation system to contribute to economic outcomes, national security, social wellbeing and environmental sustainability
- Research infrastructure is collaborative and planned in a way to provide a network of capabilities that serve the national interest and are aligned to government priorities
- NRI includes people, skills and knowledge, data, processes and equipment
- NRI resources are focused to achieve maximum impact in national priority areas
- NRI is managed to deliver maximum impact as efficiently as possible. Synergies with complementary and related capabilities drive an ecosystem of support for researchers
- NRI is widely accessible to researchers and industry across Australia. Barriers to access are as low as practicable
- NRI enhances participation of researchers in, and provides access to, the international research system
- NRI is respectful to Indigenous cultures and knowledges, and adopts the principles of Indigenous self-determination, leadership, impact and value, and sustainability and accountability as outlined in the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research

In addition, the 2021 Roadmap also set out NRI Investment Principles:

- Funding for investment in NRI is in areas of national significance that can demonstrably support Australia's research and innovation system
- Investment should balance the long-term nature of NRI development, together with changes in national priorities and identified gaps in the research and innovation system
- Investment should produce NRI that facilitates and enhances industry and international engagement
- Investment cases describe the intended impact and reflect the resources and governance needed to develop and manage world-class research infrastructure capability. These include the equipment, processes, data, skills and knowledge needed to deliver maximum value
- Investment encourages and leverages opportunities for co-investment from states and territories, university, public and private sectors
- Investment supports the development of a cohesive suite of NRI that strives to create an ecosystem of seamless services for researchers.

As a result of the application of a series of principles, Australia today is the beneficiary of internationally recognised and highly efficient research infrastructure that consistently delivers outstanding returns. It has been developed through the implementation of strategic roadmaps funded by successive Australian Governments, with support from state and territory governments, universities, and research agencies.

The 2021 Roadmap identified that funding stability since 2017-2018 has resulted in the development of a strong suite of NRI underpinned by a highly skilled workforce. This stability needs to be maintained in recognition of the long-term operations of NRI.

The 2021 Roadmap identified eight challenges as the focus of Australian research over the next five to ten years. These challenges have significant impact for Australia and around the world.

Using a challenge framework to support NRI planning and investment assists our research effort to address the big issues facing Australia. The challenges are:

- Resources Technology and Critical Minerals Processing
- Food and Beverage
- Medical Products
- Recycling and Clean Energy
- Defence
- Space
- Environment and Climate
- Frontier Technologies and Modern Manufacturing.

Funding

NCRIS funding is provided through the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA) and Research Infrastructure Investment Plans. From 2017-18 through to 2028-29 the funding provided by successive Governments to support NCRIS comprises \$4 billion:

- 2017-18 ongoing – National Innovation and Science Agenda total funding of \$2.1 billion to 2028-29 (\$150 million per annum, indexed)
 - provides base operating funding
- 2017-18 to 2028-29 – Research Infrastructure Investment Plan (Investment Plan) funding of \$1.9 billion
 - which provides capital refresh funding and additional operating funding

Note that ‘capital’ refers to the definition of research infrastructure relevant to NCRIS, i.e., “Nationally significant assets, facilities and services and associated expertise to support leading-edge research and innovation.”⁴

Intended outcome

The intended outcome of NCRIS is to create a networked set of national research infrastructure (NRI) projects that collaboratively, efficiently and effectively address the Government’s research infrastructure investment priorities by:

- providing critical services and facilities enabling research across a whole spectrum of research
- to the maximum extent possible, offer seamless provision of services and facilities to researchers and research communities
- maintaining a national research infrastructure system that delivers research excellence to drive innovation
- leveraging on strong long-term industry and research partnerships to deliver future jobs and economic growth.

Current state

The 2021 Roadmap identified the need for ongoing stability for Australia’s current NRI. Grants under these Guidelines will provide this stability through continuation of basic operational funding for all 24 NCRIS projects, as well as the continuation of associate membership of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory⁵. The 24 projects are delivered through collaborations with

⁴ Page 10, 2021 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap.

⁵ See Recommendation 2, page 2, 2021 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap

approximately 200 delivery partners comprising universities, publicly funded research agencies and dedicated not-for-profit companies.

These Guidelines provide an extension of timeframe and funding to provide certainty of provision of services to researchers and research communities

Grants under these Guidelines are additional to grants in the NCRIS 2021 Guidelines and earlier NCRIS Guidelines.

Future grant opportunities

Future grant opportunities may arise through the Government's implementation of the 2021 NRI Roadmap.

These opportunities are expected to consider further investments in NRI that will identify, prioritise and enable funding to:

- expand the NRI required to meet the 2021 Roadmap challenges, including other priority areas of NRI identified in the 2021 Roadmap, but not currently funded by NCRIS
- address System-wide enhancements identified in the 2021 Roadmap
- address the Step Changes identified in the 2021 Roadmap, including implementation of the National Digital Research Infrastructure Strategy.

You can register your interest in the processes to develop these at:

researchinfrastructure@education.gov.au

We administer the program according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines* (CGRGs)⁶.

2.1 About the NCRIS 2022 grant opportunity

This grant opportunity is to implement agreed, initial actions to implement the 2021 NRI Roadmap through NCRIS.

- The 2021 Roadmap was released on 7 April 2022 and identifies the priority projects to have invested continued.
- Grant under these Guidelines will refresh NCRIS investments to 30 June 2028 by adjusting operating funding only for investments identified in Finding 1 and Recommendation 2 of the 2021 Roadmap.
- This funding will underpin the performance of the NCRIS network until 2027-28.
- The objective of this grant opportunity is to provide continuing NCRIS investments as recommended in the 2021 Roadmap.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are to:

- continue support for world-class research by funding investment in critical research infrastructure
- give certainty to researchers, research communities that their research will continue to be supported
- provide a signal, to co-investors, of the Australian Government's future NRI investment priorities. This will allow co-investors to plan their involvement in NRI projects and secure their co-investment funding.

⁶ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines>

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$4 billion over 12 years for NCRIS. From this amount, for this grant opportunity, approximately \$0.9 billion is available over five years (2023-24 to 2027-28).

Grants under the NCRIS 2022 Guidelines will set the foundation of the NRI system by providing NCRIS projects with basic operational funding. This funding provides certainty that research infrastructure will be available to researchers and research communities by continuing basic operating funding in anticipation of further opportunities to implement the 2021 NRI Roadmap.

The grant opportunity will run from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

Funding available for each project will be either

- a continuation of the base operating funding formula amounts using the approach established in the 2013 NCRIS Guidelines, indexed to increase by 1.5 per cent each year, or
- where a project is not receiving base operating funding in 2022-23, the additional operating funding amounts (as indexed) identified through the 2018 or 2020 Investment Plans (and implemented through the 2018 and 2021 NCRIS Guidelines), indexed in accordance with the Whole of Government indexation exercise.

Given this approach to funding as set out above, there is no separately set:

- There is no minimum grant amount.
- There is no maximum grant amount, but grants cannot exceed the amount of available funds.

You are required to contribute towards the grant activities and seek other contributions. While there is no required minimum level of other contributions to be achieved, it is expected other contributions will at least match the NCRIS grant for each project.

3.2 Grant period

The maximum grant period is five years (i.e., 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028).

You must complete your grant by 30 June 2028. Following the grant period, a final annual report is required within six months.

4. Eligibility criteria

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

This grant opportunity is a closed, non-competitive selection process. The purpose of the grant opportunity is to implement Recommendation 2 of the 2021 Roadmap by continuing NCRIS projects implementing NRI facilities (refer Section 2.1). Eligible organisations are therefore those that have previously received funding through the NCRIS 2018 Guidelines and/or the NCRIS 2021 Guidelines to implement NRI facilities.

Eligible organisations and the associated projects for a grant are listed in Appendix B.

4.2 Assessment of eligibility

All eligible projects and facilities will be informed of their eligibility by Education. Education will advise NCRIS projects and facilities in writing of their eligibility, the grant amount and process requirements for that project or facility.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your grant activity must:

- operate and/or manage an identified, continuing NCRIS project to effectively support Australian researchers and research communities in line with the Objectives of NCRIS (refer Section 2)
- provide NRI in line with the 2021 Roadmap definition, i.e.
 - “NRI comprises the nationally significant assets, facilities, services and associated expertise to support leading-edge research and innovation. It is accessible to publicly and privately funded users across Australia and internationally”
- be agreed to in writing by Education. This is typically done through the Activity Plan format supplied in the grant agreement.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on agreed project activities.

Eligible expenditure items are:

- operation, management and governance costs
- salaries and on-costs for technical staff
- infrastructure maintenance
- infrastructure upgrades
- utilities
- rent
- consumables
- international travel and engagement
- industry and end user engagement
- outreach activities
- indirect costs of researchers using NCRIS infrastructure, such as researcher accommodation, where it is necessary for the supervision of research experiments and no reasonable alternative exists, for example the infrastructure is located out of a metropolitan area
- project wind-up for any project identified for defunding
- scoping activities required to effectively investigate potential new projects identified in Investment Plans or as otherwise determined by the Minister for Education
- other, single cost activities that enhance the research infrastructure openly accessible by Australian researchers (examples might include international access or membership fees)
- other agreed expenses necessary for the proper functioning of the national research infrastructure project.

We may update the guidelines on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. The version in place when you received your grant applies to your grant activity.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- approval, compliance or other activities associated with Commonwealth Property Management Framework and/or Two-Stage-Capital Works processes
- administrative activities that are not directly applicable to, and additionally incurred for, the operation of the project, unless the primary role of your entity is the management of a National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy project
- the same specific, identifiable costs for which you receive funding from another Commonwealth government source. For example, grant money should only meet residual and unmet costs associated with research infrastructure funded in whole or in part by the Australian Research Council's Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities program.

6. The assessment criteria

Grants under these Guidelines are to provide basic operating funding to maintain the operation of existing NRI in anticipation of future opportunities arising from the implementation of the 2021 NRI Roadmap in late 2022. Grants as described in your proposal are considered against the following criteria:

- alignment with Australian Government priorities, including
 - at least one of the eight challenges in the 2021 Roadmap⁷ (refer Section 2)
 - at least one of the priority investments in the 2020 Investment Plan⁸
 - where relevant, support for other Government priorities, including, but not limited to, the *National Reconstruction Fund*.

Weighting: 20 per cent

- requirement for investment to meet research community needs, including at least one factor showing that funding is required from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028

Weighting: 20 per cent

- total cost to maintain or deliver priority national research infrastructure

Weighting: 20 per cent

⁷ <https://www.education.gov.au/national-research-infrastructure/2021-national-research-infrastructure-roadmap>

⁸ <https://www.education.gov.au/2020-research-infrastructure-investment-plan/resources/2020-research-infrastructure-investment-plan>

- benefits to researchers, including, but not limited to, continued access to existing NRI, access to new types of research infrastructure and the expected impacts on the timeliness, quality and scope of research that can be conducted

Weighting: 20 per cent

- strategic balance across the national research infrastructure network
 - The project, in conjunction with other NCRIS projects, addresses the scope of the 2021 Roadmap Challenges

Weighting: 20 per cent

7. How to submit information

You should propose to Education how you will expend grant funding on activities. The proposal should address:

- the objective of the activity
- anticipated achievements
- key challenges and risks
- duration
- methodology
- key performance indicators and associated targets and dates
- the budget for the activity.

If You were selected to provide information, You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code 1995](#) and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you find an error after submitting it, you should contact us immediately at NCRIS@education.gov.au.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

We will acknowledge that we have received your application within three working days.

7.1 Joint (consortia) project delivery

We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a group to deliver a project.

In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group. A joint consortia arrangement does not have any impact on the total grant funds to be allocated or reduce funding for other individual organisations which apply.

You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the agreement.

7.2 Timing of grant opportunity processes

The 2021 Roadmap has been approved by the Australian Government and announced.

Negotiation and award of new grant agreements is expected to occur within twelve months of the release of these guidelines. It is expected they will be executed by 30 June 2023.

If you are awarded a grant, we expect you will be able to commence your grant activity in July 2023.

7.3 Questions during the submission process

If you have any questions, please contact Education by emailing NCRIS@education.gov.au.

Education will respond to emailed questions within five working days.

8. The grant selection process

8.1 Consideration of potential grants

We will assess your application against the assessment criteria (see Section 6). We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- the overall objectives to be achieved in providing the grant
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the evidence in your proposal demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives
- how the grant will target support to researchers and research groups in line with the 2021 Roadmap challenges
- how the grant will complement research infrastructure funded through the 2020 Investment Plan.

8.2 Who will assess submissions?

An assessment committee will assess each submission on its merit before recommending which grant submissions should be awarded a grant. The assessment committee will be made up of an assessment panel that will make recommendations to the Assessment Panel Chairperson:

Assessment Panel Chairperson – Assistant Secretary, Research Policy and Programs Branch

Assessment Panel Member – Director

Assessment Panel Member – Director

Assessment Panel Member – Assistant Director

Assessment Panel Member – Assistant Director

Assessment Panel Member – Policy Officer

Assessment Panel Member – Program Officer

We may ask external experts/advisors to inform the assessment process. Any expert/advisor, who is not a Commonwealth Official, will be required/expected to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRGs.

The assessment committee may seek additional information about you or your submission. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. The assessment committee may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

The assessment committee recommends to the Program Delegate which applications to approve for a grant.

8.3 Who will approve grants?

Financial approval of grants under Section 23(3) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act (PGPA)* will be made by the First Assistant Secretary, Research Division, Department of Education, or other relevant delegate in accordance with Education's Accountable Authority Instructions and financial delegations, taking into account Government decisions on the package of measures to implement an initial response to the 2021 NRI Roadmap and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

9. Notification of grant outcomes

If your submission included a proposal for grant funding, we will advise you of the outcome in writing. If you were successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

You can submit a new proposal for the same grant (or a similar grant) in any future grant opportunities under the program. You should include new or more information to address any weaknesses that may have prevented your previous submission from being successful.

9.1 Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, you may ask for feedback within one month of being advised of the outcome. We will give written feedback within one month of your request.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Each agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. Sample grant agreements are available on GrantConnect.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until a grant agreement is executed. If you choose to start your grant activities before you have an executed grant agreement, you do so at your own risk.

Your grant agreement may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate. We will identify these in the agreement.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

Standard Grant Agreement

We will use a standard grant agreement.

You will have 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

You may request changes to the grant agreement. However, we will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the grant as approved by the Program Delegate.

10.2 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid
- schedule of payments
- schedule of deliverable milestones
- reporting requirements.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the grant activity.

10.3 Grants Payments and GST

Payments will be 'GST Inclusive'. If you are registered for the [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#), where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a [Recipient Created Tax Invoice](#).

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#).⁹ We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

11. Announcement of grants

Grants will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.3 of the [CGRGs](#).

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant activity or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

⁹ <https://www.ato.gov.au/>

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2 Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide sample templates for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed grant activity milestones and outcomes
- contributions of participants and other parties directly related to the grant activity
- expenditure of the grant.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount.

We will monitor progress by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

Progress reports

Progress reports must:

- include evidence of your progress towards completion of agreed activities and outcomes
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- be in the format provided in the grant agreement
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant activities).

We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.

You must discuss any reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your grant. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the grant activity.

Final report

When you complete the grant activity or project, you must submit a final report.

Final reports must:

- identify if and how outcomes have been achieved
- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred
- be submitted within 90 days of completion in the format provided in the grant agreement.

12.3 Audited financial acquittal report

We may ask you to provide a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money.

We may ask you to provide an independently audited financial acquittal report. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. The financial acquittal report template is attached to the sample grant agreement.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by sending a written request to NCRIS@education.gov.au.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6 Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also interview you, or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

12.8 Acknowledgement

The program logo should be used on all materials related to grants under the program. Whenever the logo is used, the publication must also acknowledge the Commonwealth as follows:

'NCRIS – an Australian Government initiative'.

If you make a public statement about a grant activity or project funded under the program, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

'This activity received grant funding from the Australian Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy.'

13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRGs.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by Education. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on GrantConnect.

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

Education's Complaint Handling Policy, found at www.education.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/complaints, applies to complaints about this grant opportunity. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to ResearchInfrastructure@education.gov.au.

If you do not agree with the way Education has handled your complaint, you may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman¹⁰. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with Education.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if Education staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or member of an external panel
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/ grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform Education in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

¹⁰ <https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by Education would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

13.4 Confidential Information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
2. the information is commercially sensitive
3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of Education so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, and
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Coordinator Schools, Child Care and Corporate Legal Branch

Location Code: C50MA10 - LEGAL GPO BOX 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601 By email:

FOI@education.gov.au

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
co-sponsoring entity	when two or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Commonwealth entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.

Term	Definition
grant	<p>for the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money¹¹ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money¹² is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant
GrantConnect	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single [entity] Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant
PBS Program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.

¹¹ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

¹² Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
publicly funded research agency	these include Australian higher education providers listed in the Higher Education Support Act 2003, and federal, state and territory government departments or agencies which undertake publicly funded research.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
value with money	<p>value with money in this document refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of the project proposal and activities; • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; • that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and • the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.

Appendix A. Principles

The NRI Principles as set out in the 2021 Roadmap are:

- NRI maximises the capability of the research and innovation system to contribute to economic outcomes, national security, social wellbeing and environmental sustainability
- Research infrastructure is collaborative and planned in a way to provide a network of capabilities that serve the national interest and are aligned to government priorities
- NRI includes people, skills and knowledge, data, processes and equipment
- NRI resources are focused to achieve maximum impact in national priority areas
- NRI is managed to deliver maximum impact as efficiently as possible. Synergies with complementary and related capabilities drive an ecosystem of support for researchers
- NRI is widely accessible to researchers and industry across Australia. Barriers to access are as low as practicable
- NRI enhances participation of researchers in, and provides access to, the international research system
- NRI is respectful to Indigenous cultures and knowledges, and adopts the principles of Indigenous self-determination, leadership, impact and value, and sustainability and accountability as outlined in the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research

The NRI Investment Principles as set out in the 2021 Roadmap are:

- Funding for investment in NRI is in areas of national significance that can demonstrably support Australia's research and innovation system
- Investment should balance the long-term nature of NRI development, together with changes in national priorities and identified gaps in the research and innovation system
- Investment should produce NRI that facilitates and enhances industry and international engagement
- Investment cases describe the intended impact and reflect the resources and governance needed to develop and manage world-class research infrastructure capability. These include the equipment, processes, data, skills and knowledge needed to deliver maximum value
- Investment encourages and leverages opportunities for co-investment from states and territories, university, public and private sectors
- Investment supports the development of a cohesive suite of NRI that strives to create an ecosystem of seamless services for researchers

Appendix B. Grants awarded by the NCRIS 2022 Guidelines

This table displays the grants that have been awarded (subject to any indexation) in accordance with Section 3.1 of these Guidelines.

Payment of any grant amount is subject to:

- the execution of a funding agreement or funding agreement variation (as appropriate)
- provision by the lead agent (grantee) of deliverables under that agreement that are satisfactory to Education, in accordance with the terms of the funding agreement or funding agreement variation (as appropriate).

It contains:

- the name of the NCRIS Project;
- the grantee, also known as the Lead Agent, for the Project;
- the type of the funding, which may be base operating or additional operating; and
- the maximum GST exclusive amount that will be paid in each financial year during the grant period.

NCRIS Project Name	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Lead Agent name (Grantee)					
• Type of funding					
Australian Community Climate and Earth-System Simulator (ACCESS) <i>Australian National University</i>					
• Base operating	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
• Additional operating	\$3,361,815	\$3,412,242	\$3,463,426	\$3,515,377	\$3,568,108
• Capital	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Astronomy <i>Astronomy Australia Ltd</i>					
• Base operating	\$10,378,392	\$10,534,068	\$10,692,079	\$10,852,460	\$11,015,247
• Capital (ATNF – ASKAP)	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
• Operating (ATNF - ASKAP)	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Atlas of Living Australia <i>CSIRO</i>					
• Base operating	\$5,527,609	\$5,610,523	\$5,694,681	\$5,780,101	\$5,866,803
• Additional operating	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
• Capital	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
AuScope <i>AuScope Ltd</i>					
• Base operating	\$8,745,770	\$8,876,956	\$9,010,111	\$9,145,262	\$9,282,441
• Additional operating	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
• Capital	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness formerly named the Australia Animal Health Laboratory <i>CSIRO</i>					
• Base operating	\$1,744,446	\$1,770,613	\$1,797,172	\$1,824,129	\$1,851,491
• Additional operating	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
• Capital	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-

NCRIS Project Name	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Lead Agent name (Grantee)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type of funding 					
Microscopy Australia, formerly named the Australian Microscopy and Microanalysis Facility <i>University of Sydney</i>	\$4,276,363	\$4,340,509	\$4,405,617	\$4,471,701	\$4,538,776
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$
Australian National Fabrication Facility <i>Australian National Fabrication Facility Ltd</i>	\$14,638,276	\$14,857,850	\$15,080,718	\$15,306,929	\$15,536,533
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$
Phenomics Australia, formerly the Australian Phenomics Network <i>Australian National University</i>	\$5,243,931	\$5,322,589	\$5,402,428	\$5,483,465	\$5,565,717
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$
Australian Plant Phenomics Facility <i>University of Adelaide</i>	\$4,416,438	\$4,482,684	\$4,549,924	\$4,618,173	\$4,687,446
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$
Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network <i>University of Melbourne</i>	\$2,496,606	\$2,534,055	\$2,572,066	\$2,610,647	\$2,649,806
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$
BioPlatforms Australia <i>BioPlatforms Australia Ltd</i>	\$16,584,005	\$16,832,765	\$17,085,256	\$17,341,535	\$17,601,658
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$
Australian Research Data Commons <i>Australian Research Data Commons Ltd</i>	\$23,213,369	\$23,561,569	\$23,914,993	\$24,273,718	\$24,637,823
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$	\$-\$

NCRIS Project Name	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Lead Agent name (Grantee)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type of funding 					
Heavy Ion Accelerators <i>Australian National University</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$1,871,572	\$1,899,645	\$1,928,140	\$1,957,062	\$1,986,418
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Integrated Marine Observing System <i>University of Tasmania</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$18,442,358	\$18,718,994	\$18,999,778	\$19,284,775	\$19,574,047
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Marine National Facility <i>University of Tasmania</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$6,151,450	\$7,908,486	\$6,367,879	\$6,475,452	\$6,585,681
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
National Computational Infrastructure <i>Australian National University</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$6,463,395	\$6,560,346	\$6,658,751	\$6,758,633	\$6,860,012
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
National Deuteration Facility <i>ANSTO</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$716,847	\$727,599	\$738,513	\$749,591	\$760,835
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
National Imaging Facility <i>University of Queensland</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$3,517,141	\$3,569,899	\$3,623,447	\$3,677,799	\$3,732,966
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
National Sea Simulator <i>Australian Institute of Marine Science</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$7,275,496	\$7,419,782	\$7,558,679	\$7,590,221	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-

NCRIS Project Name	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Lead Agent name (Grantee)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type of funding 					
Nuclear Science Facility (ACNS and CAS) <i>ANSTO</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$7,760,547	\$7,876,955	\$7,995,109	\$8,115,036	\$8,236,762
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Pawsey Supercomputing Centre <i>CSIRO</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$6,805,927	\$6,908,016	\$7,011,636	\$7,116,811	\$7,223,563
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Population Health Research Network <i>University of Western Australia</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$5,126,222	\$5,203,115	\$5,281,162	\$5,360,379	\$5,440,785
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Southern Coastal Research Vessels <i>South Australian Research and Development Institute</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$760,640	\$778,167	\$801,535	\$890,105	\$916,835
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Therapeutic Innovation Australia, formerly named Translating Health Discovery <i>Therapeutic Innovation Australia Ltd</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$4,372,885	\$4,438,478	\$4,505,055	\$4,572,631	\$4,641,221
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network <i>University of Queensland</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$7,114,325	\$7,221,040	\$7,329,355	\$7,439,296	\$7,550,885
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
European Molecular Biology Laboratory <i>Australia's membership</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base operating Additional operating Capital 	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-

