

# NSW Translational Research Grants Scheme: Guide for applicants seeking partnership

22 May 2025

This guide is for applicants seeking partnership or involvement from the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) in NSW Health Translational Research Grant Scheme (TRGS) proposals.

## About the ACI

The ACI is the lead agency for innovation in clinical care, bringing clinicians, consumers and system leaders together to design and implement new ways to deliver healthcare in NSW. Our vision is to create the future of healthcare, and healthier futures for the people of NSW.

TRGS applicants are encouraged to identify and engage with relevant partners and agencies for the effective delivery of their research project and implementation of the outcomes in NSW.

To facilitate meaningful engagement, review and support of applications in a timely manner, an early and ongoing dialogue is required with the relevant ACI directorate or program team.

To learn more about our strategic direction and focus, please refer to the [ACI Strategy 2023-26](#) and the [NSW Health Research and Innovation Strategy 2025-2030](#).

Note: ACI maintains confidentiality through limited sharing of proposal information to only those necessary to provide support and endorsement.

## Partnering with the ACI

Applicants seeking ACI partnership or involvement in their TRGS proposals should discuss their proposal with the relevant ACI network, institute or team while the proposal is in draft form. Initial contact should occur as soon as possible.

Send a draft TRGS proposal to the ACI as soon as possible to allow time for ACI staff to review the proposal. This should document the ACI's proposed role and resource commitments, outlining the:

- person you have contacted at the ACI; their role and network, Institute or team
- nature and extent of support requested from the ACI
- anticipated time commitment required from ACI staff.

## Review of requests

Requests for ACI partnership or involvement will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the **ACI Strategy**.
- Alignment with specific priorities within the partnering ACI network, institute or team.
- The capacity of ACI staff to support with the initiative.
- The planned research addresses a key gap for ACI.
- The proposal aligns with any aspect of the ACI's "research pyramid" to promote innovation or do research (see the **ACI Strategy**).

A decision on ACI partnership or involvement will be provided to applicants in writing at least one week prior to the submission closing date.

## Assessment of full proposals

Clarity regarding the role of the ACI and/or ACI staff should be obtained when developing the full application. Draft full applications must be sent to the relevant ACI network, institute or team involved at least one month prior to the closing date to allow ACI staff to provide adequate feedback.

## Final partnership approvals

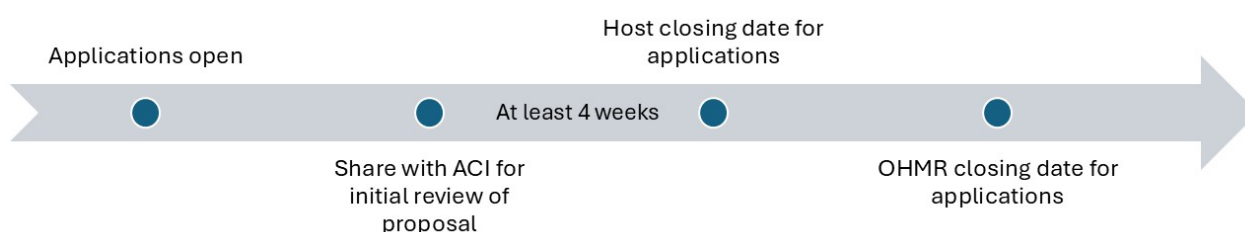
Applications listing ACI as a partner organisation require the approval and signature of an ACI Executive Director. Once the ACI's role in the proposal has been confirmed, please allow at least two weeks for this process.

## Levels of partnership

The figure below outlines the different levels of partnership with the ACI that TRGS applications may consider when approaching the ACI for support.

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular updates provided to ACI</li> <li>• Results might inform ACI activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research team seeks advice from ACI on an as-needed basis</li> <li>• General advice on scale up and spread, stakeholder engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACI actively contributes to an advisory committee, steering committee and/or working group</li> <li>• ACI actively supports knowledge dissemination among networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACI contributes to the co-design of the project, running one or more parts of the project, or analysis of data</li> <li>• Project findings can be directly integrated into ACI activities</li> </ul>

## Timeline



## Enquiries and contacts

### ACI networks, institutes and teams

<https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks>

### General enquiries

For general research enquiries, and to provide feedback on this process, please contact the ACI Research Manager at [aci-research@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aci-research@health.nsw.gov.au)

## Acknowledgement

This guide is based on the following documents:

- ACI. Translational Research Grants Scheme: Guide to applicants seeking ACI endorsement. (2018; 2020; 2024)
- CEC. Guide for applicants seeking CEC partnerships: NSW Translational Research Grants Scheme. (2020; 2025)

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