

**GICS Service
Improvement Grants
Program 2025/ 26**

Guidelines

1. Background

The Grampians Regional Integrated Cancer Service (GICS) is one of the nine Victorian Integrated Cancer Services (VICS) funded by the Department of Health (DH). It is governed by representatives from public and private health services, primary care, consumers and the DH. Grampians Health is the host organisation for GICS.

GICS has allocated funding and resources towards a service improvement grants program in 2025 for organisations providing specialist and generalist cancer services to residents of the Grampians region. The grants provide funding to organisations within the Grampians region to undertake projects that will deliver improvements in systems and processes and thereby improve treatment and support for people diagnosed with cancer in the region. It is anticipated that the findings of these projects be shared across the region to inform subsequent service improvement activity.

These grants will target time-limited service improvement projects of up to 18 months (including project plan writing, implementation and evaluation) that cannot be funded within existing health services' resources.

2. Funding Program

The 2025 funding round will consist of Cancer Service Improvement Grants that address one or more of the Action Areas from the [Victorian Cancer Plan 2024-28](#) and one or more of the seven steps of the Optimal Care Pathways (refer to Appendix 1).

Grant applications will be assessed, and funding allocation will be based on:

- the scope of the project
- budget proposal
- merit of the submission.

3. Application Criteria

All applications will be assessed by a panel for merit against the criteria outlined below:

1. How the project links with one or more of the Victorian Cancer Plan 2024-28 Pillar Actions and the Optimal Cancer Care Pathways.
2. Impact of expected benefits from the project:
 - sustainable change in service provision
 - coordinated care
 - improved patient experience and outcomes.
3. Extent to which the project can be specifically measured at commencement and completion inclusive of baseline information, progress indicators and outcome measures.
4. Value for money in terms of benefit, in-kind and direct support in the scope of the application.

5. Reach of the project, project team and sponsorship of the project, with appropriate skill sets to implement the project.
6. Evidence of patient/ consumer representation throughout the project.
7. Budget proposal, including costing of roles to be funded as part of the project.

Out of Scope

Applications **will not** be considered if funding has been allocated to the following:

- Recurrent positions
- Non-sustainable initiatives
- FTE for provision of direct patient care
- Purchasing of equipment for service delivery or software.

4. Eligibility

Eligible organisations must provide cancer treatment or supportive care to clients or carers in the Grampians region of Victoria, have an ABN and/ or are incorporated.

5. Application Process

1. It is mandatory for interested applicants to attend an Expression of Interest/ Planning meeting with GICS, prior to submitting an application.

To organise a time to meet with GICS, please email Vicki Hillis, GICS Administration Officer via GICS@gh.org.au with '**GICS Service Improvement Grant Program 2025 EOI**' in the email subject line.

To prepare for this meeting, consider your responses to the following:

- What is the problem or issue that needs to be addressed?
 - What is its magnitude & / or impact?
 - Define what success will look like for the project.
 - What and who would be involved in the project?
 - Outline project activities & realistic timeframes.
2. A separate application must be completed for every project funding proposal.
 - For those organisations submitting multiple submissions, the Chief Executive or organisational delegate must identify the order of priority.
 3. Applications will be shortlisted by the GICS Service Improvement Grants Program Panel (the Panel).
 4. The Panel will provide recommendations to the GICS Governance Group for final approval of project funding.

For Grant Process & Timeline Flowchart refer to Appendix 2.

6. Application Schedule

Date	Action
7 Oct 2025	Program launch at the GICS Annual Forum 20-year celebration
8 Oct 2025	Applications open
8 Oct – 4 Nov 2025	Planning meetings with GICS staff and GICS consumers
18 Nov 2025	Applications close
19 Nov – 28 Nov 2025	GICS assessment of applications
5 Dec 2025	Announcement of successful applications

Applications are to be submitted by 5:00pm on Tuesday 18 November 2025 to Vicki Hillis, GICS Administration Officer via:

GICS@gh.org.au with 'GICS Service Improvement Grant Program 2025' in the email subject line.

An email acknowledgment will be provided.

7. Conditions of Funding and Reporting Requirements

The applicant must be prepared to sign a Service Level Agreement with Grampians Health as host agency for GICS.

The applicant acknowledges the following:

- The project will be conducted in accordance with the application and the conditions stipulated in the GICS Service Improvement Grants Program 2025/ 26 Guidelines.
- Any deviation in the project from the original submission must be discussed and formally submitted in writing to GICS and documented in a project amendment form supplied by GICS. Approval will be on a case-by-case basis.
- Please note: any unapproved deviation may impact the funding for the project.
- Project deliverables, including status reports will be submitted as per an approved project plan including the provision of updates and raising issues effecting delivery timelines as appropriate.

- A final report (including evaluation outcomes and expenditure report) will be submitted within 8 weeks of project completion and endorsed by the GICS Governance Group at the completion of the project (templates provided by GICS).
- Information on the project, including any tools/ resources developed, will be made available on the GICS website to enable information sharing for the benefit of cancer patients and carers.
- Half of project funds will be paid on the receipt of a signed project agreement from successful applicants with the remainder of funds paid on project completion.
- The successful lead applicant may be required to present their experience at a GICS event for up to 12 months after project completion and may be asked to participate in a survey evaluating the GICS Service Improvement Grants program.
- GICS must be acknowledged as a project partner within all relevant communications.

8. Additional Information

For further information on the GICS Service Improvement Grants Program or if any questions regarding the application form, please contact:

Ms Kirsten Ives

GICS Cancer Service Improvement Facilitator

E – kirsten.ives@gh.org.au

P – 5320 6675

Or

Ms Vicki Hillis

GICS Administration Officer

E – GICS@gh.org.au

P – 5320 4782

Appendix 1: Victorian Cancer Plan 2024-2028 Pillar Actions

1. Consumers are active partners in their health and wellbeing

- 1.1: Improve and promote accessible information to consumers
- 1.2: Collect, monitor and respond to consumer feedback in care, service delivery and system design
- 1.3: Improve the availability of culturally responsive screening and care services for Aboriginal people living in Victoria
- 1.4: Improve access to appropriate services and care for priority populations

2. Empowering Victorians to prevent cancer

- 2.1: Support Victorians to quit smoking and continue to strengthen tobacco and e-cigarette controls
- 2.2: Support effective skin cancer prevention strategies
- 2.3: Support Victorians to live healthy, active lifestyles
- 2.4: Prevent cancers related to viral infections

3. Optimal access and care across the cancer pathway

- 3.1: Improve timely and equitable access to screening and diagnostic services, focussing on priority populations
- 3.2: Improve participation rates of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program
- 3.3: Support implementation of the National Lung Cancer Screening Program
- 3.4: Drive delivery of optimal care through uptake of Optimal Care Pathways
- 3.5: Ensure Victorians have access to the latest cancer treatments and clinical trials
- 3.6: Support initiatives to increase the number of women who rescreen for breast cancer
- 3.7: Support initiatives to increase access to palliative care

4. A workforce that can deliver now and into the future

- 4.1: Build and retain a strong cancer workforce with a focus on workforce gaps including regional and rural areas
- 4.2: Strengthen capability within the healthcare workforce to improve linkages across the cancer pathway
- 4.3: Build a strong supported Aboriginal workforce
- 4.4: Enhance partnerships between clinical, academic and research institutions to support innovation and the workforce of the future

5. System design and delivery driven by research, data and intelligence

5.1: Improve access to clinical trials in regional and rural areas

5.2: Improve understanding of cancer outcomes through expanded linked data

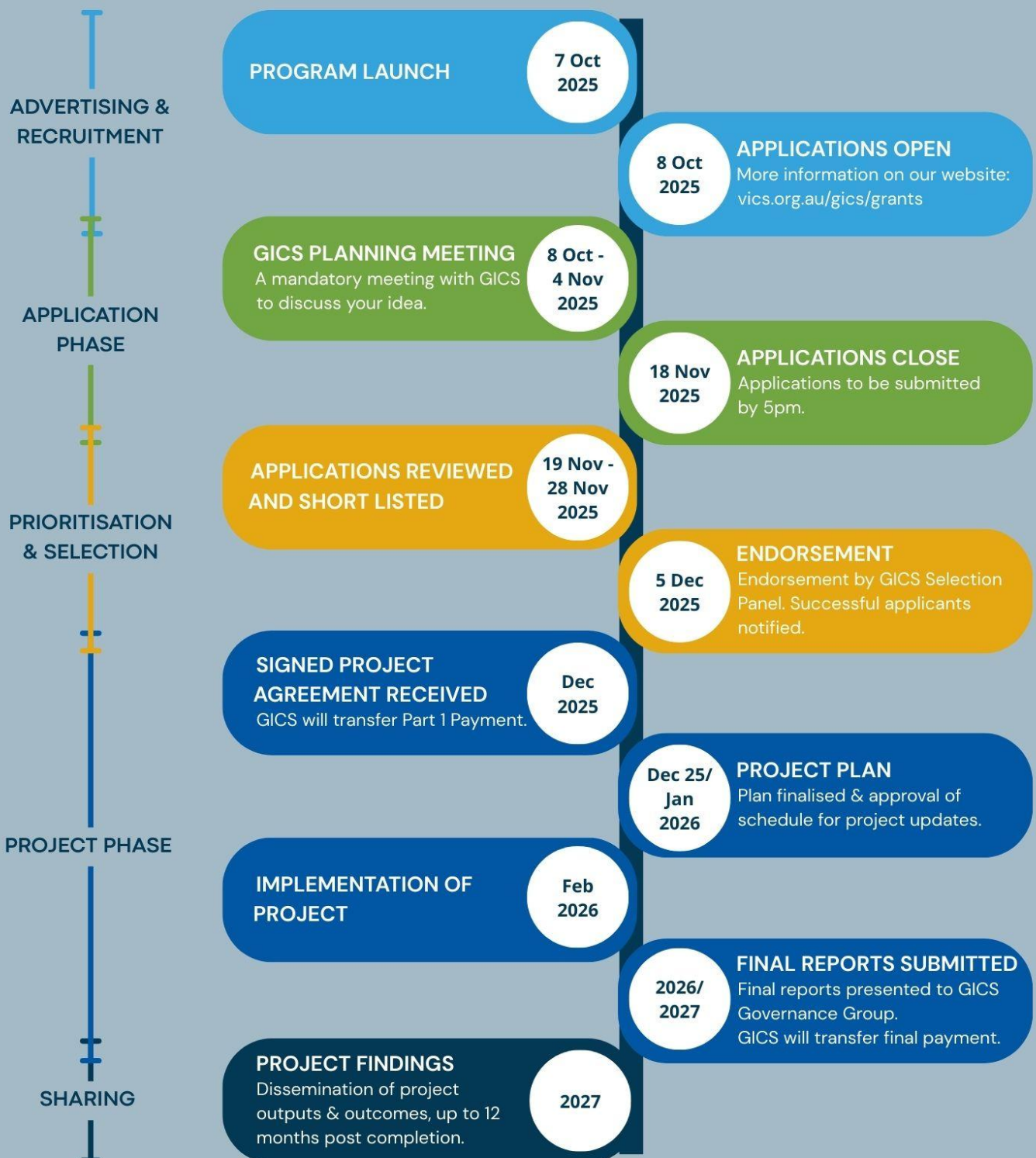
5.3: Improve access to cancer screening data to increase screening participation rates

5.4: Improve collection of, and access to, cancer staging data

Projects should also reflect one or more of the seven steps of the [Cancer Council Optimal Care Pathways](#).

Appendix 2: Application Process & Timeline Flowchart

GICS Service Improvement Grants 2025/ 26 PROCESS & TIMELINE



~ From ideas to impact:
empowering local innovation to improve
cancer care across the Grampians ~