

GRICS Service Improvement Grants

Guidelines 2026-2027

Background:

The Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Service (GRICS) is one of the nine Victorian Integrated Cancer Services (ICS) funded by the Victorian Government, Department of Health. It is governed by representatives from public, private and community health services, the Gippsland Primary Health Network, consumers and the Department of Health. Latrobe Regional Health is the host agency for GRICS.

GRICS is committed to working with its partner health service providers to continue improving cancer outcomes for Gippsland patients through the provision of Service Improvement Grants (SIG). These grants provide partner health service providers the opportunity to implement quality improvement and/or scoping projects that align with the Victorian Cancer Plan 2024-2028. These grants target time-limited projects that cannot be funded within existing health service resources.

Funding Availability and Priority Areas:

Grants of up to \$53,000 (excluding GST) are being offered for projects of 12 months in duration, that address one or more of the Action Areas from the Victorian Cancer Plan 2024-2028. Projects must conclude by 30 June 2027. Partner health service providers are able to apply for more than one grant and collaboration between multiple services is strongly encouraged.

Project applications that “improve equity of access to high quality cancer care” will be highly regarded. Particularly those that:

- Improve adoption of quality cancer care closer to home
- Address the needs of the older person in routine cancer care
- Strengthen understanding of priority population’s barriers and enablers to optimal cancer care and plan co-designed improvements to care
- Build on opportunities to improve access to supportive care across the patient’s cancer care journey.

Application and Selection Process:

1. Applications Open
23rd March 2026

- CEO’s of partner health providers notified by email.
- **GRICS SIG Application Form 2026-2027** to be completed and submitted to gricswebsite@lrh.com.au

2. Applications Close
8th May 2026

- Applications assessed by Selection Panel & scored in line with the **GRICS SIG Selection Criteria 2026-2027**. Panel consists of health professional and consumer representation.

3. Applications Assessed
18th May 2026

- Selection Panel provides approval recommendations to the GRICS Governance Group who determine final grant approval.

4. Applicants Notified
16th June 2026

- Where required Applicants may be asked to provide additional detail to the Selection Panel by 29th May 2026.

5. Projects Commence
1st July 2026

- Successful applicants to complete **Agreement to Participate** before project commencement.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The Lead Applicant must be:
 - a health professional (medical, nursing or allied health)
 - currently working in one of the GRICS partner health service providers
2. The proposal must be supported by the Line Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the Lead Applicant.
3. The project must be no longer than 12 months duration and conclude by 30 June 2027.
4. The following items are not eligible for funding under this Grants Program:
 - equipment (requests for funding for the purchase of equipment to support service change will be considered);
 - recurrent EFT
 - databases
 - reimbursement for service improvement activities that have already been funded
 - non-sustainable initiatives
5. Are consistent with the objectives of the GRICS and the Victorian Cancer Plan 2024-2028 (available from: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/health-strategies/cancer-care/victorian-cancer-plan>).

GRICS Partner Health Service Providers eligible to apply for a Service Improvement Grant		
Bairnsdale Regional Health Service	Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service (Bayside Health)	South Gippsland Hospital
Bass Coast Health (Bayside Health)	Latrobe Community Health Service	Yarram and District Health Service
Central Gippsland Health	Latrobe Regional Hospital	West Gippsland Healthcare Group
Gippsland Lakes Complete Health	Maryvale Private Hospital	
Gippsland Southern Health Service (Bayside Health)	Omeo District Health Service	
Gippsland PHN	Orbost Regional Health	

Conditions of Funding & Reporting Requirements:

The Chief Executive Officer of each successful health service will be required to sign a **GRICS Agreement to Participate**. The agreement will be provided to successful applicants and outlines the requirements of the successful health service, the lead applicant and GRICS including:

- Timelines
- Reporting
- Amendments to projects
- Expenditure of funds and payment
- Dispute Resolution
- Confidentiality
- Acknowledgements

The applicant acknowledges the following:

- A Mid Project Update Report and a Final Report will be required to be submitted.

Successful applicants may be asked to:

- Present their experience at a GRICS event for up to 12 months after project completion.
- Provide a short summary outlining the project, key outcomes and lessons learned for publication in the GRICS Newsletter / Website / Annual Report.
- Participate in a survey evaluating the GRICS Service Improvement Grants program.
- Meet onsite with the GRICS Service Improvement Grant Portfolio Holder to provide a project update.

Fund Release Schedule:

The **GRICS Agreement to Participate** outlines the funds release schedule. For 12-month projects, two payment instalments will occur at project commencement (70%) and completion of a satisfactory Final Report (30%). Applicants will need to provide a valid tax invoice for payment upon the completion of payment milestones to the satisfaction of GRICS.

Summary & Further Information:

Activity	Date
Applications open	23 rd March 2026
Applications close	8 th May 2026
Application submission method	By email to gricswebsite@lrh.com.au
Application Assessment	18 th May 2026
Additional information required (if applicable)	29 th May 2026
Intended notification of application outcome	16 th June 2026
Intended project commencement	1 st July 2026

For further information on GRICS Service Improvement Grants please contact:

GRICS Manager: Stewart Harper
Phone: 03 5173 8353
E-mail: Stewart.harper@lrh.com.au

Supporting Documents:

- GRICS Service Improvement Grants Application Form 2026-2027
- GRICS Service Improvement Grants Selection Criteria 2026-2027