SA Cervix Screening Program

Strategic Partnership Program Grants 2019/20 Guidelines

SA Cervix Screening Program (SACSP) Strategic Partnership grants of up to $5,500 are now available. This funding is available to plan, implement and evaluate cervical cancer education and prevention projects that target underscreened and marginalised women in the community and facilitate their participation in cervical screening. Wherever possible, promotion of bowel and breast screening should also be included within the grant project scope.

Applications close COB Wednesday 4 December 2019.

Note: If you are planning on targeting Aboriginal women as part of your application, please contact us as there is a separate set of grants that support projects for Aboriginal women.

Background and target group(s)

SA Health’s SA Cervix Screening Program (SACSP) is a partner of the National Cervix Screening Program (NCSP). It aims to reduce the incidence and mortality of cervical cancer amongst South Australian women. Five yearly cervical screening is currently offered to all women aged 25-74 who have ever been sexually active. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s Cervical Screening in Australia 2019 report shows that SA is achieving the highest cervical screening participation in the nation (58.7% vs 56.9% nationally). While this figure is comparatively good, it also indicates that 41% of women are not participating as recommended. Furthermore, South Australian screening participation is steadily declining, reflecting a national trend towards reduced participation in cervical screening.

Bowel cancer is the second most common form of cancer in Australia and causes the highest number of deaths. Around 100 people die in Australia each week from bowel cancer, but if caught early, up to 90% of cases can be successfully treated. The Commonwealth Department of Health sends bowel screening kits to women and men 50 years of age or over, every two years. The SA bowel screening rate is the highest in the nation at 46.4%, compared with 41.3% nationally.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in Australia and the second most common cancer to cause death in women (after lung cancer). Women aged 50-74 years can have a free screening mammogram every two years through BreastScreen SA. The breast screening rate for SA is 58.5% (compared to 54% nationally). Over the last 20 years, mortality from breast cancer has decreased by 32% in response to screening and treatment advances.

Barriers to cervical screening

Trends in participation rates show a link between increasing cervical screening participation rates and an increase in socio economic status. Vulnerable population groups, remote communities and socio economically disadvantaged areas often have lower cervical screening rates, and greater numbers of women who are either lapsed screeners or have never been screened.
Factors that may improve participation rates include: accessible and sensitive health care services, female general practitioners (GPs), nurses, culturally appropriate health services, information in community languages and use of interpreters, assistance navigating a complex health care system, knowledge of and information about preventative health and screening, cost, proximity of health services, and transport.

The Strategic Partnership Grants are one of a range of strategies used by the SACSP to engage with and build capacity in the health sector and under-screened communities to increase participation rates and prevent cervical cancer.

**National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) Renewal**

Since the commencement of the NCSP Renewal on December 1, 2017, it is also important to remind women that their first Cervical Screening Test is due 2 years after their last Pap smear, after which they can move to 5 yearly screening. Extra reassurance might also be required for women under 25 who are concerned, particularly if they have screened in the past. It is important to remind them that testing for the HPV virus is more accurate than the old test, and starting at 25 is completely safe. Cervical cancer is very rare in people under 25, and over 25 years of screening this age group has not reduced the rates of cervical cancer for these women.

Self-collection has been introduced as a key strategy for engaging women who are under-screened or never-screened. Eligibility criteria apply, including being aged 30 or over, and being over due by 2 years or longer (4 years since last Pap smear). Under-screened women can be encouraged to ask their healthcare provider whether self-collection is a suitable option. Further information can be found at [https://bit.ly/30qfOQ4](https://bit.ly/30qfOQ4).

The NCSP Renewal can appear complex, so please rest assured that SA Cervix Screening Program staff will support you with resources, simple key messages and advice.

*Please discuss with the CALD Project Officer, Jacqueline Riviere, about how best to incorporate the Renewal messages into any education or promotional activities/presentations you have planned for 2020*.

**Target group**

All projects funded under the Strategic Partnership grants must target under-screened and never-screened women. This would include:

- Women aged 25-74 years who have not had cervical screening for four or more years.
- Women who have never had a Pap smear or cervical screening test.

Projects may also be tailored to reach specific groups such as:

- Women of low socio economic status.
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) women.
- Newly arrived refugee women.
- Women with disabilities.
- Same sex attracted women and transgendered participants.
- Women who have experienced sexual trauma.

**Note:**

- Prior to implementation, any activities involving CALD women need to be discussed with the CALD Project Officer, Jacqueline Riviere (Monday-Wednesday) on 08 8226 8106.
- If you are planning on targeting Aboriginal women as part of your application, please contact us as there is a separate set of grants that support projects for Aboriginal women.
How much is each grant worth?

Strategic Partnership grants of up to $5500 are available and will be paid in one lump-sum payment to successful grant applicants. Applications are assessed on merit.

Essential eligibility requirements

Unfortunately, every year there are more applications for funding than the budget allows SACSP to fund. Priority will be given to applications that result in the following positive, measurable outcomes for under-screened women:

- Only organisations based in South Australia, with an ABN are eligible
- Proposed projects must target vulnerable, under-screened or never screened women and aim to improve cervical screening participation rates for identified women.
- Proposed projects must provide numbers of women targeted (and target group/s), numbers of women who participated, numbers of women who were linked in to an accessible GP to have their cervical screening test as a result of the program (and, where possible, their breast screening test and/or obtaining a bowel screening kit) and finally, a simple before and after evaluation of behaviour change (e.g. Have you had a cervical screening test before? Will you have regular cervical screening tests in the future? Will you talk to your friends and family about the importance of regular screening?).
- Proposed projects must be in addition to, or add value to, current services i.e. current ongoing activities will not be eligible for funding.
- Applications must demonstrate the capacity of the organisation to deliver the project. Demonstrating capacity to manage a project effectively will include, for example, how outcomes and progress of a project will be identified and monitored, and clear records of expenditure of grant funds.
- Proposed projects should demonstrate collaboration and connections with SACSP, GPs/Health care providers and other organisations and relevant communities that support screening and preventative health initiatives.
- Proposed projects must promote Renewal key messages as outlined in this document. You will be supported with resources and advice from Jacqueline Riviere/SACSP on how best to do this.

Desirable eligibility requirements

- Organisations need to have a primary focus on women’s health and wellbeing and provide support for disadvantaged people within SA.
- Projects that include an activity that links women participants to an appropriate, accessible clinic for cervical screening.
- Peer education projects (i.e. development of community peer educators) or projects that aim to build on outcomes or encourage a level of sustainability of outcomes into the future.
- Projects that include promotion and support to access breast and bowel screening.
- Projects that include more than one information/education session with active follow-up of participants will be reviewed favourably.
**What will be funded**

Funding will cover the costs associated with implementing education or support aimed at increasing cervical screening for vulnerable women, increasing accessibility of cervical screening or linking vulnerable women directly to cervical screening services including:

- Promotional expenses including advertising costs
- Venue
- Transport (for women attending services)
- Practical support for women to attend screening (i.e. support worker)
- Administration that directly supports project goals
- Child Care
- Catering
- Incentives for participants (e.g. women’s health and pampering activities/products, afternoon tea)
- Interpreting and translating costs

Projects that have demonstrated outcomes of linking vulnerable women to cervical screening i.e. numbers of Cervical Screening Tests done, (and where possible, number of bowel kits requested for eligible participants, and booked mammogram appointments for women at BreastScreen SA) will receive priority during assessment of applications.

**What will NOT be funded**

- Funding of existing debts or shortfalls.
- Sponsorship of fundraising events.
- Capital items such as computers or other office equipment, mobile phones and clinic equipment.
- Resource development costs where a similar resource is or has already been developed by the SA Cervix Screening Program or the National Cervical Screening Program.
- GP/medical salary

**Examples of activities for funding:**

- Peer education programs targeting women from specific vulnerable, under-screened communities (e.g. CALD, Newly Arrived Refugee communities or women with disabilities) that build capacity for the provision of ongoing cervical screening information and education within the community.
- Outreach education and health promotion to under-screened women in isolated rural areas.
- Cervical screening education and awareness raising sessions to under-screened women.
- Initiatives to increase health service screening capacity in relation to under-screened women.
- Improving access to health care service that provides cervical screening for vulnerable women through a range of support initiatives (for example, liaise with health services to ensure interpreters are booked, active follow-up with participants to support attendance at screening appointments, organising group appointments, assisting participants with transport, childcare and providing catering).
- Where appropriate, including a session on breast screening and bowel screening for eligible women and men.

**Application process and timelines**

It is not possible to fund all application requests. Funding should therefore not be anticipated or deemed automatic.

All applications will be reviewed and assessed against criteria with recommendations made and sent for approval to a senior executive in SA Health.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notification of the outcome of applications <strong>will be provided as soon as practical, either late in 2019 or early 2020.</strong></th>
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The current Cervix Screening Grant Program will fund approved projects for a six month period within the 2019-2020 financial year (all funding must be expended before 30 June 2020).

Successful applicants will receive a grant agreement detailing the terms and conditions of funding. Please note that organisations may have to wait from the time the grant round closes to receive grant funding.

**Accountability requirements**

All organisations approved for funding will be required to:

- **Sign and comply with reporting requirements** in the grant agreement. You may also be required to fill in finance related forms to ensure you receive funding correctly.
- **Plan activities thoroughly in preparation to run activities in the period January to June 2020.**
- **Provide reports and financial expenditure statements** which must be completed and emailed electronically to the SA Cervix Screening Program at the end of the project. Clear pro formas are supplied for these reports.
- **Funding can only be used** for the purposes of the project.
- Provide numbers of women who were under-screened, numbers of women invited to attend/participate (pre-project numbers), numbers of women who attended activities and numbers of cervical screening tests performed, and, if applicable, number of bowel kits requested for eligible participants, and number of booked mammogram appointments for eligible women at BreastScreen SA.
- Information and education projects will be required to provide some evidence of knowledge acquired, change in attitude and/or behaviour or increase in awareness via simple surveys (group or individual).
- **Appropriately acknowledge** the SA Cervix Screening Program as the funding body and use the SA Health logo in any promotional material. The logo can be supplied on request.
Preparing your application

There are a number of tools you can use to help you plan your project. You might like to create and include a project log frame in your application to help you address each section. An example might look like: **Aim:** To improve cervical screening participation in xx community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Input</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve awareness of the importance of cervical screening</td>
<td>Provide information to community women via information session</td>
<td>Staff time, catering, printed resources, guest speaker</td>
<td>Surveys, recording discussions, workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase access to screening services</td>
<td>Facilitate women attending a clinic in their area</td>
<td>Staff time, transport, advertising</td>
<td>Attendance list</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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See example below. You can use this as a guide to create a similar table for your project and activities if it will help with the planning process.

The Planning and Evaluation Wizard developed by Flinders University is a great online tool that can also help you plan your project [http://www.flinders.edu.au/medicine/sites/pew/](http://www.flinders.edu.au/medicine/sites/pew/)

How do I apply?

Read these grant funding guidelines


Hard copies of applications will **not** be accepted – all applications to be filled in electronically and returned via email to:

megan.vanzanten@sa.gov.au

For any assistance please contact:

Megan van Zanten | Senior Project Officer
T: 8226 8131 | megan.vanzanten@sa.gov.au

OR

Jacqueline Riviere | CALD Project Officer
T: 8226 8106 | jacqueline.riviere@sa.gov.au