



Pipeline Accelerator Guidelines 2026-27 (Round 1)

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1 About the Pipeline Accelerator

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FOR THE ONLINE
FORM](#)

Therapeutic Innovation Australia (TIA), Phenomics Australia, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), Bioplatforms Australia and Microscopy Australia are National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Lead Agents supported by the NCRIS program. We collectively support a network of national research infrastructure that offers academic researchers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) access to a diverse range of Australian translational medical research capabilities, from the molecular basis of health and disease through to clinical trials.

To encourage access to these capabilities, TIA has developed the Pipeline Accelerator, a competitive voucher-style scheme that can subsidise the cost of access to a full range of advanced capabilities. In this Pipeline Accelerator round, TIA is partnering with Phenomics Australia, ANSTO's National Deuteration Facility (NDF), Bioplatforms Australia and Microscopy Australia to expand the infrastructure and expertise available for the discovery and translation of medical research.

The Pipeline Accelerator voucher scheme aims to partially subsidise the cost of access to TIA and Phenomics Australia supported facilities as well as NDF, with optional additional access to Bioplatforms Australia and Microscopy Australia facilities via supplementary vouchers. **To access a supplementary voucher from Bioplatforms Australia and Microscopy Australia, you must also apply for a TIA, Phenomics Australia and/or NDF voucher for the same project on the same application.**

The primary voucher scheme is operated by TIA, Phenomics Australia and NDF and is detailed in the following sections. For more information on accessing supplementary vouchers from Bioplatforms Australia and Microscopy Australia, please see [Supplementary voucher section](#).

The aims of the scheme are to:

- provide a financial mechanism to enable experimental development activities that are typically difficult to fund through traditional national competitive grant schemes
- increase external business for NCRIS facilities from academics and SMEs by lowering the financial barrier to access expert services
- raise the profile of NCRIS facilities and their range of accessible services
- identify multi-disciplinary projects that require access to more than one NCRIS facility for support
- provide opportunities for early-mid career researchers (EMCRs)¹ to develop track record in translational research for therapeutic discovery and development

¹ EMCRs definition - <10 years post-PhD excluding any career breaks

2 Eligibility criteria

2.1 What we are looking for

This scheme is designed to accelerate and enable projects that aim to develop novel therapeutic products.

- **Examples of projects supported:**
 - develop novel assays for identification of potential products
 - generate key data to support the next development step or to strengthen a case for further grant or investor funding
 - demonstrate proof of concept for a novel product
 - optimise and develop potential therapeutics including de-risking projects by solving technical problems
 - develop manufacturing processes in preparation for scale-up
 - provide high-quality material to support preclinical/first in human trials
 - support or enable clinical trials (e.g. material supply or analytics)
- We encourage projects that have not previously accessed the desired NCRIS Provider.
- Applications to support previously awarded projects are welcome where they support continued or expanded access, including use of new Provider(s), techniques, or services (provided that the previously awarded project has been completed before a new application is submitted)
- Applications that seek to access some combination of TIA, Phenomics Australia, NDF, Bioplatforms Australia and Microscopy Australia facilities to support the same project are strongly encouraged.
- Applications seeking access to facilities outside the applicant's own research/business unit (external applications) will generally be favoured. The voucher program is designed to encourage access to facilities beyond the applicant's existing access arrangements. Requests to use internal facilities must demonstrate that voucher funding is needed to enable access that would not otherwise occur.

2.2 Eligibility of Applicants

The Pipeline Accelerator scheme is open to applications from the following organisations:

- Universities
- Publicly Funded Research Organisations, including Medical Research Institutes (MRIs) and hospitals
- Spinout companies from university/MRIs
- Technology incubators and similar programs
- SMEs and commercial entities that meet the general eligibility criteria for the [R&D Tax Incentive](#).
- Applications from international organisations may be eligible. Contact any one of us to discuss the project before making an application.
- **EMCRs and female researchers are strongly encouraged to apply as the main applicant.**

2.3 Eligibility of Applications

To be eligible for the voucher, the project application **MUST**:

- indicate which Provider(s) will be accessed
- An applicant may apply to multiple TIA, Phenomics Australia facilities or NDF to support **different aspects** of the **same project**, although **the maximum voucher benefit is \$50,000 per project**
- have obtained appropriate service quotes from the selected Provider
- provide a letter of support from the Provider stating that the project can commence within 6 months of award
- demonstrate an awareness of the current state of research and development in the relevant area
- demonstrate an understanding of the unmet need and/or potential impact on human health
- articulate a plan for the next steps in the development of the project or outcomes of the project.
- define an indicative desired timescale for the project
 - The timescale should align with the award and should not exceed 12 months from commencement. **Note: this timescale applies to the supported activities only, and not the full completion of the project or development of a potential therapeutic or healthcare outcome.**
- define success criteria for the supported Project (as noted above, not necessarily for the entire development project).
- if relevant, include required **completion reports** for any previous TIA, Phenomics Australia, NDF or Bioplatforms Australia **voucher awards related to the project, or awarded to the same applicant.**
 - You may apply for a voucher to support a project that has previously been supported under this scheme. However, you **MUST** include the completion report for the previous voucher (refer to [Supporting documents](#) for details).
- complete the application form with associated supporting documents (refer to [Supporting documents](#) for details)

3 Funding level and matching funds

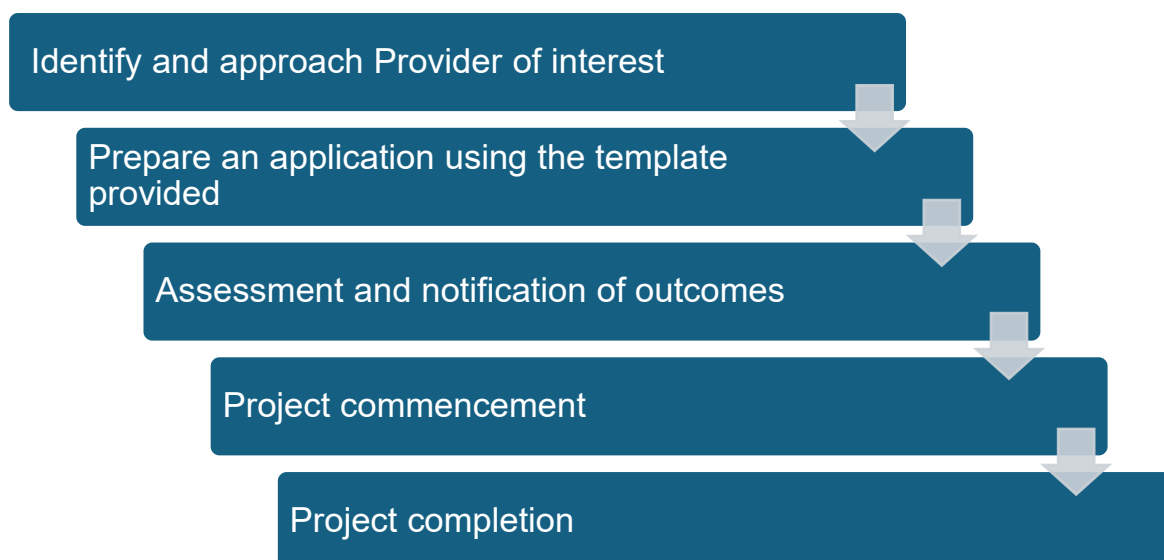
The voucher awarded will cover **50% of the total cost (ex-GST)** up to a **maximum award of \$50,000** and will be provided directly to the service Provider at project commencement, allowing this cost saving to be passed to the Applicant. The voucher may contribute to the cost of access but **cannot cover or exceed the entire cost**. Applicants are responsible for the remaining cost.

Co-investment in the form of matching cash is an important aspect of this scheme, as applicants must have some “skin in the game” and must have access to sufficient resources to complete the proposed work. Applications must therefore demonstrate significant matching **cash co-investment** to confirm that, should the voucher be awarded, the proposed work is fully supported. Some evidence of the source of matching funding must be provided. If the matching funds are from a grant, the grant provider and identifier must be provided. If it is not linked to a

funded grant, evidence of funding source must be attached to your application (e.g. a letter from your host organisation). If the matching funds are from other sources, such as a company's research budget, a letter from the CEO or CFO.

Note: Supplementary vouchers have different co-investment expectations. Please refer to [Supplementary vouchers](#) for details.

4 Application process



4.1. Identify and approach Provider of interest

The scheme includes five NCRIS Lead Agents (TIA, Phenomics Australia, ANSTO, Bioplatforms Australia and Microscopy Australia) and Providers are the accessible research infrastructure associated with each Lead Agent.

Eligible [primary](#) and [supplementary](#) Providers may be named on a single application if the project makes use of capabilities at several different Providers.

Applicants **must** approach Providers with a project (i.e., request to access a specific translational research service) and request a quote for services. The level of detail of the quotes will vary between Providers.

Applications proposing to access multiple Providers (such as a combination of TIA, Phenomics Australia, NDF, Bioplatforms Australia and Microscopy Australia services) should request separate quotes from each Provider.

4.2. Prepare an application

A call for applications will be published through a variety of channels. Submissions are made via an online form.

IMPORTANT: It is strongly encouraged that Providers work closely with Applicants on the application and provide necessary advice and guidance to maximise the chance of project success.

You can access the application form template on either TIA, Phenomics Australia, NDF, or Bioplatforms Australia websites at the following URLs:

- **TIA and Microscopy Australia** – <https://www.therapeuticinnovation.com.au/pipeline-accelerator>
- **Phenomics Australia** – <https://phenomicsaustralia.org.au/voucher-scheme/>
- **NDF** – <https://www.ansto.gov.au/TIA-pipeline-accelerator>
- **Bioplatforms Australia** – <https://bioplatforms.com/project/pipeline-accelerator-voucher-scheme/>

The online application form cannot be saved. We advise you to develop your application on the template provided and transfer it to the online form prior to submission. Detailed instructions are included on the application form template.

Previous versions of the form allowed an applicant to choose whether the application was to TIA or Phenomics Australia. The **revised form** requires applicants to select individual facilities. Facilities are shown/hidden by selecting the appropriate lead agent (TIA, Phenomics Australia, NDF, Bioplatforms Australia or Microscopy Australia).

Supporting documents

- Upload a single A4 page of diagrams in JPG, PNG or PDF format
- Upload as a single PDF the following supporting documents:
 - Evidence of the source of matched funding must be provided. This could be funding body grant reference number, a letter from your host organisation or the company CEO/ CFO
 - Original quote (an email is acceptable) or terms sheet for services. Multiple quotes can be submitted if multiple facilities are being accessed
 - The quote amount must not take into account the requested voucher value but should align with any relevant NCRIS Access and Pricing policy
 - The quote must specify the appropriate level of GST to be applied
 - A brief indication of Provider support for the application (an email is acceptable) stating that:
 - The quote provided is priced in accordance with NCRIS Access and Pricing policy
 - The quote is valid for at least 3 months
 - The Provider consents to being named in the Application
 - The Project will be able to commence within 6 months of award
 - If you have previously been awarded a voucher, you **must include the completion report** for the previously awarded voucher. You can download a completion report template from the TIA, Phenomics Australia, NDF, or Bioplatforms Australia websites.

5 Assessment and notification of outcomes

Applications are assessed by independent panels of external experts, with the NDF using its Proposal Advisory Committee of external experts. These panels make recommendations, but the final decision is made by the respective NCRIS lead agents.

All outcomes will be notified via email, including unsuccessful applications. For successful applications, a **Letter of Award** will be sent to the Applicants, cc: the specified Provider(s).

6 Project commencement

The Applicant must:

- For TIA and Phenomics Australia: a) enter into a legally binding agreement with the Provider (**NOT** with TIA/Phenomics Australia) to provide payment for access to capabilities specified in the Application; b) co-sign a **Letter of Commencement** with the Provider(s).
- For NDF, the agreement will be in the form of accepted ANSTO quote of cost to be paid from successful applicant to the NDF.
- For Bioplatforms Australia, the quote and subsequent work order will be split 50% between the applicant and 50% Bioplatforms at the project's start. Our team will assist you throughout this process.
- For Microscopy Australia, the quote and subsequent invoice will be split 50% between the applicant and 50% Microscopy Australia. The Microscopy Australia team will assist you throughout this process.

Note:

- We expect the project to commence within **6 months** of award of the voucher. Because of the nature of this scheme, ***offers may be withdrawn if projects do not commence within six months of award without a reasonable explanation.***
- The voucher awarded is **not transferable** to another project.
- TIA and Phenomics Australia do not require sight of the contract but require written confirmation that such a contract exists in the Letter of Commencement.
- The NCRIS Lead Agents **do not** seek any ownership or beneficial interest in supported projects but reserve the right to receive brief project updates (~1/2 page) on request and acknowledgment of support (see [below](#)).
- In the event of early termination, the Provider must notify the relevant NCRIS Lead Agent in writing at the earliest possible opportunity. Depending on the scenario, the relevant NCRIS Lead Agent will advise the Provider on the next steps.

7 Project completion

Once the work is complete, Provider and Applicant must provide **written proof** that the services have completed, using the provided template **Letter of Completion** from the Applicant (co-signed by the Provider) briefly describing the service provided. This template includes instructions for a brief completion report, which must also be completed.

8 Supplementary vouchers

Supplementary vouchers aim to enhance or extend the core activities undertaken at TIA, Phenomics Australia and/or NDF. Offered through Bioplatforms Australia and Microscopy Australia, these vouchers support further validation or deeper analysis using a range of characterisation platforms. They are intended as an add-on and should not constitute the main focus of your project. To be eligible for a supplementary voucher, you must meet all eligibility requirements of the primary voucher scheme (detailed [here](#)).

Click [here](#) for Providers that are eligible for supplementary voucher support. Multiple Providers may be named on a single application if the project makes use of capabilities at several different Providers.

NOTE: Supplementary vouchers are intended to complement the primary vouchers. Therefore, their value must NOT exceed the value of primary vouchers.

8.1 Bioplatforms Australia

Bioplatforms Australia provides access to Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics and Bioinformatics capabilities. Further details can be found at www.bioplatforms.com.

The voucher awarded by Bioplatforms Australia will be 50% of the total cost (ex-GST) up to a **maximum award of \$20,000**. Applicants are responsible for the remaining of the cost. The source of cash matching fund must be provided.

Application process:

- Please contact the listed Bioplatforms Australia Providers (listed [here](#)) and/or [John Parisot](#) to discuss your project and request an estimate/quote for the required services.
- Fill in the required details in the application form and attach your estimate/quote when prompted.
- **Note: Applications to access Bioplatforms Australia services only (i.e. with no requested primary voucher to TIA and/or Phenomics Australia) will not be accepted.**

8.2 Microscopy Australia

Microscopy Australia provides researchers and industry with access to a national network of advanced microscopy, microanalysis tools, and expertise. The supplementary voucher awarded by Microscopy Australia will be 50% of the total cost (ex-GST) up to a maximum of \$20,000, with matching funds being the responsibility of the applicant.

Application process:

- Applicants that know what Microscopy Australia Provider they require can reach out directly to the relevant Contact (listed [here](#)) to discuss their project and request an estimate/quote for the required services.
- Applicants that need assistance in determining what Provider they require can contact [Shiree Heath](#).
- Complete the application form and attach your price estimate or quote.
- **Note: Applications to access Microscopy Australia services only (i.e. with no requested primary voucher to TIA, Phenomics Australia, and/or NDF) will not be accepted through this scheme. However, there is a dedicated Microscopy Australia Access Scheme for eligible researchers (specific criteria apply) – more information is [available here](#).**

9 Acknowledgement of NCRIS lead agents and NCRIS support

Applicants and/or Providers are expected to acknowledge TIA, Phenomics Australia, NDF, Bioplatforms Australia, Microscopy Australia and NCRIS in all publications associated with these supported projects and send publication details to relevant NCRIS Lead Agents via the following online form or email:

TIA - <http://bit.ly/TIA-pubs>

Phenomics Australia - <https://phenomicsaustralia.org.au/news-media/>

NDF - Email to: ndf-enquiries@ansto.gov.au

Bioplatforms Australia - Email to: comms@bioplatforms.com

Microscopy Australia – Email to: shiree.heath@sydney.edu.au

Guidance for acknowledging TIA, Phenomics Australia, NDF, Bioplatforms Australia, Microscopy Australia and NCRIS

TIA - <https://www.therapeuticinnovation.com.au/access-acknowledgement>

Phenomics Australia - <https://phenomicsaustralia.org.au/acknowledge-us/>

NDF - <https://www.ansto.gov.au/NDF/useraccess>

Bioplatforms Australia - <https://bioplatforms.com/about/acknowledge-us/>

Microscopy Australia - <https://micro.org.au/academic/publishing-your-research/>

10 Scheme timeline

Approximate timeline (subject to change)	Timeframe
Scheme opens for applications	7 September 2026
Scheme closes for applications	30 October 2026, 5pm (AEST)
Applications assessed	November to early December 2026
Awards made	Mid-December 2026
Projects commence	<u>Strictly</u> within 6 months of award*
Projects complete	Within 12 months of commencement

*Offers may be withdrawn if projects have not commenced within six months without an explanation satisfactory to TIA/Phenomics Australia/Bioplatforms Australia/National Deuterium Facility/Microscopy Australia