**Below the Belt Research Fund Grant Application 2025**

**Background**

The Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate (ANZUP) Cancer Trials Group is the leading cancer cooperative clinical trials group that brings together all of the professional disciplines and groups involved in researching and treating below the belt (penile, bladder, kidney, prostate and testicular) cancers and conduct high quality cancer research towards ANZUP’s mission to improve the lives of people affected by bladder, kidney, testicular, penile and prostate cancers.

ANZUP improves outcomes for people affected by these cancers by exploring and defining priority areas in below the belt cancer research. We investigate which data deserves attention, which treatments hold promise for the future, which drugs should be tested in clinical trials and most importantly, we need to understand the main areas of concern of our patients.

In line with ANZUP’s strategic plan and with the support of Below the Belt events, the **Below the Belt Research Fund** has been established to support our members in the development of investigator-initiated studies that seek to improve the outcomes of those impacted by urogenital cancers.

**General Terms and Conditions:**

Grants of up to $50,000 (excl. GST) are available in 2025 for successful applicants. Eligible research projects may include:

* ANZUP pilot studies (including generating data to support a larger ANZUP research projects and/or trials)
* Translational research that leverages existing results and data to advance the understanding of urogenital cancers and/or lead to larger research projects.
* Innovative sub-studies of ANZUP trials, e.g. psycho-oncology or nursing projects
* Seed funding to start a high priority ANZUP study that has a high likelihood of receiving ongoing funding from another source.
* Projects that aim to improve equity in outcomes for those affected by Below the Belt cancers (incl. underserved populations e.g. Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse people, rural and remote and socioeconomically disadvantaged).
* All projects should be relevant to; and informed by consumers and those with a lived experience of cancer.

Not all funds may be awarded in the first round with any remaining funds available for ad-hoc grants or a second round of applications, at the discretion of the Grant Review Panel.

**Eligible research projects will:**

* Be designed to advance ANZUP’s mission and objectives and include a full budget justification (direct research costs and salary excl. institutional overheads; for further details refer to the Below the Belt funding
* Involve endpoints that are feasible within a 1-2 year time frame.
* Be expected to build capacity and/or collaborations for ANZUP and have the potential to lead to a future ANZUP project.
* Agree to comply with and sign the ANZUP Below the Belt funding agreement.
* Be able to attend the ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting on 20-22 July 2025 in Sydney.

**The successful recipient will be required to:**

* Be an ANZUP member with a minimum of 12 months membership and an active contributor to ANZUP activities.
* Acknowledge ANZUP’s contributions towards ongoing development and any associated outputs of the funded research.
* Acknowledge ANZUP and the Below the Belt Research Fund in any publications, presentations, or other disseminations.
* Provide annual progress, final and financial reports according to the terms of the funding agreement.
* Attend relevant subcommittee meetings to provide updates on the project and present a final report at an Annual Scientific Meeting.
* As this research fund is supported by philanthropic funds, the successful recipients must ensure that any on-costs are not taken out of this grant.

**Successful applicants will be presented their grants at the ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 20-22 July 2025.**

(Please Note: Attendance at the ASM is required)

**Key dates for 2025**

Grant applications open: 7 April 2025

Grant applications close 5 May 2025

Notification to applicants 27 June 2025

**Award presentation 21 July 2025**

The application form is now divided into 4 sections.

Section One General Details

Section Two Consumer Advisory Panel (CAP) Application

Section Three Required information relevant to both the CAP and the Scientific Review Panel

Section Four Scientific Application – not used by the CAP for assessment purposes

**Maximum word limits must be adhered to, any application that exceeds the specified word limit will be ineligible for review.**

Please complete the Below the Belt Research Fund Grant Application Form and email to ANZUP Administrator Sarah Johnson [sarah.johnson@anzup.org.au](mailto:sarah.johnson@anzup.org.au)

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact ANZUP Administrator Sarah Johnson [sarah.johnson@anzup.org.au](mailto:sarah.johnson@anzup.org.au)

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| **Section One – General Details** | |
| **Project title:** |  |
| **Date of submission:** |  |
| **Chief Investigator name: (must be an active ANZUP member for a minimum of 12 months)** |  |
| **Discipline:** |  |
| **Organisation:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Key members of the research team (must be ANZUP members or register before applications close)**  **Name/Discipline/Organisation** |  |

**Section Two – Consumer Advisory Panel (CAP) – maximum 500 words**

**Required information for the CAP assessment of your application**

**Section Two must be written in lay language, appropriate for review by consumers**

CAP members will assess each application and provide a ranking of the projects in order of preferred funding.

The individual CAP rankings are collated and averaged to provide a CAP consensus for funding.

Two CAP representatives will then join with the scientific review panel to consider alignment of project rankings match and discuss/agree on the projects that will be funded.

Critical to this application is the provision of a high-quality plain language (lay) summary that provides an easy to read and balanced overview of your project.

The CAP will assess the application considering the following questions:

* + Was the aim explained effectively?
  + Was the method of selecting participants explained?
  + Does the study benefit under-studied patient groups and/or those with a high disease burden e.g. metastatic disease, cancers of unmet need, disparities in age, gender, race, geographic location, socioeconomic status?
  + Have consumers / those with a lived experience of cancer had bi-directional engagement in the development of the project and will they be involved in the dissemination of the research?
  + Does the project consider actual need for change/improvement from the perspective of the patient?

The applications readability and clarity (particularly the lay summary) should be clear in terms of how the project aims to improve patients’ lives and communicates the aims and expectations of patients wishing to participate in the study.

The lay summary should address the following questions (if applicable to the research)

1. What is the research project aim / trial question?
2. Why do you need to answer it (what don’t we know and why is that an issue)?
3. Who will benefit – improving patient outcomes (either directly or indirectly)?
4. What is the likely impact the study would have on people diagnosed with or affected by the disease/condition including family and people supporting them? (Consider impacts on diseases: causes, incidence, prevention, detection, diagnosis, management, treatment or policy?)

E.g.

* could have the potential to find unknown risk factors or cause of disease and reduce incidence(s)
* could improve access to treatment
* could have meaningful impact on those affected by bladder, kidney, testicular, penile or prostate cancers and those who support them.
* could allow for early disease detection and treatment (i.e. catch it early)
* could provide more treatment options for people affected by bladder, kidney, testicular, penile or prostate cancer.

1. Have consumers been involved during the planning stage and what difference did this make?
2. How will consumers be involved as the research project / trial progresses?

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| **Section Two – Required information for Consumer Advisory Panel (CAP)**  **[maximum 500 words]** | |
| **Lay summary for ANZUP’s Consumer Advisory Panel: [maximum 500 words]**  Please provide a high-quality plain language summary that is easy to read and gives a well-balanced overview of your project based on the criteria provided above |  |

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| **Section Three – Required information for both the CAP & Scientific Group**  **[maximum 500 words]** | |
| **Alignment with ANZUP’s Mission.**  Demonstrate how this project is aligned with ANZUP’s mission to improve the lives of people affected by bladder, kidney, testicular, penile and prostate cancers? |  |
| **Population and setting:**  In line with ANZUP’s strategic priority to address inequity in cancer outcomes, explain how this research will seek to improve outcomes in underserved populations e.g. Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse people, rural and remote and socioeconomically disadvantaged. E.g. The project may seek to:   * increase access to clinical trials for rural/remote Australians through activation of new/re-activated clinical trial sites (incl. teletrial sites) * increase trial participation among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. * increase trial participation among populations where there is low uptake into clinical trials including people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, adolescents and young adults (AYAs), and older Australians. * increase access to interventions among those of socioeconomic disadvantaged.   If none of the above are applicable, please note why this is not possible. |  |
| Has this project or concept been reviewed previously by the ANZUP Subcommittee and/or Scientific Advisory Committee?  **If yes**, what was the outcome and the project’s current status? | Yes  No |
| Set out how, if the project is successful, it could be developed into a larger ANZUP project in the next 3-5 years. |  |
| Have you applied for, or are you receiving, funding from other organisations for this project?  **If yes**, who and for how much? | Yes  No |
| Which organisation will be responsible for administering the grant funds? |  |
| Address and contact details of Administering Institution who will manage the grant funds: |  |
| Details of the Administering Institution delegated authority (name and contact details) |  |
| Has approval been granted by the organisation to support this project? | Yes  No |
| Project duration (months) |  |
| Proposed deliverables and timeframe. |  |
| Total requested funds (Maximum $50,000 *excluding GST*) | $ |

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| **Section Four – Scientific Application – Required information**  **[maximum 1000 words]** | |
| Background and rationale: |  |
| Aim: |  |
| Objectives (endpoints):  Primary  Secondary  Tertiary/correlative | To determine:  1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6. |
| Hypothesis: |  |
| Interventions: |  |
| Study design: |  |
| Outcomes and measures: |  |
| Study procedures: |  |
| Statistical considerations: |  |
| Feasibility: |  |
| Significance: |  |
| Risks: |  |

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| **Budget justification** | | |
| **Budget excluding GST** | **Year 1** | **Year 2** |
| Staff (list) | $ | $ |
| Consumables | $ | $ |
| Site costs (specify) | $ | $ |
| Other | $ | $ |
| **Total** | $ | $ |