

# Pipeline Accelerator Guidelines 2024-25 (Round 2)

## 1. Background

Through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) program, Therapeutic Innovation Australia (TIA), Phenomics Australia, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) and Bioplatforms Australia support a network of national research infrastructure to address the medical products challenge in the [2021 National Research Infrastructure \(NRI\) Roadmap](#). We collectively offer 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.

[CTRL-CLICK HERE FOR THE  
ONLINE FORM](#)

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) and Bioplatforms Australia to expand the infrastructure and expertise available for the discovery and translation of medical research.

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

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 publicly funded research groups 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<sup>1</sup> to develop track record in translational research for therapeutic discovery and development

## 2. Pipeline Accelerator scheme

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

### 2.1. Eligibility of Applicants

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

- University-based researchers and research groups
- Research groups within Publicly Funded Research Organisations, including Medical Research Institutes and Hospitals
- University or Medical Research Institute's technology transfer offices or organisations, and university/MRI spin-outs
- Commercial entities that meet the general eligibility criteria for the [R&D Tax Incentive](#).

<sup>1</sup> EMCR definition - <10 years post-PhD excluding any career breaks

- Applications from international organisations may be eligible. Contact TIA or Phenomics Australia to discuss the project before making an application.
- EMCRs and female researchers are strongly encouraged to apply as the main investigator.

## 2.2. What we are looking for

- New projects to the Provider
- Applications that seek to access some combination of TIA, Phenomics Australia, NDF and Bioplatforms Australia facilities to support the same project are strongly encouraged
- **Applications from academic researchers that seek to access facilities outside their own academic unit or host entity will generally be given greater consideration than applications seeking to access facilities within their own host.** This aligns with the aim of enabling greater collaboration between research entities. Applicants seeking to access facilities within their own academic units or host entities will be required to **strongly** justify why voucher funding is necessary to access an internal Provider.
- **TIA is looking for therapeutic projects that:**
  - develop novel assays for identification of potential products
  - demonstrate proof of concept for a novel product
  - optimise and develop potential therapeutics
  - develop manufacturing processes
  - enable clinical trials for example through material supply or characterisation
- TIA is **NOT** seeking projects that develop new discovery or development platforms

## 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 and/or Phenomics Australia facilities 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 and/or Phenomics 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, either from TIA or Phenomics Australia. 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)

## 2.4. Choosing and contacting a Provider

The scheme includes four NCRIS Lead Agents (Therapeutic Innovation Australia, Phenomics Australia, ANSTO and Bioplatforms Australia) and Providers are the accessible research infrastructure facilities associated with each Lead Agent.

Click [here](#) for a list of Providers that are eligible for primary voucher support. Multiple 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 and Bioplatforms Australia services) should request separate quotes from each service Provider.

## 2.5. 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** – <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/pipeline-accelerator-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.

## 2.6. 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 or a letter from your host organisation
  - 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 or Bioplatforms Australia websites.

**Applications close 2 May 2025 5pm (AEST)**

## 2.7. Funding level and matching funds

The voucher awarded will be **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.

The source of cash matching fund must be provided. If the matching fund is from a grant, the grant provider and identifier must be provided. If it is not linked to a funded grant, an evidence of funding source must be attached to your application (e.g. a letter from your host organisation).

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

## 3. Supplementary vouchers

Supplementary vouchers aim to enhance or extend the core activities undertaken at TIA and/or Phenomics Australia. **Offered through NDF and Bioplatforms Australia**, these vouchers support further validation or deeper analysis of your research. 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 core voucher scheme (detailed [here](#)).

### 3.1. Choosing a Provider

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.

#### 3.1.1. The National Deuteration Facility (NDF)

ANSTO's National Deuteration Facility provides access to:

- Production of bespoke deuterated and stable isotope labelled molecules and biomolecules (e.g., lipids, sterols, proteins and small organic molecules)
- Multiple labelling of proteins (combinations of stable isotopes H-2, C-13 and N-15)
- Deuterium labelling quantitative analysis (NMR, MS analysis)

Further information can be found here: <https://www.ansto.gov.au/NDF>

The voucher awarded by NDF will cover 50% of the total cost (ex-GST) up to a maximum award of \$10,000. Applicants are responsible for the remainder of the cost to be paid to the NDF. The source of cash matching fund must be provided. If the matching fund is from a grant, the grant provider and identifier must be provided. If it is not linked to a funded grant, an evidence of funding source must be attached to your application (e.g. a letter from your host organisation).

#### Process to apply

- Please contact the NDF (contact details can be found [here](#)) to discuss your project and request a quote for the required services.
- Fill in the required details in the application form and attach your quote when prompted.
- Note: Applications to access NDF *only* (i.e. with no requested core voucher to TIA and/or Phenomics Australia) will not be accepted in this call. These applications should be made directly

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through the NDF user program. Find more information at <https://www.ansto.gov.au/NDF/useraccess>

### 3.1.2. Bioplatforms Australia

Bioplatforms Australia provides access to Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics and Bioinformatics capabilities. Further details can be found at [www.bioplatforms.com](http://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.

#### Process to apply

- 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 in this call.

## 4. Assessment process

A panel, including independent external experts, assesses applications and decide on awards. The assessment process may be staged, depending on the number of applications received.

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

## 5. 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, 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.

#### 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 requires written confirmation that such a contract exists in the Letter of Commencement. Agreement is direct with the NDF for successful application for a supplementary voucher.
- 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.

**Applications close 2 May 2025 5pm (AEST)**

## 6. 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.

## 7. Acknowledgement of NCRIS facilities and NCRIS support

Applicants and/or Providers are expected to acknowledge TIA, Phenomics Australia, NDF and/or Bioplatforms Australia and NCRIS in all publications associated with these supported projects and send publication details to TIA/Phenomics Australia/NDF/Bioplatforms Australia 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](mailto:ndf-enquiries@ansto.gov.au)

**Bioplatforms Australia** - Email to: [comms@bioplatforms.com](mailto:comms@bioplatforms.com)

Guidance for acknowledging TIA/ Phenomics Australia /NDF/Bioplatforms Australia

**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/>

## 8. Scheme timelines

Approximate timeline (subject to change)	Timeframe
Scheme opens for applications	4 March 2025
Scheme closes for applications	2 May 2025, 5pm (AEST)
Applications assessed	May -June 2025
Awards made	June/July 2025
Projects commence	<b>Strictly</b> 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.