



NSW REGIONAL CANCER
RESEARCH NETWORK

REGIONAL OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION FEE SCHEME GUIDELINES



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Cancer Institute NSW



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NSW Regional Cancer Research Network

The NSW Regional Cancer Research Network (the Network) is funded by the [Cancer Institute NSW](#) through a Translational Cancer Research Capacity Building Grant and has been established through [NSW Regional Health Partners](#) (NSWRHP) to build capacity in translational cancer research across the geographical area covered by the Central Coast, Hunter New England, Mid-North Coast and Northern NSW Local Health Districts (LHDs).

The Network's key focus is to support and develop regionally based cancer research and to enable clinicians, researchers and healthcare workers in regional areas to lead projects that improve health outcomes and cancer care across their communities. With support from our Project Management Team, members can access specialist research expertise and assistance.

The Network aims to:

- Lead research engagement, collaboration, and knowledge exchange between researchers, health and medical professionals, people affected by cancer and the cancer services they access.
- Leverage and strengthen existing research capacity and opportunities for research engagement in regional and rural NSW.
- Contribute to scientific and clinical evidence informed by regional and rural perspectives.
- Translate locally informed research to improve cancer care and clinical practice.
- Provide regional leadership in State and National Cancer Research and Health Policy.

Purpose of the Regional Open Access Publication Fee Scheme

To enable Network members to publish Open Access, peer-reviewed cancer research by funding Article Processing Charges. The scheme supports the publication and dissemination of work that builds regional research capacity, translates locally informed evidence into practice, and improves outcomes for people in regional, rural and remote NSW. Open Access ensures results are freely available to clinicians, consumers and policymakers and increases reach and impact across regional NSW and beyond.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- NSW Regional Cancer Research Network member: click [here](#) to join.
- First author (including co-first where the journal indicates equal contribution) or corresponding author (including co-corresponding as designated by the journal). Last or senior authors are eligible only if they are the designated corresponding author.
- Demonstrate alignment with the Network's goals (see above), including a focus on regional, rural or remote communities where applicable. Applications are welcome for:
 - Articles arising from NSWRCRN-funded projects, or



- Articles that clearly align with the Network's aims.
- Provide evidence the article has been accepted in a peer-reviewed journal and will be published Open Access.
- Provide a publisher invoice dated between 1 October 2025 and 31 May 2026.
- For University of Newcastle affiliated authors, confirm that the journal is not covered by a Library Read and Publish agreement or that the agreement cap has been reached.

Scheme Objectives

- Remove cost barriers to Open Access publication of peer-reviewed cancer research by NSWRCRN members.
- Increase the visibility and use of regionally informed evidence
- Promote the translation of locally informed evidence into practice and policy.

Expected Outcomes

- The article is published Open Access.
- NSWRCRN support is acknowledged where possible, noting this may not be feasible where publications have already been submitted prior to funding approval.
- DOI and citation shared for reporting.
- Manuscript deposited in an institutional repository where permitted.

Support Available

- Article Processing Charges (APCs) for accepted, peer-reviewed journal articles to be published Open Access.
- There is no fixed number of awards; support is subject to the available budget.
- Where possible, NSWRCRN will pay the APC invoice (or pro-forma invoice) directly to the publisher. Where the APC has already been paid, NSWRCRN may reimburse the applicant/institution (subject to evidence of payment and eligibility).
- Journals must be reputable and indexed; predatory journals are ineligible.

Senior Research Partner (SRP) Support

Need help before you apply? If your manuscript is not quite ready:

- SRPs can help with manuscript preparation, strengthening and review. Support may be available through the [Professional Research Support Grant Scheme](#).
- Accessing SRP support is optional and does not influence funding decisions for this scheme.



Application Process

- Complete the online [Regional Open Access Publication Fee Application Form](#).
- Attach the acceptance notification, proof of authorship status (acceptance email or proof page showing author order and corresponding author) and a publisher invoice (APC), preferably unpaid.
- Applications are assessed for eligibility.
- There is no closing date. The scheme will remain open until funds are fully allocated.

Journal acceptance notification — acceptable evidence (upload one)

(Accepted file types: PDF, DOCX, PNG/JPG. You may redact reviewer comments; acceptance details must remain visible.)

- Final acceptance email/letter from the journal/submission system showing journal, title, author list, manuscript ID, acceptance date.
- Publisher production/"article accepted" confirmation.
- Proof/galley cover page or Early View/Article in Press page listing journal, title, authors, acceptance date.
- Dashboard screenshot showing status "Accepted" with title, authors, manuscript ID, acceptance date.

Not accepted: submission confirmations, "under review," "revise & resubmit," conference acceptances, or preprint notices without a final Accept.

Proof of authorship status — acceptable evidence (upload one)

(Accepted file types: PDF, DOCX, PNG/JPG. You may redact personal data, however author order and corresponding author must remain visible.)

- Acceptance letter/email showing author list/order and corresponding author.
- Journal proof page (or "author proof") showing author order, corresponding author (and any equal-contribution notes).

Not accepted: acknowledgements of submission, "under review," or R&R notices without authorship details.

Publisher invoice (APC) — required content

(Accepted file types: PDF, DOCX, PNG/JPG. Must be within the date window.)

- Invoice or pro-forma invoice, dated 1 Oct 2025–31 May 2026.
- Shows publisher, journal, article title/manuscript ID, corresponding author, APC amount, invoice number/date, and payment/bank details for direct payment.

Not accepted: quotes/estimates, order summaries without an invoice number, credit-card statements, invoices outside the date window.



Funding Conditions

Grants administration

The Regional Open Access Publication Fee Scheme is funded by a Cancer Institute NSW Translational Cancer Research Capacity Building Grant and administered by the University of Newcastle on behalf of NSWRCRN. Successful applicants will be contacted to arrange payment.

Use of funds

The scheme award covers the Article Processing Charge (APC) only. The scheme does not cover submission fees, page or colour charges, reprints, expedited handling fees, editing services, society memberships, or penalties.

Invoice Window

Invoices must be dated between 1 October 2025 and 31 May 2026. Invoices outside this window are not eligible.

Reporting requirements

Awardees must:

- Provide the DOI and citation to the NSWRCRN via email within 10 business days of publication.
- Deposit the accepted manuscript or published version in a repository where permitted.
- Post a short impact summary and link to the article on the Network's [Open Forum](#). Senior Research Partners are available to help draft and publish the post; [submit a request](#).

Acknowledgement

Where feasible, please acknowledge NSWRCRN support in the publication. This may not be possible where the manuscript has already been submitted prior to funding approval.

Suggested wording:

"This work was supported by the NSW Regional Cancer Research Network, funded by the Cancer Institute NSW through a Translational Cancer Research Capacity Building Grant."

Any questions, please contact nswrcrn@newcastle.edu.au.



Key Dates

Applications open	22 October 2025
Applications close	Open until funds are expended or by 31 May 2026
Notification of outcomes	Within 10 business days of submission (excluding University closedown period)

Enquiries

Enquiries can be submitted by email to: nswrcrn@newcastle.edu.au.

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