
NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION PINK SKY GRANTS GUIDELINES

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Expression of Interest

Monday 4 August 2025, at 5pm AEST

Full Application (by invitation)

Monday, 20 October 2025, at 5pm AEST

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1. The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF)

The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF)'s is Australia's largest not-for-profit organisation funding world-class breast cancer research towards our vision of Zero Deaths from breast cancer.

Since our inception in 1994, NBCF has invested over \$230 million dollars towards more than 640 world-class research projects across Australia. In this time, the death rate from breast cancer in Australia has reduced by over 40%.

We have seen remarkable progress, but the job is not done.

At NBCF, we're determined to create a better tomorrow. We know research matters, and it is central and critical to improving breast cancer outcomes. That's why we fund the very best breast cancer research in Australia by awarding grants via an open national, competitive, and rigorous peer review process.

1.1 Pink Horizon Research Strategy

The *Pink Horizon Research Strategy*, launched in November 2023, is a pioneering five-year research strategy intended to support a diverse yet connected portfolio of research at a scale of investment that matches the boldness of our vision.

Through targeted and sustained funding, and a commitment to collaboration and impact, we will enable and accelerate the innovative research needed to end deaths from breast cancer. The *Pink Horizon Research Strategy* is informed by our knowledge of who is dying from breast cancer and seeks to fund research that asks and addresses significant, intractable questions to reduce deaths from breast cancer.

1.2 Funding Principles

All research proposals supported under the *Pink Horizon Research Strategy* must describe and demonstrate:

- How the research will contribute to advancing progress towards the vision of Zero Deaths from breast cancer.
- Active involvement of people with a lived experience of breast cancer appropriate to the type of research.
- A proactive commitment to multidisciplinary, national and/or international collaboration.
- Clear opportunities for early and mid-career researcher development.
- Openness to contribute actively as part of the NBCF research community (for example, attend scientific exchange forums, participate in future peer /expert review panels if required).
- Willingness to share ideas and data to accelerate progress towards *Zero Deaths from breast cancer*.

2. Pink Sky Grant Scheme

The Pink Sky Grant Scheme is a key component of the NBCF Pink Horizon Research Strategy and is complementary to Research Project Grants and Collaborative Research Accelerator Grants.

The Pink Sky Grant Scheme is designed to support innovative, high-risk, high-reward research projects with significant paradigm shifting potential to revolutionise approaches to combating breast cancer.

NBCF recognises that research exploring novel, unconventional ideas, that may be applied to breast cancer for the first time and challenging existing paradigms, carries a high probability of failure, however, high-risk, high-reward approach is characterised by its potential for groundbreaking discoveries and significant impact.

2.1 Key Information and Eligibility

Funding Amount: maximum of \$500,000 AUD per project

Funding Duration: maximum of 3 years

Two-stage application process, submitted via the [NBCF Grants Portal](#):

- Expression of Interest (Eol) Application
- Full Application (by invitation following Eol stage).

Key dates:

Eol Applications open	7 July 2025
Eol Applications close	4 August 2025
Full Application open (by invitation)	12 September 2025
Full Application close	20 October 2025
Outcome advice to Applicants	From late February 2026
Commencement of Funding	Prior to 30 June 2026

Eligibility criteria:

Pink Sky Grant funding is available for Australian researchers, including clinician researchers from any academic discipline, of any career stage, that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be affiliated with/ employed by an Australian Administering Institution
- The Principal Investigator must be an Australian citizen/ resident or have the appropriate working visa
- The research must relate to one or more of the four *Pink Horizon Research Strategy* core objectives focused on ending deaths from breast cancer:
 - *Prevent breast cancer through precision prevention*
 - *Detect breast cancer as early as possible and before it progresses*
 - *Stop the progression and recurrence of breast cancer*
 - *Treat hard to treat and metastatic breast cancers*
- The proposed total budget must be equal to or be less than AU\$500,000, for a maximum duration of 3 years.
- Only one Pink Sky Grant application can be submitted by a Principal Investigator (PI) in any Pink Sky Grant round.

No additional documentation or new applications will be accepted after the deadline/s. Applications that provide incomplete documentation at the deadline will be deemed ineligible. Decisions on eligibility made by NBCF are final.

2.1.1 Administering Institution

Australian administering institutions include universities, hospitals and medical research institutes that meet defined research governance requirements as specified by the National Health and Medical Research Council.¹

A single institution must be nominated as the Administering Institution. This institution must have in place policies and procedures for the management of public funds, management of Intellectual Property and good scientific conduct. All institutions and NBCF-funded research projects must comply with the requirements for responsible and ethical research practice including, but not limited to The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018, The National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2023, Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders, The Australian Code For The Care And Use Of Animals For Scientific Purposes 8th edition (2013) and Gene Technology Act 2000.

Prior to submission of the application, the institution nominated as the Administering Institution must review NBCF's standard Funding Agreement and agree to perform the proposed project on the terms of that Funding Agreement, if funding is granted.

2.1.2 Investigators

Applications are open to researchers of any discipline or at any career stage, provided they are employed by an approved Administrative Institution. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the Investigators' career-based categories.

A single PI should apply for funding. The PI can nominate an unlimited number of Co-Investigators (Co-Is) and Associate Investigators (AIs), with appropriate expertise required for the successful completion of the proposed research.

At the time of application, the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigators (Co-I) must:

- Reside in Australia (or intend to reside in Australia) throughout the funding period.
- Be an Australian citizen, have resident status or have an appropriate visa to work in Australia for the entire duration of the funding period.

2.2 Funding Information

The maximum funding for each Pink Sky Grant is a total of \$500,000. The maximum grant duration is 3 years.

Funding commencement date must be no later than 30 June 2026.

Applicants may request a delay in the commencement of funding to a maximum of 6 months for exceptional circumstances, such as situations where the PI requires parental, carer, or health related leave. These requests will be considered and approved at NBCF's discretion.

¹<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/manage-your-funding/nhmrc-funding/administering-institutions#:~:text=NHMRC%20funds%20research%20through%20institutions,meet%20defined%20research%20governance%20requirements.>

2.2.1 Allowable Costs

The funding is available for all aspects of research project related costs; the salaries of personnel involved (that are not otherwise funded), as well as the costs of materials and equipment. These costs must be reasonable and justified, with evidence of institutional salary scales provided. For further guidance please refer to Appendix 2. Project Costs and Salary Support.

2.2.2 Justification of Research Originality and Non-Duplication

Projects are ineligible for funding by NBCF, if funded or under offer of funding from another source. NBCF will not fund research that it considers is insufficiently different to research that is either currently funded or the subject of another funding offer. If funding for a project (or similar projects) is offered concomitantly by NBCF and by another research funder (such as the NHMRC), NBCF reserves the right to withdraw the offer of funding wholly or in part in its absolute discretion in order to maximise the opportunity for breast cancer research in Australia.

Whether a project is the subject of other funding is 'similar' to the NBCF project will be determined by the independent external review, under the governance of the NBCF Research Advisory Committee, at its absolute discretion, following its review of both the application submitted to NBCF and the application made to the other funding body. For the purposes of making this decision, the Administering Institution must provide a copy of the other funding application to NBCF if requested.

2.2.3 Commercialisation

NBCF encourages and supports a broad range of breast cancer research, including early-stage research projects with commercial potential that can generate new Intellectual Property (IP) and may lead to commercialisation of a product (or service). However, NBCF will NOT fund projects directly focussed on the commercial development of a product (or service), as there are alternative avenues of funding available.

Applications where pre-existing IP is the major foundation for the project can apply for a Pink Sky Grant, however, the application cannot be for the commercial development of that IP.

Pre-existing IP is considered as any IP that has already been created, developed, funded, derived or otherwise brought for further development, either by the Investigators or by a commercial entity linked to the Investigators.

2.3 Application Overview

The Pink Sky Grant applications include administrative and assessable sections and are to be completed on an online application form for submission via the NBCF Grants Portal. PIs must first register and create an account in the Grants Portal. Please refer to the NBCF Grants Portal Application Submission Guide for further instructions.

The staged application process includes an Expression of Interest (EOI) Application, and a by invitation Full Application.

The EOI Application is a shorter, streamlined application to provide an overview of the research project and team. Short-listed applications that best meet the EOI criteria will be invited to submit a more comprehensive Full Application. The Full Application will be required to provide further detail about the proposed research and justification for funding.

2.4 Assessable Criteria

The Pink Sky assessable criteria reflect the strategic intent of the grant scheme:

- **Innovation and Transformative Potential (30%):** reflects the scheme's intent to fund novel, paradigm-shifting, high-risk/high-reward research, that may be applied to breast cancer for the first time
- **Scientific Rationale and Feasibility (20%):** ensures the underlying scientific rationale is strong (even if untested), and that the hypothesis and methods are sound and feasible, with appropriate risk mitigation
- **Translation and Impact Potential (20%):** ensures that even high-risk projects have a well-considered vision and pathway to meaningful translation and impact, aligned with the NBCF vision of Zero Deaths from breast cancer
- **Consumer and Stakeholder Engagement (20%):** ensures that the research design reflects, responds to and will be beneficial for people with lived experience and other relevant stakeholders
- **Team Capability and Capacity (10%):** ensures appropriate leadership, expertise, resources and relevant collaborations are in place to successfully deliver the proposed research

Applicants must demonstrate for each of the Pink Sky assessable criteria:

Innovation and Transformative Potential (30%):

- how the proposed research introduces new concepts, methods, technologies and creative approaches that may have not been previously applied to breast cancer (innovative)
- how the research could fundamentally change current understanding of breast cancer control (paradigm-shifting)
- the potential high impact of the proposed research (transformative)

Scientific Rationale and Feasibility (20%):

- a well-defined research hypothesis supported by theoretical rationale and/or preliminary data (scientific rationale)
- a clear description of the research design, methodologies and analytical techniques to be used (sound methodology and scientifically feasible)
- a realistic and achievable project plan for the grant funding duration, including proposed timelines, milestones, and risk mitigation strategies (operationally feasible)

Translation and Impact Potential (20%):

- the potential translational impact of the research, including what the next steps would look like beyond the grant period, to support how findings could be translated into practical applications or real-world interventions (pathway to translation)
- how the proposed research directly relates to, and will accelerate progress towards the NBCF vision of Zero Deaths from breast cancer (vision alignment and impact potential)

Consumer and Stakeholder Engagement (20%):

- how people with lived experience of breast cancer have been involved in the research proposal and how they will be proactively engaged in research design and conduct (consumer engagement)
- how other relevant stakeholders (e.g. healthcare providers, clinicians, advocacy groups, non-healthcare experts / disciplines) have been involved in the research proposal and how they will be proactively engaged in research design and conduct (stakeholder engagement)
- how research outcomes will be shared with the target population and key stakeholder groups (communication/dissemination)

Applicants must provide written agreement from consumers to validate their involvement on the project.

Team Capability and Capacity (10%):

- the track record of the principal investigator(s) relevant to the proposed research (appropriate capability)
- the qualifications, experience, and track record of all research team members (appropriate expertise and team capacity)
- the resources, facilities, and equipment available to support the proposed research (appropriate resources and capacity)
- any interdisciplinary or cross-institutional collaborations that enhance the project's capability and viability (collaborations and team capability)

Applicants must provide letters of support from collaborators, institutions, or stakeholders to validate descriptions of capability and capacity.

2.5 Review Process and Assessment of Applications

The review and assessment of grant applications by independent reviewers forms the basis of NBCF's decision-making for funding.

All Pink Sky Expressions of Interest and Full Applications will firstly be reviewed for eligibility, completeness and adherence to the guidelines by NBCF.

Applications that meet eligibility criteria will be assessed by the Pink Sky Grant Expert Review Panel comprising of researchers, industry experts, and consumers.

The Pink Sky Eol and Full Applications will be assessed based on the five assessable criteria detailed in section 2.3.

Expression of Interest

Panel members will evaluate the Eol applications referencing the assessable criteria and providing a score of 1-5 for each application. The scores will be used to shortlist the applications based on relative competitiveness. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application. It is anticipated that any Eol applications scoring 5 will advance to Full Application, while some applications scoring 4 and 3 may advance to Full Application.

Full Application

Panel members will evaluate and score the Full Applications against each of the assessable criteria and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each application. Scores may be adjusted after discussions before finalising.

The overall score will determine the final ranking of applications and to making a recommendation of Full Application(s) for funding.

Funding models are prepared to be presented to NBCF's Research Advisory Committee for endorsement. The NBCF Board of Directors, will then make the final decision on funding approval and retains full discretion on whether to award the full amount requested by the PI or part thereof.

A summary of application assessment, including the scoring matrix, relative to opportunity and career breaks is provided in Appendix 3.

3 Consumer Engagement

The appropriate level and type of consumer involvement will vary depending on the nature of the project. NBCF expects applicants to:

- Include a minimum of two named consumers on their application; these named consumers are also expected to provide written agreement to be named as a consumer in the application, and
- Conduct ongoing meaningful (bidirectional) engagement in the preparation of the application, which will be continued throughout the project should the application be successfully funded.

The inclusion of named consumers engaged with the project as Associate Investigators is optional but strongly encouraged. Regardless, it is expected that engaged named consumers will certify/sign the application or provide written agreement (e.g. via email or a letter addressed to the PI) that they agree to be named as a consumer in the application, prior to submission. Applicants are advised to refer to the [Guidelines for Consumers and Researchers](#).

4 Funding Conditions

4.1 Funding Agreement

Upon acceptance of an offer of funding from NBCF, a Funding Agreement will be prepared and issued to the Administering Institution for review and signing. This [Funding Agreement](#) will certify that the institution endorses the application, is willing to administer the research, and has the appropriate facilities and services to be made available for use by the applicant.

All parties must accept the terms of the [Funding Agreement](#) and sign the Agreement before payments are made. Projects must commence as set out in the Funding Agreement.

Variations

For any changes that arises during the funding period, a request for variation can be submitted for example: the transfer of PI or Administering Institution. The request will be considered by NBCF on a case-by-case basis.

PIs can request to defer the commencement date of the funding as outlined in section 2.2.

All other variations (other than commencement deferral) must be submitted at least 60 business days before the end of term of the project. Any variations submitted after this will not be considered.

4.2 Reporting Requirements

PIs will be contractually required to report on progress of funded projects per the schedule of reporting provided in the Funding Agreement. Annual Progress Reports, Final and Follow Up Reports outlining the progress versus agreed milestones, research outputs, financials and relevant approvals will be submitted via [NBCF Grants Portal](#). The Progress Report template will be available on the NBCF website.

PIs will be required to submit regular Financial Reports outlining expenditure of funds in relation to the grant. At the completion of the funding, an audited financial statement is required.

4.3 Media

NBCF requests that all media releases (materials, announcements) related to data derived from the awarded grant be provided prior to their release for review and approval by NBCF communication/marketing team, and with appropriate NBCF acknowledgement. This is an important aspect of the terms of engagement as it assists in raising NBCF's profile to support future fundraising activities.

4.4 Acknowledgement of Support

All publications including journal articles/books, media releases and presentation of data derived from the awarded grant must acknowledge the support of NBCF. NBCF requests that the correct branding (NBCF logo) is used and that investigators use the allocated NBCF Code for the grant. Please contact NBCF at research@nbcf.org.au for our logo.

5 Privacy and Confidentiality

NBCF respects and upholds your applicable rights to privacy protection under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (including the Australian Privacy Principles), in regulating how we collect, use, disclose and hold your personal information. Please [refer to our Privacy Policy](#).

The security of confidentiality of your personal information is important to us and we aim to apply robust practices to ensure privacy is protected and respected. Privacy management is a continuous and evolving process, and we regularly update our practices to accommodate change in technology, the organisation's function and legislation. Grant application information such as name, contact details, and identification details are collected. NBCF may disclose your personal information to any other individuals or organisations with your prior consent or where required or authorised by law. The parties to which we disclose personal information include our contractors who provide service, for example conducting surveys, facilitating information collection, event

registration, fundraising, database management, printing, mailing, data storage, banking, payment processing, auditing, accounting, legal, business consulting, marketing, research and technology services. With your consent or otherwise in accordance with privacy laws (e.g., where you would reasonably expect it), NBCF may allow other non-profit organisations to contact you with information that may be of interest to you. These organisations usually allow us to do the same and this way we can reach more people with vital information. Again, if you do not wish to be part of this information sharing or receive communications from those organisations, please contact us (see below). Some of the third parties described above conduct all or part of their business overseas (e.g., in United States and United Kingdom) and so your personal information may be transferred overseas as a result.

6 Acknowledgments

We are indebted to all committed individual, community and corporate donors, and would like to acknowledge their support and commitment to funding breast cancer research.

NBCF acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

7 Enquiries

Enquiries can be directed to the Grants Administrator, NBCF Research at research@nbcf.org.au or telephone 02 8098 4825.

Appendix 1 Investigator Career Categories

The Investigator types on the application are:

Principal Investigator (PI): the Investigator responsible for leading the proposed project. Pink Sky application is open to researcher of any career stage from any discipline to apply as PI.

Co-Investigator (Co-I): any Investigator with a specific expertise that is fundamental and holds a substantial role should be listed as a Co-I.

Associate Investigators (AIs): any Investigator providing intellectual or practical input such as from consumers or in providing access to unique samples. An AI may be advisors and mentors to the project team to deliver the proposed work.

The career category of Investigators is being collected in the Investigator section of the application form for data analysis purpose. Please refer to below table:

Category	Experience/ Qualification
1	< 3 years postdoctoral experience
2	3-7 years postdoctoral experience
3	7-12 years postdoctoral experience
4	> 12 years postdoctoral experience
5	Clinical Practitioner
6	Other (professionals with the appropriate expertise for the proposed project)

Appendix 2 Project Costs and Salary Support

In preparing the budgets for each application, applicants should clearly outline each budget item relevant to the proposed research, and costing must be realistic and competitive. Please refer to the [NBCF Grant Expenditure Guidelines](#).

The project costs are separated into three budget categories:

Infrastructure, equipment, consumables, and other research related costs

- Costing relating to equipment or infrastructure must be fully itemised.
- Costing relating to consumables can be shown as an aggregate figure for items with individual costs \leq \$5,000 but must be fully itemised for items with individual costs $>$ \$5,000.

Investigator salaries

- The FTE salary must be consistent with the percentage of time to be devoted to the project, as described in the application form.
- Salary can only be claimed for the PI and/or Co-Is. Requests for salary for AIs are not permitted. However, payment/ reimbursement for consumer engagement can be included in the budget.
- NBCF will not support salaries for Co-Is based outside Australia.

Personnel salaries

- Costing relating to support staff can comprise either full-time or part-time salaries for personnel directly involved in the research project.
- PhD stipends can also be supported.
- Additional personnel involved in the research project must be indicated, with titles and salary figures commensurate to their position. NBCF will not support salaries for personnel based outside Australia.

There is no cap on the maximum salaries that can be requested but all salaries need to be reasonable and justified by provision of institutional salary scales. The salary for the duration of the grant should be based on the full time equivalent (FTE) to be allocated specifically to the project and its supervision. The FTE requested should be proportional to the time committed to the project and salary will be adjusted pro-rata for intended FTEs lower than the maximum quoted.

Additional Personnel

PIs may apply for the salaries of any research support staff they deem appropriate to ensure the successful completion of the project (comprising research assistants/officers, junior postdoctoral fellows, and specialised personnel such as bio-informaticians, statisticians, project managers etc.). PhD stipends are supported. In general, the requested salaries will be reviewed and must be competitive and consistent with university/institute scales.

Co-funding

All co-funding secured from additional sources (hosting institution, University, Government agencies, not-for-profit organisations etc.) must be itemised and reported. This allows NBCF to assess and articulate the value proposition of its funding to a range of stakeholders, including the Australian public, NBCF donors and supporters, as well as the NBCF Board of Directors.

Appendix 3 Assessment by Review Panel

Review Members

The assessment of grant applications relies on the expertise and commitment of reviewers from different backgrounds such as: scientific, industry, clinician researchers and consumers. Wherever possible, NBCF endeavours to ensure that reviewing panels are constituted to provide the required balance of i) experience, ii) expertise in particular fields relevant to the applications being considered, iii) appropriate representation of gender and iv) geographical location.

The Pink Sky Grant Expert Review Panel will consist of a non-scoring Chair and members comprised of scientists, clinician researchers, industry experts, and consumers.

The role of the Chair is to ensure that a fair, consistent, and equitable process is adhered to, and to facilitate reaching agreement on the final ranking through a balanced and considered discussion of applications.

The role of the Members is to evaluate and score applications using the assessable criteria and participate in discussions of the applications.

All members must act in confidence and are required to sign a 'Deed of Confidentiality'. Reviewers must declare interests of scientific as well as a non-scientific nature, following the [Declaration of Interest Guide](#).

Assessment of Applications

When evaluating the EoI and Full Applications, the Reviewers are to provide scores in whole integers following the scoring matrix:

Score	Category Descriptor	Guiding Band*	Recommendation
5	Outstanding: Of the highest quality and at the forefront of research	Approximately 10% of applications should receive scores in this band	Recommended unconditionally for Full Application or funding
4	Excellent: Of high quality and strongly competitive	Approximately 15% of applications should receive scores in this band	Strongly support recommendation for Full Application or funding
3	Very Good: Sound and compelling	Approximately 20% of applications should receive scores in this band	Support recommendation with reservation for Full Application or funding
2	Good: Sound but lacks compelling element	Approximately 35% of applications are likely to fall into this band	Unsupportive of recommendation for Full Application or funding
1	Uncompetitive: Uncompetitive and has significant weaknesses.	Approximately 20% of applications are likely to fall into this band	Not recommended for Full Application nor funding

*This is for the purpose of guiding the distribution of scoring only

Reviewers must assess under each of the Pink Sky assessable criterion:

Innovation and Transformative Potential (30%):

- whether the proposed research introduces new concepts, methods, technologies and creative approaches that may have not been previously applied to breast cancer (innovative)
- whether the research could fundamentally change current understanding or treatment of breast cancer (paradigm-shifting)
- whether the proposed research holds high impact potential (transformative)

Scientific Rationale and Feasibility (20%):

- whether the research hypothesis is supported by theoretical rationale and/or preliminary data (scientific rationale)
- whether the research design, methodologies and analytical techniques are clearly described (sound methodology and scientifically feasible)
- whether the project plan is feasible and includes proposed timelines, milestones and risk mitigation strategies (operationally feasible)

Translation and Impact Potential (20%):

- the potential translational impact of the research, including the next steps beyond the grant period, to support how findings could be translated into practical applications or real-world interventions (pathway to translation)
- the potential for the proposed research directly relates to, and will accelerate progress towards the NBCF vision of Zero Deaths from breast cancer (vision alignment and impact)

Consumer and Stakeholder Engagement (20%):

- whether engagement of people with lived experience of breast cancer is appropriately described (lived experience engagement)
- whether engagement of other relevant stakeholders (e.g. healthcare providers, clinicians, advocacy groups, non-healthcare experts / disciplines) is appropriately described (stakeholder engagement)
- whether due consideration has been given to how research outcomes will be shared with the target population and key stakeholder groups (communication/dissemination)

Team Capability and Capacity (10%):

- whether the track record of the principal investigator(s) is relevant to the proposed research (appropriate capability)
- whether the qualifications, experience, and track record of all research team members meet the requirements of the proposed research (appropriate expertise and team capability)
- whether the resources, facilities, and equipment described are appropriate for the proposed research (appropriate resources and capacity)
- whether appropriate interdisciplinary or cross-institutional collaborations are included that will enhance the project's capability and viability (collaborations and team capability)

Must check any letters of support from collaborators, institutions, or stakeholders to validate descriptions of capability and capacity

Relative to Opportunity

Team Capability is assessed with consideration of the achievements of individual researchers 'relative to opportunity'.

Circumstances considered under relative to opportunity include:

- Amount of time spent as an active researcher; this specifically excludes consideration of full-time or part-time work
- Employment outside the research sector including time spent working in industry
- Career disruption (further details below)
- Available resources (including situations where research might be conducted in remote or isolated communities)
- Clinical, administrative or teaching workload
- Relocation of an applicant and his/her research laboratory or clinical practice setting or other similar circumstances that impact upon research productivity
- Restrictions on publication associated with time spent working in other sectors (e.g. industry, policy, and government)
- Typical performance of researchers in the research field in question

Career Disruption/Breaks

Career Disruption/Breaks is a sub-category of 'relative to opportunity' that will be considered when determining the duration of the applicant's postdoctoral experience.

A career disruption involves a prolonged interruption to an investigator's (PI or Co-I) capacity to work, due to:

- Parental leave
- Major illness
- Carer responsibilities including parental leave and care for immediate family (e.g. spouse, children or elderly parent)
- Covid-19 pandemic related disruptions

The interruption will involve a continuous absence from full-time work for periods of one month or greater and/or a long-term partial return to work (e.g. part-time absences from work due to circumstances classified as career disruptions).

PIs and Co-Is should provide details of relative to opportunity including the effect this has had on their research, research achievements and productivity relative to the stage of career, along with supporting documents (e.g. letter from employer) for consideration.

- End of Document -