

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE (CRC) PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Application Timeline for CRC Round 25 Participation – Flinders University

NB: all dates subject to change depending on when the round opens.

Step	Item	Date	Responsibility
1	CRC Participation – Intent to Apply	ANYTIME 12 months from external CRC Stage 1 submission deadline (ASAP)	CRC Lead Researcher (CLR) advises Research Development and Support Email to crc@flinders.edu.au
2	CRC Participation Request (CPR) – Initial	11 December 2023 <u>MANDATORY FOR ALL CRC BIDS INVOLVING FLINDERS UNIVERSITY</u>	CLR: Prepares and submits the CPR (Initial) for consideration of the participation of Flinders University in a CRC. Emails CPR to Research Development and Support: crc@flinders.edu.au Research Development and Support: Facilitates consideration of CPR (Initial) with appropriate stakeholders (College Deans of Research/DVCR/RDS). Advises CLR of outcome.
2a	State Government Support application (SA CRC Assistance Program)	TBA	CLR Submits SA CRC Assistance Program application to SA State Government (notify Research Development and Support crc@flinders.edu.au).
3	CRC Participation Request (CPR) – Detailed	15 January 2024 <u>MANDATORY FOR ALL CRC BIDS INVOLVING</u>	<i>If the CLR receives advice from Research Development and Support that their CPR (Initial) has been approved to progress.</i> CLR: Prepares and submits the CPR (Detailed) for consideration of the

		<u>FLINDERS UNIVERSITY</u>	<p>participation of Flinders University in a CRC. Emails CPR to Research Development and Support: crc@flinders.edu.au</p> <p>Research Development and Support: Facilitates consideration of CPR (Detailed) with appropriate stakeholders (College Deans of Research/DVCR/RDS). Advises CLR of outcome.</p>
4	DVCR, RDS, College Deans of Research, CLR and key proponents of the bid meet to confirm bid details (pitch)	By 9 February 2024	<p>DVCR: Considers CPR, pitch by CLR and recommendation by College Deans of Research.</p> <p>Provides approval for the University's participation in a CRC bid and confirms Stage 1 bid details (cash and in-kind support etc).</p>
5	Advice from Flinders to the CRC bid leader outlining the conditions on which the University is prepared to participate	After 9 February 2024	Coordinated by Research Development and Support, in conjunction with CLR.
6	Bid documents and signed CPR due in Research Development and Support, to facilitate DVCR signature for CRC Partner Declaration.	By 23 February 2024	<p>If the Flinders CRC Participation Request is approved, the CLR will work with the bid leader (if a different person) to prepare a full bid submission.</p> <p>Research Development and Support: Works with CLR to finalise Flinders sign-off on the Partner Declaration and check final Stage 1 CRC Bid (in-kind and cash contributions).</p>
7	Stage 1 bids close: Commonwealth Submission Deadline	March 2024	<p>CLR works with the bid leader (if a different person) to prepare a full bid submission.</p> <p>Research Development and Support: <u>For Flinders-led bids:</u> Coordinate final certification and submission of the bid</p>

			documents to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. <u>For bids by other organisations:</u> coordinate Partner Declaration to be signed by Flinders.
8	Stage 2 bids open	June 2024 (by invitation only)	Prepared by Bid Team.
9	Stage 2 bids close	August 2024 (by invitation only)	Prepared by Bid Team.
10	Interviews in Canberra	Late October 2024	If shortlisted by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources
11	Successful applicants notified	December 2024	CRC Applicants

Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Participation Guidelines

Purpose: These Guidelines outline the Flinders University process and expectations for engaging and participating in CRCs for staff participating CRC Bids and in existing CRCs.

1. Summary

- Involvement in a CRC Bid or participating in an existing CRC is complex. Further information can be sought from [Research Development and Support](#) or from the [CRC Program](#) website.
- A **CRC Lead Researcher (CLR)** for Flinders University is needed to support the University's engagement in a CRC bid or funded CRC.
- The **CLR** represents Flinders University interests within the CRC and is the conduit between the bid, other university researchers, College Deans (Research), College VPEDs, Research Development and Support and the DVCR's Office.
- As soon as there is interest in the University participating in a bid for a CRC, email notification should be sent to crc@flinders.edu.au. Ideally this will be ~12 months in advance of the expected Stage 1 CRC Deadline (usually in early March annually).
- CRC Bids involving Flinders that are going to progress to Stage 1 submission require the submission of a CRC Participation Request. This process happens in two stages – with the submission of a simple initial CRC Participation Request (CPR-initial) and, pending approval of this request, the subsequent submission of a more detailed CRC Participation Request (CRC-detailed).
- Financial Contributions to the CRC from Flinders will be shared between College(s) and the University Research Budget and facilitated by the co-investment form under the '[Co-investment strategy](#)'.
- CRCs must return at least 4:1 cash if Flinders is making a cash contribution.

2. The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Program

The CRC Program supports collaborations between industry, researchers, and the community. The program aims to foster high quality research to solve industry-identified problems through industry-led, outcome-focused, collaborative research partnerships.

The objectives of the program are to:

- improve the competitiveness, productivity, and sustainability of Australian industries, especially where Australia has a competitive strength, and in line with Government priorities
- foster high quality research to solve industry-identified problems through industry-led and outcome-focused collaborative research partnerships between industry entities and research organisations
- encourage and facilitate small and medium enterprise (SME) participation in collaborative research.

The intended outcomes of the program include:

- establishing industry-research sector collaborations
- SME participation in collaborative research
- collaborative research results
- research results relevant to government priorities
- increased research skills in industry and increased industry capability in research
- improved competitiveness and productivity for industry participating in CRCs and CRC-Ps
- industry, research and other users valuing the program.

The CRC Program administers CRC grants (up to 10 years and typically with \$20-\$70M in CRC Program funds) and Cooperative Research Centre Projects (CRC-P) grants to support short term, industry-led collaborative research, of up to 3 years duration. These Guidelines relate to CRC grants (not CRC-Ps).

The CRC Program contribution to CRCs is more than matched by cash and in-kind contributions from industry, research institutions and other participants and is run on an annual application cycle. Bidding for a CRC is a long-term and complex process. Allow for a minimum of two years from inception to success and budget for several hundred thousand dollars for bid development (if you are leading a bid and using an external CRC bid development consultant).

See [Appendix](#) for an Overview of CRCs including governance arrangements.

3. CRC Participation – Justification for Researcher and University involvement

CRCs are an important mechanism of research funding and of external engagement and have an important role in demonstrating research impact. It is important that Flinders can maximise returns from the CRC Program, for the benefit of individual researchers and Flinders University as a whole.

The benefits of CRC participation include:

- Long-term research funding, including funding for existing staff, building research capacity (through CRC-funded staff), equipment, supporting higher degree by research students, operational support, and training opportunities.
- Access to networks and building long-term relationships between researchers and industry that continue beyond the life of the CRC.
- Additional research block grant funding for the University based on CRC income.
- Access to large scale funding in an area that can make a difference to an important area of Australian life.
- Industry-driven and impactful research and the opportunity to work on projects that are industry-defined rather than researcher-driven.
- Opportunities to collaborate with other researchers and industry.

4. Developing a CRC Bid

CRCs are complicated entities, and the bid process can be challenging to negotiate, as there are typically a number of universities and external parties involved who must be kept informed of progress.

CRC Bids must be industry-led to be successful. CRC Bids are often coordinated by researchers but must demonstrate strong industry (end-user) support. If industry is not supporting the bid with cash and actively engaged in shaping the research programs, then the CRC Bid is unlikely to be successful. This is one of the first things the [CRC Advisory Committee](#) (assessors) looks for in its assessment of CRC Bids.

CRC Bids can be initiated by anyone: by researchers, by industry, by industry groups; and the Australian Government's Industry Growth Centres. It is important to discuss the bid with the relevant [Industry Growth Centre](#) to seek input and support for the proposal.

The Industry Growth Centres include:

- [Advanced Manufacturing](#)
- [Cyber Security](#)
- [Food and Agribusiness](#)
- [Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals](#)
- [Mining Equipment, Technology and Services \(METS\)](#)
- [Oil, Gas and Energy Resources](#)

Developing CRCs usually form a bid committee that includes representatives from industry and research providers (universities, CSIRO etc). The bid team typically prepares a prospectus and/or term sheet

summarising key aspects of the bid to help promote it to potential participants (6-12 months before the Stage 1 submission deadline). A bid can cost several hundred thousand dollars and usually takes 12-18 months from bid commencement to lodging a Stage 1 proposal. The lead organisation may provide the Bid Leader as in-kind support. Experienced CRC Bid Development Consultants are often engaged. The bid committee will sometimes request funding from the potential participants to support the costs of development of the bid. Bid development funding should ideally come from industry/end-users. If the bid team seeks funding from Flinders University for bid development costs, then this request needs to be supported by the CLR's College and DVCR through a co-investment.

The CRC Bid team identifies key leaders including the bid leader, CEO, COO, Research Director, Research Program/Theme Leaders, and Training Director. The track record of the named individuals is important to the assessment of the CRC Bid. The CRC research is delivered across a number of defined programs (typically two to five). Participation in CRC Bids where Flinders University staff are engaged in key roles (ie. Bid Leader, Research Director, or Research Program/Theme Leader) is preferable as this provides assurance of commitment and alignment between the CRC and Flinders research strengths. CRC leadership roles are major commitments, involving at least 40% of a researcher's time and as much as 100%. Typically, the Flinders CRC Lead Researcher for the CRC will fill such a role within the CRC.

Another important consideration is whether CRCs currently exist (or bids have recently been submitted) in similar areas. There are currently around 20 funded CRCs in areas ranging from food waste to transport systems to digital health. Given the scale of these grants, it is unlikely that two CRCs in broadly similar fields will exist, even if their research programs are quite different. A clearly differentiated CRC in an area of existing or emerging industry need will have the greatest chance of success.

5. Process for Participation in CRC Bids

Flinders University Leadership of a CRC Bid

Leadership of a CRC Bid requires a substantial commitment of time and resources. Financial support may be required to resource the bid if Flinders is to lead development of a CRC Bid. This might include the internal re-allocation of a Lead Researcher's time. Endorsement to lead the development of a CRC Bid should be sought through the lead College and the DVCR in order to ensure that any Flinders University-led bid develops in the full knowledge of the DVCR, the Colleges and the Research Development and Support team.

Notification of CRC Participation: 12 Months from Stage 1 Deadline

College support is critical to gain University support for a bid (whether Flinders is leading or simply participating in the bid). When Flinders University staff have been invited or have negotiated an opportunity to participate in a CRC bid, Research Development and Support should be notified by emailing: crc@flinders.edu.au. Where Flinders University will lead the bid, this notification should be made 12 months in advance.

The notification should be made by the Flinders CRC Lead Researcher and should include a brief summary of the proposed CRCs scope of research, the extent of industry/end-user engagement, the Flinders researchers likely to be involved, and the anticipated financial and in-kind contributions.

Initial consideration of any proposed bid will be facilitated by Research Development and Support and will involve the CRC Lead Researcher, College Deans of Research and the DVCR's Office.

CRC Participation Request (Initial): 3 Months from CRC Stage 1 Deadline

The CRC Lead Researcher will submit the **CRC Participation Request (initial)** using the template available on the Flinders CRC Grant [website](#) three months prior to the Stage 1 deadline. The CRC Participation Request (initial) should be endorsed by the College Dean of Research before submission and should include appropriate supporting documentation.

Research Development and Support will facilitate consideration of the CPR (Initial) with appropriate stakeholders (College Deans of Research/DVCR), and will advise CLR of the outcome and Flinders University in-principle support of CRC involvement.

CRC Participation Request (detailed): 2 Months from CRC Stage 1 Deadline

Where the bid team has demonstrated that the CRC bid is mature, includes commitment from industry/end-users (cash) and is likely to be submitted for Stage 1 consideration, AND where the initial CRC Participation Request has been approved to support Flinders University involvement in the CRC, the CRC Participation Request (detailed) should be submitted to Research Development and Support by the requested due date. RDS will review the CRC Participation Request and will facilitate a pitch/presentation to the DVCR and relevant College Deans of Research regarding proposed involvement in the CRC Stage 1 Bid. If there is final agreement from all parties on the bid and respective contributions, the DVCR will endorse the University's involvement in the Stage 1 CRC Bid including the signing of the Partner Declaration.

Progression to Stage 2 Bid

If the Stage 1 bid is successful and a Stage 2 bid is developed, further negotiations will take place involving the CRC bid team and Flinders University to confirm Flinders cash and in-kind (staff and non-staff) contributions, the roles in the CRC that will be filled by Flinders staff, and the programs and projects to which University staff will contribute.

Prior to the University's final commitment to the Stage 2 Bid, the involvement of Flinders University in the bid will be reviewed and, if the terms and expectations are substantially the same as agreed in the Stage 1 submission, the DVCR will endorse the University's involvement in the Stage 2 Bid.

In signing off on the Stage 2 Bid, the University will indicate that in relation to the contributions committed, they are based on the understanding that University researchers will participate in the projects negotiated with the CRC and on an expectation of an appropriate overall return to the University.

Stage 2 applicants will be interviewed by the CRC Advisory Committee (assessors). Arrangements for practice interviews and the interview itself are typically made by the bid team. Where Flinders is well engaged in a CRC, a University representative such as the CRC Lead Researcher or DVCR may be asked to join the CRCs interview team.

6. Process for managing involvement in a successful CRC

Participation in a CRC: Annual Reviews

Being part of a winning CRC does not guarantee funding for your research. Engagement and industry-relevant research are the best way to ensure that you can secure CRC funding. This can be achieved by having an industry (end-user) partner in the CRC advocating for your research and supporting your own advocacy.

When CRCs are funded, the individual CRC programs and projects are approved for funding by the independent CRC Board that is established at the commencement of the CRC. The Board may terminate unsuccessful research avenues, increase funding to successful ones and develop new areas of interest as the CRC progresses through its up to ten-year lifespan. There is always a risk of losing funding during a CRC (resulting in a decreased return for the University). The CRC Lead Researcher should be aware of any new areas of research being developed and explore whether Flinders has capacity to contribute to new CRC directions.

The DVCR will monitor engagement with CRCs every 12 months, via an annual CRC Report from the CRC Lead Researcher and/or through annual review meetings. Funds received from each CRC will be compared to any cash contribution being made by the University. The University may reduce its cash contribution or exercise its right to withdraw from a CRC if returns are not reasonable.

The annual reviews will involve the CRC Lead Researcher, other key researchers with significant roles in the CRC (≥ 0.2 FTE) or staff in CRC leadership roles, DVCR, College Deans of Research and Research Development and Support staff.

7. CRC Lead Researcher

Any CRC Bid or CRC in which the University is engaged needs a designated Flinders CRC Lead Researcher. The CRC Lead Researcher will be the primary conduit between Flinders and the bid/CRC, and will undertake to:

- represent Flinders in the CRCs research planning workshops, including ensuring that researchers and the University can obtain a reasonable return from the engagement.
- collaborate with industry (end-users) participants in the CRC to promote and advocate for Flinders University research.
- communicate with researchers, College Deans of Research, the Research Development and Support team and the DVCR regarding the bid/CRC.
- 'pitch' within Flinders University for any support requested by the CRC Bid.

If the CRC bid is successful, the CRC Lead Researcher will undertake the following:

- participate in Flinders review activities including the submission of summary performance reports and/or annual review meetings to report on the ongoing engagement with the CRC.
- communicate key developments regarding the CRC to other Flinders University researchers involved, noting that changes in CRC research directions and new projects may lead to opportunities for Colleges and disciplines not previously involved.

The Flinders designated CRC Lead Researcher must be willing and able to undertake the lead role in ensuring that the relationship between Flinders and the CRC is successful. Flinders will not progress a CRC bid without a CRC Lead Researcher for the CRC. Researchers should only take on the role if they are passionate about engaging in the CRC and have time to engage in planning workshops for the CRC, usually in various parts of Australia, during bid development and after the CRC is successful.

8. Flinders University Cash Contributions and Returns

The increasing expectation from most CRC Bid Teams is that universities (research providers) will make both in-kind (staff time and non-staff) and cash contributions towards the CRC.

University cash contributions to CRCs are challenging for Flinders (and other universities) because universities have traditionally participated in CRCs as research providers not research funders. Universities need to be paid to undertake research to employ the required staff to deliver the research outcomes (often through postdoctoral researchers). The University needs to monitor the returns carefully over the life of a CRC to ensure it is receiving an appropriate return on its investment, and not subsidising the research by other organisations in the CRC.

The University commits cash and in-kind resources based on an expected return from the CRC. That return is not guaranteed until after the level of CRC funding is known (from industry and the CRC Program) and the research programs and projects are confirmed. Bids will identify the main programs of research at the time of submission, but the final funding allocations are usually made to programs and projects after the bid is successful. Returns over the lifetime of a CRC cannot be guaranteed at the bid stage, nor even at the commencement of the CRC.

The CRC Lead Researcher has a critical role in maintaining successful engagement with the CRC over its lifetime to support and advocate for Flinders projects and researchers. The university cash investment (usually a specified amount per annum) needs to be monitored carefully against returns. If the expected university return is consistently below acceptable levels (4:1) the University may negotiate to reduce its cash contribution or exercise its right to withdraw from a CRC (withdrawal usually requires 12 months' notice). The University will also consider whether there is demonstrable strategic benefit from involvement in a CRC.

9. Flinders University In-Kind Contributions (Staff and Non-Staff)

Staff should only agree for their time to be included as in-kind contributions to CRCs if the CRCs research is compatible with and supportive of their own research. College Deans of Research need to approve proposed staff in-kind contributions. These should be considered in terms of the expected returns and how staff participation in the CRC will affect other commitments, eligibility, and research plans for other grant schemes (e.g. ARC schemes).

Including many researchers with small (e.g. 0.1) FTE commitments should be avoided. This does not demonstrate a strong alignment between the CRC and the University research strengths and can lead to limited engagement with the CRC when the CRC has commenced. Ideally, there should be one or two researchers (in addition to the designated CRC Lead Researcher) who have significant (≥ 0.4) FTEs contribution to the CRC. The University will not support a CRC Bid unless at least one staff member has this level of commitment (and acts as Flinders CRC Lead Researcher).

Non-staff in-kind contributions, including access to equipment and/or infrastructure, and operational support, must also be detailed, costed and approved.

10. Education Program and Scholarships

A strong education and training program including Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students is a key part of a successful CRC Bid and CRC. Involvement in a CRC will generally lead to financial support of HDR students at Flinders. This is an important aspect of the financial return from a CRC and the Flinders CRC Lead Researcher should advocate within the bid/CRC for a well-funded education program and for a good return of that program to the University.

11. State Government Contributions

South Australian-based CRCs can seek State Government support through two mechanisms. State Government agencies are often Participants in CRCs researching areas congruent with their own interests (e.g. PIRSA in agriculture-related CRCs). Applicants are encouraged to approach State Government agencies relevant to their bids.

The Office of the SA Chief Scientist (Department for Industry, Innovation and Science) administers a scheme to support SA engagement with CRCs. Applications are accepted for up to \$100K pa support for a CRC node in SA and up to \$200K pa support for a CRC headquartered in SA, for up to 3 years (funding amounts are subject to change). This is an annual application process requiring submission of an application form and interview, the former often due around two months prior to the deadline for Stage 1 CRC Submission.

12. CRC Bids and CRCs

Research Development and Support coordinates support for CRC Bids and CRCs including final sign-off and submission of bid documents and formal agreements. Financial support (CRC invoicing, payments, reporting) is managed through the Grants Finance team.

The DVCR or delegate is the designated signatory for CRC applications and CRC agreements.

13. Further information:

- Flinders CRC information
<https://staff.flinders.edu.au/research/funding/industry-and-government>
- CRC Program (Business.gov.au)
<https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/cooperative-research-centres-crc-grants>
- Cooperative Research Australia
<https://cooperativeresearch.org.au/>

- Industry Growth Centres
<https://www.industry.gov.au/strategies-for-the-future/industry-growth-centres>

Any queries regarding CRCs can be directed to crc@flinders.edu.au.

Appendix: CRC Overview and Governance

Structure of the CRC Company

CRCs are incorporated entities (companies), subject to the rules of ASIC. They are usually not-for-profit companies (company limited by guarantee) of which the University will be a member if it is a Core Participant. This independent corporate structure is different from most other 'vehicles' for managing major research projects. The University (especially the CRC Lead Researcher) needs to engage strongly with the CRC Company and there are also corporate activities such as AGMs and Director elections. These requirements will be facilitated through the Research Development and Support team.

Ownership of Intellectual Property

Flinders preferred position is that Intellectual Property is owned legally by the CRC Company in trust for the participants and the Company on a project-by-project basis, with the beneficial interests based on the level of contribution to the relevant project. Beneficial ownership by participants on a project-by-project basis is important upon windup or if a participant withdraws from the CRC. Splitting ownership in this way allows for ongoing access to the intellectual property which a party creates and is of particular importance to a research provider. It also enables an Intellectual Property register to be created by the CRC which reflects ownership on a manageable project-by-project basis.

Background Intellectual Property

Background Intellectual Property (BIP) is pre-existing IP that the University contributes to a CRC Project. Project Agreements usually list BIP and nominations to this list should be considered carefully by researchers (and advice sought on the implications of listing BIP) prior to the execution of Project Agreements. The University requires that BIP be made available on a project-specific basis and that use of BIP will be through a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence for the duration of the Project. If BIP is required for commercialisation of Project IP, an IP licence will be negotiated with the CRC for use Flinders BIP.

Research Projects

The Board of an incorporated CRC has the authority to determine the research program and other activities. However, any research project (or part thereof) allocated to Flinders must be acceptable to the University and compliant with policies on such matters as ethics, risk management and safety. Agreements are required to be executed for each project in which the University participates. The drawing up of these Research Project Agreements is a key initial activity in a new CRC. Research Project Agreements for CRCs are coordinated through the Research Development and Support Research Contracts team using the same processes and systems as for other research grant contracts.

Student Participation and Publications

The opportunity to participate in CRC research projects is potentially a beneficial one for students as well as academic staff. Supervisors must ensure that student deeds of Intellectual Property assignment are executed prior to their commencement on CRC projects (see [Student research IP Procedures](#)). Students own copyright in their thesis. Flinders seeks to protect the student's right to prompt, unimpeded examination of their thesis. The University also wishes to protect the publication rights of academic staff. The publication provisions in CRC Agreements should be reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with these principles.

University Employees as Directors or CEOs

If an employee of the University seeks to be a Director of a CRC, he or she must have approval from the DVCR and must have appropriate training in the responsibilities and obligations of Directors. Conflicts of interest must be managed according to the University policy for declaring and resolving potential or actual conflicts of interest, as well as making declarations and complying with the CRCs policies on conflicts of interest. If a current employee of the University is proposed as the CEO or for some other senior management position with an incorporated CRC, a suitable arrangement needs to be negotiated with the University with advice from the People and Culture team, and approval of the relevant College. This could include secondment arrangements, leave of absence or resignation from the University.

CRC Reporting

The University is required to report on a regular basis to each CRC (usually quarterly) and to the Commonwealth (annually) to confirm its contributions and properly acquit all funding received for research and research training programs supported by the CRC. These external reporting requirements can be onerous and vary between different CRCs. They will be coordinated by Grants Finance, but it is the responsibility of the CRC Lead Researcher to ensure that narrative and scientific reports, staff in-kind allocations and budget expense monitoring are prepared and submitted on time, and using the CRC specified templates.

Levels of Participation in CRCs

Lead Organisation – the organisation which takes responsibility for coordinating and lodging the application and normally will host the CRC administration, if the application is successful.

Core Participant – a participant whose contributions provide a major support to the activities of the CRC. Likely to include a cash contribution of up to \$100,000 p.a. and/or in-kind contributions of at least 2.0 FTE p.a., including at least one Program Leader. A Core Participant is a signatory to the Core Participants' Agreements and a member of the CRC Company.

Supporting Participant – indicates a less significant involvement, may or may not include a cash contribution but would entail a commitment to an in-kind contribution over the life of the CRC in the order of 1.0 - 2.0 FTE p.a. A supporting participant is not normally a signatory to the Core Participants' Agreement but would be signatory to a Supporting Participants' Agreement.

Participation as a Third Party or on a Project basis – those cases in which staff members of the University are involved only in a specific project or projects being conducted by the CRC in an individual capacity without a formal commitment by the University to the CRC as a whole on a continuing basis. In these cases the University may only be signatory to the Project Agreement, or may need to sign an Other Participants Agreement with the CRC.

CRC Agreements

Negotiations on the various Agreements governing successful CRCs (including Commonwealth Grant Agreement, Participant Agreement, Company Constitution) will be coordinated by Research Development and Support (Research Contracts team) with sign-off by the DVCR as the designated signatory for all CRC Participation Agreements where the Flinders University is a Party (see <https://www.flinders.edu.au/content/dam/documents/staff/policies/governance-risk/contracts.pdf>).

Individual Project Agreements funded under a CRC are signed according to the relevant delegations under the Delegations of Authority to Enter into Contracts (see <https://www.flinders.edu.au/content/dam/documents/staff/policies/governance-risk/contracts.pdf>), meaning that the Director, Research Development and Support or the DVCR will usually sign these.

Commonwealth Grant Agreement – between the CRC and the Commonwealth (CRC Program) is largely a template document and not executed the University.

Company Constitution – defines how the CRC Company operates (e.g. governance) and must be consistent with the Participants Agreement on matters of overlap.

Participants' Agreement – is the key overarching agreement between the CRC and the University if it is a Core Participant. Key matters covered include the governance arrangements for the CRC (for example how the University can vote on CRC Company Directors), IP rules, how to withdraw as a Participant, and rules for the clearance of publications.

Supporting Participants' Agreement – is the key overarching agreement between the CRC and the University if it is a Supporting Participant (i.e. non-Core Participant).

Project Agreement – Sets out details of projects to be conducted (participants, contributions, budgets, objectives, outcomes, milestones, IP etc).

Deeds of Variation - From time to time a CRC in which the University is a participant may be required to execute a Deed of Variation to the existing Commonwealth or Participants' Agreement, for example to reflect changes in Core Participants and/or their contributions.