

Expression of Interest EOI

Part 1 – General Details

EOI ID	1132
EOI Title	Leadership Development Scholarship
Expected Start Date	01/01/2027
Expected End Date	31/12/2027
CRDC Pillar	2. People
CRDC Theme	2.2 Leadership and Capacity
CRDC Outcome	2.2.2 By 2028, CRDC partners to invest in leadership programs to support more diverse leaders with the skills and knowledge to lead change and drive sustainable prosperity
Application Type	
EOI Close Date	06/11/2026

Part 2 – Expression of Interest Requirements

Project Investment:				
Year	2026/27			TOTAL
Indicative budget (up to)	\$25,000.00			\$25,000.00

Issue to be addressed and project description:

The Australian cotton industry operates in an increasingly complex environment characterised by workforce challenges, changing community expectations, sustainability pressures and technological advancement, creating the need for diverse leadership capability.

The CRDC Leadership Development Scholarship will provide funding for individuals to undertake leadership development opportunities that align with both their personal development needs and the future needs of the Australian cotton industry. The scholarship aims to provide flexibility and accessibility for participants, and support leadership development across different career stages and sectors.

The scholarship is open to **Growers, researchers, extension personnel and other industry contributors**. CRDC is particularly interested in developing diverse leaders with the skills and knowledge to lead positive change and drive sustainable prosperity across the Australian cotton industry. Priority areas include sustainability and natural capital, profitability, innovation, research and development, workforce

capability, diversity, inclusion, and culture.

Scholarships may be awarded to individuals at any stage of their leadership journey, including:

Emerging leaders seeking to develop foundational leadership capabilities;

Experienced leaders looking to increase their impact and influence, and;

Strategic or senior leaders seeking to drive change across organisations, industries and communities.

The scholarship includes a dedicated focus on strengthening research/extension leadership capacity to support the development and adoption of innovation across the cotton industry.

Applicants will be required to identify their leadership capability gap, demonstrate how the proposed activity will address that need, and explain how the investment will contribute to impact and stronger leadership capacity within the Australian cotton industry.

Scholarships of **\$2,000 to \$25,000** are available to support approved leadership development activities. Successful applicants will be required to commence their funded activity before **30 June 2027**.

Eligible activities may include accredited or non-accredited programs, coaching/mentoring or short courses. Funding may be requested for program or tuition fees, and domestic or international travel, accommodation and other costs directly associated with undertaking the proposed leadership development activity. CRDC encourages co-investment from employers, applicants or other third parties where appropriate to maximise the impact of available scholarship funding.

Expected project outputs and outcomes:

Outputs

Successful applicants will:

- Complete an approved leadership development activity.
- Develop new leadership knowledge, skills and capabilities relevant to their identified development needs.
- Apply learning through their workplace, research, industry, community or leadership activities.
- Provide a final report outlining key learnings, benefits gained and intended application of new capabilities.

Outcome

To develop a diverse cohort of cotton industry leaders with the skills, knowledge and confidence to lead change, strengthen industry capability, and contribute to the sustainable prosperity of the Australian cotton industry

Additional guidance:

Your application must include:

1. About you: Describe your current role and involvement in the Australian cotton industry, including the sector in which you work (e.g. grower, researcher, extension and adoption, industry organisation, agribusiness, or other).
2. Your leadership development need: What leadership capability, skill or experience do you most need to develop and why?
3. Proposed development activity: Describe the leadership development activity you propose to undertake, how it will benefit you and why it is the best fit for your needs. Include a link to the program or attach relevant documents.
4. Previous leadership development: List any leadership development programs or industry scholarships you have previously received and the year of completion.
5. Industry benefit: How will this investment contribute to stronger leadership capability and positive outcomes for the Australian cotton industry? How do you plan to share your knowledge, skills and learnings with industry?
6. Include your referee: Name, phone number and position. You must have the referee's approval to list them before submitting an application. Also in this question, if it is expected from your leadership activity, include any papers, publications, or presentations to be developed.

Please note the Fluxx application fields do not exactly align with the application template attached. Please complete the Fluxx fields in line with the application template. Contact our Innovation Administration team for any assistance.

Important to note:

- Applicants are expected to have read the CRDC [Strategic Plan](#) and [Researchers Handbook](#) before applying for funding.
- Where there are system limitations that prevent the ability to include graphs, pictures or background documents, attachments can be uploaded with your application. Please note you must abide by character limits where applicable. Attachments cannot be used as workarounds for the text fields in Fluxx, unless otherwise advised by CRDC.
- Some organisations require a two-step submission process. For these organisations, applications must be approved by the authorised Grantee Admin before they can be submitted to CRDC. Please allow your Grantee Admin sufficient time to action this before the EOI closing date.
- Applications may be submitted in Fluxx up to 11.59 pm on the close date, noting the above requirement (if applicable to your organisation).
- This EOI is not a guarantee of funding.
- If you are unsure of your organisation's requirements, or for any other queries, contact the Innovation Administration team via 02 6792 4088 or research@crdc.com.au

To apply, [follow this process](#).

Leadership Development Scholarship Application

Applications must be submitted in CRDC's grant management system, Fluxx (crdc.fluxx.io).

To Register

1. To register to as a Fluxx user, visit crdc.fluxx.io and select 'Grantee User Registration'.
2. Review the terms, conditions and privacy policy and if you accept tick 'Agree'.
3. Complete the registration form and 'submit request'.
4. Registrations are responded to within 2 business days. If you haven't received an email in this time, follow up with the CRDC Administration team via 02 6792 4088 or research@crdc.com.au.

To access the Expressions of Interest (EOIs)

1. Once you have logged into Fluxx, on the left hand side you will find a navigation panel.
2. Under 'Expressions of Interest', you will find the EOIs open for funding applications.
3. On the EOI you are interested in, select 'Apply for Funding'. This will open up the application form for you to complete.

The below questions will need to answered in your application. The fields as they appear in Fluxx show in black, the questions you need to answer are in purple.

If you have any queries, please contact the CRDC Administration team via 02 6792 4088 or research@crdc.com.au.

Proposed Project Title: (Max 80 characters)			
Funding Start Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.	Funding End Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
Name			
Organisation			
Independent application	<i>If you are applying independent of your organisation, tick the box in Fluxx. If you are unsure, contact CRDC Administration for assistance.</i>		
Position/Role			
Email			
Phone			
Address			
1. (Fluxx field Project summary) About you <i>Describe your current role and involvement in the Australian cotton industry, including the sector in which you work (e.g. grower, researcher, extension and adoption, industry organisation, agribusiness, or other).</i>			
Is the Project confidential? Yes/No			
Please list any organisations you are collaborating with on the project.			
2. (Fluxx field Proposed scholarship outcome) Leadership development need <i>What leadership capability, skill or experience do you most need to develop, and why?</i>			

3. (Fluxx field Scholarship activities and travel itinerary) Proposed development activity <i>Describe the leadership development activity you propose to undertake, how it will benefit you and why it is the best fit for your needs. Include a link to the program or attach relevant documents.</i>
4. (Fluxx field CRDC supported scholarships or travel in last three years) Previous leadership development <i>List any leadership development programs or industry scholarships you have previously received and the year of completion.</i>
5. (Fluxx field The results will be communicated/promoted in the cotton industry by means of:) Industry benefit: <i>How will this investment contribute to stronger leadership capability and positive outcomes for the Australian cotton industry? How do you plan to share your knowledge, skills and learnings with industry?</i>
6. (Fluxx field Papers, Publications, Presentations) Include your referee: <i>Provide name, phone number and position. You must have the referee's approval to list them before submitting this application.</i>

Budget

Funding may contribute to, rather than cover, the full cost of a program. Employer, applicant or third-party contributions are encouraged where appropriate.

Funder	Item & detail <i>Program/tuition fees, travel, accommodation, coaching/mentoring, Other (specify)</i>	Amount
Choose an item.		\$
Choose an item.		\$
Choose an item.		\$
Choose an item.		\$
Choose an item.		\$