

# IMPACT PROGRAM FUNDING GUIDELINE

## FUTURE LEADERS

| Items                      | Details  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Funding Round</b>       | FY26   |
| <b>Type of Opportunity</b> | Open funding call  |
| <b>Contact</b>             | <a href="mailto:programs@cccclab.org.au">programs@cccclab.org.au</a>   |
| <b>Opening Date</b>        | September 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2025                                       |
| <b>Closing Date</b>        | October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025  |
| <b>Grant Amount</b>        | Up to \$1.35 million available for this funding call.                  |
| <b>Grant Term</b>          | Up to three (3) years for each fellowship                              |
| <b>Number of Grants</b>    | One (1) fellowship will be awarded for each fellowship type available. |

### 1. About the Children's Cancer CoLab

The Children's Cancer CoLab (CoLab) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to bringing together many of Australia's brightest childhood cancer researchers and clinicians from across institutions and disciplines to fast-track discoveries for childhood cancer patients.

Our collaborative approach has already united nine of Victoria's leading research, clinical, and academic institutions to breaking down traditional silos to achieve what no single organisation could achieve alone, ultimately driving improved outcomes for young cancer patients in Victoria and beyond.

CoLab's vision, mission, and values reflect our forward-thinking approach and commitment to collaboration. Central to our purpose is the belief that all children should not only survive cancer but also thrive in life after treatment. CoLab stands as a leader in children's cancer research and innovation funding, championing both scientific excellence and the lived experiences of survivors and their families. By fostering a culture of shared expertise and collective impact, we strive to set new standards for research, clinical care, and survivorship in paediatric oncology.

#### Our Vision

Every child with cancer will survive and thrive.

#### Our Mission

To improve outcomes for our youngest cancer patients by accelerating collaborative research and innovation into the clinic.

#### Our Values

Courage  
Community  
Compassion  
Collaboration

#### 1.1. Our Impact Programs

CoLab's Impact Program themes encompass three research-focused areas, plus two dedicated themes for capacity and capability building in paediatric oncology. These efforts aim to address critical gaps in access to innovative therapies, treatment safety, survivorship, workforce capacity, and research infrastructure.



01



## Next-Generation Therapies

Investing in breakthrough treatments for hardest-to-treat childhood cancers

02



## Safer Therapies

Supporting research to minimise treatment-related toxicities and improve long-term quality of life

03



## Survivorship & Living Well

Developing strategies to address the lifelong impacts of cancer and its treatment



## 04 Future Leaders

Building Australia's talent pipeline in paediatric oncology research and care



## 05 Innovation Accelerators

Integrating data, resources, and platforms to streamline research infrastructure and catalyse collaboration

### 1.2. Our Approach for Impact Program Funding

CoLab operates as a strategic funding body, focused on maximising the impact of investment in childhood cancer research and innovation. CoLab's funding model is designed to support collaborative, multidisciplinary initiatives that address the most pressing needs in paediatric oncology. By bringing together leading researchers, clinicians, and institutions, we aim to accelerate the translation of research discoveries into real-world improvements in care and outcomes for young cancer patients.

Applicants should be aware that CoLab's Impact Program funding approach is underpinned by five core principles that are intended to ensure that funded activities lead to meaningful, measurable improvements for young cancer patients and their families:

- **Prioritising needs based on patients' voices** – Engage with young cancer patients and families to identify unmet needs and setting priorities to inform funding decisions.
- **Driving impact through strategic and tactical action** – Commit to outcomes-driven funding, ensuring resources are strategically targeted to achieve the greatest impact through prioritised, collaborative investment in areas of highest need.
- **Transparent and competitive funding process with accountability** – Implement open, competitive grant process with robust scientific review to evaluate each proposal's potential for success and impact in childhood cancer research and care.
- **CoLaborative synergy for greater impact** – Foster interdisciplinary, multi-site collaboration by encouraging researchers and clinicians to leverage diverse expertise across disciplines and locations, broadening the impact and scope of research outcomes.
- **Milestone-based funding model** – Employ a funding model the incorporates milestone-based awards with embedded critical review criteria that combines rigorous outcome measures with dynamic resource allocation.

## 2. Objectives of the Future Leaders Impact Program

Childhood cancers present distinct biological, clinical, and psychosocial challenges, often differing significantly from adult cancers in both aggressiveness and treatment response. Progress in improving survival and long-term outcomes for children relies on a highly skilled and diverse workforce, including doctors, scientists, nurses, allied health professionals, and data specialists across many disciplines. Their specialised knowledge

and dedication are essential to delivering tailored treatments and advancing innovative approaches that can transform care for young cancer patients and survivors.

Despite the pressing need, the childhood cancer research sector faces a shortage of talent. This stems from persistent underfunding, limited resources, and a lack of targeted incentives – these are all factors recognised in the Australian Cancer Plan as major barriers to progress. The result is too few emerging and mid-career professionals able to build sustainable research programs or gain the expertise required to lead the scientific breakthroughs of tomorrow.

Investing in the next generation of childhood cancer researchers is critical. By supporting early and mid-career researchers from a broad range of disciplines, we aim to foster a robust pipeline of talents in the field. This initiative will enable fresh perspectives, innovative discoveries, and cross-disciplinary collaborations, which is a key enabler for accelerating progress and ensuring that children diagnosed with cancer have access to the very best care and emerging therapies.

By addressing the gaps in funding, training, and career support, this Impact Program seeks to nurture a thriving ecosystem of dedicated professionals and lay the groundwork for sustained advances in childhood cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship, benefitting families and communities.

### 2.1. Program objective

To foster emerging talent in clinicians and researchers by supporting their career advancement, thereby attracting and retaining the brightest minds in childhood cancer research and care.

### 2.2. Intended outcomes

This initiative aims to position Victoria as a global leader in childhood cancer research and care by building a strong pipeline of skilled clinicians and researchers focused on outcome-driven research and translation. Furthermore, through investing in talent and fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration, the program seeks to accelerate the development and implementation of innovations that improve survival and quality of life for children with cancer.

## 3. Fellowship schemes available for the FY26 funding round

The Future Leaders Impact Program offers three fellowship schemes, each designed to align with the applicant's experience and background, including clinicians, researchers, nurses, and allied health professionals. Each fellowship must incorporate a well-defined research project. The proposed research project must make a direct contribution to advancing knowledge, innovation, or practice in any area of paediatric oncology, including but not limited to discovery, translational, clinical, and all aspects of childhood cancer treatment and care.

Each fellowship may be held for a **maximum tenure of three years**, with the **anticipated commencement date set for July 2026**. Successful applicants **may defer the commencement of their fellowship for up to six months from the original start date**, subject to approval by the administering institution. Requests for deferral beyond six months may be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account individual circumstances and the specific needs of the applicant.

### 3.1. Early-Career Research Fellowship (ECRF)

This fellowship is designed to support the careers of promising new investigators by providing dedicated funding, mentoring, and professional development opportunities. Fellows will undertake innovative research projects, develop foundational skills, and grow their independent research track record.

***One Early-Career Researcher Fellowship, with a maximum budget of \$476,500, will be awarded in the FY26 grant round.***

### 3.2. Mid-Career Research Fellowship (MCRF)

This fellowship stream is intended to provide essential opportunities for recipients to expand their research agendas, lead multidisciplinary teams, and facilitate the translation of scientific discoveries into practical

applications. The fellowship supports established investigators in consolidating their career independence and advancing research that delivers meaningful, outcome-oriented impact.

***One Mid-Career Researcher Fellowship, with a maximum budget of \$620,000, will be awarded in the FY26 grant round.***

### 3.3. Clinician-Researcher Fellowship (CRF)

The clinician-researcher fellowship is designed for medical practitioners, nurses, and allied health professionals who have completed a higher research qualification, such as a PhD or Masters by Research. The fellowship supports those aiming to integrate clinical practice with research, enabling projects that connect laboratory discoveries, clinical trials, and real-world healthcare. A key feature of this fellowship is the provision of protected time, allowing clinicians to dedicate focused effort toward advancing their research goals without compromising their clinical duties. This support helps clinician-researchers establish careers at the intersection of patient care and scientific investigation.

***One Clinician-Researcher Fellowship, with a maximum budget of \$255,000, will be awarded in the FY26 grant round.***

### 3.4. Children's Cancer CoLab & Maddie Riewoldt's Vision (CoLab-MRV) Fellowship

In addition to the CoLab Future Leaders fellowships, the CoLab-MRV Fellowship opportunity is designed to foster the career development of emerging clinician-researchers, helping to attract and retain exceptional talents in the field of paediatric bone marrow failure and cancer predisposition. This opportunity targets early-career clinicians seeking to build their research expertise and leadership in this critical field by providing dedicated, protected research time to advance their knowledge.

***One CoLab-MRV Clinician-Researcher Fellowship will be awarded in the FY26 grant round.*** The fellowship provides funding for a two-year period, with an annual budget of \$85,000 to \$125,000 to support dedicated research time that is appropriate for the applicant. Please refer to the dedicated **CoLab-MRV Fellowship funding guideline** for this co-badged fellowship opportunity for complete details on the eligibility, application requirements, and assessment criteria to ensure alignment with the objectives.

## 4. Preparing Your Application

This document serves as the funding guideline for this funding opportunity, detailing the objectives, eligibility considerations, and evaluation criteria relevant to the Future Leaders Impact Program. Applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully review this funding guideline in preparation of their application to ensure a thorough understanding of process and requirement.

Applicants will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary panel comprising experts in paediatric oncology research and care, as well as specialists from other relevant disciplines that align with the applicant's background and research focus. The panel will apply pre-defined evaluation criteria, ensuring comprehensive and fair assessment for all applicants.

### 4.1. Applicant eligibility considerations

The section below outlines the **common eligibility criteria that apply across all fellowship types**, as well as specific requirements unique to each fellowship stream.

- Multiple applications from each Consortium Partner (as the administering institution) will be accepted for each funding round.
- Applicants must be employed, or have an official academic or research appointment, with a Consortium Partner institution (Member B) for the duration of the fellowship if successful.
- Applicants must be Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents, or holders of a valid Australian visa entitling them to reside and work in Australia for the entire funding period.

- Applicants must either hold, or have submitted for examination, a research higher degree or doctorate (e.g. DMedSci, PhD, DPsych or equivalent) at the time of application. If the degree has not been formally conferred at application submission, it must be awarded prior to the commencement of the fellowship.
- Research activities must be based in Victoria for the majority of the funding period.
  - Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis in instances where specialised research expertise or essential services are not available in Victoria but are critical to support the professional development of the fellow.
- Applicants must establish formal mentorship with a senior academic from a Consortium Partner, who has a strong track record in a relevant research area and have had experience in mentorship / supervision to junior staff or students.
- Fellows may not transfer their award to any other institution. However, transfer between Consortium Partners is permitted if both Consortium Partners agree to the arrangement.
- Fellows must not concurrently hold another fellowship or grant that provides overlapping salary support and/or research costs.
  - However, if a fellow is awarded another fellowship or grant providing salary support during the final year of their Future Leader Fellowship, they may relinquish the remaining fellowship or request in writing to reallocate the remaining funding to support other personnel or research activities that will enhance their research outputs and career development. Any changes in funding status must be promptly reported to CoLab in writing for review and approval.
- Periods of substantial leave, such as long service leave or sabbatical leave, will not be supported by the fellowships.
- Parental leave of up to 12 months is permitted during the fellowship, with salary for this period supported by the administering institution.
- Applicants at Academic Level C (Senior Lecturer or equivalent) are eligible to apply for the fellowships; however, the maximum fellowship award applies, and the administering institution must support any difference in salary above this amount.
- Applicants currently appointed at Academic Level D or above are not eligible to apply.

The table below presents the specific eligibility criteria for each fellowship type, outlining the distinct requirements that applicants must meet to be considered for each fellowship stream.

| Early-Career Fellowship   | Mid-Career Fellowship  | Clinician-Researcher Fellowship  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants are expected to have <b>no more than five years</b> of research experience following their PhD conferral (or equivalent research doctorate); with accommodations for significant career disruptions evaluated individually.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants are expected to have <b>at least five but no more than ten years</b> of research experience following their PhD conferral (or equivalent), with accommodations for significant career disruptions evaluated individually.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants must have completed the clinical training for their specialty group before the commencement of the fellowship.</li> <li>• Applicants are expected to have <b>no more than five years</b> of research experience post higher research qualifications (e.g. PhD or Masters by Research) but will receive consideration for significant career disruptions as appropriate.</li> <li>• Applicants must be eligible for full registration with the relevant Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency or, for non-registered professions, be eligible for membership in the relevant professional association.</li> <li>• Applicants from all speciality groups are eligible and must be qualified clinical health professionals where they directly interface with patients and have a major interest in research.</li> <li>• Applicants with allied health, nursing and medical specialisations beyond medical oncology and haematology are <i>encouraged to apply</i>.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants from basic and translational science or biomedical science, as well as other research areas such as epidemiologists, biostatisticians and health economists, are eligible to apply.</li> <li>• Applicants must have at least one confirmed supervisor (ECRF) or advisor (MCRF) for their research project from a laboratory research group, clinical department, or tumour stream appropriate for their proposed research project, for the duration of the fellowship.</li> </ul> |  |  |

| Early-Career Fellowship   | Mid-Career Fellowship | Clinician-Researcher Fellowship  |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote interdisciplinary growth, applicants (particularly those seeking Early-Career Researcher Fellowships) are encouraged to establish collaborative links with researchers from other Consortium Partners. Formal co-supervision is encouraged where feasible, but is not mandatory.</li> </ul> |                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants are expected to have a paid clinical appointment (minimum 0.2 FTE) at one of the Consortium Partner institutions during the proposed tenure of the fellowship.</li> <li>Applicants must nominate at least one supervisor / advisor with a demonstrated track record in conducting research, who will actively support their development and progress throughout the fellowship.</li> <li>To promote interdisciplinary growth, applicants (particularly those have less research experience), are encouraged to establish collaborative links with researchers from other Consortium Partners.</li> <li>Applicant must have obtained a letter of support from the department or head of unit, confirming support for protected research time and integration of research with clinical duties.</li> </ul> |

## 4.2. Eligible & ineligible costs considerations

This section outlines the costs that are considered eligible and ineligible for support under each fellowship schemes. Understanding these guidelines will help applicants prepare accurate budgets and ensure that proposed expenses align with funding policies. Costs may vary between the early-career, mid-career, and clinician-researcher fellowship streams, reflecting the differing nature of each fellowship.

### 4.2.1. Eligible & ineligible costs for Early- and Mid-Career Research Fellowships

| Eligible Cost  | Ineligible Cost   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salary support that covers the standard employment cost of the fellow at the Consortium Partner institution, with compensation determined by the applicant's experience and qualifications – inclusive of on-cost with a maximum allowable rate of 20% and an annual indexation of up to 5% may also be applied.</li> <li>Fellow may request to reduce their working hours for personal reasons (such as carer responsibilities and excludes vocational reasons). The equivalent full-time equivalent (FTE) may be reallocated to extra resources (e.g. research assistants) to maintain research outputs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any reallocation of funds must receive prior written approval from CoLab, and all proposed changes must be clearly justified to ensure alignment with the project's objectives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>An annual research and professional development allowance to support research activities, conference attendance, professional development courses, research travel, and other</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect / overhead cost such as infrastructure, utilities and administration costs.</li> <li>Duplicated salary or research cost already funded by another grant or fellowship.</li> </ul> |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| activities that enhance their research capacity and career development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$10,000 p.a. for Early-Career Research Fellowship</li> <li>○ \$20,000 p.a. for Mid-Career Research Fellowship</li> </ul> |  |
|--|--|

#### 4.2.2. Eligible & ineligible costs for Clinician-Researcher Fellowships

| Eligible Cost  | Ineligible Cost  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salary support, capped at a maximum of <b>\$85,000</b> per annum, that is intended to provide fellows with protected research time.</li> <li>• It is the responsibility of the applicant and the Administering Institution to determine and justify the appropriate Full Time Equivalent (FTE) allocation for the fellow's research role, based on the needs of the proposed project and institutional policy – a minimum of 0.4 FTE is required. The FTE allocation should align with the standard employment costs at the Consortium Partner institution, reflecting the applicant's experience and qualifications. Justification for the nominated FTE must be provided in the application materials.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salary on-cost, such as employer superannuation contributions, workers' compensation, leave loading and other employment expenses.</li> <li>• Salary associated with clinical duties.</li> <li>• Indirect / overhead cost such as infrastructure, utilities and administration costs.</li> <li>• Duplicated salary or research cost already funded by another grant or fellowship.</li> <li>• Cost arising from receipt of the fellowship, such as Continuing Medical Education.</li> </ul> |

### 4.3. Application outlines

Please refer to the table below for an overview of the information required in your application. All applications must be submitted through the [CoLab grant portal](https://cccolab.grantplatform.com) (<https://cccolab.grantplatform.com>). Ensure you review each section carefully and provide all requested details in your submission.

| Application Sections  | General information Required  | Fellowship Type Specific Information  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Applicant details &amp; eligibility check</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant information</li> <li>• Education &amp; employment detail</li> <li>• Administering institution information – including contact information for the research office</li> <li>• Eligibility confirmation</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>Research track record</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant CV / resume (<i>Max. 2 pages</i>)</li> <li>• Career summary that is relative to opportunity – including any career disruption statement (<i>max. 750 words</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Career disruption includes maternity / paternity leave, illness and carer responsibilities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Grants and awards (<i>insert information in table</i>)</li> <li>• Achievements in research and relevance to the proposed research and/or childhood cancer – including conference abstracts and publications (<i>Max. 250 words</i>)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCRF: Impact statement referencing key publications (<i>Max. 250 words</i>)</li> <li>• CRF: Justification for the nominated FTE for research time (<i>Max. 250 words</i>)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Consumer engagement &amp; plain language summary</b><br><br><i>This is provided to the Consumer Reviewers for their evaluation</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the proposed research project written in plain language for general public understanding, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The unmet need in childhood cancer (The Challenge)</li> <li>○ Proposed research question, objectives and methodologies (The Research)</li> <li>○ The significant and potential impact of the proposed research and how it would address the unmet need (The Impact)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |   |

| Application Sections  | General information Required  | Fellowship Type Specific Information  |
|---|---|---|
| <i>Max. 1 page – refer to guidance in grant portal for formatting requirements</i>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the plan for consumer or community involvement in the proposed project, outline how you will address ethical considerations, including cultural sensitivity, inclusivity, privacy, consent, and respect for all research participants, by ensuring relevant populations are appropriately engaged or consulted.</li> <li>Explain how you will implement your findings, share results with the community and support translation into practice or policy.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>Research proposal</b><br><br><i>Max. 5 pages – refer to guidance in grant portal for formatting requirements</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project title</li> <li>Background and rationale – strategic alignment to childhood cancer challenges</li> <li>Hypothesis and aims</li> <li>Detailed description of the proposed research and methodology</li> <li>Key milestones, deliverables and timeline</li> <li>Expected outcomes and potential impact on childhood cancer</li> <li>Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan</li> <li>Indicative budget</li> <li>Plan(s) for community involvement through the project</li> <li>Plan(s) for research knowledge translation / implementation</li> </ul> |   |
| <b>Research environment &amp; support</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infrastructure and Resources (<i>Max. 200 words</i>)</li> <li>Collaborations (<i>Max. 200 words</i>)</li> <li>Plan(s) for professional development activities (<i>Max. 200 words</i>)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRF: Integration of research project with clinical duties (<i>Max. 200 words</i>)</li> </ul>                               |
| <b>Supervision</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervisor(s) / Advisor(s) information, description of relevant expertise and letter of support</li> <li>Mentor information</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>Application certification</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation from applicant</li> <li>Confirmation from nominated supervisors / advisors</li> <li>Confirmation from nominated mentor</li> <li>Confirmation from head of department</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRF: Letter of Support from relevant head of clinical department confirming support for protected research time</li> </ul> |

Applicants are required to prepare their responses to be uploaded in accordance with the standard formatting instructions (also refer to grant portal):

- Use Times New Roman or Arial font with a minimum of 11 pt font size.
- Maintain minimum of 2 cm margins on all sides.
- Ensure each section is clearly labelled with headings.
- Figures, tables, and charts should be readable when printed on standard A4 paper and count toward page limits where applicable.
- Upload the document in PDF format.

#### 4.4. Application evaluation criteria

Applications will be assessed by a multidisciplinary panel with relevant subject matter expertise to paediatric oncology research and care, as well as representatives from childhood cancer survivors and/or families, based on the pre-defined evaluation criteria outlined in the table below.

| Evaluation Criteria     | Sub-Criteria  | Weighting |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| <b>Consumer Reviews</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing an important, unmet need for childhood cancer patients and survivors</li> <li>Relevance to childhood cancer patients, survivors, families or carers</li> <li>Anticipated benefits that are meaningful to patients and their support network</li> <li>Consumer engagement in design and development of research</li> </ul> | 10%       |



| Evaluation Criteria                            | Sub-Criteria   | Weighting |
|--|--|-----------|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessibility and inclusivity of research outputs and outcomes</li> <li>Realistic pathways for applying research findings into practice and potential for real-world adoption.</li> </ul>   |           |
| <b>Applicant Capability &amp; Track Record</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality and significance of key research outputs (e.g. peer-reviewed publications, grants, patents and conference presentations) adjusted for career disruptions.</li> <li>Quantity of outputs relative to career stage (adjusted for career disruption)</li> <li>Leadership roles in previous projects or research teams</li> <li>Building or contributing to research networks and partnerships</li> <li>Professional development activities that demonstrate a commitment to advancing expertise relevant to the fellowship.</li> <li>Alignment of skills and experience with the proposed research project</li> <li>Clear articulation of how the fellowship will build on the applicant's track record to achieve future career goals.</li> <li>Potential to grow as a research leader and contribute strategically to the host institution or broader field.</li> <li><i>For MCRF applicants: evidence of mentorship experience, team leadership, or contribution to institutional governance.</i></li> </ul> | 40%       |
| <b>Research Quality &amp; Innovation</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicability and relevance to research in paediatric oncology</li> <li>Well-defined and focused research objectives with clearly articulated research questions that address key gaps in clinical knowledge or practice.</li> <li>Robust study design and research methodologies, including appropriate data collection and analysis and attention to ethical conducts / regulatory compliances.</li> <li>Introduction of new or unique concepts, approaches or methodologies.</li> <li>Realistic project design, access to facilities, and alignment with applicant's expertise / clinical responsibility.</li> <li>Evidence of consumer engagement in the research development.</li> </ul>   | 15%       |
| <b>Research Impact &amp; Benefit</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for research outcomes to address critical gaps in the field and improve patient care, safety or quality of life.</li> <li>Potential for research outcomes to be scaled, adapted, or replicated in other settings or populations.</li> <li>Clear pathway for translating research findings into clinical setting or healthcare policy.</li> <li>Contribution to developing clinical, research, or translational expertise within the host institution or broader healthcare system.</li> <li>Scope for sustained impact beyond the fellowship period</li> </ul>  | 15%       |
| <b>Feasibility &amp; Institutional Support</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to necessary facilities, equipment, and technology required for the research, including adequate staffing (e.g. research assistants, technicians, or other relevant personnel).</li> <li>Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan, including strategies for ethical, regulatory, or practical challenges that might arise.</li> <li>A detailed professional development plan including activities within the host institute and externally.</li> <li>Confirmation of experienced supervisor/advisor or mentors relevant to the proposed research area.</li> <li><i>For EMCR fellowship applicants:</i> Part-time request to be evaluated via pro rata adjustments.</li> <li><i>For CRF applicants:</i> Commitment from host institution with formal letter of support confirming endorsement and commitment to the agreed-upon protected research time and clinical appointment support.</li> </ul>   | 20%       |

## 5. How to Apply

### 5.1. Application process

Applicants are invited to submit a complete application via the grant portal, clearly indicating the specific fellowship scheme under which they wish to be considered.

Upon receipt, all applications will undergo an initial review conducted by a panel consisted of representatives nominated by the Consortium Partners, as well as members of the Paediatric Family Advisory Committee (PFAC). To ensure a process that is both fair and consistent, standard conflict of interest management procedures will be implemented throughout the review.

During this stage, panel members will independently assess and score each application; these scores will form the basis for a preliminary ranking of all applicants. The results from this initial review will then be submitted to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Chairs, who will determine a shortlist of applicants for further evaluation.

Members of the SAC will then evaluate and score the shortlisted applications individually before meeting to discuss and reach consensus on the highest-ranking submissions for funding recommendation.

Please refer to Section 4.4 for detailed evaluation criteria and their respective weighting.

### 5.2. Application timeline

| Event / Action   | Year | Date  |
|--|------|---|
| Full application submission period (6 weeks)                                   | 2025 | September 8 <sup>th</sup> to October 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| <b>Full application submission closes</b>                                      |      | <b>October 17<sup>th</sup></b>                        |
| Initial application review by the review panel (6 weeks)                       |      | November 3 <sup>rd</sup> to December 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| Application shortlisting by the Co-Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Committee | 2026 | January 19 <sup>th</sup> to February 27 <sup>th</sup> |
| Applicant notified of initial review outcome                                   |      | Early March   |
| Review of shortlisted application by members of the SAC & PFAC                 |      | March to April  |
| Applicant notified of full application assessment outcome                      |      | Last week of April                                    |
| Commencement of grant agreement review and execution                           |      | May   |
| Anticipated fellowship commencement  |      | July 1 <sup>st</sup>                                  |

### 5.3. Application submission

Applications must be prepared in accordance with the structure outlined in Section 4.3, and submitted electronically using [CoLab grant portal](https://cccolab.grantplatform.com) (<https://cccolab.grantplatform.com>), an online grant management system.

Applicants who are not yet registered must do so before they commence their application.

Applications must be submitted by the closing date of the funding call. Late submission will not be considered. Upon submission, you will receive a confirmation of receipt. Applicants are strongly encouraged to retain a copy of their application for their own records.

### 5.4. Contact information

For any questions or further information, please contact our team at [programs@cccolab.org.au](mailto:programs@cccolab.org.au).