

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FY26

This document provides answers to the most frequently asked questions received Children's Cancer CoLab (CoLab) regarding Impact Program funding opportunities.

For further details, please visit our website (cccolab.org.au), and if you have a query not covered here, contact us at programs@cccolab.org.au.

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1. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

1.1. Who is eligible to apply for CoLab grants and fellowships?

Individuals eligible to apply for CoLab grants and fellowships must meet specific criteria regarding institutional affiliation and research focus:

- **Institutional Affiliation:** Funding must be administered by a CoLab Consortium Partner institution (see [here](#)), with the lead investigator holding a formal appointment at that institution.
- **Research Focus:** Research projects, whether foundational, translational, or implementation-based, should directly support CoLab's mission to improve outcomes for those affected by childhood and adolescent cancer. Proposal must clearly articulate how it will lead to tangible benefits for childhood and adolescent cancer patients, survivors or families.

1.2. What are Consortium Partner Institutions?

CoLab has partnered with nine leading Victorian institutions, bringing together many of Australia's brightest childhood and adolescent cancer researchers and clinicians from across institutions and disciplines to fast-track discoveries and innovations in paediatric oncology.

We encourage collaboration from non-Consortium Partner institutions with our partners, with a view to expanding the talent pool and increasing the number of skilled professionals working in paediatric oncology and intersecting fields to accelerate innovation, and build the workforce capacity needed to drive change in research and care for children and adolescents affected by cancer. For more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.cccolab.org.au/about-us/our-partners/collaborators>.

1.3. Are there restrictions on how many applications a single Consortium Partner can submit to any one Impact Program?

There are no restrictions on the number of applications a single Consortium Partner institution can submit - multiple applications from each Consortium Partner as the administering institution will be accepted for each funding round for each Impact Program.

1.4. Are there restrictions on how many grants an investigator can hold?

An individual may hold an unrestricted number of CoLab grants concurrently across all Impact Programs. However, to support equitable opportunity and ensure diversity among grant recipients, an individual can only be the Lead Investigator for one application per Impact Program for each funding round.

There is no limit to the number of grant applications (or funded projects) in which an individual may participate as a co-investigator for each funding round, but the individual's role and contribution as a co-investigator on each application must be clearly justified to demonstrate meaningful involvement.

1.5. Can current Future Leader Fellows apply for other Impact Program grants, or for new fellowships?

Fellows currently holding a Future Leader Fellowship are eligible to apply for grants from other Impact Programs, such as Next-Generation Therapies or Safer Therapies, and may concurrently hold both a fellowship and an additional grant if successful.

Current fellows are eligible to apply for an additional Future Leader Fellowship. However, if awarded a second fellowship, the recipient must relinquish the first fellowship before commencing the new one, as concurrent holding of two fellowships is not permitted. Successful applicants may also request to defer the commencement of their new fellowship for up to six months.

1.6. Are there limits on who can apply for Impact Program grants in terms of academic levels (A-E)?

There are no restrictions on the academic level (e.g. levels A-E) for Lead Investigator or members of the project team applying for CoLab Impact Program grants; applicants from all career stages and academic levels are encouraged to apply. Funding requests for salary support for eligible personnel should be matched to the individual's track record and intended contribution to the proposed research project, ensuring that resource allocation reflects both project needs and relevant expertise.

1.7. How do you determine if someone qualifies as a 'paediatric oncology researcher/clinician'?

Qualification as a 'paediatric oncology researcher / clinician' for CoLab funding opportunities is determined during the grant review process. Applicant must demonstrate a relevant track record in paediatric oncology research, including evidence of impactful publications, conference presentations and a recognised reputation within the discipline.

Applicants whose primary focus is adult oncology must formally include at least one paediatric oncology researcher or clinician in their project team to ensure meaningful collaboration across adult-and-paediatric oncology fields.

2. FUTURE LEADERS

2.1. Does the Clinician-Researcher fellowship provide any research support beyond salary?

The Clinician-Researcher Fellowship is intended to support dedicated (protected) research time for clinicians and provides funding to cover only the base salary at the nominated full-time-equivalent rate appropriate to the fellow's experience and qualifications.

For the avoidance of doubt, salary on-cost and institutional overheads are not eligible for funding under the Clinician-Researcher Fellowship, nor does it include research costs (e.g. consumables and equipment). It is expected that the cost will be covered by the administering institution, supervisor / advisor funding or additional funding.

2.2. Are there any restrictions on which academic level can apply for the Future Leader Fellowships?

Academic levels A to C are eligible to apply, provided all other eligibility criteria for the chosen fellowship stream are met. However, there are set maximum budgets for both the early-career and mid-career fellowships:

- Early-career: \$476,500 for three years – inclusive of \$10,000 per annum of additional cost
- Mid-career: \$620,000 for three years – inclusive of \$20,000 per annum of additional cost

Whilst applicants at Level C may apply for the mid-career fellowship, they will need to secure additional salary support from other funding sources if their salary exceeds this cap.

Academic Levels D or above (such as Associate Professor or Professor) are not eligible to apply for Future Leader Fellowships.

2.3. Are direct research costs included in Future Leader Fellowships?

Both Early- and Mid-Career Research Fellowships include a fixed amount of annual allowance that can be used to support the fellow's research activities and/or professional development activities that enhance their research capacity and career development:

- Early-career: \$10,000 per year
- Mid-career: \$20,000 per year

For detailed information on what activities are eligible for funding under direct research costs, applicants should consult the relevant [Future Leaders funding guidelines](#).

2.4. What defines early or mid-career researcher?

All career stages are defined by the number of years of research experience post relevant tertiary qualification. The definitions below, allow flexibility by considering career interruptions (see Question 2.5 on career disruption), ensuring fair assessment of early and mid-career status for funding and fellowship eligibility:

- An early-career researcher is defined as an individual with no more than five years of research experience following the completion of their PhD, accounting for any career disruptions within this period.
- A mid-career researcher is defined as an individual with more than five but no more than ten years of research experience following the completion of their PhD, accounting for any career disruptions within this period.

2.5. How should I justify career disruptions when applying, and are there specific rules for calculating eligibility - such as whether career disruptions due to COVID-19 can be considered, or if eligibility is based on consecutive days out of research?

When applying for CoLab's grants or fellowships, applicants should justify career disruptions through a dedicated section in the application form called the "Career Disruption Statement." Applicants are encouraged to explain any interruptions such as maternity or paternity leave, illness, carer responsibilities, and disruptions related to COVID-19. There are no specific rules for the number of consecutive days required for a period to be classified as a career disruption, however the impact should be measurable and justifiable.

2.6. Can early- to mid-career clinicians apply for research-only fellowships?

Yes, early- to mid-career clinicians can apply for research-only Future Leader Fellowships. However, it is expected that these clinicians will dedicate their time to research for the fellowship's duration, effectively shifting their focus fully to research during this period.

If a clinician intends to continue clinical duties in parallel with the research, they are expected to apply for a Clinician-Researcher Fellowship, which supports a mixture of clinical and research responsibilities with protected research time.

2.7. Is there a maximum acceptable length for deferral of a fellowship?

Successful applicants to the Future Leader Fellowships may defer the commencement of their fellowship for up to six months from the intended commencement date (i.e. 1st July 2026 for the 2025-26 funding round), subject to approval by the administering institution.

Requests for a deferral beyond six months may be considered on a case-by-case basis, evaluating the applicant's individual circumstances and specific needs. Such extensions are not guaranteed and require formal approval from CoLab.

2.8. For the Future Leaders Fellowship, what is the balance in assessment criteria between the candidate and any proposed research?

For assessment of the Future Leaders Fellowships, the criteria are weighted to consider both the strengths of the applicant and the quality of the proposed research:

- **Applicant Capability & Track Record (40%):** This criterion evaluates the applicant's past research quality and significance, leadership roles, career development, alignment of skills with the project, and potential for growth as a research leader.
- **Research Quality & Innovation (15%):** Focuses on the relevance, objectives, methodology, and innovation inherent in the proposed research plan.
- **Research Impact & Benefit (15%):** Assesses the potential for the research to fill critical gaps, improve care, and create sustained positive impact for childhood cancer patients.
- **Feasibility & Institutional Support (20%):** Considers the practicality of delivering the project, available facilities and resources, risk management, and strength of supervision and mentorship.
- **Consumer Reviews (10%):** Evaluates the relevance of the research from a patient and family perspective along with engagement with consumers.

Refer to the [Future Leader funding guideline](#) for further information on the evaluation criteria.

2.9. How is the generation of new roles and collaborations with other CoLab partners relevant to this scheme (Future Leaders) compared to the other ones?

In assessing Future Leaders Fellowship applications, the creation of new roles and collaborations with other Consortium Partner institutions is an important aspect, but the approach differs from other Impact Programs:

- The appointment of a fellowship position automatically constitutes the creation of a new role.
- All applicants must establish a formal mentorship with a senior academic from another 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 to promote cross-institutional engagement.
- For early-career fellows (both research-only and clinician-researcher), applicants are strongly encouraged to establish collaborative links with researchers from another Consortium Partner institution; whilst formal co-supervision is encouraged where feasible, it is not a mandatory condition.

2.10. Would an individual be eligible for the Clinician-Researcher Fellowship if they already hold another grant that provides funding for their research time, such as an institutional clinician-scientist fellowship?

Individuals may hold multiple grants or funding sources to support their salary for either protected research time or clinical appointments. However, the same portion of salary cannot be claimed from more than one funding source, and the combined total full-time equivalent (FTE) for all funding sources must not exceed 1.0 FTE (or total employed FTE). Additionally, the fellow must maintain a minimum 0.2 FTE clinical appointment while holding such concurrent research funding, and ensure that their dedicated research time is at least 0.4 FTE.

If two applications have comparable track records and equally ranked research proposals, but one applicant has other funding to support protected research time while the other does not, the decision regarding which applicant will receive funding rests with the reviewers who may also consider each application through the lens of equity and inclusivity.

2.11. Are there any requirements regarding the location of the clinical placement, or eligibility for clinical placements at non-paediatric hospitals?

There are no requirements regarding the geographic location of the clinical placement for the Clinician-Researcher Fellowship, provided the fellowship is administered by one of the Consortium partners. However, it is strongly encouraged that the clinical appointment be relevant to the proposed research within the paediatric oncology discipline.

2.12. What costs are included in research only fellowships? Can the funding be used to establish a new laboratory?

Funding through the CoLab fellowship scheme is primarily intended to provide salary support for exceptional researchers over a three-year period. CoLab offers salary support at institutional rates, including up to 20% on-costs, plus a modest but meaningful annual budget for supplementary research and/or professional development expenses.

Whilst we recognise that additional research funding can empower fellows and foster autonomy, this structure enables us to support a total of four fellowships in this funding round, including the CoLab-MRV partnered fellowship opportunity.

Allocation of budget across CoLab's Impact Programs is the result of careful consideration by the Board to balance support across all priorities. We welcome feedback on the fellowship funding model and will present it to the Board for consideration when determining future budget allocations.

3. NEXT GENERATION THERAPIES & SAFER THERAPIES

3.1. What is accelerated support for demonstrated success? Is there a separate budget for this process?

Projects that demonstrate exceptional progress and achieve their milestones may be considered for accelerated, fast-tracked funding to support the next phase or stage of their research. The next phase or stage should also be structured around milestone-based funding, with clear objectives designed to build a compelling case and position the project to secure larger grants from other funding sources.

In practice, this involves the Lead Investigator submitting a proposal for continued funding at least three months before the current funding period concludes, ensuring continuity and minimising disruption to research activities. The funding requests for these subsequent phase or stages are reviewed on an *ad hoc* basis by our Scientific Advisory Committee, outside of standard funding cycles. A dedicated pool of resources will also be allocated to support projects through this accelerated pathway.

3.2. For applications to Next Generation Therapies and Safer Therapies Impact Programs, does the proposed research need to be hypothesis-driven, and what does 'hypothesis-driven' mean in this context?

Research proposals submitted for consideration under the Next Generation Therapies and Safer Therapies funding call must be hypothesis-driven – meaning that the research should begin with a clearly defined, testable hypothesis, with a specific prediction about the relationship between two or more variables and uses empirical evidence to validate or refute that the hypothesis through innovative and methodologically sound approaches. Hypothesis-driven research in these programs is expected to contribute directly to advancing understanding or treatment strategies with defined objectives and potential clinical impact to improve outcomes in paediatric oncology.

This is distinct from funding for platforms or systems, where the intent is to develop, produce, manage and distribute data, samples or resources for research.

4. COLLABORATION

4.1. What defines 'collaboration'? Do partners need to be new, and can the investigator bring in new collaborators not currently part of the Consortium Partner institutions?

Applications must include 'meaningful' collaboration with researchers or clinicians from another Consortium Partner institution as part of the project team – where collaboration is defined by a clear need for intellectual input, expertise, or resources brought by different investigators.

CoLab encourages both national and international collaborations, as well as multidisciplinary collaborations, to promote diverse partnerships in advancing paediatric oncology research. Lead investigators are welcome to bring in new collaborators who are not currently part of the Consortium Partner institution.

4.2. Is collaboration required for every proposal, and can it be intellectual only, or must funding be shared?

Collaboration between two or more Consortium Partner institutions is mandatory for all CoLab funding. Applications must include 'meaningful' collaboration with researchers or clinicians from another Consortium Partner institution as part of the project team.

Collaborative arrangements may involve intellectual contributions, such as the exchange of knowledge and expertise, or tangible support, such as the provision of resources or services. The costs associated with these collaborations may be recognised as in-kind contributions or incorporated into the project budget.

4.3. Is there an advantage to collaborating with a particular Consortium Partner, especially since funded projects are currently mostly from one institute?

Collaborating with a particular Consortium Partner does not confer any advantage; all funding decisions are made on merit through the open and competitive grant process.

5. RESEARCH FOCUS & PRIORITIES

5.1. How is 'unmet need' defined, and how are cancer types prioritised for research?

CoLab defines 'unmet need' as the gaps in current childhood and adolescent cancer care and outcomes from the perspective of children, young people, and families directly affected by cancer. This includes conditions where there are few or no effective treatments, low survival rates, or significant long-term impacts on quality of life.

When prioritising cancer types for research, our approach is guided by both the lived experiences of childhood and adolescent cancer and the available evidence for each funding round. For example, funding calls focused on Next Generation Therapies will prioritise cancers that currently lack effective treatments and have poor survival outcomes. This ensures our resources are directed where they can make the greatest difference for children and families facing the most significant challenges.

5.2. Will high-risk, early-stage research be supported?

CoLab supports high-risk, early-stage research, and funding is intentionally designed to support projects that may not qualify for conventional funding due to their novelty or early-stage status, particularly through its Next-Generation Therapies and Safer Therapies Programs. The goals are to enable promising ideas backed with strong scientific rationale to establish a track record that will strengthen their ability to secure larger, traditional grants in the future.

5.3. Does CoLab fund basic research, or is the emphasis only on clinical trials?

CoLab does not restrict its funding solely to clinical trials – the intention is to support a broad spectrum of research including basic research, translational research, and early proof-of-concept studies. The main emphasis is to prioritise initiatives that demonstrate feasibility and generate compelling preliminary data, positioning projects for larger follow-on funding toward tangible outcomes for children and adolescents with cancer.

5.4. Can technology implementation research, such as liquid biopsy, be funded?

Technology implementation research, including innovative approaches such as liquid biopsy, is eligible and considered in scope for CoLab funding, provided the proposed outcomes align with the objectives of the Impact Program. Whether these technologies are intended to enable more targeted treatments as part of Next Generation Therapies, or to support adaptive treatment scheduling that minimises unwanted toxicities and improves safety in Safer Therapies, they are welcomed within our funding framework as long as they contribute meaningfully to our overarching program goals. Furthermore, the Innovation Accelerators program offers funding for emerging unique technologies and platforms that support widespread research capability through utility and accessibility, collaboration, sustainability, governance, value for impact and long-term viability.

5.5. Are Innovation Accelerator grants intended for equipment?

The Innovation Accelerators Impact Program is intended to support the integration of resources and platforms to streamline research infrastructure and facilitate collaboration across multiple sectors involved in childhood cancer research.

While the program supports platforms and resources that are widely accessible to maximise broad impact, it does not specifically fund applications for individual pieces of equipment. Equipment requests should instead be included as part of proposals that support platforms or resources holistically rather than as standalone equipment grants.

5.6. When will funding be available for Survivorship and Living Well Impact Programs?

CoLab is bringing together patients, families, clinicians, researchers, and charity partners to form a steering group that will define the scope of the Survivorship and Living Well Impact Program. This group will also contribute to the identification key initiatives and prioritisation of funding opportunities to be supported under the program, ensuring that decisions reflect the needs and perspectives of all stakeholders involved. See question 8.1 for more information on how CoLab funding is allocated to the Impact Programs.

6. APPLICATION PROCESS & ONGOING PROJECT MANAGEMENT

6.1. Are there separate guidelines for the Expression of Interest (EOI) and the full application?

There is a single set of guidelines for the Next Generation Therapies and Safer Therapies Impact Programs that covers both the Expression of Interest (EOI) and the full application stages. These guidelines outline the requirements and expectations for applicants at each stage of the funding process, including stage-specific application details and the relevant evaluation criteria, to ensure consistency and clarity throughout the application process. See <https://www.cccolab.org.au/grant-funding/funding-opportunities> for all guidelines.

6.2. What are appropriate / successful milestones, and how often are they reviewed?

Project milestones will be determined collaboratively with the applicant (lead investigator). These milestones serve as critical review points to assess the project's progress, so there is no one-size-fits-all approach, and milestones should be tailored to suit what is most appropriate for each research project. For example:

- For smaller, early-stage projects, milestones might include achieving proof-of-concept data supporting a hypothesis or establishing a model or technique.
- For larger, well-established projects, milestones could be the completion of an aim or the validation of a therapeutic target.

The number and nature of milestones are agreed upon as part of the grant agreement execution process, and review of milestones involves a mixture of formal progress reports and verbal updates provided to CoLab.

6.3. How does CoLab determine if a 'go/no-go' milestones is met, and can projects pivot?

Go / no-go decision points are not intended to be rigid or binary. Instead, these milestones are designed to foster open dialogue between CoLab and investigators regarding research progress. Investigators are encouraged to propose alternative solutions and pivot strategies to keep the project on track and maximise success, recognising that research often evolves in unexpected ways.

Termination of a project (i.e. the no-go decision) only occurs when the project is deemed not viable and no alternative approaches can be identified. Such a decision is taken very seriously and is ultimately made in partnership with the investigator, following careful evaluation by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

6.4. Will unsuccessful applicants be able to resubmit in the following round?

Unsuccessful applicants are invited to resubmit revised applications. These revised submissions should incorporate and improve upon feedback received from initial reviewer comments to refine their application and enhance alignment with the funding call's objectives.

6.5. Is the application assessed based on the applicant's CV or the project proposal?

Applications are assessed based on both the applicant's CV, specifically, the team's capacity, qualifications, and track record to demonstrate their ability to successfully deliver the proposed project, and the project proposal itself. The review of the project proposal focuses on the potential impact and benefit to paediatric oncology, innovation in research design and methodology, and the overall likelihood of success

6.6. How does the application process and timeframe compare to other grants?

CoLab's grant application process follows a competitive, multi-stage pathway aligned with major cancer research funding schemes in Australia. Applicants are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI), which is assessed by independent scientific and lived experience reviewers to rank submissions. Top-ranked EOIs are then invited to submit full applications for review by the Scientific Advisory Committee, which determines funding recommendations.

Recognising the time commitment required from both applicants and reviewers, CoLab ensures a reasonable period for submissions and assessments, and deliberately avoids scheduling deadlines during the Christmas and holiday seasons to accommodate personal commitments. This flexible timeline is intended to support meaningful participation. As funding rounds progress, CoLab is committed to gathering feedback and continuously improving the process and timetable.

6.7. Are the rounds open during the Christmas break?

The CoLab funding timeline has been structured to ensure that both applicants and reviewers can take a genuine break over the Christmas period. Outcomes from the Expression of Interest (EOI) round are expected to be shared in mid-December, where applicants who progress to the full application stage will be invited back to the grant portal in mid-January, with six weeks provided to complete and submit their full application.

7. FUNDING & BUDGET

7.1. Is there oversight for awarding funding from different programs to the same laboratory?

There is no limit to the number of grants or fellowships a laboratory or administering institution may hold. All applications are rigorously assessed in a transparent, merit-based review process using predetermined evaluation criteria. Oversight for granting funding, including situations where multiple awards may be made to the same laboratory or administering institution, resides with Scientific Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors. This ensures that funding decisions are strategic, transparent, and support high-impact, collaborative research aligned with CoLab's mission.

7.2. Can CoLab funding be used to support national competitive funding proposals (e.g. NHMRC) and other leveraged opportunities?

Leveraging CoLab funding to strengthen national competitive funding proposals, such as NHMRC grants, and other opportunities is strongly encouraged. CoLab's strategic funding model is specifically designed to help projects build a compelling foundation, positioning them to secure substantial follow-on funding through traditional grant schemes, partnership investments, and other external sources.

7.3. Are institutional overheads allowed in the proposed budgets?

Institutional overheads, including costs related to infrastructure, utilities, and administration, are not eligible for CoLab funding. This policy ensures that available funds are directed toward direct research activities and personnel, maximising impact on project outcomes.

7.4. Is there a minimum score required for projects to be funded?

There is no minimum score threshold that projects must achieve to be considered fundable during the application review process. All applications are assessed and funded based on merit, as determined through a competitive and transparent peer review process overseen by expert reviewers and CoLab's Scientific Advisory Committee to ensure rigor and fairness. If, however, none of the applications are deemed fundable by the peer reviewers and the Scientific Advisory Committee, it is possible that no awards will be made for that round -

upholding our commitment to supporting only high-quality projects and maintaining the integrity of funding allocations.

7.5. How does CoLab revise budgets, and what happens if funds are left over at the end of a round?

The CoLab management team may negotiate the project budget after your application has been recommended for funding, with any adjustments made in alignment with feedback and suggestions from independent subject matter reviewers. Value for money is an important evaluation criterion to ensure CoLab funding targets unmet needs and strategically manages limited resources for optimal impact. If any funds remain unallocated at the end of a funding round, they will be carried over and added to the budget for the Impact Program in the next round.

7.6. How did CoLab determine the 17% value for investment return if commercially successful?

A return value of 17% was determined through careful financial and strategic analysis, aiming to balance the need for reinvesting proceeds into research innovation while ensuring fairness and building strong partnerships with researchers and institutions. This percentage is positioned within the conservative-to-moderate benchmark range that nonprofit funders commonly consider when evaluating investment returns.

It is important to note that the 17% value applies only in circumstances where the intellectual property that led to commercialisation or licensing activities has been solely funded by CoLab, which is typically not the case. In most instances, multiple funders contribute to the research and, in such cases, CoLab will work collaboratively with other funders to agree on a return that is appropriately proportionated in alignment with each funder's contribution, following sector best practices for fairness and transparency in funder collaborations.

7.7. Can any portion of the funding go to collaborators outside of Victoria?

CoLab funding should primarily support activities within Victoria; use of funding for third parties outside Victoria or Australia will only be considered on a case-by-case basis if the required activity or service is not accessible locally or cannot be sourced within Victoria at a reasonable price or value.

8. COMMITTEES & GOVERNANCE

8.1. How is the CoLab funding allocated to specific programs and rounds? Who decides this?

The allocation of funding to specific Impact Programs and funding rounds are determined through an annual structured and iterative process.

The total amount available for funding across all Impact Programs in each funding round is guided by the conditions of CoLab's funding agreements with both the Victorian Government and the Children's Cancer Foundation, taking into account cashflow requirements.

The Board holds ultimate responsibility for deciding how funding is distributed among the various Impact Programs in any given round. This process is iterative, with opportunities built in to review and adjust allocations for each Impact Program in response to feedback from researchers, clinicians, the Patient and Family Advisory Committee, and the Scientific Advisory Committee. This approach allows the Board to realign priorities and funding levels to best meet emerging needs in each funding cycle.

8.2. What is the representation of paediatric cancer expertise on the SAC and Board, and do they include experts in areas like immunotherapy and care support?

CoLab maintains an independent, multidisciplinary Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Board, comprising highly regarded national and international experts across fields relevant to childhood and adolescent cancer research. When reviewing applications, if the collective expertise of the SAC does not cover a specific area, such as immunotherapy development, CoLab engages additional independent subject matter experts to assist in the review process. These special panels help ensure the highest standards of scientific rigour and maintain alignment with the organisation's strategic priorities.

8.3. Will the PFAC see applications with the SAC's recommendations and comments?

The Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC) members who participate in the application review process have the opportunity to provide direct feedback, which contributes 20% of the total application score for research project support grants and 10% for fellowships.

Initial review outcomes, including feedback and comments from both scientific and lived experience reviewers, will be shared as pre-meeting papers in advance of the panel meeting to ensure integration of the patient and family perspective with the scientific expertise. PFAC members are invited to attend the panel meeting, but attendance is optional. At the review panel meeting, there will be a dedicated opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal, allowing for collaborative consideration among reviewers.

8.4. Is there an IP clause, and has it been approved by both the Board and Consortium Partner legal departments?

The intellectual property (IP) generated from CoLab-funded projects remains with the investigator and administering institution. However, in accordance with the pass-through funding requirements from the State Government, recipients must prioritise benefits for Australian - specifically Victorian - communities when undertaking any commercialisation activities related to project-generated IP. Additionally, relevant Victorian government entities are granted first or concurrent visibility into investment opportunities relating to commercially developable IP. For more information, please visit our website [here](#).

Whilst the grant agreement, including the IP clause, has not yet been formally reviewed and endorsed by every Consortium Partner legal office, this clause has already been accepted by several Consortium Partner institutions in the context of grants awarded in 2024–25.

8.5. Will researchers have access to committees such as the PFAC to inform research questions?

Whilst there are many ways lived experience can inform and strengthen research by enhancing relevance to real-world needs, the primary role of CoLab's Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC) is to provide strategic guidance to the organisation and to support the grant review process. For this reason, direct involvement in the design of individual research projects is not appropriate, as it may present a conflict of interest.

However, researchers and clinicians have opportunities to engage with PFAC members at various events, such as the recent networking session and the upcoming City Treat in 2026, enabling meaningful exchanges and insights that help shape patient-centred research questions and approaches.

8.6. When did CoLab funding commence, how long is it secured for, and what is the current funding period end date?

CoLab was officially launched on 13 October 2024 with a funding commitment of \$35 million from the Victorian Government and \$10 million from the Children's Cancer Foundation. The funding is intended to support paediatric oncology research through open, competitive funding rounds, where the annual funding rounds will continue through to FY 2028–29 with funding continue to be distributed until 2032 and hopefully beyond.

8.7. Will the CoLab support bringing international or national speakers to member institutions, as the VPCC did previously?

CoLab is committed to supporting activities that improve knowledge transfer and capability building across Australia, with a particular focus on Victoria.

The facilitation of these collaborative activities, such as opportunities for national and international subject matter experts to our Consortium Partner institutions, falls within the remit of the Researcher Clinician Committee (RCC), and an annual budget will be allocated to support the initiatives endorsed by the committee. Researchers / clinicians interested in hosting speakers are encouraged to contact their RCC representative to discuss the proposal and facilitate arrangements at upcoming committee meetings.

8.8. Does communication with CoLab about potential grants improve success?

You are welcome to contact CoLab's Impact Programs team at programs@cccclab.org.au to understand how your research project is aligned with the funding opportunities. However, communication with CoLab is

impartial and will not influence funding outcomes as all funding applications undergo a rigorous, merit-based review and assessment process overseen by the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors. Therefore, while seeking guidance on eligibility and fit is encouraged, it does not improve the chances of success directly.