

IMPACT PROGRAM FUNDING GUIDELINE

FUTURE LEADERS

Children's Cancer CoLab Funding Guideline – Future Leaders – FY27 Funding Round
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1. Future Leaders Funding Overview

Items	Details
Funding Round	FY27
Type of Opportunity	Open, competitive funding call
Contact	programs@cccolab.org.au
Application Submission Period	August 12 th – September 23 rd 2026
Anticipated Funding Commencement	From July 1 st , 2027
Grant Amount	Between \$496,700 to \$645,800 for academic-researcher fellowship Between \$267,900 to \$401,900 for clinician-researcher fellowship
Grant Term	Three (3) years for each fellowship
Number of Grants	Up to four (4) fellowships are available: - One (1) academic-researcher fellowship is available for applicants from CoLab Consortium Partners¹ - Up to two (2) clinician-researcher are available for applicants from CoLab Consortium Partners¹ - One (1) clinician-researcher fellowship is available for applicants from national institutions (including Victoria).

2. About the Children's Cancer CoLab

Children's Cancer CoLab (**CoLab**) is an independent non-profit transforming how childhood cancer research is funded and delivered in Australia. We unite government, philanthropy, researchers, clinicians, advocates, survivors and families to accelerate the research discoveries that matter.

Through scientific rigour, cross-sector collaboration, and lived experience engagement, we're building a future where every child and adolescent with cancer can survive and thrive. Together, we can accomplish what no single institution can achieve alone, leading to improved outcomes for young cancer patients everywhere.

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

2.1. 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.

¹ The successful applicant (and their administering institution) must be a Consortium Partner, or be accepted as a Consortium Partner, with membership formalised by the commencement of the project.



3. 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.

3.1. 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.

3.2. 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.

4. Fellowship schemes available for the FY27 funding round

The Future Leaders Impact Program offers two 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 2027**. 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.

4.1. Academic Researcher Fellowship

This fellowship supports outstanding early- to mid-career academics-researchers who are driving high-impact childhood cancer research. It provides dedicated salary support, structured mentoring, and targeted professional development to accelerate the careers of emerging research leaders and strengthen Victoria's childhood cancer research workforce.

Fellows will undertake innovative, translational projects that move discovery closer to better outcomes for children and young people with cancer. The fellowship is intended to help recipients establish or expand their research program, lead multidisciplinary teams, and translate scientific findings into practical applications, consolidating their career independence and delivering clear, outcome-focused impact.

In this funding round, **ONE academic research fellowship will be offered for applicants with up to 10 years of active research time post-PhD** award working at a [CoLab Consortium Partner](#)².

Applicants are required to **nominate their career stage category** – early-career or mid-career. Applications will be assessed against stage-appropriate criteria, with **performance evaluated relative to opportunity** and consideration of the **extent to which the fellowship represents a well-articulated and timely career investment**, including how the applicant will leverage the opportunity beyond the project and contribute to a sustainable paediatric cancer research workforce.

Category	Early-Career Researcher Fellowship (ECRF)	Mid-Career Researcher Fellowship (MCRF)
Research experience	Applicants with up to 5 years of active research time post-PhD	Applicants with more than 5 and up to 10 years of active research time post-PhD
Salary	Up to \$466,700 over three years, based on 1.0 FTE salary (including 20% on-costs)	Up to \$585,800 over three years, based on 1.0 FTE salary (including 20% on-costs)
Research-related / Additional cost	Up to \$10,000 per year (total \$30,000)	Up to \$20,000 per year (total \$60,000)
Total budget	Up to \$496,700 per fellowship	Up to \$645,800 per fellowship

4.2. Clinician-Researcher Fellowship (CRF)

Clinician-Researcher Fellowships are open to medical practitioners, nurses, and allied health professionals who have completed a higher research qualification (PhD or Masters by Research). Applicants must be within 5 years of active research time from the date their qualification was awarded.

² The successful applicant (and their administering institution) must be a Consortium Partner, or be accepted as a Consortium Partner, with membership formalised by the commencement of the project.

Please note: Active research time is calculated from your qualification date, excluding any periods during which you were not actively engaged in research. This includes time spent primarily in clinical roles, as well as career breaks such as parental leave, carer's responsibilities, illness, or other interruptions. Clinicians who have held predominantly clinical positions since qualifying may therefore still be eligible, even if several years have passed since their award.

The purpose of these fellowships is to buy back clinical time, providing the Fellow with protected research hours toward advancing their research goals without compromising their clinical role. Salary support is therefore limited to the Fellow's clinical salary only (no on-costs are included).

Applicants must commit a **minimum of 0.4 FTE** to research for the duration of the fellowship. Salary support is provided at **\$85,000 in Year 1** for 0.4 FTE, indexed at 5% per annum, to a maximum total of \$267,950 over three years.

Applicants may request up to **0.6 FTE**, with salary support adjusted on a pro-rata basis, to a maximum total budget of **\$401,925 over three years**. Applicants should select the FTE level required to complete their proposed research – they are not required to apply for the maximum amount.

FTE	Base Salary Support	TOTAL
0.6 (maximum)	\$127,500 in Year 1 , with 5% annual indexation applied in each subsequent year.	\$401,925
0.4 (minimum)	\$85,000 in Year 1 , with 5% annual indexation applied in each subsequent year.	\$267,950

Up to **three (3)** clinician-researcher fellowships are available in the FY27 funding round across two streams, as described below. All eligibility requirements are otherwise the same across both streams.

4.2.1. CoLab Clinician-Researcher Fellowship

The CoLab Clinician-Researcher Fellowship is supported by the **Victorian Government and Children's Cancer Foundation** – which aims to strengthen Victoria's childhood cancer research workforce by supporting clinician-researchers to build sustainable research careers alongside their clinical practices. Up to **two (2) fellowships** are available for applicants at a [CoLab Consortium Partners](#)³.

4.2.2. McGrath (My Room) Clinical Research Fellowship

The McGrath Clinical Research Fellowship honours Peter McGrath, the son of Wynne and John McGrath; one of the three founding families of **My Room Children's Cancer Charity**. Funded by My Room in partnership with CoLab, this fellowship supports a clinician-researcher in investigating a specific, clinically urgent problem in paediatric cancer care. **One (1)** fellowship is available nationally to applicants at any NHMRC-approved institution.

5. 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.

³ The successful applicant (and their administering institution) must be a Consortium Partner, or be accepted as a Consortium Partner, with membership formalised by the commencement of the project.

5.1. General 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.

- A **maximum of three (3) applications from each administering institution** are allowed.
- To be eligible to apply for funding, the applicant organisation must be a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)-approved Administering Institution. A current list of approved institutions is available on the [NHMRC website](#).
- Applicants must be employed, or have an official academic or research appointment, with an administering institution 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.
- **Applicants must establish a formal mentorship with a senior academic from another institution**, who has a strong track record in a relevant research area and have had experience in mentorship / supervision to early-mid-career staff.
- **Fellows must not concurrently hold another fellowship of any kind** during the tenure of their fellowship. Successful applicants are expected to hold the Future Leader fellowship as their primary and sole fellowship commitment. Concurrent grant funding is permitted, provided there is no overlapping salary support and/or research costs.
 - 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.
- **Salary support must align with the applicant's qualifications and their institution's remuneration rates.**
- **Parental leave of up to 12 months is permitted** during the fellowship, with salary for this period supported by the administering institution. Other periods of substantial leave, such as long service leave or sabbatical leave, will not be supported by the fellowship.
- **Fellowship may be transferred** between [CoLab Consortium Partners](#)⁴ (Academic-Researcher Fellowship and CoLab Clinician-Researcher Fellowships) or between national institutions (McGrath Clinician-Researcher Fellowships) if both the originating and receiving institutions agree to the arrangement. CoLab must be notified in advance, and any such request must be supported by written justification and evidence that the research project will be equally well supported at the new 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

5.2. Fellowship-specific eligibility considerations

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.

	Academic Researcher Fellowship	Clinician-Researcher Fellowship
Career stage	ECRF: ≤5 years of active research experience post-PhD	≤5 years of active research experience post higher research qualification (i.e. PhD or Masters by Research).

⁴ The successful applicant (and their administering institution) must be a Consortium Partner, or be accepted as a Consortium Partner, with membership formalised by the commencement of the project.

	MCRF: 5–10 years of active research experience post-PhD <i>Career disruptions will be considered individually.</i>	<i>Career disruptions will be considered individually.</i>
Discipline eligibility	Basic, translational and biomedical science, and other research disciplines such as epidemiology, biostatistics, health economics, and related fields.	All clinical specialty groups eligible. <i>Applications particularly encouraged from allied health professionals, nurses, and medical specialists outside oncology and haematology.</i>
Clinical requirements	Not applicable	Must have completed specialty clinical training prior to fellowship commencement. Must hold a paid clinical appointment (minimum 0.2 FTE) for the duration of the fellowship, working directly with patients – <i>accompanied by a letter of support from the department head / head of unit to confirm protected research time and integration of research with clinical duties.</i> Must be eligible for full AHPRA registration or, for non-registered professions, eligible for membership of the relevant professional association.
Research time commitment	Minimum 0.6 FTE	Minimum 0.4 FTE dedicated to research
Supervision	Must nominate at least one confirmed supervisor (ECRF) or advisor (MCRF) from an appropriate laboratory, clinical department, or tumour stream. Interdisciplinary links with other national institutions encouraged; formal co-supervision encouraged but not mandatory.	Must nominate at least one supervisor/advisor with a demonstrated research track record. Collaborative links with researchers from other institutions encouraged.

5.3. Eligible & ineligible costs considerations

This section outlines the costs that are considered eligible and ineligible for support under each fellowship schemes.

5.3.1. Eligible & ineligible costs for Academic Research Fellowships

Eligible Cost	Ineligible Cost
Salary support that covers the standard employment cost of the fellow at the administering institution, with compensation determined by the applicant's experience and qualifications, inclusive of on-cost with a maximum allowable rate of 20% - see Section 4.1 for applicable rates and budget parameters. - An annual research and professional development allowance (not to be used for salary) to support research activities, conference attendance, professional development courses, research travel, and other activities that enhance their research capacity and career development - see Section 4.1 for applicable rates and budget parameters. - Fellow may request to reduce their working hours for personal reasons (e.g. carer responsibilities) but exclude vocational reasons. The equivalent FTE may be reallocated to extra resources (e.g. research assistants) to maintain research outputs. Fellow must receive prior written approval from CoLab with clear	- Indirect / institutional overhead cost such as infrastructure, utilities and administration costs. - Duplicated salary or research cost already funded by another grant.

Eligible Cost	Ineligible Cost
justification and demonstrate alignment with the project's objectives.	

5.3.2. Eligible & ineligible costs for Clinician-Researcher Fellowships

Eligible Cost	Ineligible Cost
Salary support for protected research time costed at the standard employment cost of the fellow at the administering institution, with compensation determined by the applicant's experience and qualification - see Section 4.2 for applicable rates and budget parameters.	Salary on-cost, such as employer superannuation contributions, workers' compensation, leave loading and other employment expenses. - Salary associated with clinical duties. - Indirect / institutional overhead cost such as infrastructure, utilities and administration costs. - Duplicated salary or research cost already funded by another grant. - Cost arising from receipt of the fellowship, such as Continuing Medical Education.

5.4. 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	Category Specific Information
Applicant details & eligibility check	- Applicant information - Education & employment details - Administering institution information – including contact information for the research office - Eligibility confirmation	
Capability, Outputs & Experience (Relative to Opportunity)	- Applicant CV / resume (<i>Max. 2 pages</i>) - Career summary outlining major achievements, key contributions to the relevant field, relevant experience, leadership roles, and outputs; all described relative to opportunity (<i>Max. 750 words</i>) - All applicants must state the number of years post-PhD as an active researcher, accounting for all career disruptions - A separate career disruption statement is available within the application form for applicants to provide further detail on any periods of interrupted or reduced research activity, including maternity/paternity leave, illness, and carer responsibilities. This does not contribute to the word count for this section. Relative to opportunity: Applicants should reflect on how they have actively made use of the opportunities available to them throughout their career. This includes how they have leveraged mentoring relationships, diverse roles or laboratory environments, lab visits, conferences, collaborations, and other experiences to advance their own development and contribute to their field. Reviewers will be looking for evidence of initiative, curiosity, and intentionality in how opportunities have been pursued and applied. - Fellowship Impact & Career Development (<i>Max. 500 words</i>)	CRF: Justification for the nominated FTE for research time (<i>Max. 250 words</i>) ECRF: Greater emphasis is placed on emerging independence, trajectory, and potential to build an independent research program. MCRF: Greater emphasis is placed on evidence of sustained productivity, leadership (e.g. supervision, team building, program development), and contribution to the broader field or institution.

Application Sections	General information Required	Category Specific Information
	- Applicants should articulate how this fellowship will represent a significant and meaningful investment in their career as a childhood cancer researcher - Grants and awards (<i>insert information in table</i>) - Achievements and expertise relevant to the proposed research and/or childhood cancer, including an impact statement highlighting key conference abstracts and publications (<i>Max. 250 words</i>)	
Impact & Benefit to Paediatric Oncology <i>This is provided to the Lived Experience Reviewers for their evaluation</i>	- Overview of the proposed research project written in plain language for general public understanding, including: - The unmet need in childhood cancer (The Challenge) - Proposed research question, objectives and methodologies (The Research) - The significant and potential impact of the proposed research and how it would address the unmet need (The Impact) - Outline any existing or planned lived experience involvement in the project's design, conduct, or sharing of findings. - Outline the pathway to impact, including how the research could change diagnostics, treatments, models of care, or outcomes for children and young people, and benefit families and the health system. <i>Max. 500 words for this section</i>	
Research proposal	- Project title - Background and rationale – strategic alignment to childhood cancer challenges - Hypothesis and aims - Detailed description of the proposed research and methodology - Key milestones, deliverables and timeline - Expected outcomes and potential impact on childhood cancer - Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan - Indicative budget (table provided in the Grant Portal; not included in page count) - Plan(s) for community involvement through the project - Plan(s) for research knowledge translation / implementation - References <i>Max. 5 pages – refer to guidance in grant portal for formatting requirements</i>	
Research environment & support	- Applicants must demonstrate that their administering institution is genuinely committed to the success of the fellow - Not only in completing the proposed research project (physical resources), but in their long-term career progression and visibility within the paediatric cancer research community - Infrastructure and Resources - Collaborations and leveraging you network - Plan(s) for professional development activities <i>Max. 600 words for this section</i>	CRF: Integration of research project with clinical duties (<i>Max. 200 words</i>)
Supervision	Supervisor(s) / Advisor(s) information, description of relevant expertise and letter of support	

Application Sections	General information Required	Category Specific Information
Application certification	- Mentor information and letter of support - Confirmation from applicant - Confirmation from nominated supervisors / advisors - Confirmation from nominated mentor - Confirmation from head of department	CRF: Letter of Support from relevant head of clinical department confirming support for protected research time

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.

5.5. 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
Impact & Benefit to Paediatric Oncology	- The project addresses an important unmet need in childhood cancer, with clear relevance to patients, survivors, families and carers, especially in cancers with poor survival or limited treatment options. - It targets significant gaps in current knowledge, treatments or models of care, and clearly explains the specific benefits it could bring to paediatric oncology (e.g. improved outcomes, reduced toxicity, better quality of life). - It presents a realistic pathway for applying the findings in practice, showing how they could inform new or improved diagnostics, therapies, models of care or survivorship support, and how real-world adoption could be achieved. - Research outputs and communication plans are accessible and inclusive, and there is meaningful consumer (lived experience) engagement in the design, conduct and/or dissemination of the research.	Total 20% <i>10% from lived experience + 10% from scientific reviewers</i>
Applicant Capability, Outputs & Experience (relative to opportunity)	- Quality and significance of research contributions relative to opportunity, with emphasis on the applicant's role and impact rather than output volume. This includes the importance and reach of outputs (e.g. publications, grants, patents, presentations, clinical guidelines, or policy contributions), taking into account career stage, active research years, and any career disruptions or non-research periods. - Leadership and contribution appropriate to career stage, including roles in projects or teams, development of collaborations and partnerships, and evidence of mentoring or team coordination. - Commitment to professional development and fit to the proposed project, including how the applicant's skills and experience position them to deliver the research, and how the fellowship will build on their track record to support future career progression and development as a research leader. - The extent to which the fellowship represents a significant and well-articulated career investment, including how the applicant will leverage the opportunity beyond the project, the timing of the award, and their vision for contributing to a sustainable paediatric cancer research workforce. - Potential to develop as a research leader and contribute strategically to the host institution and broader field.	40%

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
	- ECRF applicants will be assessed with greater weighting on: research direction and potential, fellowship impact and career development, and the quality and trajectory of outputs relative to opportunity. - MCRF applicants will be assessed with greater weighting on: sustained productivity, evidence of leadership and mentoring, and contribution to institutional and broader field development.	
Research Quality & Innovation	- Applicability and relevance to research in paediatric oncology - Well-defined and focused research objectives with clearly articulated research questions that address key gaps in clinical knowledge or practice. - Robust study design and research methodologies, including appropriate data collection and analysis and attention to ethical conducts / regulatory compliances. - Introduction of new or unique concepts, approaches or methodologies. - Realistic project design, access to facilities, and alignment with applicant's expertise / clinical responsibility. - Evidence of consumer engagement in the research development.	20%
Feasibility & Institutional Support	- Demonstration that the administering institution is genuinely committed to the fellow's success, not only in completing the proposed research project, but in their long-term career progression and visibility within the paediatric cancer research community. This includes: - Access to physical resources such as laboratory space, equipment, necessary facilities, and technology required for the research, including adequate staffing (e.g. research assistants, technicians, or other relevant personnel). - Institutional investment in the fellow's career development through mentoring programs, leadership opportunities, conference support, and pathways to ongoing academic or clinical-research appointments. - Evidence that the institutional environment will actively support the fellow's national and international profile and provide access to networks, speaking opportunities, and collaborative partnerships beyond the host institution. - Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan, including strategies for ethical, regulatory, or practical challenges that might arise. - A professional development plan including activities within the host institute and externally. - Confirmation of experienced supervisor/advisor or mentors relevant to the proposed research area. <i>For ARF applicants:</i> Part-time request to be evaluated via pro rata adjustments. <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.	20%

6. How to Apply

6.1. Application process

Applicants must submit a complete application via the [CoLab grant portal](https://cccolab.grantplatform.com/) (<https://cccolab.grantplatform.com/>), clearly indicating the fellowship scheme under which they wish to be considered.

All eligible applications will first be independently reviewed and scored by national experts, with standard conflict-of-interest and confidentiality procedures applied throughout to ensure a fair and consistent process. The resulting scores will be used to generate a preliminary ranking, which will be provided to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Chairs to determine a shortlist for further consideration.

Shortlisted applications will then be individually assessed and scored by members of the SAC, and, by lived experience expert reviewers. The SAC will subsequently convene to discuss the shortlisted applications and reach consensus on which to recommend for funding.

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

6.2. Application timeline

Event / Action	Year	Date
Full application submission period (6 weeks)	2026	August 12 th to September 23 rd
Full application submission closes		September 23rd
Initial application review by the expert review panel		October - November
Second stage review of shortlisted applications by Scientific Advisory Committee and Lived Experience Experts	2027	February to April
Applicant notified of assessment outcome and commencement of grant agreement execution		May
Anticipated fellowship commencement		July 1 st

6.3. Application submission

Applications must be prepared in accordance with the structure outlined in Section 4.3 and submitted 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.

7. Post Application

Applicants and the nominated grant or research office contact will be notified of the outcome by email. If successful, Children's Cancer CoLab will prepare and share a grant agreement for review by the applicant and their administering institution. Both parties will have **six (6) weeks (30 business days)** from the date of the written offer to execute the grant agreement. During this time, CoLab will work with applicants and institutions to finalise any outstanding details.

Please note that, as a not-for-profit organisation, CoLab is only able to accommodate minor variations to the grant agreement. This approach supports a fair, consistent, and efficient contracting process across all funded projects. Our agreements have been developed with pro bono legal support and reflect our organisational policies, governance requirements, and risk settings; as such, we are unable to accept material amendments. Applicants and institutions are encouraged to review CoLab's grant conditions, available on our website (<https://www.cccolab.org.au/grant-funding/funding-guidance/grant-conditions>), when considering and preparing for this funding opportunity.

The offer will lapse if the grant agreement is not signed by both parties within this period. Under certain circumstances, CoLab may grant an extension at its discretion. Funding approval is based on the information provided in the application. Any proposed changes to key project details following approval must be submitted to CoLab in writing for review, to ensure they do not materially affect the project as approved by the Program Delegate.

8. Contact information

For any questions or further information, please contact our team at programs@cccolab.org.au.