

# IMPACT PROGRAM FUNDING GUIDELINES

# TRANSFORMATIVE THERAPIES

Children's Cancer CoLab Funding Guideline – Transformative Therapies – FY27 Funding Round  
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## 1. Transformative Therapies Funding Overview

| Items                                     | Details                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Funding Round</b>                      | FY27                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                  |
| <b>Category</b>                           | <b>Project Grant</b>                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Seed Grant</b>                                                                                |
| <b>Type of Opportunity</b>                | Open, competitive national funding call                                                                                                                                              | Open, competitive Victorian-only funding call                                                    |
| <b>Contact</b>                            | <a href="mailto:programs@cccolab.org.au">programs@cccolab.org.au</a>                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                  |
| <b>EOI Submission Period</b>              | August 12 <sup>th</sup> - September 9 <sup>th</sup> 2026                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                  |
| <b>Full Application Submission Period</b> | January 18 <sup>th</sup> - February 15 <sup>th</sup> 2027                                                                                                                            | NA - Single stage application                                                                    |
| <b>Anticipated funding commencement</b>   | From July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2027                                                                                                                                                     | From April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2027                                                                |
| <b>Grant Amount</b>                       | Up to AU\$500,000 per application                                                                                                                                                    | Up to AU\$150,000 in per application                                                             |
| <b>Grant Term</b>                         | Up to three (3) years                                                                                                                                                                | No restriction                                                                                   |
| <b>Total Available Budget</b>             | <b>Up to AU\$2m</b> is available for <a href="#">CoLab Consortium Partners</a> <sup>1</sup><br><br><b>Up to AU\$1.5m</b> is available for national institutions (including Victoria) | <b>Up to AU\$300,000</b> is available for <a href="#">CoLab Consortium Partners</a> <sup>1</sup> |

## 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 Programs encompass two 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 and safer therapies, survivorship, workforce capacity, and research infrastructure.

<sup>1</sup> 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 Transformative Therapies Impact Program

Advances in treatment have lifted childhood cancer survival in Australia to around 80–87% over recent decades, yet progress has been uneven. A substantial number of children still face cancers where no effective treatment exists, where disease carries a high risk of relapse, or where cancer has already relapsed, spread, or become resistant to therapy, and for these children outcomes remain unacceptably poor. At the same time, many survivors live with serious long-term physical, cognitive, and psychosocial effects caused by current chemo- and radiotherapy-based treatments.

These dual challenges – cancers that remain incurable and treatments that are often life-altering – are compounded by the fundamental biological differences between childhood and adult cancers and the rarity of many paediatric subtypes, which limits traditional industry-led drug development. Together, they highlight a pressing need for child-specific therapies and models of care that both improve survival for the hardest-to-treat cancers and reduce the acute and late toxicities faced by young people and their families.

The **Transformative Therapies Impact Program** is designed to catalyse discovery and breakthroughs for more targeted, more effective, and less toxic therapies for childhood cancers that relapse, spread, lack effective treatment options, or cause serious long-term harm. To do this, the program offers two complementary funding streams:

1. **Project Grants** for evidence-building proof-of-concept studies; and
2. **Seed Grants** for very early-stage, high-risk, high-potential ideas.

#### 3.1. Program objective

The program seeks to identify, develop and de-risk breakthrough therapies and models of care for the most challenging childhood cancers, by:

- Harnessing cutting-edge technologies and approaches to discover and validate novel, actionable therapeutic targets and strategies for the hardest-to-treat paediatric malignancies.
- Pioneering safer therapies and care models that minimise or reduce treatment-related toxicities, improving physical, cognitive and psychosocial outcomes while maintaining survival.

Projects may focus on either or both (1) improving survival in treatment-resistant cancers, and/or (2) reducing toxicity and late effects – as long as there is a clear, transformative potential for children with cancer.

For the purposes of this program, “transformative” includes two equally important types of projects:

1. **New concepts and approaches** – projects that introduce genuinely novel targets, modalities, models of care, or technologies that could substantially change how certain childhood cancers are diagnosed, treated, or managed in the longer term.
2. **Repurposed or optimised therapies** – projects that improve, adapt, or repurpose existing therapies, models of care, or tools (for example, making a known therapy safer, more effective, or usable in a new population or setting) and that can deliver more immediate benefits for children and young people with cancer.

Transformative projects do not need to be “blue sky” or complex to qualify; work that simplifies care, reduces toxicity, or improves access at scale can be highly transformative if it improves outcomes for more children, more quickly

### 3.2. Intended outcomes

In the short to medium term, the program aims to:

- Identify and validate new therapeutic targets, interventions, or models of care for high-risk and treatment-resistant childhood cancers, and for the prevention or reduction of treatment-related toxicities.
- Generate robust preclinical, translational, clinical, or implementation evidence that de-risks future investment, supports progression to the next development milestones, and enables teams to secure additional funding for scale-up and translation.

Over the longer term, the expected impact is to:

- Deliver safer and more effective therapies and care models that reduce long-term morbidity and improve quality of life for childhood cancer survivors, without compromising survival rates.
- Achieve clinical adoption and, where relevant, regulatory or guideline recognition of new therapies or models of care that meaningfully improve outcomes for children with the hardest-to-treat cancers.

### 3.3. Research Priorities and Focus Areas

Projects funded through Transformative Therapies should align with one or more of the following indicative focus areas; these examples are intended to illustrate scope, not to be exhaustive.

- **New or optimised therapies for the hardest-to-treat childhood cancers**, such as high-grade gliomas, medulloblastoma, diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, metastatic sarcomas, and treatment-resistant or relapsed leukaemia
- **Novel targets and paediatric appropriate therapies** – discovering and validating paediatric relevant targets, and designing treatments suited to children (e.g. targeted agents, biologics, gene/cell therapies) that overcome resistance and spare healthy tissue.
- **Precision and predictive tools** – biomarkers, diagnostic innovations, liquid biopsy or minimal residual disease monitoring, and data driven decision support to guide more precise, less toxic treatment.
- **Clinical and real-world studies using existing platforms** – leveraging clinical trials, registries, biobanks and other established data or sample platforms to generate new insights, refine therapeutic strategies, or test new models of care for children with cancer.
- **Reducing toxicity and improving care** – therapeutic strategies, models of care and supportive interventions that directly prevent or minimise acute and long-term toxicities while maintaining or improving survival and quality of life.

### 3.4. Scope and scale of the project

The program welcomes projects from early-stage discovery through to preclinical and early clinical validation, provided they directly advance discovery, translational and/or clinical research in paediatric oncology with funding opportunities for:

- **Seed Grants** for very early-stage, high-risk, high-potential projects, where bold, innovative concepts are being explored and key feasibility or proof-of-concept data are still being generated.
- **Project Grants** for research with a clear evidence base, where supporting data justify a more substantial program of work aimed at advancing interventions toward translation and clinical impact.

Applicants should define a project scope that matches the research question, anticipated outcomes and intended impact, clearly justify the chosen funding category, and explain how planned activities move the project toward its next key milestone(s). Budgets should be commensurate with the proposed scope of work and will be assessed on value for money and alignment with the project's ambitions, maturity and potential for impact.

### 3.5. Milestone-based funding model for accountability

All Project Grants funded through the Transformative Therapies Impact Program are subject to a milestone-based funding model. Applicants must propose **ambitious but achievable milestones and clearly defined deliverables**, that are aligned with the proposed budget, which will form the primary basis for assessing progress and determining continued funding.

At each review point, progress will be assessed against the agreed milestones and deliverables. Where milestones are not met as planned, the project team must provide a clear justification and outline a revised strategy (for example, alternative experiments, methods, or pathways) that is realistically capable of achieving the original intended outcomes or an equivalent, well-justified pivot. Revised plans will be reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee, which may endorse, amend, or reject the proposed changes.

If, after reasonable efforts and consideration of alternative approaches, there is no viable pathway to deliver the intended outcomes, CoLab reserves the right to terminate the project to ensure responsible and effective use of program resources. Conversely, projects that demonstrate strong progress and compelling new opportunities may be invited to fast-track proposals for subsequent funding phases outside standard annual cycles.

Given their smaller scale and high-risk, early-stage nature, Seed Grants will not be required to specify formal milestones in the same way as Project Grants. Instead, Seed Grant funding will be outcome-focused: applicants are expected to outline the key outcomes or learnings they aim to generate and to report back to CoLab team at agreed points during the project. These check-ins will focus on progress, emerging findings and next-step plans, rather than on strict milestone delivery.

## 4. Eligibility

Applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully review this funding guideline in preparation of their application to ensure a thorough understanding of process and requirement. For any questions not addressed within this guideline, please contact us at [programs@cccolab.org.au](mailto:programs@cccolab.org.au).

### 4.1. Applicant / Application eligibility considerations

- Applications must have **clear relevance and impact for paediatric oncology**, with outputs applicable to the unique biology and care needs of children and adolescents with cancer.
- To be eligible to apply for funding, the administering organisation must be a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)-approved Administering Institution or [CoLab Consortium Partner](#)<sup>2</sup>. A current list of approved institutions is available on the [NHMRC website](#).
- For each application, the applicant must specify both the **administering institution** and the **lead institution** (where the work will be carried out). Where the lead institution is different from the administering institution, the lead institution must be a recognised affiliated institution of the administering institution. Up to **three (3) applications** per category (Project grants and Seed grants) may be submitted from each lead

<sup>2</sup> 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.



institution within an eligible administering institution. Administering institutions may submit more than three (3) applications in total, as long as this per-lead institution limit is maintained. For Consortium Partner-specific funding opportunities, the lead institution must also be a [CoLab Consortium Partner](#)<sup>3</sup>.

- The lead investigator (main applicant) must hold a **substantive formal appointment at the administering institution** for the duration of the funding period. An honorary or adjunct appointment is not sufficient.
- An individual may be the lead investigator (main applicant) on **one Transformative Therapies Project Grant application and one Seed Grant application** in this round. There is no limit on the number of applications where an individual may be listed as a team member.
- **Project Grants:** Each application must involve **collaboration with researchers and/or clinicians from at least one other research institution**, contributing time, expertise or resources (funded or in-kind). Applications that thoughtfully share funding across institutions will be viewed favourably. Where meaningful collaboration is not feasible (e.g. smaller projects), applicants should contact CoLab for advice before submitting
- Applications led from primarily adult oncology groups must include **at least one paediatric oncology researcher and/or clinician** as a funded team member, with a clear role in the project.
- Projects should support activities within Australia. For projects administered by a CoLab Consortium Partner, activities or services outside elsewhere in Australia may be supported where they cannot reasonably be sourced locally at fair cost or value.

## 4.2. Project activity eligibility considerations

Eligible projects must be ***hypothesis-driven, with clearly articulated methodology, defined milestones, and measurable outcomes***. They should focus on the **development, optimisation, or early validation of new or improved therapeutic approaches for paediatric cancers**. Building on the priorities in Section 3.3, eligible projects may include (but are not limited to):

- **Mechanistic and target focused studies** – experiments that identify and functionally validate paediatric relevant therapeutic targets, pathways, or mechanisms of resistance using multi omics, *in vitro* and *in vivo* models.
- **Therapeutic development and optimisation** – design, testing or refinement of therapeutic approaches (e.g. new compounds or biological agents, reformulations, dosing/schedule optimisation, drug delivery strategies, rational combinations) aimed at improving efficacy and/or reducing toxicity in children.
- **Biomarker and decision support development** – creation or validation of prognostic, predictive or companion biomarkers, and associated assays or tools, to support risk stratification, treatment selection or real time treatment adaptation (for example molecular profiling panels, imaging based biomarkers, or minimal residual disease assays).
- **Clinical and real-world data-driven studies** – secondary research using existing clinical trials or platforms, such as hypothesis-driven analyses of de-identified clinical trial data, or use of stored samples from industry-sponsored or other clinical studies for biomarker development, mechanistic studies, or new models of care, provided all required approvals and agreements are in place.

Projects that focus primarily on infrastructure or platform development without a clearly articulated, hypothesis-driven research question are not eligible.

### 4.2.1. Eligible & ineligible activities

| Eligible Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Ineligible Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct research costs that are essential to the project and contribute to achieving its objectives (e.g. personnel, consumables, specialised services, data access).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects without a clear hypothesis and defined expected outcomes.</li> <li>• Projects that do not include any testing or validation in paediatric cancer models or</li> </ul> |

<sup>3</sup> 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.

| Eligible Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Ineligible Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salary support for individuals who are directly involved in delivering research activities and contributing to project outputs, paid in line with their standard institutional rates and including on-costs (capped at 20%)</li> <li>New or existing staff time where total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) across all funding sources does not exceed 1.0 FTE per individual during the grant period. <i>It is the responsibility of both the personnel and the administering organisation to monitor and certify that the combined FTE commitments from all sources of support do not exceed this threshold at any time.</i></li> </ul> | <p>paediatric patients, where such work is required to demonstrate relevance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities whose primary goal is to develop platforms, infrastructure or resources.</li> <li>Proposals consisting of multiple disconnected projects, each with its own distinct aims.</li> <li>Activities and salary support that have already been fully funded from another source.</li> <li>Salary support for individuals who are not directly contributing to the research outputs and deliverables.</li> <li>Indirect/overhead costs such as infrastructure, utilities, and general administration.</li> <li>Industry-sponsored national or international clinical studies, where the primary purpose is to deliver or expand the sponsor's trial and associated activities.</li> </ul> |

## 5. How to Apply

Applications must be prepared in alignment with the requirements set out in **Section 7 (Project Grants)** and **Section 8 (Seed Grants)**, including the relevant application outline, evaluation criteria and timeline, and submitted electronically via the [CoLab grant portal](https://cccolab.grantplatform.com) (<https://cccolab.grantplatform.com>) - an online grant management system.

Applicants who are not yet registered on the portal must do so before commencing their application.

All applications must be submitted by the published closing date for the funding call; late submissions will not be accepted. Upon submission, applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt and are strongly encouraged to retain a copy of their application for their own records.

## 6. 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.



## 7. Contact Us

For any questions or further information, please contact our team at [programs@cccolab.org.au](mailto:programs@cccolab.org.au). We also have answers to frequently asked questions on our website <https://www.cccolab.org.au/grant-funding/funding-guidance>

## 8. Transformative Therapies - Project Grants

The Project Grant category supports proof-of-concept paediatric cancer research where a strong hypothesis is underpinned by robust scientific rationale and preliminary data, but where the project requires additional support to reach a stage of readiness suitable for foundational funding (e.g. NHMRC, Cancer Australia, or commercial investment) that would progress it toward clinical implementation.

Project Grants are intended to accelerate promising, paediatric-focused research along a clear translational pathway, bridging the gap between early discovery and larger-scale investment, and particularly support collaborative, cross-disciplinary work that build on existing knowledge and make effective use of available expertise, data and infrastructure.

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Type of opportunity                | Open, competitive national funding call                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Total available budget             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to AU\$2.0m is available for <a href="#">CoLab Consortium Partners</a><sup>4</sup></li> <li>Up to AU\$1.5m is available for national institutions (including Victoria)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Grant amount                       | Up to AU\$500,000 per project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Grant term                         | Up to three (3) years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Application process                | <p><b>Two-stage process (EOI then invited full application)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EOI: Brief expression of interest reviewed by scientific and lived experience reviewers; shortlisted applicants invited to submit full application</li> <li>Full Application: Detailed application proposal reviewed by SAC panel members and lived experience reviewers</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Assessment criteria                | <p>The same assessment criteria apply at both stages but with different weightings: the <b>EOI</b> stage places greater emphasis on impact and innovation, while the <b>full application</b> stage places greater emphasis on research design and team capability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lived experience review and impact / benefit to paediatric oncology patients and families</li> <li>Scientific innovation and originality, research design, methodology, and feasibility</li> <li>Team capability, expertise, and collaboration</li> <li>Project budget and milestone suitability (value for money and realistic resourcing)</li> </ul> <p>All applications are assessed together against the same criteria.</p> |
| EOI submission period              | August 12 <sup>th</sup> - September 9 <sup>th</sup> 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Full application submission period | January 18 <sup>th</sup> - February 15 <sup>th</sup> 2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Anticipated funding commencement   | From July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

Transformative Therapies is delivered as a single, open, competitive funding call for projects led by NHMRC-approved administering institutions across Australia, including Victoria. Two funding budgets are available under this scheme: a [CoLab Consortium Partner](#)<sup>2</sup> budget and a national budget (which includes

<sup>4</sup> 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.

Victorian applicants). All eligible applications are assessed together against the same criteria, with funding awarded to the strongest applications across the national and Victorian allocations, subject to available budget.

The information below provides an overview of the key information and details required for both the EOI and full application submissions. Please note that this summary is intended as general guidance only; applicants should always refer to the official template and instructions available on the [CoLab Grant Portal](https://cccolab.grantplatform.com) (<https://cccolab.grantplatform.com>) to ensure all requirements are met and the most up-to-date details are included.

## 8.1. Application outline

| Application Sections                                                                                                                                                                                     | EOI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Full Application                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project title</b>                                                                                                                                                                                     | Project title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Applicant details</b>                                                                                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on the lead investigator (of this application)</li> <li>Information on the administering institution – including contact information for the research office</li> <li>Eligibility confirmation</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Impact &amp; Benefit to Paediatric Oncology</b><br><br><i>This section should be written in plain, non-scientific language and will be assessed by both lived experience and scientific reviewers</i> | <i>Max. 500 words</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> <li>Outline any existing or planned lived experience involvement in the project's design, conduct, or sharing of findings.</li> <li>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 (this may be impact in the short and/or long term)</li> </ul> | <i>Max. 500 words</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the Impact and benefit statement incorporating scientific and lived experience reviewer feedback.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Scientific Innovation, Research Design &amp; Methodology</b>                                                                                                                                          | <i>Max. 650 words including references</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background and description of the unmet need being addressed.</li> <li>Outline the key scientific rationale, hypothesis, aims and novel aspects of the project.</li> <li>Brief description of proposed methods and innovative approaches.</li> <li>Brief description of anticipated outcomes</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <i>Max. 6 pages including references</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current knowledge gaps and scientific need</li> <li>Literature and evidence supporting project rationale</li> <li>Hypothesis and project aim(s)</li> <li>Description of how project offers new concepts or approaches</li> <li>Detailed study design, methodology, and analysis plan</li> <li>Integration of novel methods/technologies, justification of technical choices.</li> <li>Plans for ensuring reproducibility, addressing confounding, and data management.</li> <li>Detail on consumer co-design or advisory input</li> </ul> |

| Application Sections                               | EOI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Full Application                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethical considerations and plans for necessary approvals</li> <li>Steps towards ensuring the practical feasibility and anticipated obstacles.</li> <li>Risk assessment, including mitigation strategies</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Team, Collaboration &amp; Partnership</b>       | <p><i>Max. 100 words per investigator; upper limit 1200 words for this section to allow for large teams and a description of the collaboration. Please keep this section brief and relative to the size of the team.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a brief description of the lead investigator and co-investigators (around 2–3 sentences per person), outlining their roles, relevant experience and track record in paediatric oncology or related fields, and any prior collaborative work that demonstrates the team's capability to deliver the proposed project.</li> <li>Describe any innovative or key collaborative elements of the project, including how participating institutions, disciplines, or networks will add unique expertise, capabilities, or shared resources that enhance feasibility, innovation, or impact.</li> </ul> | <p><i>Max. 400-word summary, 1 page publication list and a max. one (1) page CV per team member collated into a single PDF.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary (400 words) of how the team will work together to deliver the project, highlighting any key collaborative elements or ways the team's combined expertise adds value. Highlight evidence of prior effective collaboration. Outline planned training and mentorship activities that will support the professional growth and meaningful engagement of junior team members.</li> <li>List up to 10 key publications from the lead investigator and team that are most relevant to this project.</li> <li>For each team member, provide a 1-page CV and a clear description of their role and specific contribution to the project (allocated time on the project, provision of resources funded by CoLab or as in-kind support) as outlined in the Grant Portal.</li> <li>Automated confirmation from nominated collaborators.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Project Budget, Timeline &amp; Deliverables</b> | <p><i>Table to be completed in grant portal</i></p> <p><b>A milestone-based project budget and timeline</b> that identifies <b>2–3 critical milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the activities and deliverables for each</li> <li>the total cost required to deliver each milestone - by major cost category (e.g. personnel, consumables, services)</li> <li>the anticipated timing (start and completion) within the overall project period.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><i>Table and information to be completed in grant portal.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed itemised budget and justification, using the template, clearly linking major costs (e.g. personnel, consumables, services) to specific milestones and activities. The full application budget is expected to align with the EOI budget, with only minor variation (up to 10% in total value).</li> <li>Description of access to facilities, equipment, services and institutional resources.</li> <li>Description of any in-kind support or leveraged funding from other funding sources.</li> <li>Specification of <b>two (2) critical review points</b> aligned with your key milestones, detailing the expected outcomes and deliverables at each review, and indicating how these review points reflect and respond to feedback received at the EOI stage.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Response to Reviewer Feedback</b>               | <i>Not applicable</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><i>Max. 2 pages</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear and concise response to each reviewer comment, outlining how feedback has been</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Application Sections                                        | EOI                                                                                                                                              | Full Application                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                             |                                                                                                                                                  | addressed or incorporated into the full application, or explaining the rationale if certain suggestions were not adopted.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Declaration of Resources &amp; Institutional Support</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Automated) Confirmation from the institution's research office to acknowledge EOI submission.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letters of support from institutions and lived experience experts (as available).</li> <li>Acknowledgement / confirmation from the institution's research office to demonstrate support of full application submission.</li> </ul> |

For full application, applicants are required to prepare their responses in accordance with the standard formatting instructions:

- Use Times New Roman or Arial font with a minimum of 11 pt font size.
- Maintain minimum of 1.5 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.

## 8.2. Application assessment

Project Grant applications follow a **two-stage process**.

In the **EOI stage**, applications are independently reviewed by national scientific experts and lived experience reviewers (individuals with personal or family experience of childhood cancer), who score and comment against the published criteria. These assessments are then considered by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), which recommends a shortlist of applicants to proceed to the full application stage.

In the **full application stage**, shortlisted proposals are reviewed by panels drawn from the SAC, with input from lived experience representatives where appropriate. Panel members complete independent assessments and then meet to reach consensus on which applications to recommend for funding; recommendations are submitted to the Board for final approval, under strict conflict-of-interest and confidentiality policies.

At both stages, applications are assessed against the same core criteria - lived experience impact and benefit to paediatric oncology patients and families; scientific innovation and originality; research design, methodology and feasibility; team capability, expertise and collaboration; and budget and milestone suitability - with different weightings to reflect the level of information available (see table below).

| Evaluation Criteria                                | Sub-Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | EOI Weighting                                                           | Full Application Weighting                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Impact &amp; Benefit to Paediatric Oncology</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>It recognises that impact may occur over different time frames and clearly explains whether benefits are likely to be near-term (for example, improving safety or optimising an existing therapy) or</li> </ul> | <b>30%</b><br><br>(20% lived experience review + 10% scientific review) | <b>20%</b><br><br>(from lived experience review) |

| Evaluation Criteria                                             | Sub-Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | EOI Weighting | Full Application Weighting |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
|                                                                 | <p>longer-term (for example, developing a new modality), and why both are important for paediatric oncology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |               |                            |
| <b>Scientific Innovation, Research Design &amp; Methodology</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear description of new concepts or perspectives that could substantially shift current understanding in paediatric oncology.</li> <li>The proposal is underpinned by a clear, logical rationale that is well-supported by current evidence and addresses a defined scientific need.</li> <li>A clearly defined and appropriate study design, robust data collection/analysis, and methodological rigour, including strategies for reproducibility and control of confounding factors.</li> <li>Effective use of novel or improved research methods, ensuring that any technical innovations are well-integrated and justified within the project.</li> <li>Thoughtful approach to ethical considerations, with plans for relevant approvals and the protection of participant welfare as applicable.</li> <li>Practicality and feasibility of the project plan, including sufficient detail on how proposed methods will enable translation towards impact, especially for the hardest-to-treat childhood cancers.</li> <li>Inclusion of a risk assessment and mitigation strategies, showing awareness of potential challenges and plans to address them for successful completion of the research.</li> <li>Adequate resources and infrastructure requirements are fully addressed, demonstrating that the team has access to all necessary equipment, facilities, and personnel.</li> <li>Confirmed institutional support and capacity regarding infrastructure, commitment and capabilities as required.</li> </ul> | <b>30%</b>    | <b>45%</b>                 |
| <b>Team, Collaboration &amp; Partnership</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The principal investigator and team demonstrate strong, relevant qualifications and experience, with a proven track record of high-quality research in paediatric oncology or related fields (e.g. key publications, successful projects, or clinical experience in high-mortality childhood cancers).</li> <li>The team composition is appropriate and multidisciplinary, bringing together the necessary scientific, clinical and other discipline-specific expertise, including (where relevant) collaborators new to paediatric oncology who add valuable cross-disciplinary perspectives.</li> <li>There is clear evidence of leadership, project management capability, and successful previous collaborations, showing the team can coordinate work effectively across institutions and organisational boundaries.</li> <li>Collaboration across consortium partners is well described, with shared leadership, resource integration, and plans for resource sharing and network-building that maximise impact.</li> <li>The project includes robust training and mentorship opportunities that support the involvement and development of early-career researchers and other junior team members.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>30%</b>    | <b>20%</b>                 |
| <b>Project Feasibility &amp; Milestones</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly justified budget that demonstrates cost-effectiveness, ensuring each expense is appropriate and necessary to achieve the research objectives.</li> <li>Realistic and well-structured project timeline, with clearly identified key milestones and deliverables that enable effective progress</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>10%</b>    | <b>15%</b>                 |

| Evaluation Criteria | Sub-Criteria                                                                                            | EOI Weighting | Full Application Weighting |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
|                     | tracking, including achievable phases with appropriate duration and sequence of each project component. |               |                            |

### 8.3. Anticipated application timeline

The table below outlines the anticipated timeline for each stage and process for the project grants. Please note that this is subject to change.

| Event / Action                                                                                                                | Year | Date                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Expressions of Interest (EOI) submission period (4 weeks)                                                                     | 2026 | August 12 <sup>th</sup> to September 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| <b>EOI submission closes</b>                                                                                                  |      | <b>September 9<sup>th</sup></b>                       |
| EOI assessment by the review panel                                                                                            |      | October to November                                   |
| Applicant notified of EOI assessment outcome – shortlisted applicants will receive an invitation to submit a full application |      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of December                      |
| Full application submission period (4 weeks)                                                                                  | 2027 | January 18 <sup>th</sup> to February 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| <b>Full application submission closes</b>                                                                                     |      | <b>February 15<sup>th</sup></b>                       |
| Full application assessment by the review panel                                                                               |      | February to March                                     |
| <b>Scientific Advisory Committee and Board Endorsement</b>                                                                    |      | April                                                 |
| Applicant notified of full application assessment outcome & commencement of grant agreement review                            |      | May                                                   |
| Anticipated funding commencement                                                                                              |      | From July 1 <sup>st</sup>                             |



## 9. Transformative Therapies - Seed Grants

The Seed Grant category supports bold, early-stage ideas at the frontier of current knowledge, where a targeted investment can meaningfully test a hypothesis that would otherwise be unlikely to receive funding.

CoLab recognises that many transformative advances begin as unconventional concepts without sufficient preliminary data to meet traditional funding threshold, and Seed Grants are intended to directly resource the critical work required to determine whether such ideas are viable, rather than serve as general “bridging” or salary maintenance funds.

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Type of opportunity              | Open, competitive Victorian-only funding call                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Total available budget           | Up to AU\$300,000 is available for <a href="#">CoLab Consortium Partners</a> <sup>5</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Grant amount                     | Up to AU\$150,000 per project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Grant term                       | No constraint on project term                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Application process              | Single-stage application – with a short application of maximum 3 pages.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Assessment criteria              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovation - What is being proposed that is genuinely unique? Why is this idea novel and potentially transformative?</li> <li>Capability - Does the individual or team have the background, expertise, institutional support, resources, and/or collaborations to complete the proposed study?</li> <li>Next Steps - If successful, what are the planned subsequent research activities? Where does the applicant envisage this work leading?</li> </ul> |
| Application submission period    | August 12 <sup>th</sup> - September 9 <sup>th</sup> 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Anticipated funding commencement | From April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

Seed Grants are available to [CoLab Consortium Partners](#)<sup>3</sup>. The information below provides an overview of the key information and details required for this single stage application submission. Please note that this summary is intended as general guidance only; applicants should always refer to the official template and instructions available on the [CoLab Grant Portal](#) (<https://cccolab.grantplatform.com>) to ensure all requirements are met and the most up-to-date details are included.

### 9.1. Application outline

| Application Sections                                                                   | Full Application                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project title</b>                                                                   | Project title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Applicant details</b>                                                               | <i>Details to be entered into the grant portal</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on the lead investigator (of this application)</li> <li>Information on the administering institution – including contact information for the research office</li> <li>Eligibility confirmation</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Innovation</b><br>Max. 2 pages<br><br><i>Template available in the Grant Portal</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the key gap in current research, treatment, or models of care that this project aims to address, and why this gap matters now.</li> <li>Provide a brief project description, outlining what you plan to do, the main research question or hypothesis, and the specific childhood cancer or treatment issue you are focusing on.</li> <li>Identify the critical experiment, analysis, or output (“go/no-go” test) that this seed grant will enable, and explain how the result will inform a decision to progress, pivot, or stop the project.</li> <li>Explain what is genuinely new or different about this idea compared with existing research, treatments, or models of care in paediatric oncology.</li> </ul> |

<sup>5</sup> 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.

| Application Sections                                        | Full Application                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe why this idea is novel in the context of childhood cancers (for example, a new target, a new way of delivering or combining therapies, or a new approach to reducing toxicity).</li> <li>Explain why the idea could be potentially transformative – how, if successful, it could meaningfully change diagnosis, treatment, models of care, or outcomes for children and young people with cancer. This may involve entirely new concepts, or it may involve making existing therapies or models of care substantially safer, more effective, more efficient, or more widely usable.</li> <li>Include any key references to support your hypothesis and rationale</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Capability</b><br><i>Approx. ½ page</i>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe why you (and your team, if applicable) are well placed to deliver this seed project.</li> <li>Outline your relevant background and expertise in paediatric oncology or related fields.</li> <li>Describe the facilities, equipment, data, or other resources you can access to complete the work.</li> <li>Note any institutional support or mentorship that will help you to deliver the project.</li> <li>Highlight any key collaborations or networks that strengthen your ability to complete the proposed work within the timeframe and budget.</li> <li>Provide the anticipated timeline and budget</li> <li>Describe how the requested budget aligns with the novelty and transformative ambition of the research idea, indicating which key experiment(s) or activities each major cost item will enable.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Next Steps</b><br><i>Approx. ½ page</i>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the planned next research activities if this seed project is successful.</li> <li>Explain where you envisage this work leading in the next 3–5 years.</li> <li>Outline how the results could support a larger grant, partnership, or clinical/translation pathway.</li> <li>Indicate what key data or outcomes from this seed project would be needed to justify those next steps</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Declaration of resources &amp; institutional support</b> | (Automated) Confirmation from the institution's research office to acknowledge application submission.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

This application is to be submitted as a single 3-page PDF upload in the grant portal. Applicants are required to prepare their submission using the **template available for download in the grant portal**; and in accordance with the standard formatting instructions:

- Use Times New Roman or Arial font with a minimum of 11 pt font size.
- Maintain minimum of 1.5 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 entire 3-page document in PDF format.

## 9.2. Application assessment

Seed Grant applications are submitted as a **single-stage, short-form application (maximum three pages)**.

All eligible applications are reviewed by a panel drawn from the Scientific Advisory Committee, which discusses each proposal and agrees on funding recommendations; these recommendations are then submitted to the Board for final approval.

| Evaluation Criteria | Sub-Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Application Weighting |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Innovation</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly explains the key gap in current research, treatment, or models of care in childhood cancer, and why addressing this gap is timely and important.</li> <li>Provides a clear, coherent project description with a well-defined research question or hypothesis and a focused childhood cancer or treatment issue.</li> <li>Demonstrates that the idea is genuinely new or clearly different from existing work in paediatric oncology (e.g. new target, delivery, combination, or toxicity reduction approach).</li> </ul> | <b>60%</b>            |

| Evaluation Criteria | Sub-Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Application Weighting |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes a convincing case that, if successful, the project could meaningfully change diagnosis, treatment, models of care, toxicity, or outcomes for children and young people.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |
| <b>Capability</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows that the applicant (and team, if applicable) have relevant background and skills in paediatric oncology or related fields to deliver the project.</li> <li>Demonstrates access to suitable facilities, equipment, data, and other resources needed to complete the proposed work.</li> <li>Describes appropriate institutional support and/or mentorship, particularly relative to the applicant's career stage.</li> <li>Highlights key collaborations or networks that add clear value and strengthen feasibility within the proposed timeframe and high-level budget.</li> </ul>                                         | <b>20%</b>            |
| <b>Next Steps</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly describes the planned next research activities if the seed project is successful, including where the work could lead in the next 3–5 years.</li> <li>Specifies the key data or outcomes this seed project aims to generate and shows how these will inform go/no-go decisions or next steps.</li> <li>Outlines how positive results could position the project for larger grants, partnerships, or clinical/translation pathways.</li> <li>Demonstrates that the seed investment is a critical enabling step with strong potential to unlock further development and impact, rather than an isolated activity</li> </ul> | <b>20%</b>            |

**Seed Grants are not subject to the formal milestone-based funding model** used for Project Grants. Instead, successful applicants will agree key outcome expectations and one or more reporting points with CoLab management at the time of award, and will provide brief updates on progress, outcomes and proposed next steps at those timepoints.

### 9.3. Anticipated Timeline

The table below outlines the anticipated timeline for each stage and process for the project grants. Please note that this is subject to change.

| Event / Action                                                                                | Year | Date                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Full application submission period (4 weeks)                                                  |      | August 12 <sup>th</sup> to September 9 <sup>th</sup>    |
| <b>Submission closes</b>                                                                      | 2026 | <b>September 9<sup>th</sup></b>                         |
| EOI assessment by the review panel                                                            |      | October to November                                     |
| <b>Scientific Advisory Committee Endorsement</b>                                              |      | December                                                |
| <b>Board Endorsement</b>                                                                      |      | Early 2027                                              |
| Applicant notified of application assessment outcome & commencement of grant agreement review | 2027 | <b>Early 2027</b>                                       |
| Anticipated funding commencement                                                              |      | From April 1 <sup>st</sup> ; Pending contract execution |