

2026 PRF Fellowships FAQ

Before submitting an application for the 2026 PRF Fellowship Program, applicants should review the application [guidelines](#), the FAQs below, and watch the [recorded information session](#).

Applications are open **until 5pm on 19 November 2025**.

FAQs are arranged into the following categories:

- Eligibility Criteria
- Host organisation
- Application Process
- Fellowship structure and funding
- Project Scope and Deliverables
- Support, Networking, and Outcomes

Eligibility Criteria

Who can apply?

The applicant must:

- Be over 18 years of age.
- Hold a valid work permit for Australia and be entitled to work in Australia for the duration of the Fellowship.
- Focus on a topic aligned with PRF's [purpose](#).
- Be able to commit 18 months to substantially progress the proposed idea.
- Have the capacity and desire to connect with the fellowship cohort to share knowledge and ideas and build a strong network.
- Be hosted by a charity, not-for-profit organisation, or university. PRF is committed to assisting the applicant in connecting with a suitable host organisation if required.

Can university staff, researchers, or PhD candidates apply?

Yes. Individuals who are university staff, researchers, or PhD candidates may apply if they wish to explore an idea that is consistent with PRF's purpose and has the potential to shift local and national systems that hold disadvantage in place. Research that is

purely or primarily academic in nature (e.g. work towards higher degrees) is not eligible. Applications must be submitted by individuals.

Can volunteers, governance, committee members, or directors of the host organisation apply, and is this a conflict of interest?

Yes, anyone who works with or for the host organisation can apply, provided all other criteria are met. Early and proactive disclosure of any relevant relationships or positions with the host organisation is required to support a fair, equitable, and efficient assessment process and to manage potential conflicts of interest.

Can two people apply for one Fellowship?

Yes. Joint applications from up to two individuals are welcome. The partnership will be eligible to receive one Fellowship grant for their shared idea. Both applicants will have access to personal development opportunities and full participation in the fellowship cohort.

Can a new not-for-profit be created, or must the host organisation already exist?

The host organisation must already be in existence and be registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) under the category of Advancing social or public welfare. PRF is limited to funding charities, not-for-profits, and universities whose work is aligned with PRF's purpose.

Are Australians currently living overseas eligible?

Australians currently living overseas may apply. However, the applicant must have the right to work in Australia and be able to relocate to Australia to conduct their work and engage with the fellowship cohort. Fellowship activities must be undertaken in Australia, for the benefit of Australian communities.

Can Fellows undertake activities involving religious or faith-based organisations?

Fellows may pursue research or practice ideas in partnership with religious or faith-based organisations, so long as the Fellowship activity aligns with the intent of the PRF Fellowship Program and PRF's purpose. Fellowship support is not provided for activities whose main purpose is religious worship, instruction, or promotion.

Does previous fellowship participation affect eligibility?

Experience with other fellowships does not affect eligibility. However, individuals who have previously participated in a PRF fellowship program are not eligible to reapply.

Can not-for-profit organisations apply, or only individuals?

Applications can only be submitted by individuals, or a joint application of up to two individuals. Not-for-profit organisations may act as host organisations but are not eligible to apply for a fellowship directly.

Can multiple applications be submitted and can a host organisation (e.g. a university) be attached to more than one application?

We recommend individuals and joint applicants submit one application. Applications must be submitted by individuals (or joint applicants), not by organisations. Host organisations - including charities, not-for-profits, and universities whose work is relevant to PRF's charitable purpose - may be attached to more than one application and may host more than one individual fellow.

Is medical research eligible?

Medical research is not eligible. For PRF's purposes, this includes studies that aim to investigate the origins, detection, management, or treatment of health conditions, illnesses, or injuries in humans, whether conducted in a laboratory, clinical, or community setting. Projects that focus on understanding, diagnosing, or responding to human diseases or health problems are considered medical research and cannot be supported as part of this fellowship.

Host Organisation

Who can be a host organisation? Can a university, government body, or local council be a host?

A host organisation must be either a charity or not-for-profit registered with the ACNC in the category of Advancing social or public welfare, or an Australian university. In all cases, the host organisation's work must be aligned with PRF's purpose of breaking cycles of disadvantage in Australia. Government bodies, including local councils, are not eligible to be host organisations.

Can there be multiple hosts or partners?

A single host organisation is required for administrative purposes; however, the applicant is encouraged to build relationships and work with various partners during the fellowship.

Can the host organisation also be the applicant's employer?

Yes. The applicant may be affiliated with or employed by the host organisation.

Are there obligations or expectations of the host organisation?

Host organisations must sign a Grant Agreement with PRF. Host organisations must remain registered with the ACNC under the charitable purpose category of Advancing social or public welfare. All host organisations are responsible for receiving and administering the grant funds, managing the funds in accordance with the Grant Agreement and relevant Australian laws, and providing written confirmation to PRF at the end of the grant period that the funds have been used solely as intended.

Can organisations express interest in being matched to potential fellows?

Organisations that have not been approached by an individual applicant but are interested in acting as a host for a potential fellow can contact PRF at hello@paulramsayfoundation.org.au. Where there is an applicant whose research or practice idea aligns with the organisation, PRF may facilitate further discussion between the applicant and the prospective host.

Does the host organisation need to be registered or meet specific criteria?

Yes. The host organisation must meet specific criteria to be eligible. Charities, not-for-profit organisations, and universities must be registered with the ACNC, operate in Australia, and be registered under the charitable purpose category of Advancing social or public welfare.

Application Process

How does an applicant apply?

The applicant must submit an online application through the [PRF grantee portal](#). Applications close at 5PM (AEDT) on Wednesday 19 November 2025.

What is expected in terms of submission requirements and supporting documents?

The applicant is expected to complete the online application form, attach a current resume or CV, and provide a high-level budget outlining how PRF fellowship funds would be used.

Are letters of support from host organisations or other partners required?

No. Letters of support from host organisations or other partners are not required at the application stage. Following selection of successful Fellows, PRF will contact host organisations to confirm they are happy to host a PRF Fellow.

Who assesses the applications?

Applications are assessed by a multidisciplinary cross-section team of PRF staff.

How are applications selected, and will there be interviews?

Applications are assessed and scored by multiple reviewers against published selection criteria. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed in December.

Is the application process confidential?

Yes. Applications will be treated confidentially. Applicants awarded a PRF Fellowship are asked not to make public announcements about their Fellowship until Grant Agreements are signed with their host organisation, and the cohort is announced.

Is there advice for central university staff coordinating multiple applications?

Given the volume of applications we expect, PRF cannot provide advice for university staff coordinating multiple applications; this must be managed within each university.

If affiliated with a university, must the application be submitted via the university?

Applications must be submitted by individuals or joint applicants who can follow their university's internal processes to submit with the university as their host organisation or seek to find an aligned charity or not-for-profit organisation as their host organisation.

For joint fellowship applications, how should the applicant complete the application?

For joint fellowship applications, a single application form must be submitted. Only one applicant's name and details can be entered in the "About you" section of the form. Please provide the details of the joint team member at question nine, outlining why both applicants are great candidates for this Fellowship. There must be only one host organisation per application.

Is there an opportunity for the applicant to have a one-on-one conversation with PRF staff about the idea or application, or get help with technical difficulties?

Due to the high number of applicants expected, one-on-one conversations about individual ideas or applications are not possible. This is to ensure a fair and equitable process for all. Applicants should refer to this FAQ or watch the recording of the online information session for guidance. If applicants experience technical or other difficulties completing the application form, PRF can be contacted at hello@paulramsayfoundation.org.au.

Fellowship Structure and Funding

What is the duration of the fellowship?

18 months.

Is full-time commitment required, or is part-time/job share possible?

Full-time commitment is not required; we recognise that successful fellows will likely have other commitments. However, Fellows are expected to make a substantial commitment to exploring their idea over the first 12-months of the fellowship period, with the final six months focused on communication and dissemination of their findings, insights and recommendations.

Is the 18-month duration flexible?

The fellowship duration is 18 months and cannot be extended past this, however there is flexibility in how the fellow apportions their time throughout the program.

What is the funding amount and allowable costs?

Up to \$250,000 (including up to \$220,000 for project work and up to \$30,000 for personal development). Project costs may include:

- Your own time/salary
- Research assistance/professional services
- Collaborators/participant compensation
- Travel
- Data collection
- Workshops, conferences, materials
- Design of publication materials
- Administrative/indirect costs for host organisation

PRF will work with successful Fellows to develop a personal development and leadership capability plan (up to the value of \$30,000) which will include support from a coach throughout the Fellowship Program.

How detailed is the application?

The application form includes nine questions about you and your idea, with word limits ranging between 20 and 500 words. You can review the questions [here](#) before you begin an application.

Is it acceptable to use budget estimates if quotes are not available?

Yes. A high-level budget is all that's needed at the application stage. There is flexibility to adapt how you use the funds as your work evolves.

Can any of the fellowship work or travel be conducted overseas?

The vast majority of your work needs to be conducted in Australia with the involvement of, or for the benefit of, Australian communities. There may be instances where you need to travel overseas to gain insight from international expertise and experience. This should be documented in your application budget.

Are there additional funds for dissemination, or should that be included in the main budget?

Dissemination activities (events, communication) should be included in the \$220,000 project budget. PRF can also support with editing and design of any final outputs to be shared for wider public benefit. Opportunities to present and share findings at relevant conferences may also be included in your personal development plan.

Are there issues with university oncosts or host organisation charges?

The applicant should discuss any administrative or indirect costs with the host organisation and include them in the budget.

What is a reasonable amount or range to allocate to the host organisation in the budget?

PRF recognises and supports the true cost of funding organisations to deliver on the purpose of a grant. Indirect costs are often underfunded and PRF is committed to the Pay What It Takes ([PWIT](#)) initiative. However, the expectations of an organisation hosting a PRF Fellow are low, as the emphasis is on the work of the individual Fellow. We hope that organisations wishing to host a PRF Fellow would do so to drive their purpose, networks and integrity. The nature of the relationship and the support provided to the PRF Fellow by the host organisation is likely to determine the appropriate level of indirect costs.

We would expect to see less than 20% allocated for this purpose, given we want the majority of the funding to flow directly to the PRF Fellow for the benefit of the work.

Previous host organisations have waived indirect fees entirely and provided in-kind support by receiving and administering the funding to the PRF Fellow on an appropriate basis, providing desk space within their office when required, supporting the Fellow with making connections, and promoting the work through their communications channels.

Project Scope and Deliverables

What types of projects are eligible?

Eligible projects must support innovative or transformative research or practice ideas that challenge conventional thinking and identify new ways to create the conditions for people and communities in Australia to thrive. Projects must align with PRF's purpose and address at least one of its three strategic outcomes:

- Places and communities are connected, imagining and leading their own futures
- Children and young people have positive life paths free from entrenched poverty and harm
- First Nations peoples and communities are self-determining.

Can the fellowship be used to evaluate or expand existing initiatives?

No. The fellowship can only be used to support new ideas, yet to be explored in the same way in Australia. Evaluation or expansion of an existing program is not in line with the intended purpose of the Fellowship Program.

Are experiential frameworks eligible?

Yes. Experiential frameworks are eligible if they support innovative or transformative research or practice ideas that challenge conventional thinking and identify new ways for people and communities in Australia to thrive. Projects must align with PRF's purpose and address at least one of its three strategic outcomes.

Can project outputs be diverse, such as apps, public health campaigns, or prototypes?

Yes. We welcome diverse outputs, anything that will drive your idea and its impact forward in the best possible way for your context.

Is a policy project with partners (e.g., university and government) eligible?

Yes, as long as it is led by an individual applicant and involves an eligible host organisation.

Can the project be conducted in multiple sites within Australia?

Yes. Projects may be conducted across multiple sites within Australia.

Can the learnings from the fellowship be used with collaborators, as part of a larger research project later?

Yes.

Support, Networking, and Outcomes

What kind of coaching and mentoring is included?

The fellowship provides up to \$30,000 for personal development opportunities, including coaching and leadership capability building. We will work with you to find an appropriate and well-matched coach.

What is expected of the cohort experience?

Fellows are expected to be active members of the cohort, participating in in-person and virtual workshops over the 18-month fellowship, including a multi-day retreat. The cohort experience emphasises sharing progress, challenges, insights and learnings with the cohort to enhance collective impact through collaboration, networking, and knowledge sharing.

How does knowledge dissemination and communication work?

Fellows are expected to dedicate the final six months of the fellowship to communication and dissemination of their findings, insights, and recommendations for public benefit. This could include events, media and government engagement to increase discussion and uptake of opportunities that can have positive generational impact. We expect this to be less time consuming than the first 12 months.

Who retains ownership of any intellectual property (IP), findings, or outputs developed through the Fellowship?

Any Intellectual Property created by the PRF Fellow through their Fellowship will remain the property of the Fellow. PRF will not make any claim to this. The PRF Fellow, or the host organisation - subject to agreement with the PRF Fellow, may continue to develop Fellowship outcomes in line with the intended charitable purpose of the Fellowship grant and for the public benefit.

What does PRF consider success at the end of the fellowship?

PRF views success at the end of the fellowship as the development and dissemination of research or practice ideas that are both exceptionally promising and aligned with its purpose to break cycles of disadvantage in Australia. What defines success may vary according to the ideas developed and the outcomes achieved by each Fellow. We acknowledge that the impact of a Fellowship may come many years after the Fellowship is complete. Ultimately, we hope to see the individual Fellow influence the systems and

sectors they are aiming to shift and their idea embedded in policy and/or practice that improve the lives of people experiencing disadvantage. This could be in the form of new collaborations, enhanced capability, additional seats at the policy/decision making table, media attention and traction, new ways of working, and coalescence of professional and industry networks. Successful fellowships should deliver outputs and insights that are shared for public benefit and help create lasting, positive change, enabling people and communities across Australia to thrive.

How will the cohort meet and work together?

The cohort will engage through a combination of face-to-face and virtual workshops, collaborative activities, and retreats coordinated and paid for by PRF.

Can applicants access information or examples of previous fellows' outputs and projects?

Yes. Project descriptions and outputs from previous fellows are available on the PRF website at: <https://www.paulramsayfoundation.org.au/how-we-work/our-fellows>.

Other / Miscellaneous

How many fellowships will be awarded?

Up to five fellowships will be awarded.

How many people will be interviewed?

PRF expects to shortlist approximately 15 applicants for first-round interviews.

Is the fellowship offered each year?

No. We intend to offer the PRF Fellowship Program every second year.

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