

# Frequently Asked Questions



## **What type of research topics/areas will be considered by The Trust?**

The Trust's mission is to seek out, nurture and apply quality research for the benefit of coal miners, and mining communities. The Trust's primary area of interest is the occupational health and safety of coal mine workers across all states in the Australian Coal Industry.

### **The objectives of The Trust funding grants are:**

- The investigation and research into ways and means of identifying, measuring and ameliorating hazards in coal mines to coal mining personnel and coal mining
- The resolution of engineering, medical, geological, economic, industrial relations and general management issues that may impinge on health and safety issues in coal mines, the mining environment and mining communities.

Applications must meet the above criteria.

## Is the research or focus areas limited to the Coal Industry?

Yes - The Trust's primary area of interest is to address significant medical and other issues that affect the health and safety of coal industry workers and local communities.

## Are there specific areas of focus?

Yes – priorities include but are not limited to, illnesses caused by dust and other airborne contaminants, mental health, obesity, musculoskeletal injuries, serious injury causal factors, and fatigue.

## What should be the approach to projects?

A focus of the Trust is to consider innovative ideas that could be scaled across the sector and use a human-centred design (HCD) approach that puts real people at the centre of the development process, builds deep empathy with the people they are designing for and comes up with new, purpose-built solutions to suit their needs. Refer to <https://www.ideo.org/tools> for more information on HCD.

## Who owns the intellectual property of outcomes of The Trust's research grants?

The intellectual property of the outcomes remains with the University, Research Institute, Organisation or Individual undertaking the research.

## How are projects assessed for suitability?

Each application is assessed individually and dependent on its potential impact on the improvement of health and safety within the NSW and Australian Coal Industry.

Applications are made through SmartyGrants and assessed against merit criteria outlined in the respective Grant Program Guidelines.

## What are the two Health and Safety Trust Grant streams?

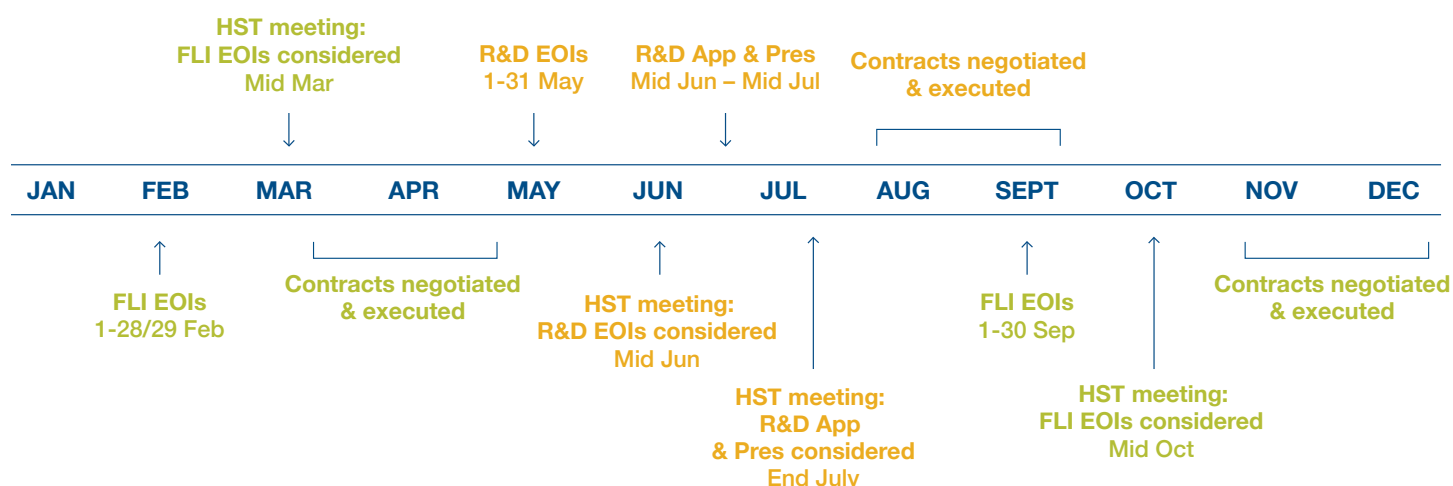
Applicants can follow a straightforward application process tailored to our two distinct grant streams:

### Front Line Innovation (FLI) grant Research and Development (R&D) grant

Choose the grant stream that aligns with the nature of your project:

- If your initiative focuses on innovative, grass-roots solutions at the start-up or ideation stage, our FLI grant may be suitable.
- Alternatively, if your project aims to advance knowledge, create new technologies, or improve existing processes, then our R&D grant may be appropriate.

## What does the timetable for the Coal Services HST grant process look like?



# Research and Development Grants:

## What funding is available?

There is no set dollar (\$) limit for projects. The Trust is a charitable trust which has investment funds. There are set restrictions on how much can be granted each year.

## What is the time limit for completion of the projects?

There is no set time limit for the completion of R&D Grant projects.

**Previously approved R&D project funding and duration are set out below:**

Application Year	Funding (\$)	Project duration (months/years)
2019	\$120,000	18 months
	\$176,000	12 months
	\$126,000	24 months
2020	Application process suspended due to COVID-19	
2021	\$115,411	15 months
2022	\$318,097	24 months
	\$165,000	24 months
	\$176,232	18 months
	\$59,911	12 months
2023	Application process suspended due to review	
2024	\$163,000	18 months
	\$134,300	20 months
	\$190,000	15 months

## What is the application process?

The Trust offers one R&D grant funding round each year. The R&D grant program involves two stages: Expression of Interest (EOI) and Full Application/Presentation, which will be assessed against merit criteria.

## What are the expectations of The Trust at the conclusion of the project and with the resultant outcomes?

The Trust requires the applicant to identify within the EOI and the application the expected outcomes of the research project. The Trust requires the applicant to identify how the outcomes (if successful) are going to be communicated and embedded into the NSW or Australian Coal Industry. To this end, it is recommended that applicants seek support from within the Industry prior to submitting an EOI and application.

Reporting is required to monitor project progress and ensure projects have been delivered as agreed. All reporting will be completed and submitted via email. A presentation will be made to the Trustees upon Finalisation of the project.

***Refer to the R&D Grant Program Guidelines for more information.***

# Front-Line Innovation Grants:

## What funding is available?

Up to \$100,000 is allocated annually for FLI Grants, which could be a combination of various amounts across the two FLI grant rounds for any given year.

## What is the time limit for completion of the projects?

FLI grants are for short-term (3-12 month) projects.

## What is the application process?

The Trust offers two FLI grant funding rounds each year. The FLI grant program involves the submission of an FLI Application Form that will be assessed against merit criteria.

## What are the expectations of The Trust at the conclusion of the project and with the resultant outcomes?

All reporting on projects will be completed and submitted via email.

At the conclusion of the project term, a video is to be submitted to present the learnings, ideas on why the project was a failure or success and any future opportunities resulting from the outcome.

***Refer to the FLI Grant Program Guidelines for more information.***

## Industry Support

The Health & Safety Trust is administered by Coal Services, but remains separate from the operational activities of Coal Services, including Coal Mines Insurance, CS Health, Mines Rescue and Regulation & Compliance.

Any assistance that may be required from operational areas of Coal Services would need to be sought and agreed to separately.

When submitting an application, it is recommended that a detailed engagement plan is included that outlines any agreements with industry partners (including Coal Services) and mine sites to undertake the project.



# Grant Program Approach and Funded Project Types

## Cost-effective projects approach

We place a strong emphasis on supporting applicants who can demonstrate a willingness to apply a cost-effective/ return-on-investment lens to their proposed ideas and interventions. It is important to us that the projects we fund are financially viable and sustainable in the long term.

**To this end, we are particularly interested in receiving proposals that:**

- show evidence of a clear understanding of the costs and resources required to implement the proposed ideas or interventions
- Consider the potential benefits and outcomes in relation to the costs and resources invested
- Incorporate measures to ensure ongoing cost-effectiveness and sustainability, such as community engagement and capacity building
- Utilise innovative and efficient approaches to maximise impact while minimising costs.

## The Human-Centered Design Approach

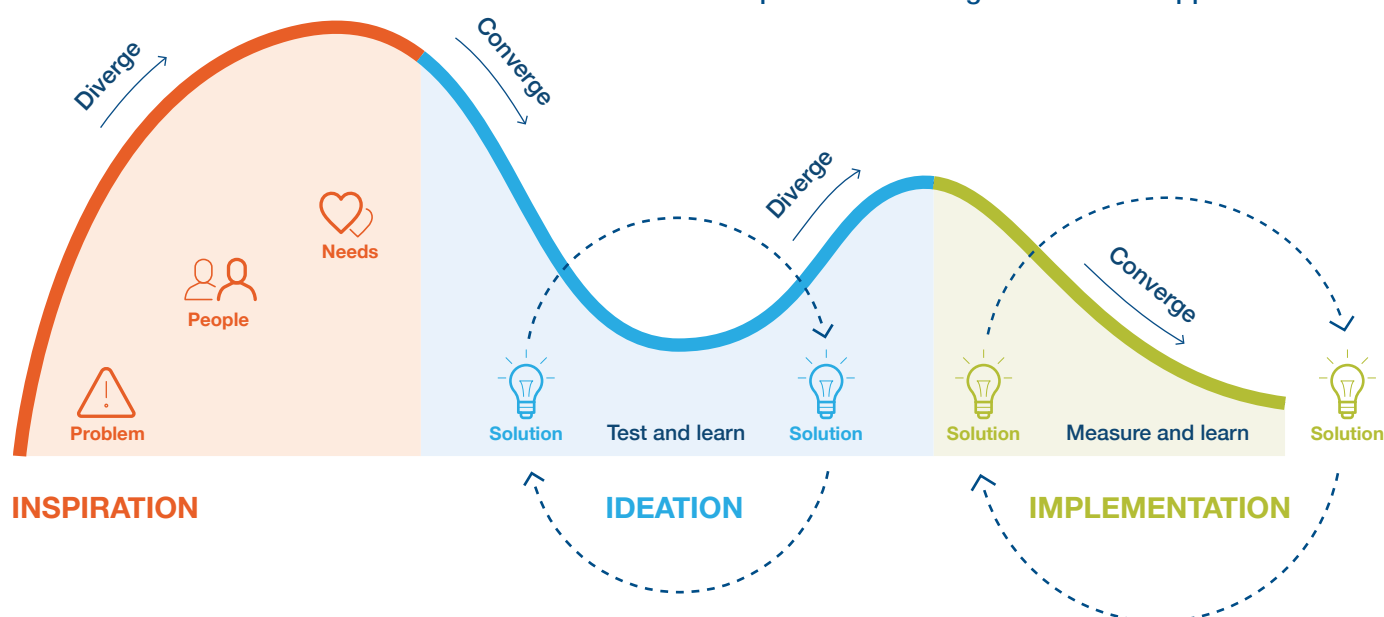
Our approach over the next few years will be to fund innovative ideas that could be scaled across the sector. To this end, we are looking for applicants who use a human-centred design (HCD) approach that puts real people at the centre of the development process, builds deep empathy with the people they are designing for and comes up with new solutions that are purpose-built to suit their needs.

### The HCD process:

1. Begins with Inspiration
2. Moves onto Ideation
3. And flows into Implementation

## HCD design process by IDEO

Various types of projects that could be funded may sit across the inspiration, ideation, and implementation stages of the HCD approach.

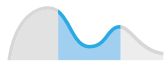


Some examples of projects that we would welcome include:



### Inspiration stage

- Literature reviews and meta-analyses that synthesize existing evidence on effective health and safety interventions in the coal mining industry.
- Needs assessments and gap analyses that identify areas where interventions are most needed.
- Environmental scans and benchmarking analyses that identify best practices and promising innovations from other industries or regions.



### Ideation stage

- Hackathons or design sprints that bring together diverse stakeholders to brainstorm and develop innovative solutions to health and safety challenges in the coal mining industry.
- Incubator or accelerator programs that provide mentorship and resources to startups or social enterprises developing health and safety solutions.
- Design competitions or challenges that encourage students or early-career professionals to develop and showcase their ideas.



### Implementation stage

- Pilot projects that test the feasibility and effectiveness of new interventions or solutions (e.g. findings presented in research and literature) in real-world settings.
- Development and implementation of training programs or workshops that educate and empower coal mining workers and communities to adopt safer and healthier practices.
- Community-led initiatives that leverage local knowledge and resources to address health and safety challenges in the coal mining industry.

While we support the development of innovative solutions that have commercial potential, our funding is not intended to support commercialisation efforts or product development for profit.

**Therefore, we generally do not fund projects that focus solely on commercialisation or business development, such as:**

- Activities related to intellectual property protection or patent applications
- Development or refinement of prototypes or products for commercial sale
- Marketing or branding activities aimed at promoting a commercial product or service
- Legal or accounting services related to forming a business entity or structuring a commercial venture.

Instead, our focus is on funding projects that prioritise the HCD process and aim to develop solutions that can benefit the broader coal mining community, with a particular emphasis on health and safety outcomes. We encourage applicants to be transparent about their intentions for commercialisation or business development, but this should not be the primary focus of the proposed project.

## Contact

Further information can be found on our website:  
[coalservices.com.au/about-us/health-and-safety-trust/applying-for-a-grant](https://coalservices.com.au/about-us/health-and-safety-trust/applying-for-a-grant)

Please email [trust@coalservices.com.au](mailto:trust@coalservices.com.au)  
if you have any queries about our Grant Programs.



Health & Safety Trust