

Application - 2026

The Collaborative Innovation Research Prototype (CIRP) is a key initiative aligned with the DOBCEL Strategy 2035. It supports schools to work together to address locally identified challenges through evidence-informed, collaborative inquiry.

CIRPs use an action learning and prototyping approach—designing, testing, and refining ideas in context. The focus is on learning through practice: trialling approaches, observing impact, and adapting over time, rather than implementing fixed solutions.

Teams share their learning as it develops, contributing to collective knowledge across the DOBCEL community.

Funding of up to \$30,000 is available for approved projects. Principals should submit endorsed 2026 applications by Friday Week 5, Term 3. Applications will be reviewed by the CIRP panel.

This is a light-touch, learning-oriented process. We encourage bold ideas, collaboration and iterative thinking. Use this form to outline your proposal.

Contact Julia Petrov, Strategy Implementation Manager, at simanager@dobcel.catholic.edu.au for assistance with preparing your CIRP application.

Further application information is available at: [CIRP information page](#)

Section 1: Prototype	
Prototype Title (up to 7 words)	
Strategic Pillar Alignment	☐ Collaborative Cultures ☐ Engagement & Belonging ☐ School as Community ☐ Rich Pedagogical Practice for Deeper Learning & Wellbeing ☐ Sustainable Stewardship
Briefly explain how this prototype advances the aims of the chosen Strategic Pillar(s) of Strategy 2035.	

Section 2: Applicant Details

Please ensure you have a contact name for each school.

Lead School	
Lead Contact Name & email	
Role/Position	
Phone Number	
Collaborating School/s & Contact Name/s & emails	
Catholic Education Ballarat Contact Name (if relevant)	
Additional Organisation & Contact Name (if relevant)	

Section 3: Prototype Rationale

This section captures your team's thinking about the challenge, your initial prototype, and how you will learn and adapt over time.

At this stage, your prototype is not expected to be a finished solution. *Clarity of thinking and openness to iteration are most important.*

Step 1: Understanding the Challenge

Context Briefly outline educational setting, e.g., environment, resources, cultural background, and community (dot points).	
Educational challenge Briefly describe the challenge your prototype will address, including any relevant evidence (e.g. observations or data) that shows why this issue is important.	
Inquiry Question What is the main question or idea you want to explore through this prototype?	
Implementation activities (How) How will it be done? Note key activities. <i>We understand your plan may evolve as you try, test, and adapt your prototype – just give your best initial outline.</i> (dot points)	

Theory of change Note how the Practical Principles will be utilised: Deeper Collaboration Networked Local Innovation Collective Autonomy & Agency (dot points)	
Research Basis List the research evidence relating to your educational problem.	
Measuring impact What data will you collect (multiple sources) to address your research question?	
Understanding Impact Outline the process for data analysis (dot points: who & when).	
Expected Outcomes Outline the anticipated results for the implementation activities (dot points – up to four).	

Section 4: Collaboration and Partnerships

Prototype Team List key school staff who will be involved in this prototype	
Role of Catholic Education Ballarat (CEB) Representatives If relevant, briefly note how CEB staff member will be involved.	
Collaborating organisations/ experts If relevant, note how other parties will be engaged in your prototype.	
Collaboration plan How will the collaborating schools work together to prototype and learn? (e.g. joint planning sessions, co-teaching, sharing results). <i>Consider how you will build trust and a safe, collaborative environment within your team.</i>	

Section 5: Budget - Resources and Funding Request (see CIRP webpage for further details)

Staff release List requirements and total cost	
Facilitation / Presenters / Experts List requirements and total cost	
Equipment List requirements and total cost	
Venue/Catering List requirements and total cost	
Travel List requirements and total cost	
Other List requirements and total cost	
CIRP Total Budget Requested (up to \$30,000 per year)	

Section 6: Communication of Learnings

There will be *CIRP Learning Check-ins and Updates* scheduled throughout your inquiry cycle. These provide opportunities for your team to communicate reflections on and adjustments to your prototype based on what you are learning.

Learning capture Nominate a person who will coordinate your prototype Check-In and Update learning along the way.	
Audiences & mediums How else might you capture what you learn during this prototype, and how will you share important findings? <i>Consider simple strategies (annotated meeting notes, newsletter article, podcast, short videos, or a one-page summary)</i>	
System Connection In what ways might this prototype's learnings be relevant to other schools or to the wider system?	

Section 7: Timeline

Action Timeline

Outline actions in a timeline (dot points).

Proposed start date & End date
(approx. 12 months):

Section 8: Submission Checklist

Submission Instructions

Proposals for 2026 are to be submitted via email from a principal to indicate principal endorsement. Please email the Strategy Implementation Manager at simanager@dobcel.catholic.edu.au by Friday Week 5, Term 3.

Principal Applicant Declaration

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and that all collaborators have agreed to participate in this prototype.

Name:

School:

Date:

