

kConFab cost recovery schedule January 2026

In the past, kConFab have charged approved projects an Administration Fee but this was replaced in 2011 in favour of a more transparent, unit-based system.

The kConFab Executive agreed that every year the default increase will be in line with the Australian CPI for all biospecimens and data, to be confirmed annually by the Executive Committee. At our November 2025 executive committee meeting, it was agreed that an additional 15% be added onto each biospecimen and data item due to a 15% wage increase for staff over the past 2 years. These updated charges are shown in the table below.

The biospecimen charges are roughly based on what other Australian biobanks charge and what we think people can afford to pay, rather than on what it costs to generate them (else a lot of projects would be far too expensive for any researcher to pay for). Our estimation is that with this scheme some researchers will end up paying more, and some will pay less, and the overall income for kConFab will be slightly, but not hugely increased.

The data charges are a tiny fraction of what it costs to obtain all the composite data and are not a direct reflection of the time it takes to fulfil a data request. We have grouped the data into blocks of: Base data (basic person/family data including DOB, DOD and cancer details), Pathology data, Mutation details, Epidemiology data, Treatment/prophylactic surgery data, Medicare/PBS, Pedigree data and Contact details (which are only given to the CFU and psychosocial projects). The data items in each of these blocks are listed below.

Please note the new charges as of the 1st January 2026:

- Base data would only be charged for the data-only projects.
- If you request blood, cell lines, tissues or DNA then you will be charged for base or mutation, pathology, treatment data.
- One hour of data processing time by the Data Manager is included with each data group requested. Any time spent above that will be charged extra to cover the extra work of a subset of requests. This charge is a reflection of the large amount of data, from many sources, being given out for these requests, and will help contribute to the costs of collecting all the data from each individual (estimated to be about \$766 in total, per person).
- If data updates are requested under an approved project, the researcher will be charged the hourly rate with a minimum of 2 hour being billed. It is suggested that a quote for the estimated time to be taken should be asked for before the data manager commences this work.

These prices in the table below are those that we will charge for projects on which the Principal Investigator is based in Australia and these charges are only relevant to academic researchers. For projects led by an overseas investigator, but which are clearly genuine collaborations with an investigator in Australia, we will charge 1.5X these rates, and for applications from Principal Investigators overseas which do not include any researchers in Australia, we will charge 2X these rates.

Companies will be charged at least 2.5X times these rates (subject to negotiation).

We should also forewarn you that there might be further changes next year, depending on our financial situation and the demands of funding agencies, but in the meantime we hope that these charges will help you to write grant applications to use kConFab data and biospecimens, and prepare you for a change in invoicing next year. Lastly, there will be no charges for data queries necessary to write a grant application (unless they involve an extraordinary amount of the data managers time e.g. more than two days' work).

Georgia Chenevix-Trench (Chair, kConFab Finance sub-committee)

Indicative price schedule for academic researchers

Unit Cost in Australian dollars	Unit
4.61	≤1ug DNA
8.92	>1 and ≤3ug DNA
17.86	>3 and ≤5ug DNA
35.56	>5ug DNA
by negotiation	>10ug DNA
20.89	Plasma (n=1)
240.66	Cell Line (n=1)
29.76	Viable White Blood Cells frozen in 10% DMSO/FCS (n=1)
23.34	TMA x1 Section
14.84	FFPE stained slide to keep (3-5 microns)
7.04	FFPE slide to borrow or view scanned image
17.86	FFPE unstained slide (3-5 microns)
35.69	FFPE unstained slide (8-10 microns) <i>price to be discussed for >10 microns</i>
1032.22	Whole fresh tissue, including shipping
519.93	Whole fresh tissue, with no shipping costs
311.83	Fresh frozen tissue (1-10 sections)
311.83	RNA Later (1-10 sections)
29.35	Slide -unstained (fresh frozen) (3-5 microns)
2339.24	CASCADE rapid autopsy tissue (fresh/frozen)

3.18	Base Data for first 10,000 consented or deceased UPNs*
2.25	Base Data for next 10,000 consented or deceased UPNs*
1.69	Base Data for next 10,000 consented or deceased UPNs*
1.69	Base Data for first 30,000 non-consented UPNs*
1.11	Base Data for next 30,000 non-consented UPNs*
0.75	Base Data for next 30,000 non-consented UPNs*
3.18	Pathology Data per UPN
3.18	Mutation Data per UPN
3.18	Epi Data per UPN
8.92	Treatment Data per UPN
3.18	Family Relationships per UPN (except parent ids)
0.75	SNP data per UPN for 1-5 SNPs
2.20	SNP data per UPN for 6-99 SNPs
5.37	SNP data per UPN for 100-210,000 SNPs
17.91	SNP data per UPN for >210,000 SNPs
2.08	Calculated polygenic risk scores per UPN
3.18	BOADICEA score per UPN
371.44	Per extra hours beyond the 2 hours usually needed to fulfil a data request

* The total cost will be finalised following further discussion. For large-scale requests, we anticipate this will be the estimated data fee.