

# Medical Research Future Fund

MRFF Webinar - Assessing MRFF Grants: Insights from Assessors  
15 March 2023

## Co-hosts

- Dr Masha Somi, Chief Executive Officer, Health and Medical Research Office
- Prof Caroline Homer AO, Deputy Chair, Australian Medical Research Advisory Board

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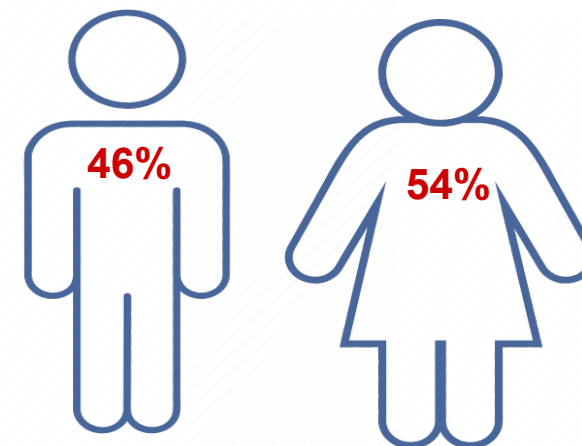
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- 1. MRFF Grant Assessment Process – Dr Masha Somi and Professor Caroline Homer AO**
- 2. Grant Assessment Criteria**
  - I. Project Impact – Professor Walter Abhayaratna OAM
  - II. Project Methodology - Associate Professor Sarah Norris
  - III. Capacity, Capability and Resources to deliver the project - Dr BJ Newton
  - IV. Overall Value and Risk - Prof Michael Kimlin
  - V. Consumer Involvement – Mr John Stubbs AM
- 3. Questions and Answers**

# MRFF Grant Assessment Committees

- Members are **expert reviewers** who come from **different backgrounds** and bring **different perspectives**.
- Members are selected on their experiences and expertise in a range of areas including:
  - transdisciplinary
  - academia
  - clinical
  - health services delivery
  - translation of research
  - consumers and patients
  - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health
  - industry and commercialisation expertise.

**905 Assessors: Nov 2020-Nov 2022**



State/Territory	Percent (%)
ACT	3.9
NSW	25.2
NT	1.2
QLD	11.9
SA	12.6
TAS	3.7
VIC	17.8
WA	10.4
International	13.3

To express interest to be on a GAC: <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/2022-23-medical-research-future-fund-mrff-grant-opportunities>.

# MRFF Grant Assessment Process

- Grant Assessment Committee established
- Conflicts of Interest are managed
- Grants hub and HMRO brief the committee on the MRFF grant opportunity and the assessment criteria.
- Two spokespersons (plus, sometimes, another members) are assigned to each application for initial scoring

- Grant Assessment Committee meets
- Chair does not participate in assessment or scoring
- Two spokespersons speak to the application
- There may be additional experts (e.g. consumer advisor)
- All members discussion for each application
- All members score the application



- Scores collated and outcome report is prepared

# Criterion 1: Project Impact

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- **Project Impact** is the extent to which a project's **research outputs will contribute to meaningful advances in health outcomes, practice and/or policy.**
- Aligned with the **objectives and outcomes** specified in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- Takes account of the project's **contribution** to:
  - the objective of the **MRFF Initiative**
  - (for Missions) Goals, Missions and Aims set out in the **Mission's Roadmap and Implementation Plan.**
- Considers the project's statement against the **MRFF Measures of Success.**

# Criterion 2: Project Methodology

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- **Project Methodology** is a description of the **design and conduct** of the proposed research in the form of a project plan. It includes:
  - the **scientific quality** and **feasibility** of the project plan
  - it's **ability to deliver** on the project's intended outcomes
- Projects are expected to be **original** and **build on research** that has already been undertaken, and not duplicate past research
- Articulate the **Research question** and proposed approach for addressing it
- Specify **Milestones and Performance Indicators**.

## Criterion 3: Capacity, Capability and Resources to deliver the project

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- **Capacity, Capability and Resources** are the relevant **skills, knowledge, experience** and **resources** the research team and any partners will contribute to the project:
  - **composition** of the research team
  - **contribution of individual researchers** to the project
  - **involvement of partners** in the successful delivery of the project.

# Criteria 4: Overall Value and Risk

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- Overall Value and Risk response will consist of your:
  - **Measures of Success statement**
  - **Proposed budget**
  - **Risk management plan.**
- Overall Value and Risk is the extent to which the project's research outputs will **meaningfully contribute** to the:
  - **Objectives and intended outcomes** of the grant opportunity
  - **Initiative (or Mission)**
  - **MRFF** more broadly.
- Applicants should demonstrate that they have thoroughly considered the:
  - **risks associated with the delivery** of the project
  - **impact** of these risks.



# Consumer involvement in research projects

Examples of descriptors to strengthen consumer involvement in research and engagement with priority populations:

## 1) Project Impact:

- **demonstrate** how the views and values of consumers, the community, health providers and/or other end users have informed the proposed research

## 2) Project Methodology:

- **describe** how consumers have been involved in the trial design

## 3) Capacity, Capability and Resources to deliver the project:

- projects that specifically focus on the health of priority populations should **demonstrate** that the research team includes **leadership by the priority population**.

### 'Priority populations'

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people

People with a disability

Older people experiencing diseases of ageing

Individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse communities

People with rare or currently untreatable diseases/conditions

LGBTIQ+ people

People in remote/rural communities

Youth



# Thank you for your time

- People who would like to participate in a GAC are able to register their interest, at:  
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/2022-23-medical-research-future-fund-mrff-grant-opportunities>
- Potential members of GACs may be contacted directly by the Department or one of the Grants Hubs.
- **Upcoming webinar:**  
MRFF Research Administration Officer (RAO) Webinar
  - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 2:00pm -3:00pm (AEDT)



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