



Primary Health Research Plan Expert Advisory Panel

Terms of reference

Preamble

The Primary Health Research Plan will be funded by 2 Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) initiatives:

- [Emerging Priorities and Consumer Driven-Research initiative](#)
- [Primary Health Care Research initiative](#).

The MRFF Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research initiative is providing \$613 million over 10 years from 2022-23 to support research to improve patient care, translate new discoveries into clinical practice and encourage researchers to work together with consumers.

The MRFF Primary Health Care Research initiative is providing \$100 million over 10 years from 2022-23 to support an increase in Australia's evidence base in primary health care through research to improve service delivery, including access and quality of care, and patient outcomes and translate this knowledge into action.

Together these initiatives will provide \$50 million over 4 years in funding to support the government's priority of improving primary health outcomes for patients through the development and implementation of the Primary Health Research Plan.

Purpose of the Expert Advisory Panel (EAP)

The EAP will provide the Minister for Health and Aged Care advice on research investments required to meet the following objectives:

- identify and evaluate multidisciplinary models of primary care (e.g. those relating to voluntary patient registration, innovative models in rural and remote communities, team-based care), to deliver higher quality and more effective care with a focus on addressing inequities in access and outcomes experienced by priority populations
- enhance linkage and/or use of research data infrastructure sources (e.g. electronic medical record repositories and administrative datasets) to identify and evaluate models of primary care excellence and/or support health system planning

- support translational research carried out with practitioners in primary care settings, and knowledge transfer among practitioners in primary care and academia to improve person-centred care.

In developing advice, the EAP is to consider priority populations, including but not limited to those identified in the [Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022-32](#): older Australians; people with complex chronic disease; disadvantaged families in the first 2,000 days; people in rural, regional and remote communities, First Nations people; people in socioeconomically disadvantaged circumstances; people with disability; culturally and linguistically diverse people and LGBTQIA+ people.

Additionally, the EAP is also to consider how to:

- involve all stakeholders relevant to the research and its translation in its conceptualisation, design and implementation, including health care consumers and providers
- best support research translation and implementation in primary care to raise the profile of primary care as a field of choice for health practitioners and academics.

Key deliverables

The EAP will provide advice on priorities for research investment by developing the MRFF Primary Health Research Plan, outlining the short (1-2 years) and medium (3-4 years) term priorities for the \$50 million made available through the MRFF.

In doing so, the EAP will consider the priorities and investments of the [Strengthening Medicare Taskforce](#); as well as national (including state and territory based) and international knowledge and experiences.

Membership

The EAP will consist of up to 9 members including the Chair and an international member.

The international member will be a researcher with expertise in primary care research, who understands the Australian system and relevant activities occurring internationally. At least one member will be a consumer representative.

All other members will have research or clinical expertise or experience in Primary Health service delivery with a focus on health system implementation and evaluation.

An [Australian Medical Research Advisory Board \(AMRAB\)](#) representative will be selected to attend EAP meetings to support the strategic alignment of Research Plan priorities with the MRFF more broadly.

Professor (Practice) Alison McMillan PSM, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Dr Steph Davis, Senior Medical Advisor in Public Health and Primary Care, and Associate Professor Anne-marie Boxall, Chief Allied Health Officer will be ex-officio members.

Term

Members will be selected and appointed by the Minister for Health and Aged Care for a 6-month term, to establish the MRFF Primary Health Research Plan by July 2023.

Member applications for MRFF funding

Members will be ineligible to apply for funding from the Research Plan grant opportunities that open during the term of the EAP and for one year following the cessation of the EAP. Members will be able to apply for MRFF grant opportunities outside of the Research Plan during this time.

Logistical Arrangements

- EAP meetings will be held on an as required basis and at the discretion of the Chair.
 - It is expected that 3-6 meetings will be required to draft the Research Plan.
- If a member is unable to attend, proxies will not be permitted.
- If required, arrangements will be made to seek agreement to items utilising out-of-session arrangements.
- Papers for meetings will be provided to EAP members at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting.
- The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care will be the Secretariat for the EAP. For non-urgent inquiries the following email address can be utilised: MRFF@health.gov.au.

Quorum

- Five members of the EAP are required to be in attendance at any meeting for a quorum to be achieved.
- If the Chair is unavailable to attend a scheduled meeting, the AMRAB member, or an identified deputy chair will assume this role.

Declarations of Interest

Members must abide by the [MRFF Declaration of Interest Policy Statement](#). The Statement, and supporting documents, enables members to be aware of their obligation to disclose any relevant interests that they may have, and to ensure that they effectively and consistently manage any conflicts of interest. All interests will be published on the MRFF website.

Remuneration

Remuneration is provided for EAP members, with details outlined in the Member's Instrument of Appointment.

Implementation of the MRFF Research Plan

The EAP will provide the MRFF Primary Health Research Plan to the Minister for Health and Aged Care for approval.

The Health and Medical Research Office will use the Research Plan to design grant opportunities that address the priorities for investment.

- Grant opportunity guidelines will be published on GrantConnect (www.grants.gov.au).
- Grant administration services will be managed by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Applications received under each grant opportunity will be evaluated competitively through independent Grant Assessment Committees comprising Australian and international assessors with relevant expertise and experience.

Following recommendations from the Grant Assessment Committees, the Government will announce the successful recipients.

