



Targeted Translation Research Accelerator Plan Expert Advisory Panel

Terms of reference

Preamble

The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) [Preventive and Public Health Research initiative](#) is providing a total of \$596.5 million over ten years from 2022-23 to support research into new ways to address chronic and complex diseases in Australia. Through this initiative, \$124.5 million has been made available for the Targeted Translation Research Accelerator to support research into diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2) and cardiovascular disease.

Following an open and competitive grant opportunity in 2020, \$47.0 million was awarded to MTPConnect to implement the [Targeted Translation Research Accelerator for Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease](#) program. \$77.5 million remains available for allocation to support the Government's priority of improving outcomes from diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

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:

- accelerate promising therapeutic approaches and devices for the prevention, early detection, management and treatment of disease related complications for diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2) and cardiovascular disease
- support implementation of effective novel interventions and models of care for patients experiencing multi-morbidity across diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2), cardiovascular disease and their risk factors
- address inequities in treatment, management, access to care and health outcomes for those experiencing diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2) and cardiovascular disease
- inform implementation of current and future policies and programs in diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2) and cardiovascular disease.

In developing advice, the EAP is to consider priority populations, including but not limited to people living in rural, regional and remote communities, First Nations, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people and people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

Key deliverables

The EAP will provide advice on priorities for research investment by developing the Targeted Translation Research Accelerator Plan, outlining the short (1-2 years) and medium (3-5 years) term priorities.

In doing so, the EAP will consider what learnings and opportunities for either new or follow-on investment may arise as a result of the current funding allocated under the first phase of the Targeted Translation Research Accelerator for Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease program.

The EAP should also consider existing Australian Government investments in diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, including through the MRFF [Cardiovascular Health Mission](#).

The EAP will consider the [Australian National Diabetes Strategy 2021-2030](#), [National Strategic Action Plan for Heart Disease and Stroke](#), [National Strategic Action Plan for Childhood Heart Disease](#), and national (including state and territory based) and international knowledge and experiences.

Membership

The EAP will consist of up to 12 members, including the Chair and an international member. To support alignment and continuity across the \$124.5 million investment, the EAP will comprise members of the [Targeted Translation Research Accelerator for Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Expert Advisory Board](#).

The international member will be a researcher with expertise in diabetes and cardiovascular disease research and its translation, who understands the Australian system and relevant activities occurring internationally. At least one member will be a consumer representative or has lived experience.

All other members will have research or clinical expertise or experience in diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease research or commercialisation/research translation expertise or experience with a focus on diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease.

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

Dr Bernie Towler, Principal Medical Advisor in the Department of Health, will be an ex-officio member.

Term

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

Member applications for MRFF funding

Members will be ineligible to apply for funding for grant opportunities under the MRFF Targeted Translation Research Accelerator 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 MRFF Targeted Translation Research Accelerator 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 Plan for the MRFF Targeted Translation Research Accelerator.
- 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

- Six 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, 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 Plan for the MRFF Targeted Translation Research Accelerator

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

The Department of Health and Aged Care will use the 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.

