



Australian Government
Department of Health

OFFICIAL

Ministerial Submission – Standard
MS19-001103 Version (1)
Date sent to MO:13/09/19

To: Minister Hunt

Subject: POLICY APPROVAL AND EXPENDITURE APPROVAL FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH FUTURE FUND (MRFF) - EMERGING PRIORITIES AND CONSUMER DRIVEN RESEARCH (EPCDR) INVESTMENT PLAN (2019-20 TO 2023-24)

Critical date: 20 September 2019 to enable 2019-20 Grant Opportunities to progress in a timely manner.

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Contact Officer:	<i>Dr Masha Somi</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officer Health and Medical Research Office</i>	Ph: (02) 6289 7705 Mobile: s22
Clearance Officer:	<i>Paul McBride</i>	<i>First Assistant Secretary Health Economics and Research Division</i>	Ph: (02) 6289 8469 Mobile: s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

OFFICIAL

4. The Department recommends option b) as it would enable greater transparency and opportunity for a variety of stakeholders to submit applications to be assessed and peer reviewed with grants awarded on merit. This option would be the least resource intensive and most cost effective option for the Department.
 - Option c would increase transparency in funding allocation for this initiatives at the same time as providing you discretion to allocate funds to emerging priorities and consumer initiative activities.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Sensitivities:

Accelerated Research investments (now called EPCDR) have received criticism in the past for a lack of contestability. This sensitivity can be mitigated by highlighting that the EPCDR Initiative now consists of multiple open and closed grant rounds with a focus on collaboration between consumers and researchers in addressing unmet need and emerging priorities. Recipients are also asked to comply with the Government endorsed *MRFF Funding Principles* where appropriate.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE



Australian Government
Department of Health

OFFICIAL

Ministerial Submission – Standard
MS20-000326 Version (1)
Date sent to MO:20/03/2020

To: Minister Hunt

Subject: Policy Approval and Approval in Principle for expenditure of \$3.35 million from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Coronavirus Research Response for COVID-19 vaccine research and clinical trials

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Contact Officer:	<i>Dr Masha Somi</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officer Health and Medical Research Office</i>	Ph: (02) 6289 7705 Mobile: s22
Clearance Officer:	<i>Paul McBride</i>	<i>First Assistant Secretary Health Economics and Research Division</i>	Ph: (02) 6289 8469 Mobile: s22

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

Sensitivities:

The Department understands that a COVID-19 vaccines are being developed by Australian research groups other than the University of Queensland. There is a possibility that allocating funds directly to the University of Queensland outside of the open, competitive MRFF grant opportunity process currently in train could be criticised by stakeholders, particularly those participating in that process.

s22

The Department and your Office have received a number of unsolicited research proposals and requests for funding into COVID-19 research. Whereever possible, these approaches are being referred to the Coronavirus Research Response package, with encouragement to apply for open, competitive grant opportunities via GrantConnect.

s22

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE