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Thursday, 7 June 2018 3:42 PM

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Office of the Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health

T: 02 6277 [REDACTED] | M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@health.gov.au

Suite M1.41, PO Box 6022, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, Australia

The Department of Health acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 June 2018 11:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Attn [REDACTED] - MB18-002504 - please change to an event brief: UTAS funding [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, can you please change this to request to an event brief, with a media release and speaking notes for five minutes?

Unfortunately the only details on the event that I have are below, but I will send through any further info as I receive it. Caroline Edwards may know more.

Please change the due date to 1pm Tuesday, 12 June. Unfortunately this is a hard timeline, as Minister Hunt will need to take a copy of the brief with him from Canberra on Tuesday afternoon.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Departmental Liaison Officer

Office of the Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
T: 02 6277 [REDACTED] | M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@health.gov.au

Suite M1.41, PO Box 6022, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, Australia

The Department of Health acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 June 2018 11:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: UTAS funding [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

We have confirmation that the PM and the Minister will be doing the UTAS funding in Burnie next Thursday.

Can the release and event brief please be worked up ASAP in cooperation with PMC.

s22

Chief of Staff
Minister for Health
The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Phone: 06 6277 s47F
Mobile s47F

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



To: Minister Hunt

cc: Minister McKenzie

Subject: UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA HEALTH PROPOSALS

Minister Hunt Date: / /

Comments:

Contact Officer:	Michael Culhane	A/g First Assistant Secretary Research, Data and Evaluation Division	Ph: (02) 6289 Mobile:
Clearance Officer:	Nick Hartland	A/g Deputy Secretary Health Systems Policy & Primary Care	Ph: (02) 6289 Mobile:

Date / Time: 14 June 2018

Location: Burnie, Tasmania

Purpose: To announce funding for supporting health and medical research translation in rural and regional Tasmania.

Key Attendees: TBA

Key Issues:

1. As part of the National Health Agreement (NHA) 2020-21 to 2024-25 negotiations with the Tasmanian Government, funding of \$2.4 million over three years (\$0.8 million per year) from 2018-19 has been committed to support health and medical research in rural and remote Tasmania.
2. Subject to your approval, the funding will be provided under the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)'s Keeping Australians Out of Hospital program (MS18-001228).
3. The funding will support research that focuses on preventive health in rural and remote locations and indigenous communities, chronic disease burden and translation of research knowledge into practice to reduce avoidable hospitalisations. The funding will enable stronger collaboration amongst researchers and translation of research into improved patient care and programs. A proposal submitted by the University of Tasmania to the Minister's Office is provided at Attachment A.
4. The proposal is based around collaboration with University partners to develop locally based health research in Burnie focussing on causal health conditions associated with the high multi-morbidity indices affecting Tasmanians within social and environmental

contexts. The research will be underpinned by the use of standard competitive research assessment processes including independent peer and expert review and best practice research program governance and management.

5. There will be further discussion on the details of specific competitive research projects and programs to be undertaken between the Commonwealth, the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania.

Traditional Custodians: Panninher [Par-nin-her] and the Leterrermairrener [Letter-ramare-ru-nah] People.

Key Stakeholder Engagement: N/A

Sensitivities: Although the scope of research agreed in the context of the NHA with Tasmania aligns with the objectives and desired outcomes of the Keeping Australians Out of Hospital program, the direct allocation of funding to the University of Tasmania in the absence of a structured contestable process may be the subject of criticism by the research sector. The approach may be perceived as inconsistent with the MRFF Funding Principles.

Budget/Financial Implications: Funding will be provided under the MRFF.

Impact on Rural and Regional Australians: The research aims to contribute to the improvement of health outcomes of rural and regional Tasmanians.

Attachments:

Attachment A: University of Tasmania proposal

Attachment B: Media Release – Funding boost for University of Tasmania

Attachment C: Speaking Notes – University of Tasmania funding announcement

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Australian Government
Department of Health

UNCLASSIFIED

Event Brief

MB18-002504 Version (1)

Date sent to MO: 12/06/18

To: Minister Hunt

cc: Minister McKenzie

Subject: UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA HEALTH PROPOSALS

Minister Hunt

Date:

13, 6, 18

Comments:

*Please see my strong
concerns with fundamentally
flawed misrepresentation of
Policy*

Contact Officer:	Michael Culhane	A/g First Assistant Secretary Research, Data and Evaluation Division	Ph: (02) 6289 ^{S47F}
Clearance Officer:	Nick Hartland	A/g Deputy Secretary Health Systems Policy & Primary Care	Mobile: ^{S47F}
			Ph: (02) 6289 ^{S47F}
			Mobile: ^{S47F}

Date / Time: 11.30am – 12.30pm, 14 June 2018

Location: University of Tasmania Rural Clinical School, North West Regional Hospital,
21 Brickport Rd, Cooe TAS 7320

Purpose: To announce funding for supporting health and medical research translation in
rural and regional Tasmania.

Key Attendees:

Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister
Will Hodgman, Premier of Tasmania

Key Issues:

1. As part of the National Health Agreement (NHA) 2020-21 to 2024-25 negotiations with the Tasmanian Government, funding of \$2.4 million over three years (\$0.8 million per year) from 2018-19 has been committed to support health and medical research in rural and remote Tasmania.
2. Subject to your approval, the funding will be provided under the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)'s Keeping Australians Out of Hospital program (MS18-001228).
3. The funding will support research that focuses on preventive health in rural and remote locations and indigenous communities, chronic disease burden and translation of research knowledge into practice to reduce avoidable hospitalisations. The funding will enable stronger collaboration amongst researchers and translation of research into improved patient care and programs. A proposal submitted by the University of Tasmania to the Minister's Office is provided at Attachment A.

*POLICY is not
set at Departmental
level but at
Ministerial level.*

*Please show these
Comments to the Secretary
ASAP.*

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1

4. The proposal is based around collaboration with University partners to develop locally based health research in Burnie focussing on causal health conditions associated with the high multi-morbidity indices affecting Tasmanians within social and environmental contexts. The research will be underpinned by the use of standard competitive research assessment processes including independent peer and expert review and best practice research program governance and management.
5. There will be further discussion on the details of specific competitive research projects and programs to be undertaken between the Commonwealth, the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania.

Traditional Custodians: Panninher [Par-nin-her] and the Leterrermairrener [Letter-ramare-ru-nah] People.

Key Stakeholder Engagement: N/A

Sensitivities: Although the scope of research agreed in the context of the NHA with Tasmania aligns with the objectives and desired outcomes of the Keeping Australians Out of Hospital program, the direct allocation of funding to the University of Tasmania in the absence of a structured contestable process may be the subject of criticism by the research sector. The approach may be perceived as inconsistent with the MRFF Funding Principles.

Budget/Financial Implications: Funding will be provided under the MRFF.

Impact on Rural and Regional Australians: The research aims to contribute to the improvement of health outcomes of rural and regional Tasmanians.

Attachments:

Attachment A: University of Tasmania proposal

Attachment B: Media Release – Funding boost for University of Tasmania

Attachment C: Speaking Notes – University of Tasmania funding announcement

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I DO NOT
ACCEPT THIS

This does not align with
the ministerial priorities, policies or
interest for this particular program.
The statement is false, untrue,
incorrect & misleading & DOES NOT REFLECT
POLICY. Please discuss. *[Signature]*

UNCLASSIFIED

Support for Health and Medical Research Translation in Rural and Regional Tasmania

Context: There are particular challenges in delivering appropriate health care in Tasmania's rural and regional communities, given the state's relatively small and dispersed population and other population health characteristics. The chronic disease burden coupled with low socio-economic status results in some of the poorest health in Australia. When other indicators such as the higher rate for population ageing (the fastest in the country) are considered, the urgent need to secure better sustainable health outcomes comes sharply into focus. As one element of major planned investments in regional Tasmania, a new whole-of-state partnership model for community healthcare is proposed. The University of Tasmania, working with place-based health organisations and communities in the North West of the state, will drive forward an innovative contribution to community health care through an integrated nodal approach.

Background: The University of Tasmania has committed to be a champion for, and facilitator of, place-based community developments across the state of Tasmania through education and research. Working with key community agencies and government, the University is participating in a layered dialogue to identify and resolve key actions to revitalise and stimulate social, economic and cultural transformation in the regions. One area of particular focus is the health and well-being of citizens located in remote rural communities. In advance of significant new infrastructure being developed, an opportunity exists to explore and pilot new health care models designed to take advantage of both a stable island population and emerging paradigms in rural community health care practice. In Burnie and across the North West region, the University, working closely with a spectrum of health care partners, aims to combine and extend the functions of the Rural Clinical School, the Indigenous Health Centre, the Wicking Institute and the Menzies Institute to establish an integrated pilot facility for rural health research and translation. This new activity will link with other dedicated University health research and education nodes in Launceston and Hobart.

Health and medical research undertaken by the University of Tasmania focuses on shifting the balance of classic health care from a clinical hospital framework to an embedded community health model, thereby directing emphasis onto prevention and the supported management of well-being across the life course. In response to the ageing crisis enveloping Tasmania, we anticipate expanding the capacity of the Wicking Institute for Dementia Research by fostering activity in the North West to develop a whole of population network for the prevention, management and care of citizens affected by dementia. In anticipation of the new Burnie campus jointly funded by the Australian Government, the State Government and the University, we are proposing to pilot a research centre to extend existing facilities and create a key place-defined research engagement node in the ongoing translation of dementia research to better meet the needs of a wide range of individuals and cohorts.

Proposal: The University will work with its partners to focus on developing place-based health research in Burnie as part of the planned infrastructure developments. This proposal will enable an innovative research program to be established where the main causal health conditions associated with the high multi-morbidity indices affecting Tasmanians can be investigated within their social and environmental contexts. This approach has proven benefits when assessed against the whole-of-life costs of healthcare.

Excellence in research and translation will be assured by the use of standard competitive research assessment processes including independent peer and expert review and best practice research program governance and management. The University will engage with the Commonwealth and the Tasmanian Government, as well as key independent advisors, to ensure appropriate oversight, support progress reporting and advance knowledge translation dynamics.

Cost: The University is seeking \$2.4 million over three years commencing in 2018-19 from the Medical Research Future Fund to support health and medical research translation in rural and regional Tasmania.

Contact Details: Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

s47F [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@utas.edu.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@utas.edu.au)

03 6226 s47F [REDACTED]



Support for Health and Medical Research Translation in Rural and Regional Tasmania

Context: There are particular challenges in delivering appropriate health care in Tasmania's rural and regional communities, given the state's relatively small and dispersed population and other population health characteristics. The chronic disease burden coupled with low socio-economic status results in some of the poorest health in Australia. When other indicators such as the higher rate for population ageing (the fastest in the country) are considered, the urgent need to secure better sustainable health outcomes comes sharply into focus. As one element of major planned investments in regional Tasmania, a new whole-of-state partnership model for community healthcare is proposed. The University of Tasmania, working with place-based health organisations and communities in the North West of the state, will drive forward an innovative contribution to community health care through an integrated nodal approach.

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Contact Details: Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

s47F [redacted]@utas.edu.au

03 6226 s47F [redacted]

DOUBLE CLICK anywhere in this header box to make it active

Media Release for:	Hunt	Brief or Minute No:	MB2504	Date likely to be issued to media or date of event (if known)	14/06/18
Program area contact	<User name will appear here>			<User phone>	20/04/18
Program area fact-check and confirmation of Budget Branch check	Enter program area contact name here after you have completed your fact check and confirmed any financial figures in the release, including figures in any proposed changes, with Budget Branch (e-mail S47E(d)@health.gov.au). By signing here, you are confirming this required check has been done.			XNA No	Date
Dep Sec/FAS clearance	Nick Hartland			S47F	12/06/18
Comms Branch sign-off	Comms branch – complete this row only on final sign-off			XNA No	Date

NEW INSTRUCTIONS — Program area: Please refer to the new instructions in the e-mail that accompanied this draft. Please ensure you have completed filling in the details in this tracking box.

RESEARCH FUNDING BOOST FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

Joint Media Release

Prime Minister of Australia
The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

The Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health

The Australian Government is providing \$2.4 million to the University of Tasmania to conduct ground-breaking preventive health research.

This investment, through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), will allow the University of Tasmania to build on its pioneering research into preventive health in rural and remote locations.

The funding boost will help the University expand on its research into preventive health in Indigenous communities, the burden of chronic disease, and translation of research knowledge into practice to reduce avoidable hospitalisations.

As one of the top-ten research-led universities in the country, the University of Tasmania is well placed to explore a range of research projects to boost preventive health measures that will ultimately keep more Australians out of hospital.

Prevention is always better than a cure and there is huge potential here to translate important research into improved health care for Tasmanian's.

The Australian Government is committed to improving the health of the nation and will continue to invest in better treatment, care and research that make a difference to the lives of all Australians.

The MRFF is \$20 billion investment in the health of Australians, our economy and the sustainability of our health system.

Through the MRFF we are supporting our world-class researchers and academics across the country to undertake cutting-edge research that will inform better diagnosis and treatment options for Australians living with chronic and complex conditions.

ENDS

TALKING POINTS

- The Australian Government is providing the University of Tasmania with \$2.4 million in funding to build on its leading research into preventive health.
- I was pleased to make this funding announcement in Burnie today alongside the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Tasmanian Premier Will Hogman.
- The funding boost will enable the University to build on its research work in preventive health in rural and remote and Indigenous communities, and help address the burden of chronic disease by translating important research knowledge into practice – ultimately reducing avoidable hospitalisations.
- We know that rural and regional Australians often face health challenges that are different to their city counterparts — a better understanding of preventive health in these areas will help lead to improved health outcomes for all Australians.
- Of course many hospitalisations are simply unavoidable – however much of the research in preventive health clearly tells us that this is where Australia can improve. .
- Research like this is important to help us understand what needs to be done – locally and nationally – to keep more Australians out of hospital, fit and healthy.

ENDS

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Media Release for:	Hunt	Brief or Minute No: MB2504	Date likely to be issued to media or date of event (if known) 14/06/18
Program area contact	<User name will appear here>		<User phone> 20/04/18
Program area fact-check and confirmation of Budget Branch check	Enter program area contact name here after you have completed your fact check and confirmed any financial figures in the release, including figures in any proposed changes, with Budget Branch (e-mail: s47E(d)@health.gov.au). By signing here, you are confirming this required check has been done.		XNA No Date
Dep Sec/FAS clearance	Nick Hartland	s47F	12/06/18
Comms Branch sign-off	Comms branch – complete this row only on final sign-off		XNA No Date

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Prud Humphreys Centre of Excellence
RESEARCH FUNDING BOOST FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
For Bonnie & the Uni of Tas
Joint Media Release

Prime Minister of Australia
The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

The Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health

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As one of the top-ten research led universities in the country, the University of Tasmania is well placed to explore a range of research projects to boost preventive health measures that will ultimately keep more Australians out of hospital.

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The Australian Government is committed to improving the health of the nation and will continue to invest in better treatment, care and research that make a difference to the lives of all Australians.

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- Of course many hospitalisations are simply unavoidable – however much of the research in preventive health clearly tells us that this is where Australia can improve. .
- Research like this is important to help us understand what needs to be done – locally and nationally – to keep more Australians out of hospital, fit and healthy.

ENDS

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Speaking Notes for:	Hunt	Brief or Minute No:	MB2504	Date likely to be issued to media or date of event (if known)	14 June
Program area contact	<User name will appear here>			<User phone>	16/01/18
Program area fact-check and confirmation of Budget Branch check	Enter program area contact name here after you have completed your fact check and confirmed any financial figures in the release, including figures in any proposed changes, with Budget Branch (e-mail S47E(d)@health.gov.au). By signing here, you are confirming this required check has been done.				Date
Dep Sec/FAS clearance	Nick Hartland			S47F	12/06/18
Comms Branch sign-off	Comms branch – complete this row only on final sign-off				Date

NEW INSTRUCTIONS — Program area: Please refer to the new instructions in the e-mail that accompanied this draft. Please ensure you have completed filling in the details in this tracking box.

**THE HON GREG HUNT MP
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Speaking Notes

UTAS Funding announcement

Thursday 14 June

Location/address of announcement - TBC

Acknowledgements/introduction

- I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land – Panninher [Par-nin-her] and the Leterrermairrener [Letter-ramare-runah] People – and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.
- I extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present here today.
- I also would like to acknowledge:
 - Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Turnbull
 - Premier of Tasmania Will Hodgman
 - Any other VIPS to acknowledge? TBC

1. More money for ground breaking research

1.1 I'm very pleased to be announcing a major funding boost of

\$2.4 million for the University of Tasmania here in Burnie today alongside Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the Premier of Tasmania Will Hodgman.

- This funding boost will enable the University to build on its leading research into preventive health in rural and remote locations.
- We know that rural and regional Australians often face different health challenges to their city cousins.
- A better understanding of preventive health for country Australians will help lead to improved health outcomes for these communities.

1.2 The funding boost will also allow the University of Tasmania to continue its important work in preventive health research in Indigenous communities, the burden of chronic disease, and the translation of research knowledge into practice.

- They are undertaking vital work on how to avoid hospitalisations with healthier lifestyles and improved management of chronic disease.
- The research will be led by some of the country's most prominent academics and researchers.

1.3 Of course many hospitalisations are simply unavoidable – however much of the research in preventive health clearly tells us that we can do more.

- Research like this is important to help us understand what needs to be done – at both a local and national level – to keep Australians fit, healthy and out of hospital.

2 Leveraging off the potential of our universities

- 2.1 As the Health Minister, I'm passionate about translating health and medical research into clinical practice – I believe there is unlimited potential in these areas to transform healthcare as we know it.
- 2.2 The Australian Government recognises the potential of our universities and research facilities across the country to conduct ground breaking research and clinical trials that will inform better diagnosis and treatment options for patients.
- 2.3 We will continue to work with our universities, led by world class researchers and academics, to leverage off their potential to drive the latest innovations in health and medical technology that will improve healthcare, and strengthen our economy by creating jobs and growth.

3 Ongoing health investment through the Medical Research Future Fund

- 3.1 The Australian Government is committed to improving the health of the nation and will continue to invest in better treatment, care and research that makes a difference to the lives of Australians.

- The Medical Research Future Fund is a \$20 billion investment in the health of Australians, our economy and the sustainability of our health system.
- We know prevention is always better than a cure, which is why cutting edge health and medical research is so important and is the major focus of the MRFF.

3.2 Through the MRFF we are supporting our inspiring researchers to make innovations and discoveries that will change healthcare as we know it, whether it be the next penicillin, pacemaker, cervical cancer vaccine, or cochlear ear.

3.3 We will continue to work collaboratively and closely with our state and territory counterparts to support better health and well-being for all Australians.

Conclusion

- Thank you all for being here today.
- I look forward to seeing the important contribution to research in preventive health the University of Tasmania will make in the coming years.
- Thank you.

ENDS

s22

From: NHMRC Parliamentary <s47E(d)@nhmrc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 3:02 PM
To: s47E(d)
Cc: s22@nhmrc.gov.au
Subject: MB18-003896: new Departmental Initiated Brief - MRFF: Prev Health Tas [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Categories: s22 to action

Good Afternoon,

Could we please have a new INFORMATION BRIEF titled –
DEPARTMENT INITIATED BRIEF: OPENING OF THE MRFF KEEPING AUSTRALIANS OUT OF HOSPITAL: PREVENTATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH IN RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES (TASMANIA) GRANT OPPORTUNITY

This will be for Minister Hunt and has a due date of 21 September.

Kind regards,

s22

NHMRC Parliamentary

s22 and s22
 Executive Support and Parliamentary
 National Health & Medical Research Council

p : 02 6217 s22 s22@nhmrc.gov.au
 p : 02 6217 s22 s22@nhmrc.gov.au

e : s47E(d)@nhmrc.gov.au | w : www.nhmrc.gov.au

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Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council

Information Brief

MB18-003896

Date sent to MO: 28/09/2018

To: Minister Hunt

Subject: OPENING OF THE MRFF 'KEEPING AUSTRALIANS OUT OF HOSPITAL: PREVENTATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH IN RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES (TASMANIA)' GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Minister Hunt Date: /			
Comments:			
Contact Officer:	Alan Singh	Executive Director, Research Translation, NHMRC	Ph: (02) 6217 s47F Mobile: s47F
Contact Officer	Terrie O'Brien	Assistant Secretary (A/g), Office of Health and Medical Research	Ph: (02) 6289 s47F Mobile: s47F
Clearance Officer:	Professor Anne Kelso AO	Chief Executive Officer, NHMRC	Ph: (02) 6217 s47F Mobile: s47F

Key Issues:

1. In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government announced \$18.1 million over four years from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) for the Keeping Australians Out of Hospital program to support preventive health, behavioural economics and reduce avoidable presentations to hospital (the Program).
2. On 14 June 2018, you and the former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced \$2.4 million in funding for rural and regional health research in Tasmania and also agreed to provide \$4 million for preventative health research in the Australian Capital Territory via this Program, to be funded from the Program's MRFF allocation.
3. The objective of the Grant Opportunity is to provide support for preventative health research in rural and regional communities in Tasmania, with a focus on those most disadvantaged. It also forms part of the Government's response to the *National Health Reform Agreement*.

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4. Consistent with broader program objectives, research supported by this Grant Opportunity will have tangible economic benefits to the health system by addressing the rising burden of complex and chronic diseases, especially amongst vulnerable populations with chronic conditions, and keeping them out of hospital.
5. NHMRC has designed a closed, non-competitive Grant Opportunity and corresponding Grant Guidelines in consultation with the Department of Health's Office of Health and Medical Research and the Department of Finance (see [Attachment A](#)).
6. NHMRC will administer the application and assessment processes in consultation with the Department of Health, consistent with a Memorandum of Understanding established on 26 June 2017. The health and medical research sector is familiar with NHMRC's high-quality grant administration processes, and the Grant Opportunity will be restricted to the University of Tasmania (an NHMRC Approved Administering Institution) using NHMRC's grants management system. This will make it easier to ensure that safeguards (such as compliance with existing policies relating to research integrity and ethics) apply and are adhered to by grant recipients.
7. The grant selection process is intended to conclude in November 2018. To achieve this timeline the Grant Opportunity will need to open in the first week of October 2018.
8. The timeline provides for funding approval to occur in early November 2018, subject to rigorous assessment of the grant application against defined assessment criteria. In consultation with your Office, a Department of Health officer will approve the grants in accordance with the delegation you have made under the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015*. The Department of Health will consult with your Office about announcement opportunities closer to that time.
9. To deliver assessment outcomes by late 2018 the timeline for implementing the Grant Opportunity is significantly shorter than for most NHMRC grant programs. The Department of Health has been in communication with the University of Tasmania in anticipation of the opening of the proposed Grant Opportunity. An inter-departmental Assessment Committee in consultation with external experts, if required, will assess the grant applications.

Background:

The Program is part of the \$150.4 million translational research package from the MRFF and builds on previous MRFF investments in preventative healthcare research with a specific focus on evidence translation, behavioural economics and implementation research, including \$10 million to support the Australian Prevention Partnership Centre.

Attachments:

- A: Grant Guidelines for the *MRFF Keeping Australians Out of Hospital: Preventative Health Research in Rural and Regional Communities (Tasmania) Grant Opportunity*

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Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council

Information Brief

MB18-003896

Date sent to MO: 28/09/2018

To: Minister Hunt

Subject: OPENING OF THE MRFF 'KEEPING AUSTRALIANS OUT OF HOSPITAL: PREVENTATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH IN RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES (TASMANIA)' GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Minister Hunt		Date: /
Comments: <i>Please note with my office involvement</i>		
Contact Officer:	Alan Singh Executive Director, Research Translation, NHMRC	Ph: (02) 6217 9149 Mobile: s47F
Contact Officer:	s47F	s47F
Clearance Officer:	Professor Anne Kelso AO Chief Executive Officer, NHMRC	Ph: (02) 6217 s47F Mobile: s47F

Key Issues:

1. In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government announced \$18.1 million over four years from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) for the Keeping Australians Out of Hospital program to support preventive health, behavioural economics and reduce avoidable presentations to hospital (the Program).
2. On 14 June 2018, you and the former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced \$2.4 million in funding for rural and regional health research in Tasmania and also agreed to provide \$4 million for preventative health research in the Australian Capital Territory via this Program, to be funded from the Program's MRFF allocation.
3. The objective of the Grant Opportunity is to provide support for preventative health research in rural and regional communities in Tasmania, with a focus on those most disadvantaged. It also forms part of the Government's response to the National Health Reform Agreement.

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4. Consistent with broader program objectives, research supported by this Grant Opportunity will have tangible economic benefits to the health system by addressing the rising burden of complex and chronic diseases, especially amongst vulnerable populations with chronic conditions, and keeping them out of hospital.
5. NHMRC has designed a closed, non-competitive Grant Opportunity and corresponding Grant Guidelines in consultation with the Department of Health's Office of Health and Medical Research and the Department of Finance (see Attachment A).
6. NHMRC will administer the application and assessment processes in consultation with the Department of Health, consistent with a Memorandum of Understanding established on 26 June 2017. The health and medical research sector is familiar with NHMRC's high-quality grant administration processes, and the Grant Opportunity will be restricted to the University of Tasmania (an NHMRC Approved Administering Institution) using NHMRC's grants management system. This will make it easier to ensure that safeguards (such as compliance with existing policies relating to research integrity and ethics) apply and are adhered to by grant recipients.
7. The grant selection process is intended to conclude in November 2018. To achieve this timeline the Grant Opportunity will need to open in the first week of October 2018.
8. The timeline provides for funding approval to occur in early November 2018, subject to rigorous assessment of the grant application against defined assessment criteria. In consultation with your Office, a Department of Health officer will approve the grants in accordance with the delegation you have made under the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015*. The Department of Health will consult with your Office about announcement opportunities closer to that time.
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Australian Government

Department of Health

**National Health and
Medical Research Council**

Medical Research Future Fund: Keeping Australians Out of Hospital Program

Preventative Health Research in Rural and Regional Communities
(Tasmania)

Opening date:

Wednesday 3 October 2018

Application closing date and time:

5pm AEDT on Wednesday 17 October 2018

Commonwealth policy entity:

Australian Government Department of Health

Co-Sponsoring Entity

National Health and Medical Research Council

Enquiries:

Applicants requiring further assistance should contact
NHMRC's Research Help Centre:

P: 1800 500 983 (+61 2 6217 9451 for international
callers).

E: help@nhmrc.gov.au

NHMRC will not respond to any enquiries later than
16.30 AEDT on 17 October 2018.

Date guidelines released:

Friday 28 September 2018

Type of grant opportunity:

Closed, non-competitive

Medical Research
Future Fund



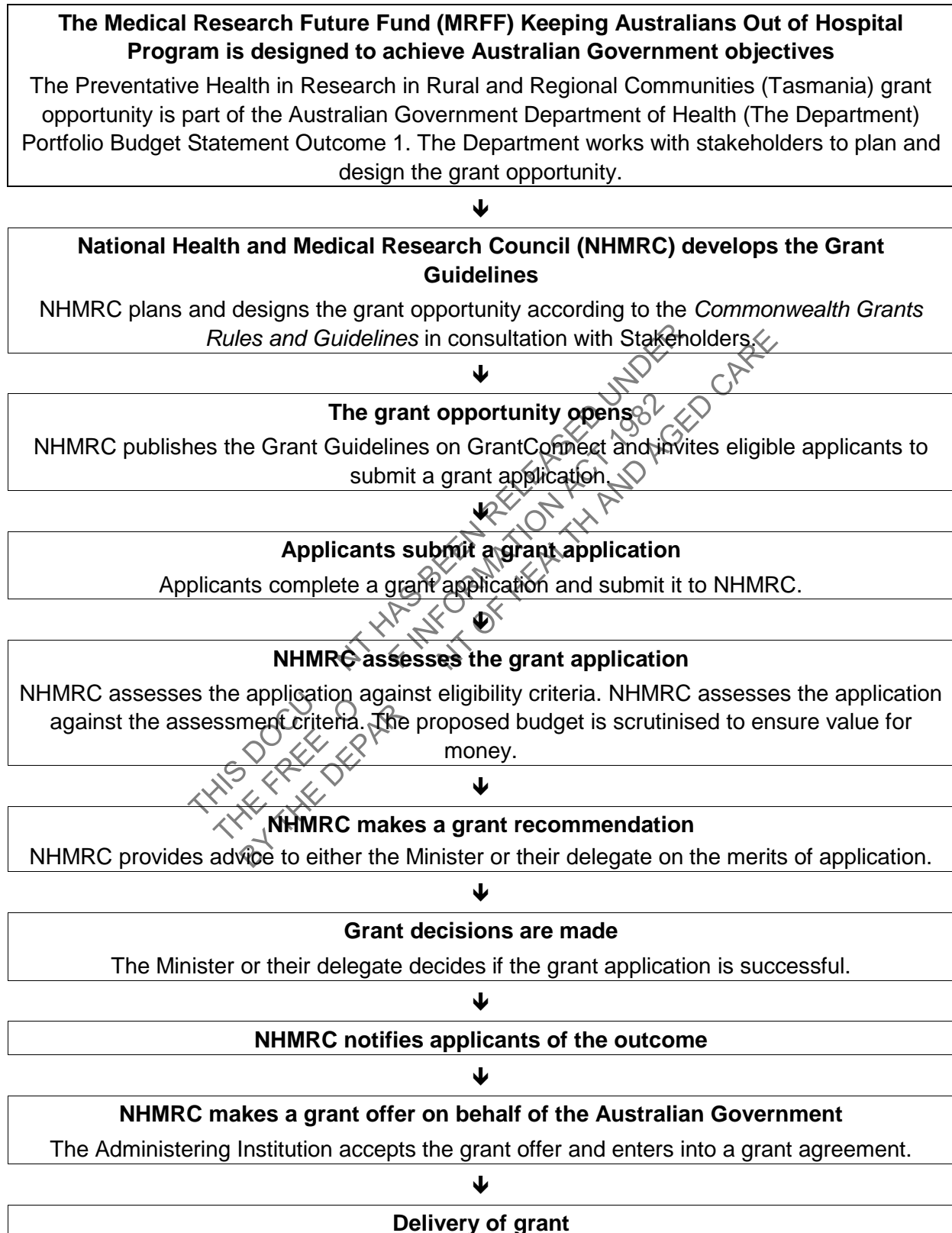
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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

1. Overview



Grantee undertakes the grant activity as set out in the grant agreement. The grant will be managed by monitoring progress and making payments through the Administering Institution.



Evaluation of the Program

The Department evaluates the Program. This evaluation is based on information provided by the grantee through the Administering Institution.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information on the MRFF Keeping Australians Out of Hospital: Preventative Health in Rural and Regional Communities grant opportunity. This is a closed, non-competitive grant opportunity.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how the grant application is assessed
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This MRFF grant opportunity will be administered by the NHMRC on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health.

2. About the grant opportunity

This grant opportunity is part of the MRFF Keeping Australians Out of Hospital Program, which was announced in the context of the 2018 Budget. It is part of the Australian Government Department of Health Portfolio Budget Statement Outcome 1 – Health System Policy, Design and Innovation.

The MRFF, established under the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015* (MRFF Act), provides grants of financial assistance to support health and medical research and innovation in improving the health and wellbeing of Australians. It operates as an endowment fund with the capital preserved in perpetuity. At maturity, the MRFF will reach \$20 billion. The MRFF provides a long term sustainable source of funding for endeavours that aim to improve health outcomes, quality of life and health system sustainability.

The MRFF investments are guided by the *Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2016–2021* (the Strategy) and related set of *Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2016–2018* (the Priorities), developed by the independent and expert Australian Medical Research Advisory Board (AMRAB).

The Keeping Australians Out of Hospital Program aims to support implementation science initiatives to better support informed choices by consumers and service providers and to

scale up proven evidence-based interventions and local prevention activities to larger populations to improve quality of life for people with chronic conditions, keep them out of hospital, and reduce the burden on the Australian hospital system. This is consistent with the MRFF Strategy and Priorities.

This grant opportunity aims to support the University of Tasmania's preventive health research program to boost preventative health measures through the translation of research into health care practice. Funding for this grant opportunity was announced by former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the Minister for Health, the Hon. Greg Hunt on 14 June 2018.

2.1 Objectives of the grant opportunity

The objectives of the Preventative Health in Research in Rural and Regional Communities grant opportunity are to provide support for preventative health research in rural and regional communities in Tasmania. Specifically, the research will target disadvantaged communities with a focus on:

- better coordinate care for patients with complex and chronic disease to reduce costly episodic care, pharmaceutical treatment and medical procedures;
- promote self-management and hence reduce avoidable presentations to hospitals or readmissions to hospital; and
- develop effective implementation strategies that are tailored to the target population for improvement.

2.2 Outcomes of the grant opportunity

The expected outcomes of the grant opportunity are:

- systematic uptake of existing research findings and other evidence-based practice into routine practice to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of preventive healthcare interventions;
- improved health outcomes of people with complex and chronic conditions, particularly in disadvantaged regional and rural communities;
- enhanced collaboration and integration of research outcomes into community-based health services and support and education programs;
- reduce the burden on the Australian hospital system by reducing avoidable admissions; and
- generate long-term economic efficiencies for payers of services (patients and carers, Commonwealth, and States and territories).

The Program is being undertaken according to the [*Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines \(CGRGs\)*](#).

3. Grant amount

The Australian Government has announced \$2.4 million (GST exclusive) from the MRFF for this grant opportunity as part of the Keeping Australians Out of Hospital Program. This will be paid over a period of up to three years.

4. Grant eligibility criteria

To be eligible for consideration, an application must satisfy all the requirements set out in these Grant Guidelines. An application may be excluded from further consideration if:

- It does not meet the objectives of the grant opportunity.
- It contravenes an eligibility rule or other requirement as set out in these Grant Guidelines. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - The application is not certified and submitted via NHMRC's granting system by an NHMRC approved Administering Institution by the advertised closing date and time (also see section 4.1)
 - The proposed research duplicates research previously or currently being undertaken. NHMRC may compare the research proposed in the grant application with grants previously or currently funded by the MRFF, NHMRC or other agencies (e.g. Australian Research Council) and published research (see also section 5.2)
 - The application includes any incomplete, false or misleading information.
- Its aims are inconsistent with the object of the MRFF Act to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians.
- It, or persons named on the application, contravenes an applicable law or code.
- Persons named on the application are the subject of a decision by the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate that any application they make to NHMRC, for specified funding opportunities, will be excluded from consideration for a period of time, whether or not they meet the eligibility requirements. Such decisions will generally reflect action taken by NHMRC in response to research misconduct allegations or findings, or a Probity Event.

If a decision to exclude an application from further consideration is made, NHMRC will provide its decision and the reason(s) for the decision to the Administering Institution in writing. The Administering Institution is responsible for advising applicants of the decision in writing.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

An application will only be accepted from the following NHMRC approved Administering institution:

- The University of Tasmania

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

The grant money can only be spent on eligible expenditure incurred on eligible grant activities as defined in the grant agreement. The program delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure.

To be eligible, expenditure must be:

- an eligible activity under the MRFF Act
- a direct cost of the activity, and
- incurred within the activity period – that is, the expenditure must be incurred on grant activities between the start date and end or completion date of the grant activity for it to be eligible.

5.2 Ineligible expenditure

The grant cannot be used to pay the ***indirect costs of research***.

Indirect costs of research are Institution overhead costs that benefit and support research. They can include the operations and maintenance of buildings, provision of facilities and libraries, hazardous waste disposal, regulatory and research compliance and administration of research services. Although they are necessary for the conduct of research, and may be incurred in the course of research, they are costs that do not directly address the approved research objectives of a grant.

Costs that cannot be paid with the grant include, but are not limited to:

- airline club memberships
- conference attendance, and associated travel
- communications costs (mobiles, telephone calls)
- entertainment and hospitality costs
- institutional overheads and administrative costs
- overseas travel (except where formally approved and documented by the relevant Faculty Research Committee (or equivalent) prior to the travel being undertaken)
- health insurance, travel insurance, foreign currency, airport and related travel taxes, passports and visas
- patent costs
- personal subscriptions (e.g. private journal subscriptions)
- purchase of reprints
- personal membership of professional organisations and groups

- research infrastructure: facilities necessary for the research endeavour that a responsible Institution would be expected to supply as a prerequisite to its engagement in research. This includes:
 - animal house facilities
 - computers, computer networks, peripherals and software for communicating, writing and undertaking simple analyses
 - ethics approval costs
 - furniture
 - non-project related staff training and development
 - physical space and all associated administrative, laboratory and office services.

The grant cannot be used to cover retrospective costs of research. The grant cannot be used to support research activities undertaken outside of Australia.

A grant cannot be provided if the applicant receives funding from another government source for the same purpose. The applicant can apply for grants under any Commonwealth program but, if those applications are funded, the applicant must choose either the grant from this grant opportunity or the other Commonwealth grant.

Where it appears that an applicant has submitted similar applications for research funding and has been successful with more than one application, the applicant is required to provide NHMRC with a written report clearly identifying the difference between the research aims of the two research activities. If NHMRC does not consider the two research activities to be sufficiently different, the applicant will be required to decline or relinquish one of the grants.

6. The assessment process

NHMRC will assess the eligibility of the application at any stage following the submission of the application. NHMRC may request further information in order to assess whether the eligibility requirements have been met.

An Assessment Committee will assess the application on its individual merits against the criteria set out below. The Assessment Committee will rate the application against each assessment criterion using the following scale:

Rating (for each criterion)	Rank
High quality – response to this criterion addresses all or most sub-criteria to a higher than average standard. Evidence is available and confirms good performance against this criterion.	Highly suitable
Good quality – response against this criterion meets most sub-criteria to an average and acceptable level. Some evidence is available and provides some support for claims against this criterion.	Suitable

Poor quality – poor claims against this criterion, meets some or none of the sub-criteria. Evidence is unavailable, not relevant or lacking in detail.	Not suitable
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NHMRC may ask external experts to inform the assessment of the application. Any expert/advisor who is not a Commonwealth Official will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRGs.

The Department of Health considers that this is an appropriate type of selection process considering the nature of the grant is specifically dependent on specialised activities to be provided by the University of Tasmania, as per the Australian Government announcement.

6.1 The assessment criteria

Applicants need to address all of the following assessment criteria in their application. The Application must meet each criterion in order to be considered for funding.

1. Alignment of Research Activities with the Grant Opportunity

An application should demonstrate:

- how it meets the objectives of this grant opportunity
- how it will achieve the outcomes of this grant opportunity
- the suitability of the proposed selection processes to meet the objectives and outcomes of this grant opportunity, if the conduct of a competitive grant process by the University of Tasmania is included as part of this application
- how the proposed activities will generate new knowledge that leads to improved health outcomes
- how the proposed activities will promote effective transfer of research outcomes into health policy and/or practice

2. Stakeholder Engagement and Community Partnership

An application should demonstrate:

- implementation of outcomes as a component of the design of the proposed activities
- partnerships with community and other service providers, for example, Indigenous health service providers, and evidence of the strength of these partnerships
- likelihood to influence health and research policy and practice
- whether the proposed research will scale up proven evidence-based interventions and local prevention activities to larger populations, whose research outputs would ultimately improve quality of life for people with chronic conditions, keep them out of hospital, and reduce the burden on the Australian hospital system

3. Value for Money

An application should demonstrate:

- the suitability of the budget allocation to complete the proposed activities

- that the requested budget has been reasonably justified
- how other sources of funding and support may be pursued

4. Governance and Performance

An application should demonstrate:

- the proposed governance and management structures
- accountability mechanisms for delivery of the proposed activities to ensure outcomes are achieved, including a risk management plan
- the capacity to deliver the proposed activities, including experience, skills, qualifications and time commitment of key personnel involved in the management and delivery of the proposed activities

6.2 Criteria for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Applications

If at least 20% of the research effort relates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health your application will also be assessed against the *NHMRC Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria*:

- *Community engagement* - the proposal demonstrates how the research and potential outcomes are a priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with relevant community engagement by individuals, communities and/or organisations in conceptualisation, development and approval, data collection and management, analysis, report writing and dissemination of results.
- *Benefit* - the potential health benefit of the project is demonstrated by addressing an important public health issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This benefit can have a single focus or affect several areas, such as knowledge, finance and policy or quality of life. The benefit may be direct and immediate or it can be, indirect, gradual and considered.
- *Sustainability and transferability* - the proposal demonstrates how the results of the project have the potential to lead to achievable and effective contributions to health gain for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, beyond the life of the project. This may be through sustainability in the project setting and/or transferability to other settings such as evidence-based practice and/or policy. In considering this issue the proposal should address the relationship between costs and benefits.
- *Building capability* - the proposal demonstrates how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and researchers will develop relevant capabilities through partnerships and participation in the project.

6.3 Consumer and community participation

The Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research (the Statement) has been developed because of the important contribution consumers make

to health and medical research. The Consumers Health Forum of Australia Ltd and NHMRC worked in partnership with consumers and researchers to develop the Statement.

Researchers are encouraged to consider the benefits of actively engaging consumers in their proposed research. Further information on the Consumer Health Forum and the Statement on Participation is available on NHMRC's website.

7. How to Apply

The Application must be submitted electronically using NHMRC's granting system. Electronic submission requires Administering Institutions and Chief Investigator (CI)s listed on an application to register for an account.

Applicants who are not registered can submit a new user request via the system login page. Applicants should refer to the Training Program for detailed user instructions, or contact their research administration office or the NHMRC Research Help Centre for further assistance.

The online application form provides further information on what to include in each section required as part of the application.

The application should contain all information necessary for assessment without the need for further written or oral explanation or reference to additional documentation.

To apply, an applicant must:

- complete the online application form
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility and assessment criteria
- upload their written grant proposal as a PDF file into the online granting system; and
- submit their application by the closing date and time.

Applicants will upload the written grant proposal into NHMRC granting system as a PDF file. Whilst applicants may use the written grant proposal in a flexible manner, it must clearly address the assessment criteria while outlining the proposed research activities, and their associated budgets. References should also be included in the written grant proposal.

All information submitted to NHMRC must be complete, current and accurate at the time of submission. Under section 136.1 of the *Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995*, it is an offence to provide false or misleading information to a Commonwealth body in an application for a benefit.

Examples of false or misleading information in an application include, but are not limited to:

- providing a dishonest statement regarding time commitments to the research
- providing incomplete or inaccurate facts regarding other sources of funding
- providing a fictitious record of achievements
- falsifying claims in publication records (such as describing a paper as accepted for publication when it has only been submitted).

If NHMRC believes that omissions or inclusion of misleading information are intentional it may refer the matter for investigation and take action under the Grant Guidelines or the grant agreement.

For further guidance on the application process, please contact NHMRC's Research Help Centre on 1800 500 983 (+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers) or by email to help@nhmrc.gov.au.

7.1 Application certification

The application is first certified by the CIA, then by the Administering Institution. Please review the application to ensure it is accurate and complete and meets all eligibility requirements.

The CIA must provide the Administering Institution with evidence that the application is complete and that all partners and named individuals agree to the content in the application. This written evidence should be retained by the Administering Institution and must be provided to NHMRC on request.

By certifying the application, the CIA and the Administering Institution are making the following assurances, acknowledgements and undertakings:

- all required information has been provided and is complete, current and correct
- all eligibility and other application requirements have been met
- all personnel contributing to the grant activity have familiarised themselves with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, the *National Statement of the Ethical Conduct of Human Research*, the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* and other relevant NHMRC policies concerning the conduct of research, and agree to conduct themselves in accordance with those policies
- all personnel named in the application have provided written agreement to be named, to participate in the manner described in the application and to the use of their personal information as described in the *NHMRC Privacy Policy*
- The appropriate facilities and salary support will be available for the funding period
- Approval of the Grant activity by relevant institutional committees and approval bodies, particularly in relation to ethics and biosafety, will be sought and obtained prior to the commencement of the research, or the parts of the research that require their approval
- Arrangements for the management of the grant have been agreed between all institutions associated with the application
- The application is being submitted with the full authority, and on behalf of, the Administering Institution, noting that under section 136.1 of the *Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995*, it is an offence to provide false or misleading information to a Commonwealth body in an application for a benefit,

and if funded:

- the research will be carried out in strict accordance with the Grant Guidelines and the grant agreement, and
- the research may be used to inform evaluations of the Program.

8. Who will approve grants?

The grant will be approved by the Minister for Health or relevant delegate drawing on the recommendation of the Assessment Committee. The relevant delegate will make the final decision to approve a grant.

The Commonwealth's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

The Commonwealth must not approve funding if it reasonably considers the program funding available across financial years will not accommodate the funding offer, and/or the application does not represent value for money.

Refer also section 11.1 *Complaints in Relation to Funding Outcomes*.

9. Notification of the Grant

The applicant will be advised of the outcome of their application following a decision by the Commonwealth. If successful, the applicant will also be advised about any specific conditions attached to the grant.

If there are unreasonable delays in negotiating a grant agreement, the grant offer may be withdrawn.

9.1 The grant agreement

The Administering Institution must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. For the purposes of this grant opportunity, standard terms and conditions for Department of Health grants will apply and cannot be changed. Any additional conditions attached to the grant will be identified in the grant offer.

The Administering Institution will be required to indicate its acceptance of the grant agreement that outlines the grant activity, payment schedule and conditions including milestones and reporting.

Where a grantee fails to meet the obligations of the grant agreement, the Commonwealth may suspend grant payments and take action to recover grant funds.

The Administering Institution should not make financial commitments until a grant agreement has been executed by the Commonwealth and the Administering Institution continues to meet its undertakings including:

- the appropriate facilities and salary support are available for the funding period
- approval of the Grant activity by relevant institutional committees and approval bodies, particularly in relation to ethics and biosafety, will be sought and obtained prior to the commencement of the research, or the parts of the research that require their approval
- arrangements for the management of the grant have been agreed between all institutions associated with the research.

If the above undertakings are not being met the Administering Institution must notify NHMRC. Payment of the grant may be suspended until NHMRC and the Department has considered the request to vary the grant conditions.

9.2 How the grant will be paid

The grant agreement will state the:

- grant amount approved by the Commonwealth
- the proportion of the approved grant amount that will be paid in each calendar year during the term of the grant.

Grant funding will be dependent on meeting any conditions and agreed milestones.

Timing of grant payments and applicable indexation will be detailed in the grant agreement. The Administering Institution is responsible for paying any extra eligible expenses that are incurred.

All amounts referred to in these Grant Guidelines are exclusive of GST, unless stated otherwise. Administering Institutions are responsible for all financial and taxation implications associated with receiving funds.

Payments will depend on satisfactory progress being made against milestones and performance indicators. The Commonwealth will review progress reports to confirm that the milestones and performance indicators have been achieved. Where milestones and performance indicators have not been achieved grant payments may be suspended.

9.3 Grant agreement variations

There are limited circumstances where it is appropriate to vary a grant under this program. However it is recognised that unexpected events do occur that may require a grant variation. For the purposes of this grant opportunity, NHMRC and the Department will consider variation requests in accordance with the NHMRC Grantee Variations Policy. The Policy does not allow for an increase to the approved grant amount.

10. Delivery of grant activities

10.1 Reporting

Administering Institutions are required to report to NHMRC on the progress of the grant and the use of grant funds. Where an institution fails to submit reports (financial or otherwise) as required, the Commonwealth may take action under the provisions of the grant agreement. Failure to report within timeframes may affect eligibility to receive future funding.

Financial Reports

Annual financial reports are required in a form prescribed by NHMRC. At the completion of the grant, a financial acquittal is also required. Refer to the NHMRC website for details of format and timing. NHMRC may provide financial reports and financial acquittal information to the Department.

Non-Financial Reports

The grant agreement will require the CIA to prepare reports on the grant activity. It is a condition of funding that outstanding obligations from previous NHMRC grants, including submission of a Final Report, have been met prior to the time of award. Scientific reporting requirements can be found on the NHMRC website under Administering Grants. NHMRC may provide reports to the Department.

Additional Reporting Requirements

Additional reporting requirements apply to all MRFF grants. Grantees must report against the milestones and performance indicators in the grant agreement at twelve month intervals following commencement of funding (or other interval as advised by the Australian Government). The milestones and performance indicators will be based on those proposed in the application and, where necessary, the advice of the Assessment Committee.

The Research Achievements Summary in the Final Report has been identified as information that may be publicly released. Use of this information may include publication on the NHMRC and the Department's websites, publicity (including release to the media), and the promotion of research achievements.

All information provided to NHMRC in reports may be used for internal reporting and reporting to the Department and the Australian Government. This information may also be used when reviewing or evaluating funded research projects, programs and funding opportunities, or designing future programs and funding opportunities.

10.2 Dissemination of Research Outcomes

Administering Institutions and Chief Investigators must ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to protect patient privacy, intellectual property and commercially confidential information.

Except where publication may compromise the Administering Institution's obligations with respect to patient privacy, intellectual property and/or commercially confidential information, grantees are required to:

- within 12 months of completion of the grant activity, disseminate the research findings through:
 - ensuring that research findings are available in an open access repository
 - content specific forums
 - submission to peer-reviewed journals
- make lay summaries available to trial participants, concurrently with sharing and dissemination of research results.

Grantees are encouraged to publish de-identified research data following completion of the grant activity in an open access repository and in accordance with best practice. The NHMRC Open Access Policy applies to publications arising from MRFF grants.

10.3 The Commonwealth's responsibilities

The Commonwealth will:

- meet the terms and conditions set out in the grant agreement
- provide timely administration of the grant
- evaluate the grantee's performance
- reduce or terminate funding of a poor performing grant.

NHMRC will monitor the progress of the grant activity by assessing reports submitted. NHMRC may also seek additional information from the CIA or the Administering Institution about the performance of the grant, or arrange for an expert review of the progress of the grant activity.

10.4 Evaluation

The Department will evaluate the Program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. The grant agreement requires the CIA to provide information to help with this evaluation.

10.5 Acknowledgement

The Administering Institution must ensure that the grant from the MRFF is properly acknowledged in any correspondence, public announcement, advertising material, research report or other material produced by, on behalf of or through the Administering Institution or a Participating Institution that relates to the funded research.

Any material published in respect of a Grant activity must:

- a. include the Grant Identification Number for the Grant activity (where allocated) and
- b. specify that the contents of the published material are solely the responsibility of the Administering Institution, a Participating Institution or individual authors and do not reflect the views of the Australian Government.

11. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRGs.

11.1 Complaints in relation to funding outcomes

Applicants or grantees seeking to lodge a formal complaint about NHMRC's assessment process should do so in writing within 28 days of the relevant decision or action. Each complaint should be directed to the Complaints Team at: complaints@nhmrc.gov.au. NHMRC will provide a written response to all complaints.

If an applicant or grantee does not agree with the way NHMRC has handled their complaint, they may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with NHMRC. The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

11.2 Conflict of interest

NHMRC has established processes for handling conflicts of interest that arise during the assessment of grant applications in a manner consistent with Australian Government policies and procedures. Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (Section 13(7)) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. NHMRC's conflict of interest policy is available on the NHMRC website.

11.3 Privacy

NHMRC treats applicants' personal information according to the 13 Australian Privacy Principles set out in the *Privacy Act 1988*. This includes identifying:

- what personal information NHMRC collects
- why NHMRC collects applicants' personal information, and
- who NHMRC gives applicants' personal information to.

Applicants are required as part of their application to declare their ability to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*, including the Australian Privacy Principles, and impose the same privacy obligations on any subcontractors engaged by the applicant to assist with the activity.

Personal information can only be disclosed to someone else if applicants are given reasonable notice of the disclosure; if the disclosure is related to the purpose for which it was collected; where disclosure is authorised or required by law or is reasonably necessary for

the enforcement of the criminal law; if it will prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to a person's life or health; or if the applicant has consented to the disclosure.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this funding scheme in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

NHMRC may reveal confidential information to:

- the members of the Assessment Committee and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help NHMRC manage the scheme effectively
- employees and contractors of NHMRC to research, assess, monitor and analyse schemes and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in reports and consultations
- NHMRC approved Administering Institutions' Research Administration Offices
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, and
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

Applicants or grantees must ask for the Australian Government's consent in writing before disclosing confidential information.

NHMRC may share information provided to it by applicants with other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes including government administration, research or service delivery and according to Australian laws, including the:

- *Public Service Act 1999*
- *Public Service Regulations 1999*
- *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
- *Crimes Act 1914, and*
- *Criminal Code Act 1995.*

11.4 Freedom of information

NHMRC is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and is committed to meeting the Australian Government's transparency and accountability requirements.

12. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the PGPA Act
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
co-sponsoring entity	when two or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria
Commonwealth entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration

Term	Definition
grant	<p>for the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money¹ or other CRF money² is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant
GrantConnect	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. A grant opportunity is aimed at achieving government policy outcomes under a Portfolio Budget Statement Program
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant
PBS Program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement, PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be grant opportunities. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Opportunity associated with it.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria

¹ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

² Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
Value for money	value for money in this document refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations

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

FOI 4463

Ministerial Submission – Standard
MS18-001228 Version (1)
Date sent to MO: 08/06/18

To: Minister Hunt

cc: Minister McKenzie

Subject: **FUNDING TO SUPPORT PREVENTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH IN
TASMANIA AND THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY THROUGH
THE MEDICAL RESEARCH FUTURE FUND KEEPING AUSTRALIANS
OUT OF HOSPITAL PROGRAM**

Critical date: N/A

Recommendation/s:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. AGREE that funds from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) committed as part of the recent National Health Agreement (NHA) negotiations with Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) be provided from the MRFF Keeping Australians Out of Hospital Program.</p> <p>2. NOTE that the Department is investigating mechanisms through which the committed funds can be delivered.</p> <p>3. SIGN the letter to the Prime Minister informing him that final arrangements are being made to provide the funding allocations as per the NHA negotiations (<u>Attachment A</u>).</p> <p>4. NOTE the sensitivities associated with direct allocation of funding from the MRFF in the absence of a structured contestable process as set out in the Government endorsed MRFF Funding Principles.</p> | <p>1. Agreed/Not agreed/Please discuss</p> <p>2. Noted</p> <p>3. Signed/Not signed/Please discuss</p> <p>4. Noted</p> |
|--|---|

Signature 

Date: 08 JUN 2018

Comments:

I do not accept the proposition set out in Recommendation 4.

Please write to ACT and Tas to recommend that they run contestable medical research funding rounds.

Contact Officer:	Kirsty Cheyne-Macpherson	A/g Assistant Secretary Office of Health and Medical Research Health Economics and Research Division	Ph: (02) 6289 S47F Mobile: S47F
Clearance Officer:	Michael Culhane	A/g First Assistant Secretary Health Economics and Research Division	Ph: (02) 6289 S47F Mobile: S47F

Issues:

1. As part of the NHA 2020-21 to 2024-25 negotiations with Tasmania and the ACT it was agreed that the following funding from the MRFF would be provided. This is in addition to the New South Wales and South Australia commitments:
 - \$2.4 million over three years from 2018-19 (\$0.8 million per annum) to Tasmania for research focusing on preventive health in rural and remote locations and in indigenous communities, the burden of chronic disease and translation of research knowledge into practice to reduce avoidable hospitalisations.
 - \$4.0 million in 2017-18 to the ACT to support research that focuses on preventive health, behavioural economics and implementation science to reduce avoidable presentations to hospital and the burden of chronic disease.
2. Your Office has advised that the preferred MRFF program for this funding is the Keeping Australians Out of Hospital program (the program).
3. At MYEFO 2017-18 the Government agreed to provide \$18.1 million over four years from the MRFF for the program to support a targeted research grant round with a focus on preventive health, behavioural economics and implementation science to reduce avoidable presentations to hospitals. This program will be administered by the National Health and Medical Research Council.
4. The provision of funding under the program for the research activities agreed with Tasmania and the ACT will diverge from the program's standard operation as a fully open and contestable research grant round. Instead, partial funding for the program will be targeted to the University of Tasmania and the University of Canberra to undertake specific competitive research projects and programs.
5. The Department will work with your Office, the Tasmanian and ACT Governments, as well as the University of Tasmania and University of Canberra on the details of specific competitive research projects and programs. The guidelines for the program will be provided to you at a later date in a separate Ministerial Submission.
6. The Department is investigating mechanisms through which the committed funds can be delivered, noting that the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015* allows for State/Territory grants to be channelled through the Council of Australian Governments Reform Fund.
7. You may wish to advise the Prime Minister of your approval of this funding and progress towards implementation. A letter for your signature for this purpose is provided at Attachment A.

Background:

The Keeping Australians Out of Hospital program aims to support research that use behavioural economics and implementation research methodologies in a preventive healthcare setting to tackle the rising burden of complex and chronic diseases, especially amongst vulnerable populations, improve quality of life for people with chronic conditions and keep them out of hospital. The program aligns with two of the six strategies platforms of the *Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2016-2021* (Health services and systems and Trials and translation).

The funding profile is:

	(\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
Keeping Australians Out of Hospital		4.500	4.500	4.500	4.600	18.100

Budget/Financial Implications:

Nil. Funding will be provided under the MRFF.

Relevance to Election Commitments / Budget Measures:

The Keeping Australian Out of Hospital Program was part of the MRFF disbursements agreed by Cabinet in the 2017-18 MYEFO.

Attachments:

A: Letter to the Prime Minister

B: Medical Research Future Fund Funding Principles

Sensitivities:

Although the scope of research agreed as part of the NHA negotiations with Tasmania and the ACT aligns with the objectives and desired outcomes of the Keeping Australians Out of Hospital program, the direct allocation of funding to the University of Tasmania and the University of Canberra in the absence of a structured contestable process may be the subject of criticism by the research sector. The approach may be perceived as inconsistent with the MRFF Funding Principles (Attachment B). To partially mitigate this risk, there will be further discussion on the details of specific research projects and programs and the possibility of incorporation of a contestable process to ensure that the resulted research activities are consistent with the MRFF Funding Principles.

Consultation:

Portfolio Strategies Division

Communication/Media Activities:

Funding for the University of Tasmania will be announced in Burnie on 14 June 2018 (MB18-002504 refers).

State/Territory Engagement:

This relates to the NHA negotiations with Tasmania and the ACT.

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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health**

Ref No: MS18-001228

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

08 JUN 2018

Dear Prime Minister

At MYEFO 2017-18 the Government agreed to provide \$18.1 million over four years from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Keeping Australians Out of Hospital Program (the Program) to support targeted research with a focus on preventive health, behavioural economics and implementation science to reduce avoidable presentations to hospitals.

In the context of the National Health Agreement (NHA) 2020-21 to 2024-25 negotiations with the Tasmanian Government and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government, the Commonwealth agreed that the following funding be provided from the program:

- \$2.4 million over three years from 2018-19 (\$0.8 million per annum) to Tasmania; and
- \$4.0 million in 2017-18 to the ACT.

The provision of this funding to these jurisdictions will provide opportunities to trial new ways to better support informed choices by both consumers and service providers and to scale up proven evidence-based interventions and local prevention activities to larger populations. The outputs from this research will ultimately reduce the burden on the Australian hospital system.

The *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015* allows for State/Territory grants to be channelled through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Fund. This will be the first time that funds have been provided to jurisdictions under the MRFF and a welcome opportunity to demonstrate the Commonwealth's willingness to deploy resources not available by other means to support a sustainable health care system.

My Department is investigating mechanisms through which the committed funds can be delivered, and will finalise the process to make the funding allocation as per the NHA negotiations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hunt'.

Greg Hunt

Medical Research Future Fund



Medical Research Future Fund - Funding Principles

6 December 2017

AIM

Through strategic investment, to transform health and medical research and innovation to improve lives, build the economy and contribute to health system sustainability.

PRINCIPLES

Disbursement from the MRFF will:

1. Occur in accordance with the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015*.
2. Reference the current Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy and related Priorities prepared by the independent Australian Medical Research Advisory Board.
3. Complement existing funding into health and medical research through a strategic top-down approach to investment.
4. Ensure funding is provided utilising a structured contestable process to ensure the highest quality ideas, talent and projects are identified.
5. Utilise review processes that embrace diverse perspectives, including alternative disciplines, industry, healthcare and consumer experience.
6. Harness experienced national and international peer reviewers to ensure the best ideas, talent and projects are funded, without duplicating efforts elsewhere.
7. Appreciate the role of competitiveness in the research sector as a means of identifying great potential and innovation, and raising Australia's international research reputation.
8. Encourage partnerships in merit-based collaborative research to engage lateral and fresh thinkers and ideas, and enhance skill and knowledge combinations.
9. Consider favourably proposals that have collaboration, translation and scalability features to ensure the MRFF is transformative and effort is enduring.
10. Fund specific health issue initiatives assessed on scientific rigour, where there is both burden and unmet research need.
11. Fund programs that utilise a range of innovative administrative mechanisms to ensure funding is justified, agile, effective and timely.
12. Evaluate the return on investment for all funded programs and projects.
13. Appreciate the need for infrastructure support proportionate to the funded research, and not establish any ongoing operational or maintenance dependencies.
14. Fund transformative game-changing research that is balanced by investment in systemic sector improvements.
15. Encourage multi-government and agency, private sector and philanthropic co-investment to maximise program outcomes.
16. Nurture proposals that have potential, but do not receive funding, so that future opportunities and talent are not lost.

