



Medical Research Future Fund funding for rural research

The Australian Government recognises the importance of medical research in contributing to the improvement of health outcomes for all Australians including for those living in regional, rural and remote (RRR) communities.

Learn about how the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) supports rural health and medical research.

How is rural research supported by the MRFF?

The MRFF provides funding to support projects that address the specific health and healthcare needs that are a priority for people in RRR communities.

To date, this has included multiple streams of funding for RRR research topics and promoting RRR research led by organisations and researchers who reside in RRR areas. Eligibility requirements for these streams have been based on the [Modified Monash \(MM\) classification](#).

What are the eligibility criteria used for MRFF rural research streams?

Recommended eligibility criteria have been defined based on feedback from RRR stakeholders including:

- The organisation leading the research, Chief Investigator A and 50% of the research team, and all research participants are primarily resident in MM 2-7
- The project activity includes growing capacity building for MM 3-7
- Applicants are assessed against the RRR focus of the research questions by an independent Grant Assessment Committee that is composed of RRR researchers. People who would like to contribute their expertise in rural health research and participate in MRFF grant assessments can register their interest on the [NHMRC website](#).

These are the criteria which will be used in most cases noting they may need to be adjusted to suit the specific requirements of the grant opportunity's objectives and intended outcomes and of the related MRFF initiative. For example, they may be adjusted depending on the type and location of research activities and the models of care these research activities are embedded in.

How are the eligibility criteria for rural research streams refined?

The MRFF values continuous engagement with stakeholders for the refinement and improvement of the eligibility criteria for MRFF rural research streams.

This is key to ensure the MRFF supports research that addresses the specific health and healthcare needs of people living in RRR communities.

To do this, the MRFF will continue to seek stakeholders' feedback to ensure eligibility criteria for MRFF rural research streams remain fit for purposes.

For further information see the below links:

- [Medical Research Future Fund Webinar: How to improve the health of rural, remote and regional communities \(14 March 2024\) | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
- [Medical Research Future Fund Report on funding for rural, regional and remote health research | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)