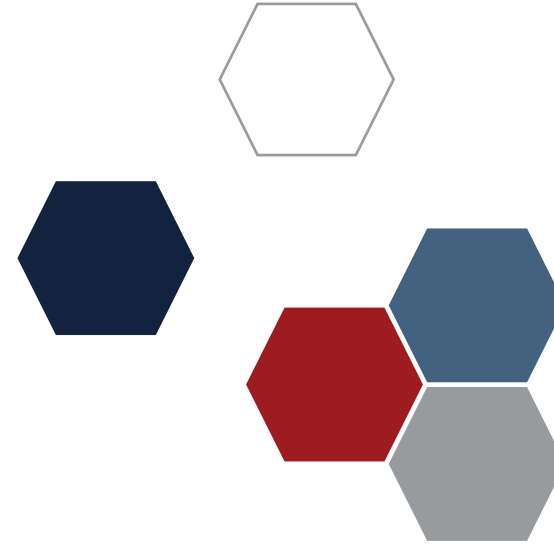




Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care

Medical Research
Future Fund



Medical Research Future Fund

MRFF RAO Webinar

29 August 2024

Pru Glasson, Director - Translation and Commercialisation

Misha Hutchings, Director - Grants Management Office

Cindy Thamrin, Director - Performance and Evaluation

Contents

- 1. Webinar overview**
- 2. Commercialisation-related grant opportunities**
- 3. Post-award updates on media embargoes and project reporting**
- 4. Monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy**
- 5. Q&A**
- 6. Keep connected**

MRFF Research Administration Officer Webinars

Aim to:

- provide practical information to the sector and Research Administration Officers (RAOs) in particular about MRFF administrative arrangements
- assist RAOs and potential grantees in better supporting MRFF funded research and researchers
- aid the implementation of any changes to MRFF grant administration
- seek feedback from RAOs, with a view toward continuous improvement of MRFF grant administration.

Commercialisation- related grant opportunities

Pru Glasson

Director – Translation and Commercialisation

- Medical Research Commercialisation Initiative
- Upcoming funding opportunities for small-to-medium enterprises



MRFF Medical Research Commercialisation Initiative

- \$450 million over 10 years from 2024-2025

The Initiative is seeking to support projects that:

- Help build a more mature, vibrant and thriving ecosystem that drives health and medical research and its translation into commercial outcomes and clinical practice, improving health and generating jobs and economic growth
- Grow the number of research outputs and improve Australia's performance in key commercialisation benchmarks, such as increasing the number of intellectual property applications so innovations can be capitalised and returns on investment are attained, as well as increasing the number of tangible products derived from research for patient benefits.

Key features of medical research commercialisation grant opportunities

- Large quantum of funding available to select few organisations
 - 1-4 grants awarded each GO depending on objectives
 - \$20 million - \$50 million per grant
- An **organisation** will be funded to identify and select a number of Australian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) undertaking early-stage medical research and medical innovation projects that have commercial potential
- Not just capital – organisations are expected to create an **ecosystem**, providing access to industry knowledge
- The GOs do **not** fund organisations to progress their own research
- The grant funds are **non-dilutive** i.e. organisations cannot take equity stakes in the SMEs funded
- Successful organisation provides up to \$5 million in funding over five years to partnered SMEs, **allocated incrementally** as projects seek and then demonstrate proof-of-concept and transition towards implementation.

Medical research commercialisation grant opportunities

- Since 2017-18, \$345.3 million of MRFF funding has been allocated through the Medical Research Commercialisation Initiative
- \$45 million through **BioMedTech Horizons** which supported the development of **49 biomedical and medical technologies** from proof-of-concept to commercial development – single grant awarded
- \$22.3 million through **Biomedical Translation Bridge** which nurtured the translation of **21 projects through to the proof-of-concept stage** with expert industry support and mentoring – single grant awarded
- \$79 million through **Early Stage Translation and Commercialisation Support** which has **to date supported 74 Australian SMEs** undertaking early-stage medical research and innovation projects with commercial potential – **4 grants** awarded, across 4 streams: Early Stage Digital Health, Early Clinical Medical Devices, Early Clinical Drugs, Pre-Clinical research or medical innovation
- **BioMedTech Incubator**
 - Intended to increase the number of **innovations, novel drugs, novel uses for existing drugs, innovative medical devices and/or digital health technologies** that have progressed through the early stages of research and development to the point where they are **‘de-risked’** and attractive to private investment or commercialisation
 - **\$50 million** over 2 years from 2022-23 – single grant – **Generalised – First Cohort applications under review**
 - **\$50 million** over 2 years from 2023-34 – single grant - **Dementia and Cognitive Decline - EoIs closed July 2024. Second round opens 2025**
 - **\$99 million** over 3 years from 2024-25 - grants up to \$33m - **Organisation can specialise in their area of commercialisation expertise - Funding Organisation Applications closed 31 July 2024.**

Upcoming funding opportunities for SMEs

CUREator+

- Accelerating the research translation and commercialisation of preclinical and clinical early-stage medical research and medical innovations with commercial potential.
- Funding up to a maximum of \$5 million per project in two funding stages.
- **Second EoI round to open mid-late 2024**

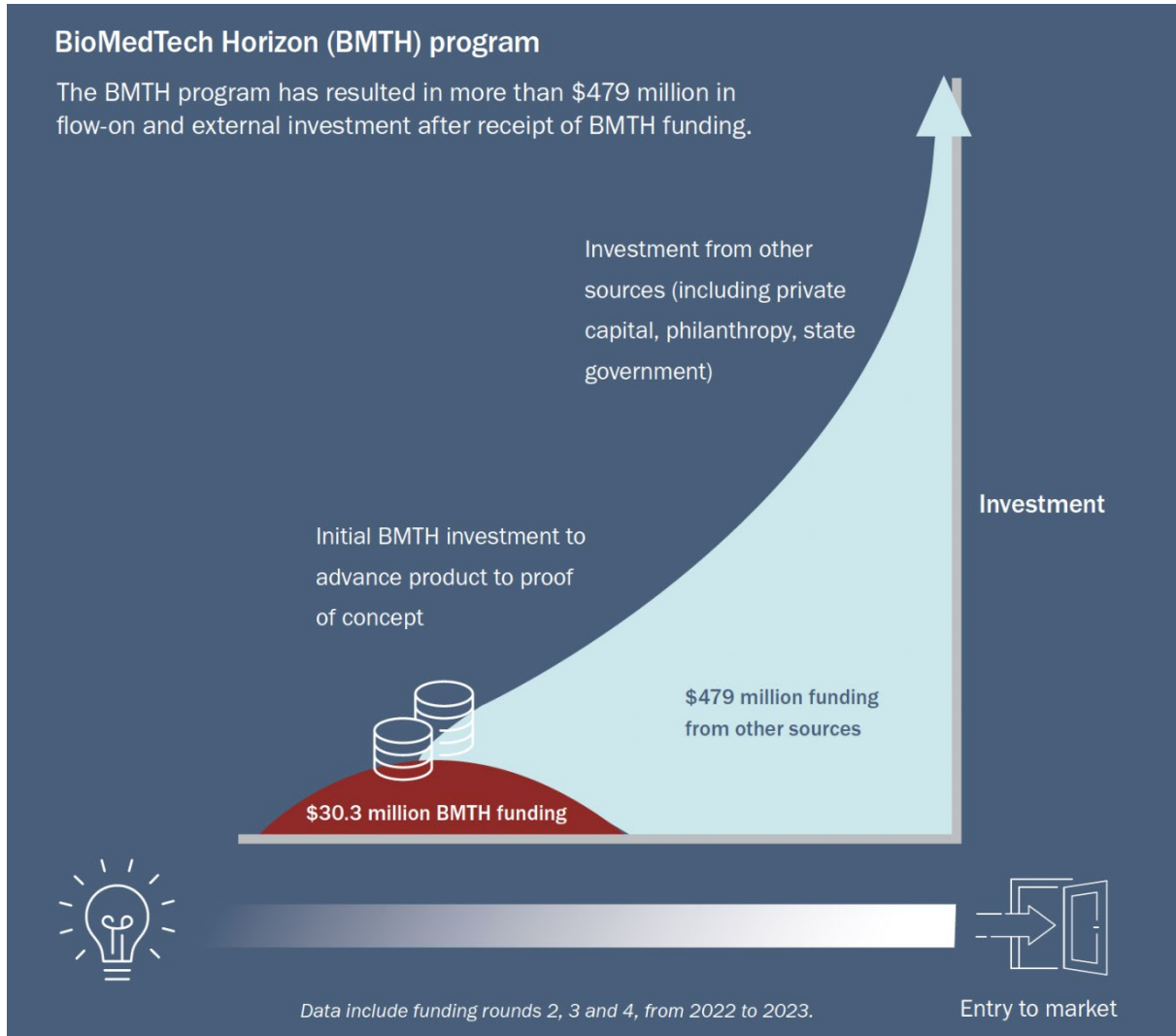
CUREator+ Dementia and Cognitive Decline

- Funding innovations that support early diagnosis, prevent severity of progression and/or management of the cognitive, neuropsychiatric, and motor symptoms of dementia and/or promote enabling environments to increase safety and quality of life of those living with dementia and cognitive decline.
- Funding up to a maximum of \$5 million per project in two funding stages.
- First EOIs closed July. **A second round for First Stage applications will open in 2025.**

2024 BioMedTech Incubator

- Grants of \$33 million to funding organisations to deliver programs. Closed for applications 31 July 2024.
- Successful organisations can specialise in their area of expertise.
- Anticipate funded organisations will open for funding applications from SMEs mid - late 2025

What impact can these programs have?



Managing MRFF grants

Misha Hutchings
Director – Grants Management Office (GMO)

- Media embargo
- Updated project reporting templates
- Upcoming developments



Funding outcomes under media embargo

- A media embargo is a restriction on publicising information about the outcomes of a grant opportunity until the embargo has been lifted. A media embargo applies regardless of the application outcome.
- **What can you do during a media embargo?**
 - ✓ Share outcomes through private/internal communications with your collaborators (including potential investors), family, friends, colleagues, and staff who assisted with the application process, as long as they also do not promote the outcomes publicly
 - ✓ Begin preparation for grant start (seeking approvals, progressing agreements, advertising positions without mention of the funder or grant opportunity)
 - ✓ Submit any necessary variation requests or other communications with the department (via grant hubs)
 - ✓ Commence the grant if the start date occurs during the embargo period
- **What you must not do during a media embargo**
 - ✗ Applicants, administering institutions and administering organisations cannot engage directly with media outlets, issue media releases or other communications (including on social media), or otherwise actively seek to publicise the funded research.
- We will release a policy soon with these and further details.

Revised project reporting templates

Key updates include:

- streamlined some questions to seek details where crucial –use more space to explain what isn’t going well and what you’re doing or will do about it
- updated formatting to tables to make it easier to digitise the information you’ve provided
- removed duplication of financial reporting (*only MRFF grants administered by NHMRC*)
- forthcoming* - guidance to be published shortly.

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Progress Report

Consistent with clause E (Reporting) of the Commonwealth grant agreement, the Grantee is required to provide the information requested below in its progress reports. The Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) reserves the right to amend or adjust the requirements of the reports.

Variations should not be requested through progress reports. For varying your grant and grant agreement please refer to the [MRFF Grant Variation Policy](#).

Please ensure that you are using the latest version of the Progress Report template. MRFF reporting templates can be found on the [MRFF website](#). The finalised report must be submitted in a Word document format.

You must submit your report on the business gov.au portal. You can enter the required information in stages and submit when it is complete. Further information about submission is available on the [grant hub's website](#).

Complete all sections in white as prompted. Remove all instruction or guidance text in the white response fields, prior to providing your responses. Any images or diagrams (including tables that are not part of the template) should be added at the end of the document under Figures and Tables. Please number all images or diagrams (e.g. Figure 1) and refer to the numbers within your report responses as necessary.

Project Information

Grant ID	
Grant Opportunity Name	
Administering Organisation	
Chief Investigator A / Project Lead	
Grant Title	
Grant Agreement Start Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Grant Agreement End Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Activity Start Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Activity Completion Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Australia New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry Trial ID or similar (where relevant)	
Reporting Period Start Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Reporting Period End Date	DD/MM/YYYY
If the Commonwealth Commercialisation Clauses apply to this project, have there been any changes to the Commercialisation Plan?	Select
Do you plan to execute any new agreements that relate to Relevant Intellectual Property developed during the term of the Grant?	Select

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Final Report

Consistent with clause 10 (Reports) of the MRFF Grant Agreement, the administering organisation is required to provide the information requested below in its final report. The Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) reserves the right to amend or adjust the requirements.

Variations should not be requested through this report. For varying your grant and grant agreement please refer to the [MRFF Grant Variation Policy](#).

Please ensure that you are using the latest version of this template. MRFF reporting templates can be found on the [MRFF website](#). The finalised report must be submitted in a Word document format.

Further information about submission is available on the [grant hub's website](#).

Complete all sections in white as prompted. Remove all instruction or guidance text in the white response fields, prior to providing your responses. Any images or diagrams (including tables that are not part of the template) should be added at the end of the document under Figures and Tables. Please number all images or diagrams (e.g. Figure 1) and refer to the numbers within your report responses as necessary.

Project Information

Grant ID	
Grant Opportunity Name	
Eligible Organisation	
Chief Investigator A	
Grant Title	
Research Activity Start Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Research Activity End Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Australia New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry Trial ID or similar (where relevant)	
Reporting Period Start Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Reporting Period End Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Financial year per last financial statement	YYYYYY
If the Commonwealth Commercialisation Clauses apply to this project, do you plan to execute any new Commercialisation Agreements that relate to Relevant Intellectual Property developed during the term of the Grant?	Select

Updated August 2024

Revised project reporting templates

When reviewing the draft reports ensure:

- correct template has been used
- the entire template is filled out, with accurate responses provided to all questions

(e.g. all project milestones listed, selected dropdown responses, entered N/A where applicable, added responses within the provided field (table))

- responses are relatively lengthier to describe issues and solutions

Lastly, submit reports as MS Word documents according to the respective grant hub’s processes.

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Project Progress

1. Complete the following table for each milestone or objective outlined in your grant agreement, original application, or approved variation (whichever is most recent and applicable).

The table must outline information against all milestones or objectives with agreed grant activities in this reporting period, or where progress has been made in this reporting period towards milestones or objectives due in a future reporting period. The comments field should clearly summarise progress as at the end of this reporting period towards completion of the agreed grant activities (including details such as participant recruitment numbers where relevant) and provide a justification for any changes or delays to milestones/objectives.

Milestone/Objective	Agreed End Date	Actual/Anticipated End Date	Current % Complete
enter Milestone/Objective information	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY	X%
Comments: enter progress summary to date, justifications for changes or delays and strategies to rectify OR where applicable, for milestones which have been fully completed and reported on in a previous report, state 'As previously reported'			
enter Milestone/Objective information	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY	X%
Comments: enter progress summary to date, justifications for changes or delays and strategies to rectify OR where applicable, for milestones which have been fully completed and reported on in a previous report, state 'As previously reported'			

2. Did you undertake or complete any additional grant activities during this reporting period that are not captured in the table above?

Select

If 'Yes' was selected: provide details on the additional grant activities and how this relates to or supports the milestones and objectives outlined above (suggested 200-300 words)

Provide your response here

3. Complete the following table with all variation requests under the MRFF Grant Variation Policy approved, submitted (pending approval) or in draft (pending submission) for this grant to date.

Type of Variation	Description of Variation	Have the requested changes been implemented for the research activity? See note below	Current Status
Select	enter description of variation	Select	Select


2

Updated August 2024

Revised project reporting templates

For financial details be aware:


- The Total Budget should equal the total in the grant agreement or schedule
 - for MRFF grants previously managed by the Department or another grant hub, the total is the amount of the original MRFF grant received
- Where allowable without a variation, indicate changes to expenditure items/budget categories and explain in the comments (e.g. underspend for one item/category used to cover increased costs to existing approved expenditure).



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Project Progress

1. Complete the following table for each milestone or objective outlined in your grant agreement, original application, or approved variation (whichever is most recent and applicable).

The table must outline information against all milestones or objectives with agreed grant activities in this reporting period, or where progress has been made in this reporting period towards milestones or objectives due in a future reporting period. The comments field should clearly summarise progress as at the end of this reporting period towards completion of the agreed grant activities (including details such as participant recruitment numbers where relevant) and provide a justification for any changes or delays to milestones/objectives.

Milestone/Objective	Agreed End Date	Actual/Anticipated End Date	Current % Complete
enter Milestone/Objective information	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY	X%
Comments: enter progress summary to date, justifications for changes or delays and strategies to rectify OR where applicable, for milestones which have been fully completed and reported on in a previous report, state 'As previously reported'			
enter Milestone/Objective information	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY	X%
Comments: enter progress summary to date, justifications for changes or delays and strategies to rectify OR where applicable, for milestones which have been fully completed and reported on in a previous report, state 'As previously reported'			

2. Did you undertake or complete any additional grant activities during this reporting period that are not captured in the table above?

Select

If 'Yes' was selected: provide details on the additional grant activities and how this relates to or supports the milestones and objectives outlined above (suggested 200-300 words)

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Type of Variation	Description of Variation	Have the requested changes been implemented for the research activity? See note below	Current Status
Select	enter description of variation	Select	Select

2

Updated August 2024

Upcoming post-award developments

MRFF RAO Seminars 2024

- Upcoming sessions in the Department's state offices in NSW and VIC by end of year.
- Administering organisation staff supporting grants management, including research administration officers and finance officers, are welcome to attend.
- The sessions will offer a group seminar and an individual meeting with each grantee organisation to respond to specific questions about MRFF grants held.
- The sessions will focus on grants management (post-award) topics. Depending on staff availability, pre-award topics may be covered in some group seminars.

Research Administrators Seminar 2024

- Details are forthcoming.

MRFF Grant Variation Policy review

- The Department will consult RAOs via survey to support a review of the policy by end of year.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy

Assoc. Prof. Cindy Thamrin
Director – Performance and Evaluation

- Updated measures of success and impact measures
- Performance indicators survey update



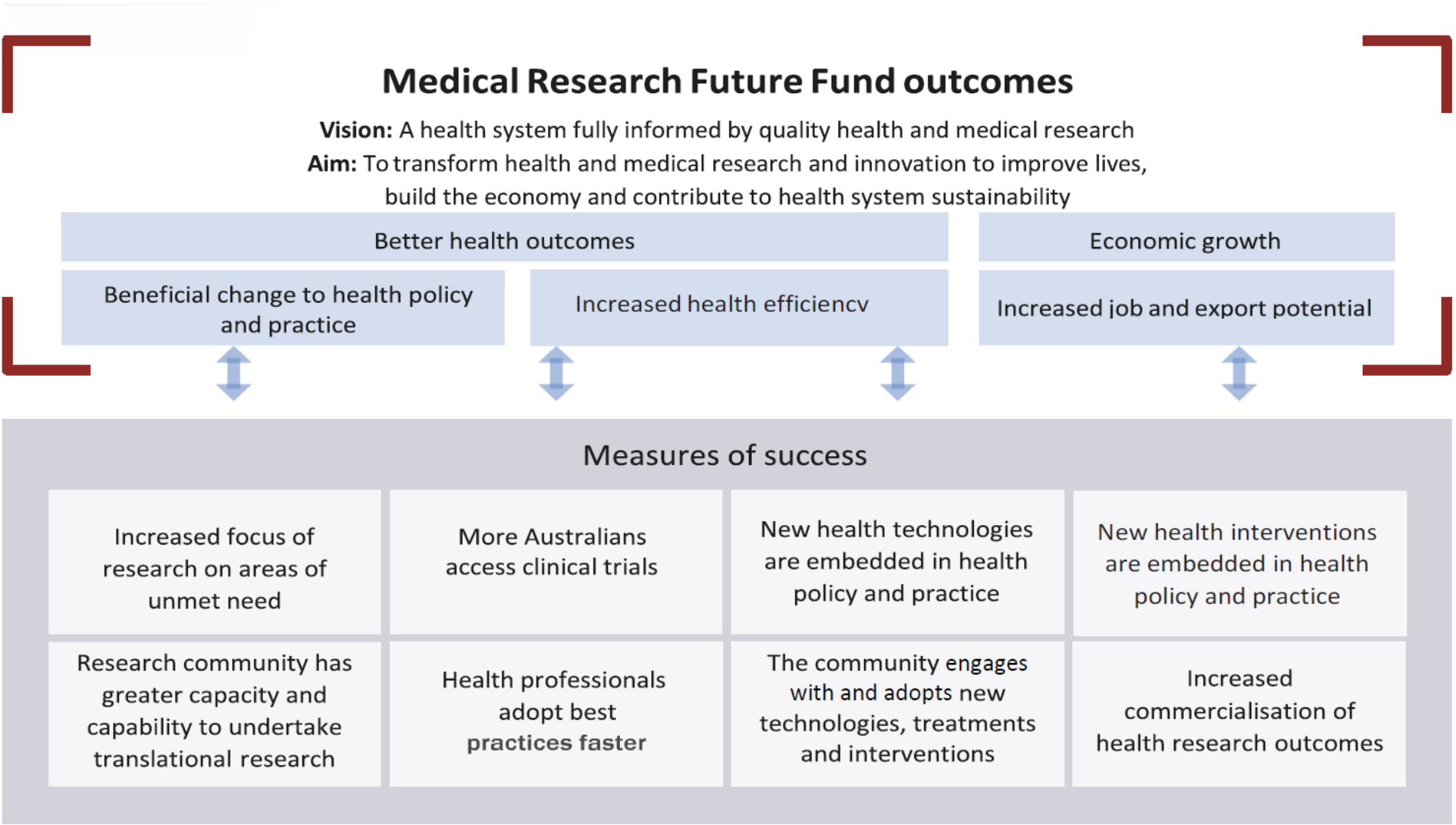
MRFF Monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy

The MRFF Monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy 2020-21 to 2023-24 (MEL Strategy) provides an overarching framework for assessing the performance of the MRFF.

Updated in August 2024



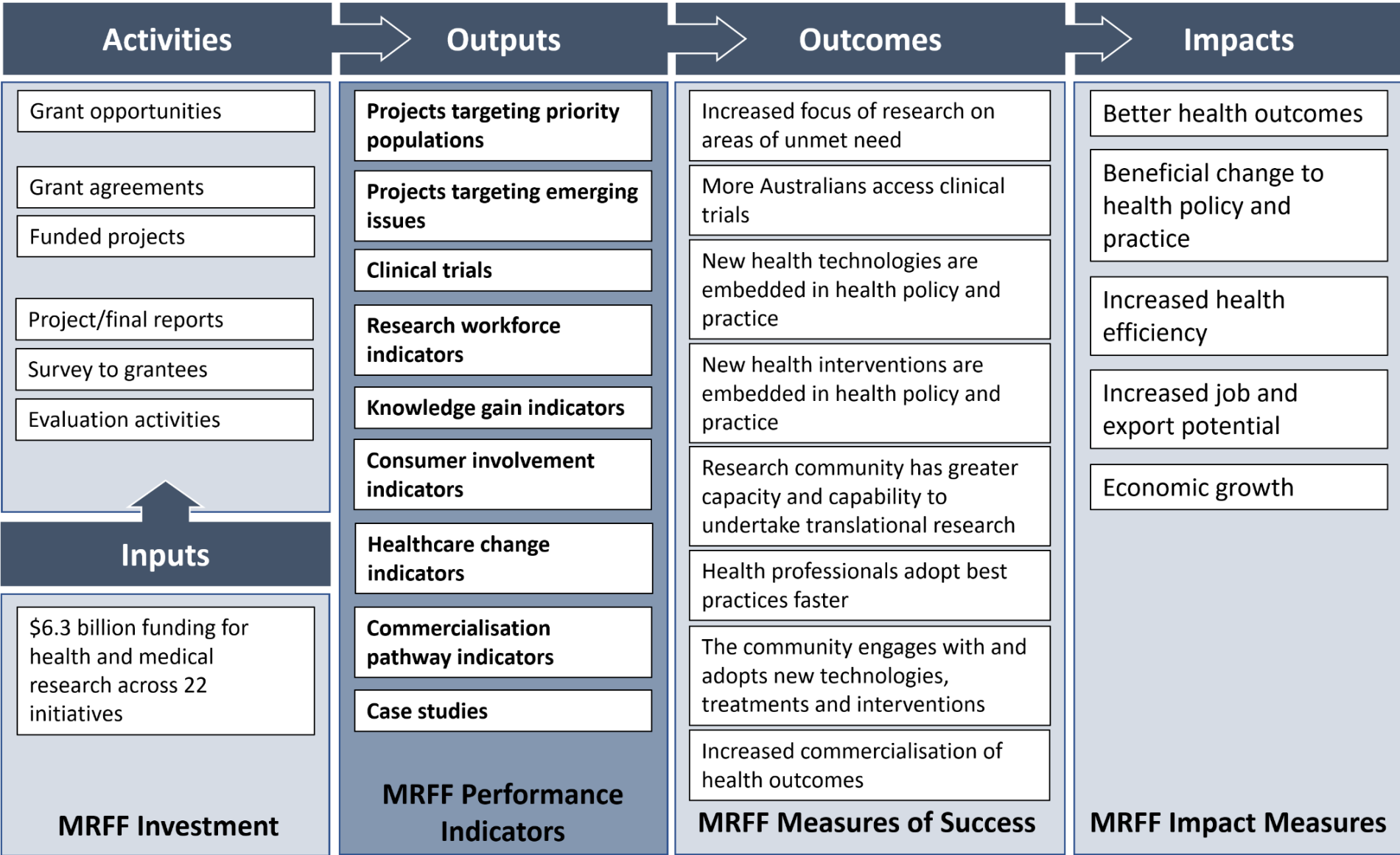
MRFF impact measures and measures of success



Refreshed impact measures and measures of success

- Impact measure
 - Beneficial change to health *policy and* practice
- Measures of success
 - New health interventions are embedded in health *policy and* practice
 - New health interventions are embedded in health *policy and* practice
 - The community engages with and adopts new technologies, treatments *and interventions*

Incorporation of the performance indicators published in 2023



Summary of changes

- Minor changes to the wording of one impact measure and 3 measures of success
- Incorporation of the performance indicators published in 2023
- Better articulation of performance monitoring data sources, including performance indicators survey
- Inclusion of completed evaluation/review of MRFF initiatives
- Other minor editorial changes

What does this mean for researchers?

- Helps researchers strategise their own research impact in grant proposals, progress and final reports
 - Implications for public and preventive health research with the refreshed measures of success
- Understanding how the impact of the MRFF and research funded by the MRFF are evaluated, to support policy and program development
- Transparency of data collection for evaluation purposes, and the outcomes of these evaluation activities

MRFF Performance indicators survey

Survey went out in March 2024, and closed in April 2024.

One of the key methods of data capture to track research impact over time.

We thank all Research Administration Officers for their assistance in ensuring grantees are aware of and complete the survey.



Performance Indicators Survey - Response Rate

75.5%

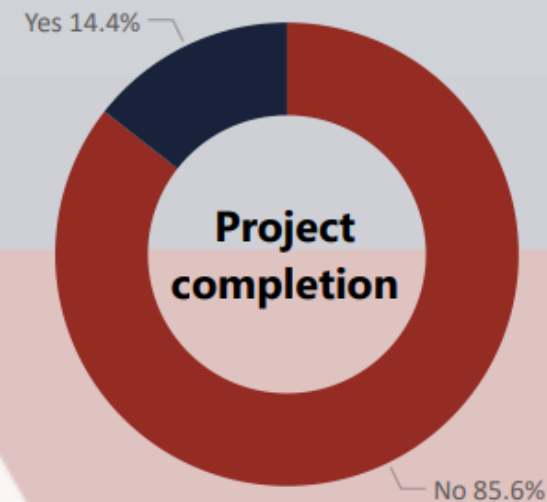
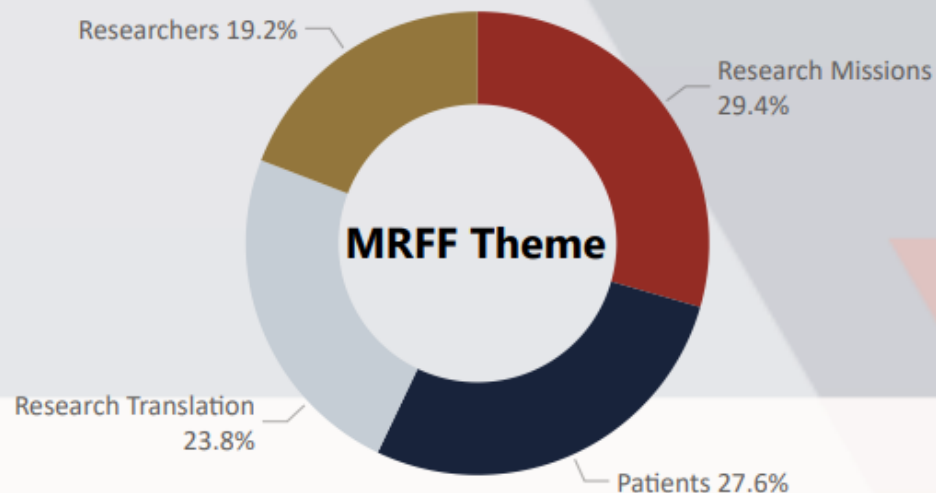
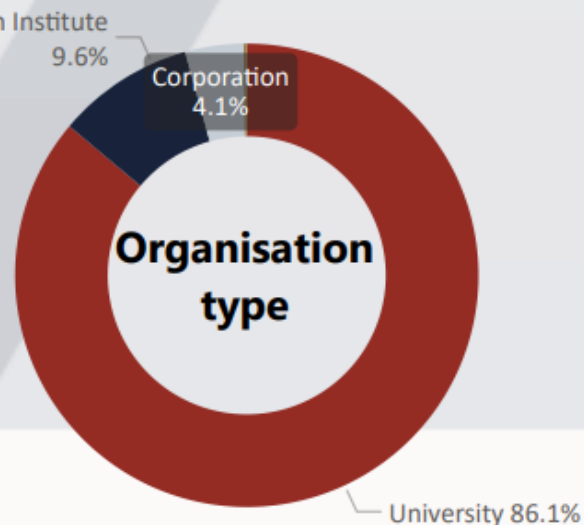
Overall response rate

1328 grantees invited to
participate in the survey

Response rate by State/Territory

State/Territory	Responses	Percentage
ACT	22	75.9%
NSW	281	73.8%
NT	16	84.2%
QLD	135	75.4%
SA	94	80.3%
TAS	15	83.3%
VIC	377	73.5%
WA	62	86.1%

Organisation and project characteristics



Q&A



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Thank you for your time!