

Medical Research Future Fund

Australian Brain Cancer Mission
National Consultation on the refreshed Roadmap
and the new Implementation Plan

Webinar 5th December 2024

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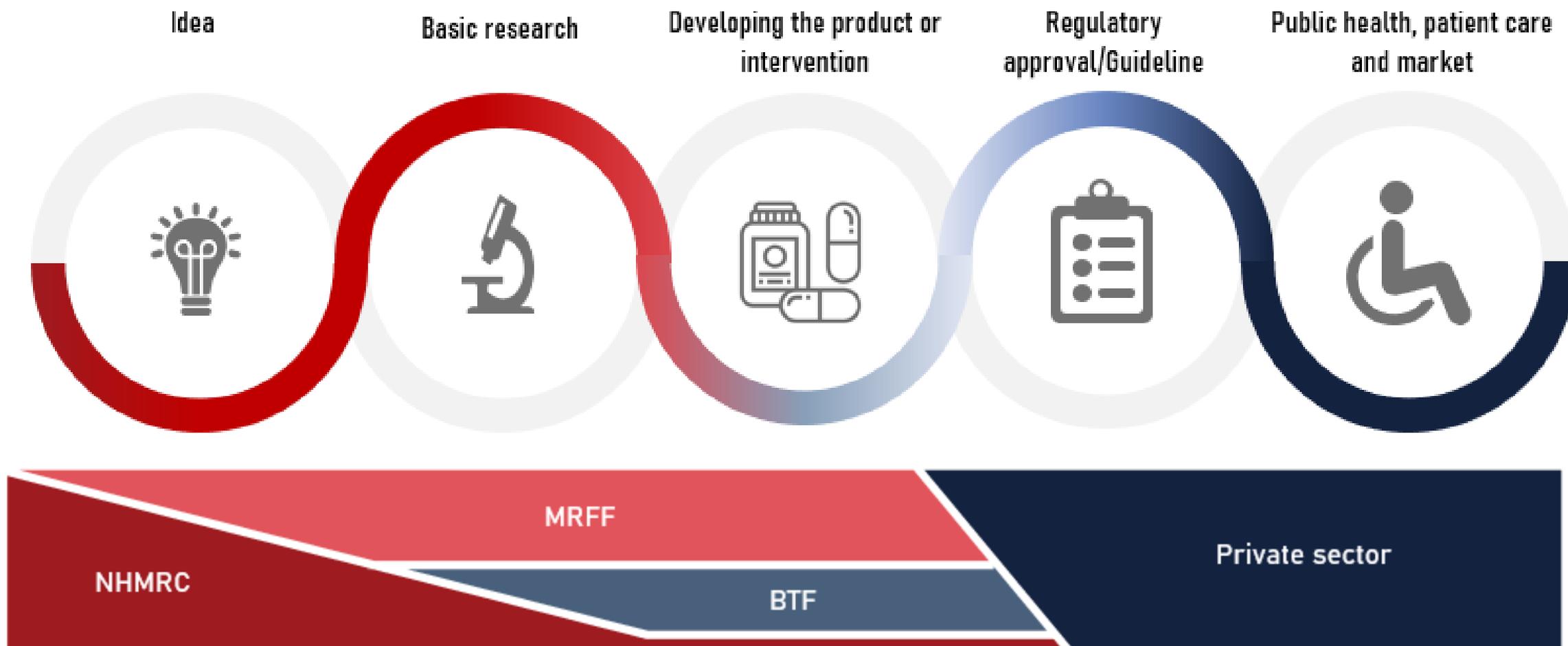
Introduction

- Welcome
- You will be muted upon joining – this is to minimise background noise
- All questions can be sent via the interactive Q&A input
- One hour has been allocated at the end of the presentation to answer questions

Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Background

- Established in 2015, the \$22 billion MRFF is a long-term investment supporting Australian health and medical research
- The MRFF aims to transform health and medical research and innovation to improve lives, build the economy and contribute to our health system's sustainability
- Complementary Government funding of health and medical research in Australia:
 - **MRFF** – awards funding for national priority areas that address gaps in research and creates opportunities for research translation and commercialisation to improve health and wellbeing of Australians
 - **NHMRC** – awards funding through a range of investigator-linked initiated schemes to build capacity and advance health and medical knowledge

Where does the MRFF focus its funding?



Key features of the MRFF



MRFF 3rd 10-year Investment Plan

- The \$6.5 billion MRFF 3rd 10-year Investment Plan (2024-25 to 2033-34) provides funding for 22 initiatives to continue supporting lifesaving research, job creation, local industry, and growing Australia’s reputation as a world leader in medical research
- The plan is underpinned by four key themes – patients, researchers, research translation and research missions

 Patients	<p>This theme aims to bring benefits to patients, including supporting life-changing clinical trials, funding innovative treatments and advanced health care and medical technologies</p>
 Research Missions	<p>MRFF Research Missions (Missions) are large programs of work that bring together key researchers, health professionals, stakeholders, industry partners and patients to tackle big health challenges</p>
 Researchers	<p>This theme aims to support Australian researchers, including to help build their skills and capacity, support their research in priority areas and assist them to develop and bring new research discoveries to the market</p>
 Research Translation	<p>This theme aims to translate research outcomes into practice by building the evidence base to support the adoption of best practice care in to health care delivery</p>

MRFF Missions

- Focus on an area of unmet need or a technology with transformational potential (priority led)
- Are planned and coordinated 10-year programs of work (strategic, Roadmap, Implementation Plan)
- Bring together key researchers, health professionals, consumers, stakeholders, industry partners (outcome focused)
- Harness resources across the system (investment, leadership and collaboration)
- Use innovative research approaches (new grant models)
- There are 10 Missions, including the Australian Brain Cancer Mission

Chair of the Australian Brain Cancer Mission Expert Advisory Panel

Professor Maria Kavallaris AM

Professor Kavallaris is Founding Director of the Australian Centre for NanoMedicine at the University of New South Wales, Head of the Translational Cancer Nanomedicine Theme at the Children's Cancer Institute and a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigator.

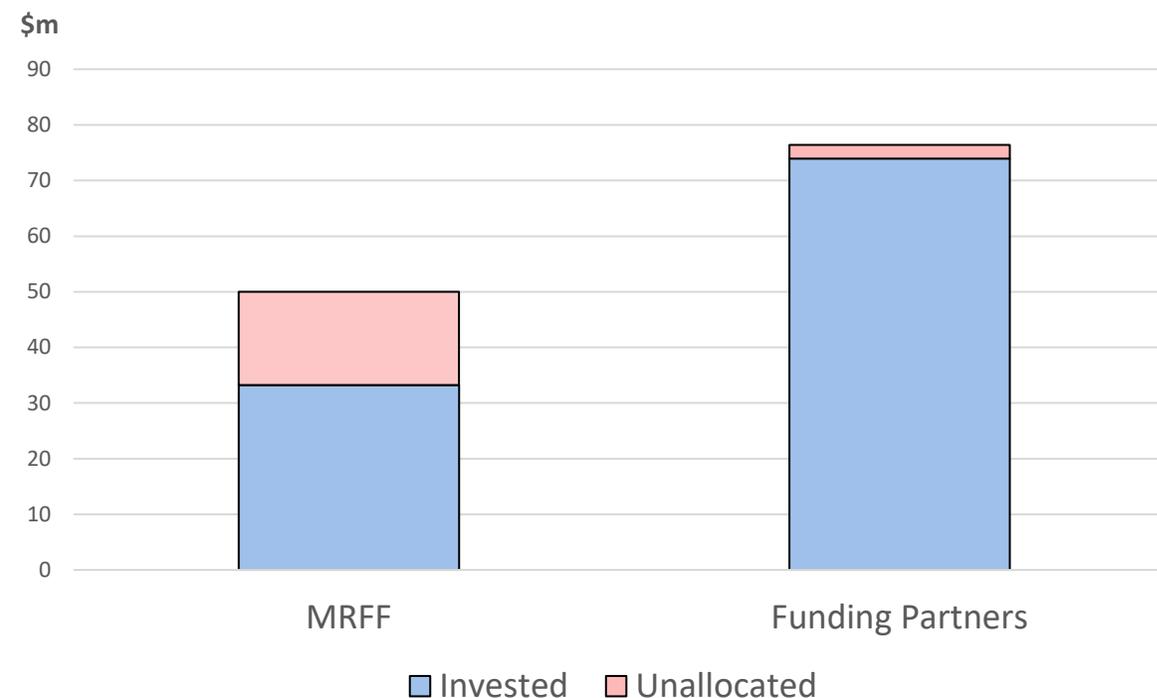
Maria is recognised for her innovation in driving multidisciplinary research in cancer nanomedicine.



Australian Brain Cancer Mission Funding

- The Mission is investing \$126.4 million over 10 years from 2017-18 to support research into brain cancer:
 - \$50 million from MRFF
 - \$76.4 million to date in commitment from Funding Partners
- To date, the Mission has invested \$107.21 million:
 - \$33.24 million from the MRFF for 12 grants through 8 grant opportunities
 - \$73.97 million from Funding Partner investments
- The MRFF has also invested in brain cancer research through initiatives outside of the Mission

Invested and remaining unallocated funds



Cancer Australia and Mission Funding Partners



Australian Government
Cancer Australia

Cancer Australia leads engagement and collaboration with the Mission's Funding Partners

Mission Funding Partners and their commitments:

- Cure Brain Cancer Foundation (\$20 million)
- Minderoo Foundation (\$10 million)
- Carrie's Beanies 4 Brain Cancer (\$5.4 million)
- Mark Hughes Foundation (\$3 million)
- Children's Hospital Foundation Queensland (\$10 million)
- State of Victoria (\$2 million)
- The Kids' Cancer Project (\$5.3 million)
- State of New South Wales (\$7.5 million)
- Financial Markets Foundation for Children (\$5 million)
- Robert Connor Dawes Foundation (\$1.25 million)
- ACT Health and Canberra Health Services (\$3.95 million)
- NeuroSurgical Research Foundation (\$3 million)

Examples of early MRFF investments from the Mission

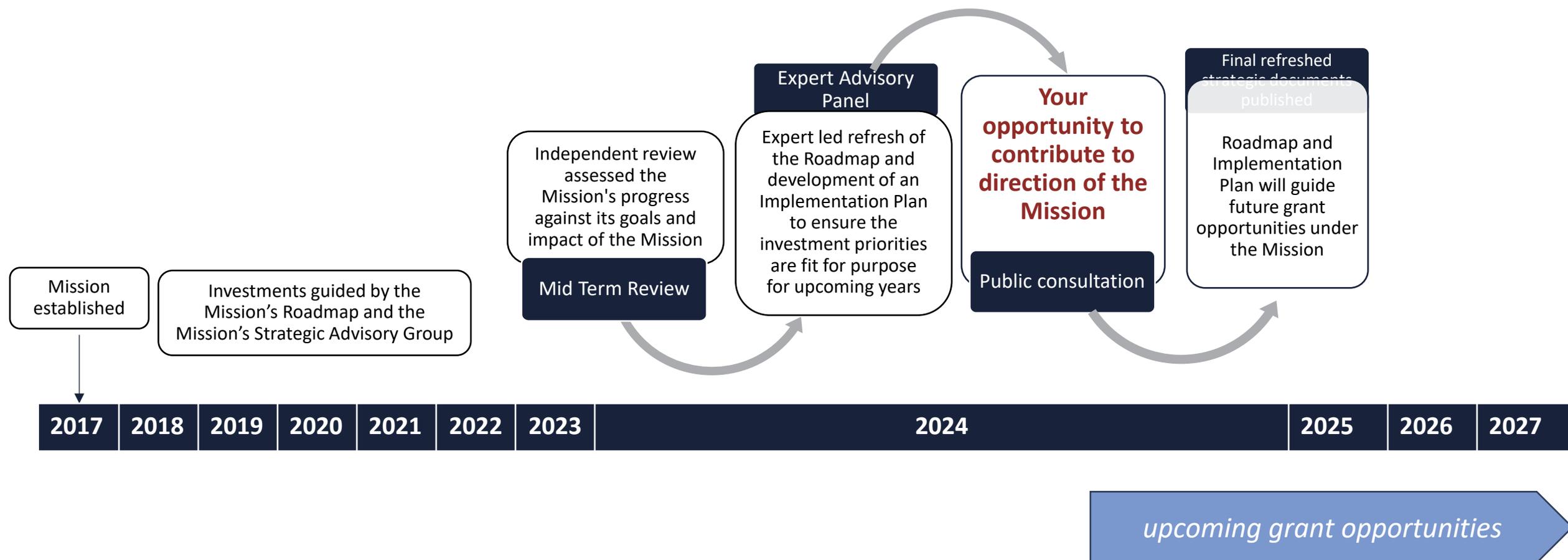
- **Supporting Australian Brain Cancer Research with an integrated network of platforms project** - \$6m / 5 years to develop an integrated network of research platforms including registries and biobanking
- **“Off-the-shelf” CAR-T cell immunotherapy for brain cancer project** - \$329k / 2 years to assess a novel dual targeting T cell therapy which is specifically designed to target tumour-nourishing cancer stem cells
- **“GLIMMER” - Glioma Liquid biopsy and Multiomic-Monitoring Enabled Research platform project** - \$4.6m / 5 years to understand drug failure, develop new therapies and develop non-invasive tumour monitoring for glioblastoma

Next steps for the Mission

- \$16.76 million of MRFF funding from 2024-25 to 2026-27 is remaining for the Australian Brain Cancer Mission
- This investment will be guided by the refreshed Roadmap and Implementation Plan which are currently undergoing national public consultation and are the subject of this presentation
- This includes the 2024 Brain Cancer Discovery and Translation Grant Opportunity which is currently open for applications and closes in February 2025



Overview of the Australian Brain Cancer Mission refresh process



Australia Brain Cancer Mission Expert Advisory Panel (EAP)

- The EAP provides the Minister for Health and Aged Care with advice on the strategic priorities for research investment through this Mission by defining:
 - evidence and knowledge gaps that should be addressed through the Mission research funding to assist in transforming health care and health outcomes for individuals and communities
 - key research questions that, if answered, will deliver meaningful change to patients through the translation of research
 - Refreshing the Mission Roadmap and Implementation Plan
- The EAP included expertise in research, clinical, commercial and lived experiences of brain cancer, as well as Mission Funding Partner representation.

Current Australian Brain Cancer Mission Expert Advisory Panel

- Professor Maria Kavallaris AM (Chair)
- Mr Alan Suy
- Dr Amy Georgina Davies
- Professor Sheila Kumari Singh
- Dr Jessica Buck
- Professor Shudong Wang
- Associate Professor Raelene Endersby
- Dr Elizabeth Benson
- Associate Professor Haryana Dhillon
- Professor David Ziegler
- Professor Rosemary Anne Harrup
- Professor Mark Rosenthal
- Mr Samuel McGuane
- Dr Kim Louise Wark
- Mr Yasser El-Ansari (Australian Medical Research Advisory Board [AMRAB] Representative)

Roadmap – Our goal, mission and scope

Our goal

Transformative improvement to the quality and length of life of people with brain cancer, with the longer term aim of defeating brain cancer.

Our mission

The Mission will contribute to achieving this goal by concentrating research efforts into areas of critical importance and areas not already targeted through existing initiatives.

Scope

The Mission will make investments in research to achieve:

- improved patient survival, quality of life and care experiences
- advancement in the fundamental understanding of brain cancer
- increased and equitable access and participation in clinical trials
- expanded research platforms and technologies
- improved healthcare services
- increased researcher capacity and excellence
- stronger partnerships between academia, industry and community and charities.



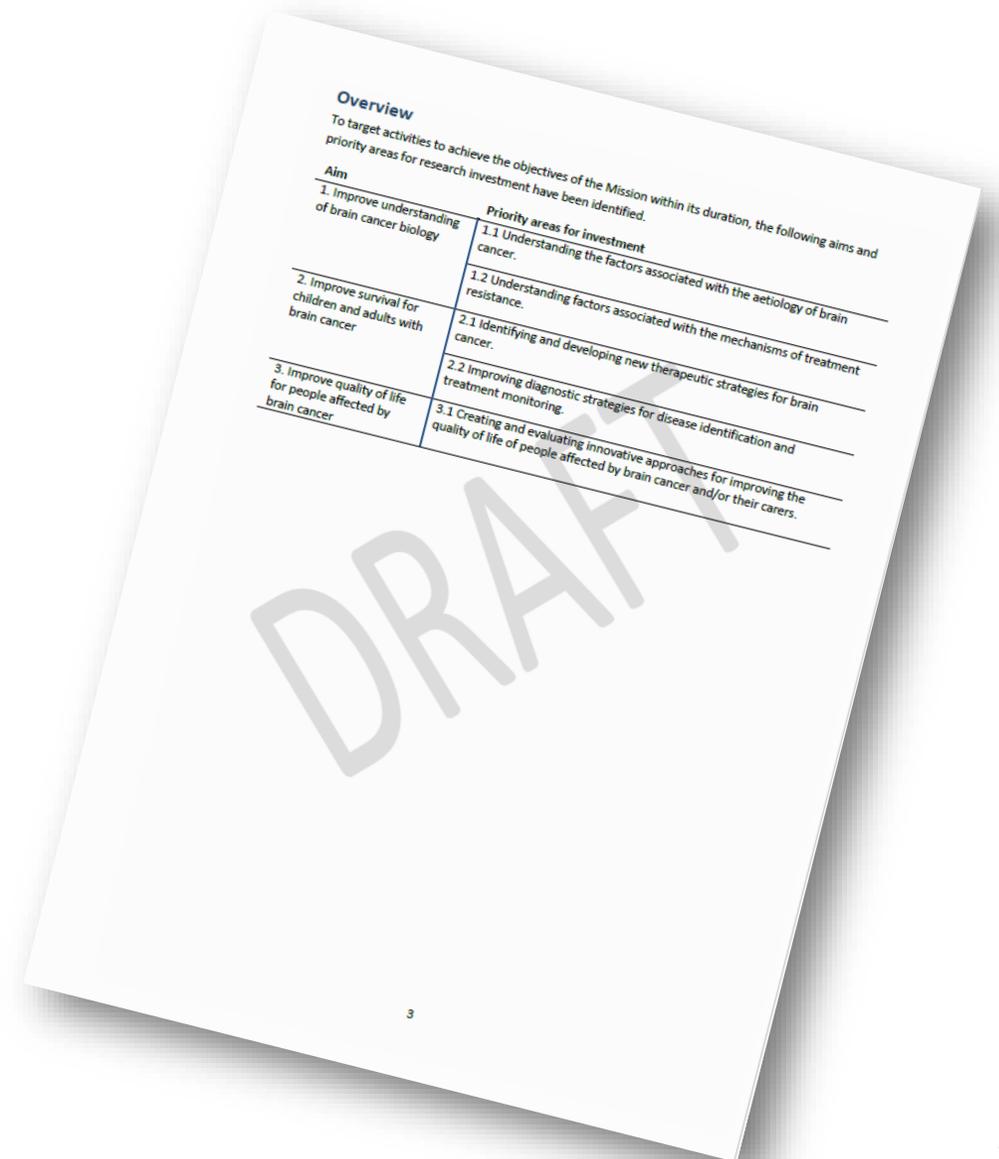
Implementation Plan

- Implementation strategy to guide research investment for the remainder of the Mission
- Establishes a strategic plan to address the Mission's goals within the context of the MRFF 3rd 10-year plan
- Shows research already funded under each priority areas of investment
- Establishes evaluation approaches and measures, supporting activities, and collaborative opportunities
- Identifies additional activities outside of the Mission that will be required to achieve success and opportunities to leverage additional investment



Implementation Plan

- The aims in the Implementation plan match the Roadmap and are to
 1. Improve understanding of brain cancer biology
 2. Improve survival for children and adults with brain cancer
 3. Improve quality of life for people affected by brain cancer
- The implementation plan breaks these down into up to 2 more detailed priority areas for investment and lists potential grant opportunity designs under these areas



Consultation hub questions

- Are the priority areas for investment identified in the Implementation Plan the most effective way for delivering on the Mission's goal and aims?
- Are there existing research activities which could be utilised to contribute to the Mission's Roadmap and/or Implementation Plan aims and priority areas for investment? How can these be leveraged?
- Are the 'Evaluation approach and measures' appropriate for assessing and monitoring progress towards the Mission's goal and aims?

Consultation – open discussion

- Please type questions in the Q&A box provided on the screen
- Questions and feedback will be collated for the presenters to note or discuss
- All submissions can be made through the Consultation Hub on the Department of Health and Aged Care’s website (consultations.health.gov.au)
- Minister for Health is interested in your comments on the Roadmap and Implementation Plan, which will guide future MRFF investments
- **Reminder - online submissions close 20 December 2024 (late submissions cannot be accepted)**
- **<https://consultations.health.gov.au/health-economics-and-research-division/medical-research-future-fund-abcm/>**

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Have your say on the Mission

<https://consultations.health.gov.au>



Register for MRFF grants opportunities

www.grantconnect.gov.au/



Check out the grant opportunity forecast

www.health.gov.au/our-work/medical-research-future-fund/mrff-grant-opportunities-calendar



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Send any questions to

MRFF@health.gov.au



Thank you