



Medical Research Future Fund funding for rural, regional and remote 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 rural, regional and remote (RRR) communities.

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

How is RRR 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 RRR 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% or more of the research team, and all research participants are primarily resident in MM 2-7
- The project activity includes capacity building for MM 3-7 areas
- Applicants are assessed against the RRR focus of the research questions by an independent Grant Assessment Committee that is composed of expert reviewers from different backgrounds, including RRR representatives, such as

scientific experts, consumers, industry experts, and health service providers. People who would like to contribute their expertise in RRR 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 RRR research streams refined?

The MRFF values continuous engagement with stakeholders for the refinement and improvement of the eligibility criteria for MRFF RRR 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 RRR 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 \(14 March 2024\)](#)
- [Medical Research Future Fund Report on funding for rural, regional and remote health research](#)