



Policy on MRFF and NHMRC funding outcomes released under media embargo

The following information details the requirements that applicants, administering institutions and administering organisations¹ must adhere to when outcomes are released under media embargo for both Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant opportunities.

The announcement of MRFF and NHMRC grant opportunity outcomes is at the discretion of the Minister for Health and Aged Care.

What is a media embargo?

A media embargo is a restriction on publicising information about the outcomes of a grant opportunity until the embargo has been lifted or until certain conditions have been met. A media embargo applies regardless of the application outcome.

During the embargo period, applicants, administering institutions and administering organisations **must not** engage directly with media outlets, issue media releases or other communications (including on social media), or otherwise actively seek to publicise the funded research.

Applicants, administering institutions and administering organisations are responsible for adhering to the media embargo conditions until advised by the funder or administering grant hub that the media embargo has been lifted.

Why do media embargoes matter?

Receiving recognition for your work through research funding is an accomplishment for grantees. So, why are we asking you to keep the information under media embargo?

Media embargoes are used for many practical reasons including to:

- align with timelines/news cycles/events
- allow coordination of publicity for collective impact
- provide grantees and funders lead time to organise funding announcements and other public communication activities.

¹ 'Administering organisations' is used to refer collectively to 'Lead Organisations' in MRFF grants administered by BGH and 'Eligible Organisations' in MRFF grants administered by NHMRC.



By respecting and adhering to a media embargo, applicants receive advance notification of funding success, so that researchers can receive timely access to funding and begin projects without delay.

What are the media embargo conditions?

The following table lists what can or cannot be done during the media embargo and applies to both successful and unsuccessful applicants.

YOU CAN	YOU CANNOT
List the grant on other funding/investment applications or for employment opportunities annotated with 'under embargo.'	List the grant on a public webpage including public CV or other profile webpages or social media accounts.
Use non-public communications such as email, face-to-face, phone, to share your news with your collaborators (including potential investors), family, friends, colleagues, and staff who assisted with the application process – but they must adhere to the embargo conditions.	Engage directly with media outlets, issue media releases or funding announcements or publicise the outcome, for example on social media platforms.
Advertise for positions that are required for the research grant – for example PhD candidates and research staff – without referring to the funder or grant opportunity.	Announce the grant publicly, for example, launching the grant at an event, announcing the grant at openings or other public events.
For administering institutions or organisations, accept grant agreement offers, advise the funder about duplicate grant offers, and proceed with planning.	
For funded applicants, commence planning for the research to start on time, including seeking necessary approvals (for example, ethics approvals) and arrangements with partner organisations, and if the embargo continues past the grant commencement date, commence the project including submitting any necessary variation requests.	
Administering institution or organisation media teams may also be advised to assist in preparing media announcement material, provided the embargo is maintained until it is lifted.	



When and how will a media embargo be lifted?

The date of announcement of successful outcomes is at the Minister's discretion. The funder or administering grant hub will send a notification when an embargo is lifted. Once this occurs, applicants may share outcomes publicly.

What happens if a media embargo condition is breached?

Failure of any institution, organisation or their staff to adhere to the media embargo could jeopardise the advanced release of details for future outcomes and announcements.

Who do I contact for further information?

Please contact your research administration office in the first instance.

For any questions about announcements under embargo, research administration officers can contact:

- for MRFF grants, the administering grant hub (Business Grants Hub (BGH) at mrff@industry.gov.au or NHMRC at mrff.postaward@nhmrc.gov.au)
- for NHMRC grants, nhmrc@nhmrc.gov.au.