



## Medical Research Future Fund Mission Governance July 2025

### Purpose of this document

To outline the governance of Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Missions, from development through to implementation. This includes the roles and responsibilities of the Expert Advisory Panels established to provide advice to the Minister for Health and Ageing on MRFF Missions.<sup>1</sup> The development of priority areas for research investment will guide Mission investments to ensure each Mission impacts on future health care.

### Background

Expert Advisory Panels (EAPs) have been established to provide advice to the Minister for Health and Ageing on the MRFF's eight Missions outlined in the MRFF 10-year investment plan:

- Australian Brain Cancer Mission's Strategic Advisory Group and subsequent EAP
- Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission's EAP
- Genomics Health Futures Mission's Expert Advisory Committee and subsequent EAP
- Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission's EAP
- Indigenous Health Research Fund's EAP
- Stem Cell Therapies Mission's EAP
- Cardiovascular Mission's EAP
- Traumatic Brain Injury Mission's EAP.

Currently, two EAPs are being established to support the Reducing Health Inequities Mission and the Low Survival Cancers Mission. These two new MRFF Missions were announced by the Minister for Health and Ageing on 2 May 2024 and are included in the [MRFF 3rd 10-Year Investment Plan \(2024–25 to 2033–34\)](#).

### Role of EAPs

EAPs have been appointed to provide advice to the Minister for Health and Ageing on the strategic priorities for research investment through the MRFF Missions. Their role is to define evidence and knowledge gaps that should be addressed through Mission research funding to assist in transforming health care and health outcomes for individuals and communities. This role includes the definition of key research questions that if answered will deliver meaningful change for patients through the translation of research.

EAP members will consult and engage with other researchers, industry and consumer/patient groups and participate in media and public activities to build awareness of and facilitate interaction with the Mission and with other MRFF funded research.

### EAP Membership

EAP members are appointed by the Australian Government to provide advice to the Minister for Health and Ageing for specific terms. An Australian Medical Research Advisory Board representative will be appointed to each EAP to support the strategic alignment of Mission priorities with the MRFF and collaboration across the ten MRFF Missions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Note that while this document is to be used in conjunction with the Expert Advisory Group's Terms of Reference, the roles and responsibilities outlined in this document should be taken to supersede those Terms.

### **Duration of EAPs**

EAPs will be established for a 12-month term, unless longer appointments are required to support Mission objectives. The Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) can opt to extend the terms of EAPs, should additional activities warrant the continuation of an EAP beyond its initial term.

### **Key deliverables**

EAPs will provide advice on priorities for research investment through Missions by developing a Roadmap and Implementation Plan, including 2-3 questions/goals that investment through the Mission will support and be evaluated against.

#### Roadmap

A two page high level strategic document for the Mission will include:

- the aim, vision and goals for the Mission
- themes and priorities for investment.

#### Implementation Plan

To support implementation of the Roadmap, EAPs will develop Implementation Plans to outline:

- 2-3 questions/goals that will outline more specifically how the Mission will benefit Australian patients, guide the investment priorities that will achieve this objective, and will be used to evaluate the ongoing progress of the Mission
- priorities for investment, particularly defining research questions and outcomes for short, medium and long term investment
- opportunities for leveraging additional investment through philanthropy and other sectors, to support achievement of the Mission's outcomes
- activities required to support the Mission's outcomes, and facilitate their longer-term implementation, including community and industry engagement.

#### Public Consultation

A public consultation will be undertaken on the Roadmap and Implementation Plan to enable broad engagement on the priority setting process. The themes of feedback provided on the Roadmap and Implementation Plan, and how the feedback has been incorporated will be published on the Mission website.

### **Mission Implementation**

The EAP will provide the Roadmap and Implementation Plan to the Minister for Health and Ageing for approval.

The Health and Medical Research Office (HMRO) will use the Roadmap and Implementation Plan to call for proposals addressing the defined questions and expected outcomes.

- Requests for proposals will be published on [GrantConnect](http://www.grants.gov.au) ([www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au)).
- Grant administration services (excluding peer review) will be managed by the National Health and Medical Research Council or the Business Grants Hub.

Proposals will be evaluated competitively through peer review by panels comprising Australian and international experts in the field. It is expected that a small number of collaborative programs will be funded for each of the defined questions/goals in each mission. Following recommendations from the peer review panels, the Government will publish a list of successful recipients.

### **Declarations of Interest**

EAP members must abide by the [MRFF Declarations of Interest Policy Statement](#). The Statement, and supporting documents, enables members to be aware of their obligation to disclose any relevant interests they may have, and to ensure they effectively and consistently manage any conflicts of interest.

### **Secretariat Support**

Secretariat Support for the EAPs will be provided by the HMRO or by relevant policy areas within the DHDA with oversight from HMRO.