

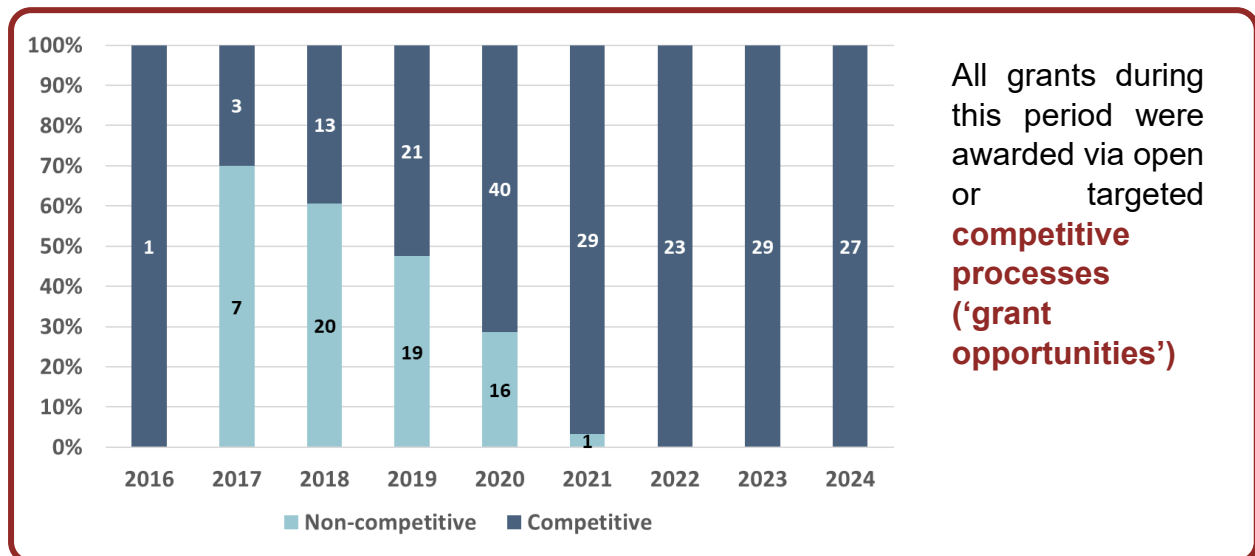


MRFF Report 2022-2024

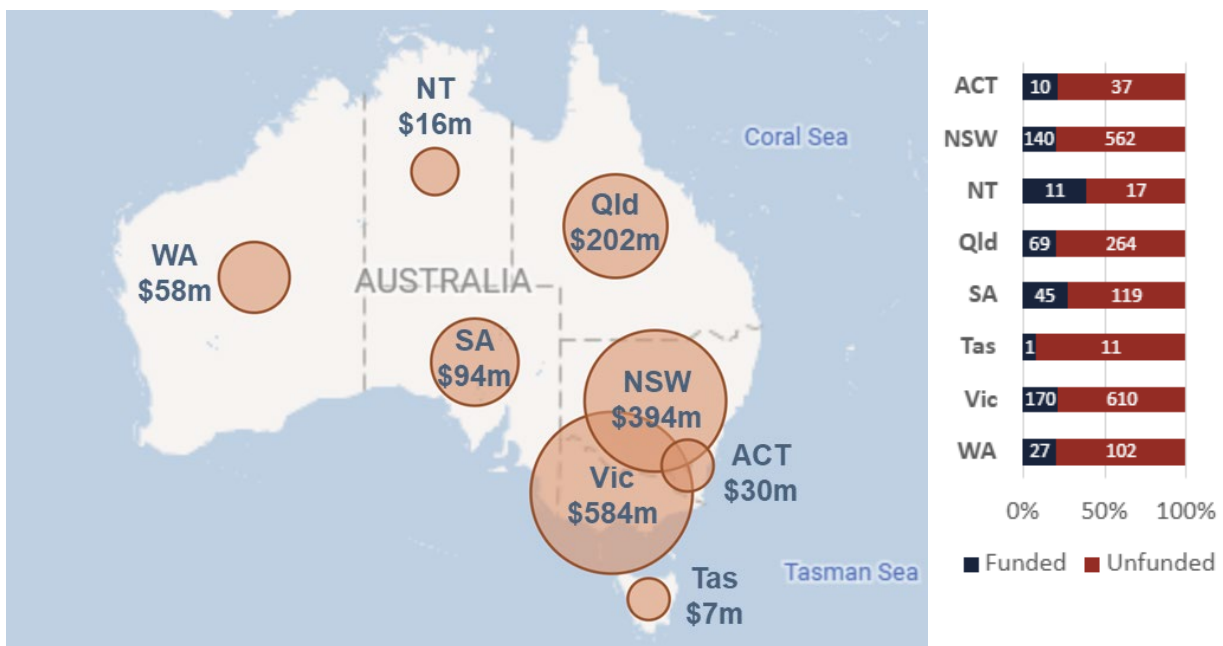


Snapshots from the [Financial assistance to support the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2022-2024](#)

Between 6 November 2022 and 5 November 2024, the **Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)** invested \$1.38 billion across 578 grants in new health and medical research.



Funding reached all states and territories, with an **average funded rate of 21.5%**



Priority Populations

Health inequity remains a significant challenge in Australia. The MRFF 2022-2024 priority ‘Priority Populations’ aimed to support research with people who are under-represented in research, improving health outcomes and promoting equity in healthcare access and delivery. Through collaboration with consumers and a focus on inclusive research practices, the MRFF continues to work towards a healthier, more equitable future for all Australians.

Grant opportunities, grants and funding awarded and announced up to 1 June 2025

Population	Grant opportunities	Grants awarded	Total value of grants
Rural, regional or remote health	72	196	\$570,263,383
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health	69	195	\$407,119,268
Women’s health	75	132	\$271,354,184
Older people experiencing diseases of ageing	52	148	\$336,699,183

Areas of key investment in rural, regional and remote health



Clinical trials including establishing infrastructure to promote access to clinical trials in rural, regional and remote areas

Rural, regional and remote health services for rural, regional and remote people as a group (population health) and individuals (e.g., primary health care)

Evaluating rural health generally as well as models of care in practice – including access to care

Health of rural, regional and remote residents, main health issues (morbidity), end of life and causes of death

Enabling Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are an essential component of health and medical research, playing an important role in validating new treatments and approaches for the prevention, management, detection, and diagnosis of health conditions.

The MRFF has funded Australian clinical trials across many different health conditions:

\$531.5

million

257

projects

via the Clinical Trials Activity initiative

\$1.1

billion

396

projects

via other initiatives

Research workforce and consumer-driven research

MRFF funding supports the health and medical research workforce to develop capacity and capability in all areas of research from basic to full translation. This includes targeted support through funding opportunities such as the Early to Mid-Career Researchers and the Clinician Researchers Initiatives. Additionally, the MRFF is committed to fostering collaboration between researchers and consumers, including patients, caregivers, and community members, to address the needs of those most affected by health conditions. The Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research Initiative and the consumer-led grant opportunities under the Preventive and Public Health Research Initiative exemplify this commitment.

Grant opportunities, grants and funding awarded and announced up to 1 June 2025

Researcher group	Grant opportunities	Grants awarded	Total value of grants
EMCRs	3	72	\$129,780,917
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers	25	68	\$130,181,422
Clinician researchers	6	159	\$153,486,798
Consumer investigators	2	29	\$19,750,934
Rural, regional, remote researchers	49	69	\$151,548,997

Under the Preventive and Public Health Research Initiative, 29 grants across 2 grant opportunities shared \$19,750,934 funding for research in these areas:

Developing and/or testing the implementation of interventions for improving health self-efficacy for consumers with long term diseases and conditions

Co-creating new health knowledge with consumers that has practical implications for improving health care, and, because of their participation, increases consumer knowledge about research

Targeting programs that promote health self-efficacy towards vulnerable groups to reduce health inequalities caused by social-determinants of health

Answering research questions that are more relevant and responsive to community needs, and improved quality of research through the introduction of consumer perspectives

2021 & 2023 Consumer-led Research

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lead Chief Investigators has increased over time:

Year	First Nations lead Chief Investigator applicants	First Nations lead Chief Investigator recipients
2017-18	0	0
2018-19	6	3
2019-20	17	4
2020-21	10	5
2021-22	26	17
2022-23	32	20

Data from the [MRFF Report on Chief Investigator Data](#), data for 2022-23 are incomplete.

Increasing support for medical research commercialisation

There are opportunities for leveraging Australia's research strengths, capabilities, and successes to support the commercialisation of new drugs, devices, and digital technologies.

MRFF funding has been disbursed through a range of grant opportunities that will support projects with commercialisation potential, particularly from Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The focus has been supporting research discoveries as they progress from proof of concept through to clinical implementation.

BioMedTech Incubator

\$198.9 million committed to 5 incubators that will be managed by organisations with expertise in research commercialisation.



BMTI supports Australian SMEs undertaking early-stage medical research and innovation projects with commercial potential.

Biomedical Translation Bridge

\$22.3
million

21
projects



Nurtured innovations through to the proof-of-concept stage with expert industry support and mentoring.

Key applications included unmet needs, priority indications or rare diseases, and COVID-19 diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics.

Early Stage Translation and Commercialisation Support

\$79
million

75
projects

Supports early-stage Australian medical research and medical innovation projects with commercial potential. Australian SMEs provided with specialist support and expertise with the aim of de-risking project outputs and progressing towards commercialisation.



BioMedTech Horizons

The BioMedTech Horizons program, running from 2017-2023, has significantly advanced Australia's biomedical and medical technology sectors. Across four funding rounds, it has supported projects in fields such as 3d anatomical printing, precision medicine, assistive or rehabilitation devices, diagnostics and monitoring devices, decision support devices, and implanted medical devices.

49

projects shared
\$45 million of
total MRFF
funding

159

new patent,
trademark
applications
and licenses

\$50.7 million

industry cash and in-kind co-contributions to the BMTH projects

11

new products
launched



Grant opportunities, grants and funding awarded and announced up to 1 June 2025