



Frequently Asked Questions

Medical Research Future Fund 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research Grant Opportunity

This grant opportunity aims to support researchers to pursue big ideas to develop new products and interventions and implement these into clinical practice, benefiting consumers, clinicians, and the health system.

1. What is the focus of the 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity?

The 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity has a focus on:

- earlier stage research with a 10-year time horizon for a program of research (called a 'moonshot') to reach the market.
- a structured, stage-gated funding approach to fund programs of research incrementally through a series of "linked projects".

2. What key changes to the application and assessment process should applicants note?

- continuously open grant opportunity with a two-stage application process comprised of an expression of interest stage and a full application stage.
- Assessments will be run twice per year.
- Full applications are submitted by invitation only, for projects of up to 5 years under the program of research.
- Research teams can determine the length of each project (up to 5 years) to progress the research at a pace that suits their individual programs of research.
- Programs of research can receive a maximum of \$25 million in funding.

3. What are the main changes in the revised guidelines?

The main changes for applicants to note include:

- Expression of interest close date has now been extended to 31 March 2027 (an additional 12 months).
- Increase in the funding to \$490 million over 10 years from 2023-2024.
- More information on process to apply for subsequent funding under the same program of research

4. What is a program of research?

A program of research is a series of linked projects that cumulatively address the objective and intended outcome of the grant opportunity, with the intention of achieving full implementation of the proposed technology in 10 years.

The program of research can propose to develop novel health technologies and/or re-purpose existing health technologies in a novel way.

5. At what stage of the research process can I apply for funding under this grant opportunity?

Applicants can propose projects to commence research at any stage in the research pipeline from proof-of-concept, with the intention of achieving full implementation of the proposed technology in 10 years.

If at the proof of concept stage it is expected that the research team will be able to provide some preliminary data.

6. What is meant by implementation of a technology?

Funding through this grant opportunity is intended to continue to support programs of research to the point where they are competitive for private investment, for example through venture capital or acquisition of intellectual property (IP). Programs of research may also be at the point where they are ready to be applied nationally in the health system.

7. What is covered under the term health technology?

A health technology may be considered a medicine, medical device, vaccine, procedure and/or system (e.g. computer-supported information systems) developed to solve a health problem and improve quality of life.

8. How does the funding of linked projects work?

The 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity intends to support programs of research comprising a series of linked projects. By sequentially funding research activities ("linked projects") this allow greater flexibility for research teams to work at their own pace and de-risk the overall research program.

Research activity milestones are used to monitor the progress of each project. This allows:

- review of progress to determine if funding should continue.
- identification of whether an invitation should be extended to submit subsequent full applications for funding under the wider program of research.

9. Can I submit a full application for a 5-year \$25 million grant?

- For each project within the program of research the maximum grant period is 5 years.
- The maximum overall investment from the MRFF in a single 10-year program of research is \$25 million.
- The amount of funding requested for a single project is at the applicants' discretion. There is no minimum grant amount and no requirement to apply for \$25 million for a 5 year grant.
- Projects that progress well may be invited to submit subsequent full applications for additional projects under the program of research if the cumulative requested amount for the program of research does not exceed \$25 million and funding remains available.

10. If my project is successful, and I have requested less than \$25 million, can I apply for further funding?

Yes, you can apply for further funding, if you are invited to submit a subsequent full application for funding an additional project under the program of research.

11. What should be included in the expression of interest form?

The expression of interest form should outline your proposed program of research with a 10-year time horizon.

It is up to you on how best to describe the program of research and the proposed approach, which may include reference to the projects that you wish to seek funding for in any invited application, including any preliminary data to support claims made in the application.

You should read the 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity guidelines for further information.

12. How should I include consumers in my program of research?

It is expected that applicants will show how consumers have been and will be effectively involved throughout the program of research and 5-year project. This information should be included in the expression of interest form and in the full application.

For guidance on best practice, review the MRFF document [Principles for Consumer Involvement in Research](#), which includes practical examples.

13. When can I submit my full application?

Full applications are submitted by invitation only following assessment of an expression of interest by the independent grant assessment committee. Successful applicants will be notified by the Business Grants Hub.

14. What should be included in the full application?

In the full application, you will need to describe the proposed program of research in further detail, as well as the project/s within the program of research for which you are seeking funding. This includes how consumers have been or will be effectively involved.

You should also seek to address feedback received from the grant assessment committee at the expression of interest stage.

You should read the 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity guidelines for further information before applying.

15. What will the due diligence review cover?

The due diligence review for the 2022 Frontiers grant opportunity are prepared by an independent organisation. The review is based on the submitted full application and looks at information on market position, intellectual property arrangements, risk management, governance, and/or financial position.

16. Is there any general feedback you can provide?

Based on applications received and assessed, those that have progressed to the next stage have clearly articulated:

- a vision for the program of research including how each project is linked
- a bold and novel idea that is evidenced by data and research
- how consumers have been involved in the design of the project/program of research
- a pathway to implementation and adoption of the technology, including reference to approval processes and regulatory authorities
- considerations around feasibility and dependencies, including planning for subsequent projects
- the current research or marketplace landscape
- how the team was assembled to ensure the best mix of expertise and perspectives, with consideration given to diversity
- the impact on Australia and/or Australians

17. Can Chief Investigators be on more than one expression of interest or full application?

No. A person may not be named as a Chief Investigator (CI) on more than one active expression of interest or full application under this grant opportunity. If a CI appears on multiple active submissions, all will be deemed ineligible. An active expression of interest or application is one that has been submitted and is under review by the Grant Assessment Committee, with any further considerations addressed by the program delegate as required.

18. What are the assessment criteria?

The 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity includes the following assessment criteria:

Expressions of interest will be assessed against:

- Criterion 1 - Vision and novelty (50%)
- Criterion 2 - Team capability (50%)

Full applications will be assessed against:

- Criterion 3 - Project impact (40%)
- Criterion 4 - Project methodology (30%)
- Criterion 5 - Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (30%)
- Criterion 6 - Overall value and risk of the project (non-weighted).

19. Do applicants need to provide evidence of strategic partnerships?

Yes. Partnerships and co-investment are encouraged to maximise impact, demonstrate a clear path to translation through engagement with relevant organisations, build capacity in emerging sites via collaboration with mature agencies, minimise duplication, and reduce administrative burden on participating communities.

20. Can an individual receive MRFF funding for a project that currently receives funding from other sources?

A grant cannot be provided to you if you currently receive funding from another source for the same purpose.

Important information when submitting an expression of interest

21. How long will this grant opportunity be open?

- Submissions for expressions of interest will be accepted at any time while the grant opportunity remains open.
- It is expected that expressions of interest will close on 31 March 2027.
- The last grants will be awarded by 30 June 2028.

22. What do I need to do to submit an expression of interest?

An expression of interest can be submitted at any time at business.gov.au while the grant opportunity remains open. The grant opportunity will be continuously open for expressions of interest until the indicative close date of 31 March 2026. Please refer to the [Sample application form](#) for further information.

23. How do I submit a full application?

If you submit an expression of interest and following assessment you are invited to submit a full application, you will receive instructions on how to submit a full application online.

24. Need more information?

For more information, visit business.gov.au or call 13 28 46.