



Dr Masha Somi
Chief Executive Officer
Health and Medical Research Office
Australian Government Department of Health

Dear Dr Somi

I am writing to you in your capacity as delegate under sections 15A, 26 and 27 of the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015* (the Act) with authority to debit amounts from the MRFF Special Account and set out and enter into written agreements with grant recipients.

In line with the Department's advice, an internal Grant Assessment Committee (GAC) was formed to assess the application submitted by The University of Queensland under the closed, non-competitive MRFF Coronavirus Research Response 2020 COVID-19 Vaccine Research Grant Opportunity. It met on 28 May 2020. Prior to assessment, NHMRC determined that the application had met eligibility requirements to progress to full committee assessment.

An assessment report is enclosed that contains the assessment process undertaken and the assessment outcome. The application assessed was for funding of \$2,999,990.

A research integrity check has been undertaken on all of the Australian-based Chief and Associate Investigators named in the application. We can confirm that these individuals have not, to NHMRC's knowledge, been the subject of recent findings of research misconduct or breaches of the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, or recent unresolved formal notifications to NHMRC on research misconduct matters.

You are now requested to advise if The University of Queensland has been successful in its application for funding under the closed, non-competitive MRFF 2020 COVID-19 Vaccine Research Grant Opportunity. Upon your advice, NHMRC proposes to notify the applicant and Administering Institution of the outcome, under embargo, prior to announcement. Please note, the outcome of the Grant Opportunity will be made publicly available on GrantConnect.

Consistent with the agreement between our organisations on post-award management of MRFF grants, the Department will manage any public announcement and media activities. NHMRC will make the formal offer of funding under the MRFF Head Agreement. A draft schedule will be provided to the Department and we will await its advice about this draft, in particular to confirm the payment schedule.



Thank you again for the opportunity to assist the Department with this grant opportunity.

Yours sincerely

[authorised for electronic transmission]

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Research Translation Branch

29 May 2020

Enc.:

1. MRFF 2020 COVID-19 Vaccine Research Grant Opportunity Assessment Report
2. Full application documentation for applications considered by the grant assessment committee

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 (Cth)