



Medical Research Future Fund Eligible Organisations

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) administers Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grants. Organisations can apply to NHMRC to become an MRFF Eligible Organisation (MRFF EO). This allows them to be separately identified in NHMRC's grant management system from NHMRC Administering Institutions (AIs), and to apply for MRFF grant funding administered by NHMRC.

What are MRFF Eligible Organisations?

MRFF grants can only be made to organisations that meet criteria defined in legislation.¹ Because of this, only the following types of organisations can apply to become MRFF EOs:

- medical research institutes, i.e. bodies that conduct medical research as a primary purpose, and which are also registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission
- universities, i.e. Australian universities listed in either Table A or Table B of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*
- corporate Commonwealth entities, i.e. Commonwealth entities that are bodies corporate
- corporations, i.e. Australian public companies, Australian private companies, and other incorporated entities.

What is changing?

New processes have been established by NHMRC so that eligible organisations can:

- apply to be certified as MRFF EOs
- if approved, apply for MRFF grants administered by NHMRC.

Previously, only AIs could apply for MRFF grants administered by NHMRC.

¹ *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015* (MRFF Act) – section 24.

Who will be affected?

The changes expand the number and type of organisations that can apply for MRFF grants administered by NHMRC.

This includes corporations – both small and large – that might have expertise in medical research or medical innovation, but do not meet existing requirements to become an NHMRC AI.

Are all NHMRC Administering Institutions MRFF Eligible Organisations?

Most, but not all, organisations that are NHMRC AIs will be eligible to be MRFF EOs.

This is because the MRFF Act specifies the types of organisations that can receive MRFF funding and some AIs do not meet these requirements.

What is the process for becoming an MRFF Eligible Organisation?

NHMRC will pre-approve MRFF EO status for eligible NHMRC AIs.

NHMRC will advise these AIs they have been granted status as an MRFF EO.

NHMRC AIs not eligible to become MRFF EOs will also be advised.

All other organisations must complete an MRFF EO Status Certification Form (Certification Form), which is available at:

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/manage-your-funding/mrff-eligible-organisations>.

The Certification Form contains information and guidance on MRFF EOs, including how to apply and the assessment process.

Organisations can apply to become MRFF EOs at any time – it is not recommended to wait until a relevant grant opportunity opens.

How are MRFF Eligible Organisations assessed?

In order to become an MRFF EO, organisations must certify that they:

- are one of the types of organisations identified in the MRFF Act as eligible to receive MRFF funding
- have capacity to administer MRFF grants in accordance with the MRFF Funding Agreement, including complying with specific legal and financial requirements.

The information provided in the Certification Form will be independently assessed by NHMRC to confirm that the organisation meets the requirements to be an MRFF EO.

It will take approximately five business days for NHMRC to assess a complete Certification Form to become an MRFF EO.

What will happen if I become an MRFF Eligible Organisation?

Organisations will receive a login to the NHMRC grants management system, so they can submit applications for MRFF grant opportunities administered by NHMRC.

While organisations only apply once to become an MRFF EO, they will have an ongoing obligation to inform NHMRC of any material changes to their organisation's status. This could include changes of ownership or entity status, becoming insolvent, or diminished organisational capacity to administer MRFF grants.

Once certified as a MRFF EO, organisations will be asked to execute an MRFF Funding Agreement. An MRFF Funding Agreement is required as MRFF grants are provided as Schedules to the overarching MRFF Funding Agreement. More detail on the MRFF Funding Agreement is available at:

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/manage-your-funding/mrff-eligible-organisations>

Becoming an MRFF EO is the first step towards MRFF funding:

- you must apply for MRFF grants through MRFF grant opportunities
- grant opportunities may have additional eligibility requirements.

How long will this process take?

The EO assessment process is expected to generally take five business days upon the receipt of a completed MRFF EO Certification Form, but may be longer during periods of peak activity.

Applications are open throughout the year. Please consider the timing of your application for MRFF EO status as you will not be able to apply for MRFF funding until you are:

- approved as an MRFF EO
- established in the NHMRC grants management system

Are there changes to other NHMRC processes?

No other changes to NHMRC processes are planned at this time. There is no change to the status of existing NHMRC AIs. For clarity:

- NHMRC AIs are eligible to apply for NHMRC funding
- MRFF EOs are eligible to apply for MRFF funding
- Organisations holding both AI and EO status are eligible to apply for both NHMRC and MRFF funding.

