

Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2021-2026

Vision

A health system fully informed by quality health and medical research.

Aim

Transform health and medical research using priority-driven investments that promote collaborative research, research innovation, research translation and impact to improve lives, whilst contributing to health system sustainability, nurturing the next generation of researchers and building the Australian economy.

Context

The MRFF operates within a broader context of Australian Government support for health and medical research that includes funding through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Biomedical Translation Fund, all seeking to improve health and wellbeing. The strategies and operations of the MRFF and NHMRC, in particular, are aligned and complementary: whereas NHMRC supports national research activity and capability across all areas of health and medicine, MRFF research prioritises current and emerging health needs, addressing burden of disease and gaps in translation and health outcomes.

Strategic Objectives of the MRFF

To deliver:

- Equitable health outcomes through research-informed preventive health and health care across the spectrum from primary to tertiary care.
- Health and economic benefits from transformative and innovative research through translation of outcomes into policy and practice, and commercialisation of new diagnostics, therapeutics, and preventive health interventions.
- A skilled and sustainable health and medical research workforce with expertise in research translation, innovation, and commercialisation.
- A health and medical research sector and health system positioned to respond to emerging and future challenges.

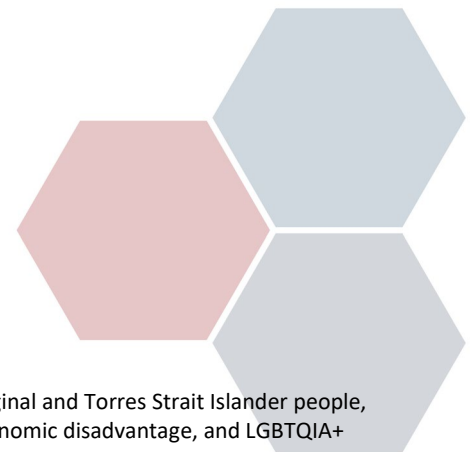
Guiding principles to support the strategy

The following principles recognise the unique role of the MRFF within the health and medical research system in Australia and are intended to guide the activities and initiatives funded by the MRFF.

To the greatest extent possible, these Principles will inform the identification of the MRFF's Priorities and serve as the foundation upon which all grant opportunities are designed in order to realise the strategic objectives of the MRFF for 2021-26.

Research funded through the MRFF will address:

1. **New or emerging areas of health need** with high potential for generating innovative approaches, tools, or technologies to transform health care and practices.
2. **Existing areas of unmet health need**, to address underinvestment and support capacity development with a focus on achieving equity in health outcomes, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other priority populations¹.
3. **Improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the health system**, by promoting adoption of evidence-based practices, enabling equitable health outcomes, and focussing on the needs of patients, their families, and carers.
4. **Social, environmental, and cultural factors that impact health and wellbeing**, including strengths-based approaches that leverage patient/consumer and community knowledge and experience to deliver improvements in population health and wellbeing.
5. **Enhancements to the translation of research outputs to deliver impact** through health and economic outcomes, including through commercialisation of research outcomes and implementation of policy changes nationally and globally.
6. **Promotion of capacity and capability in the health and medical research workforce**, through investments in priority areas, by fostering collaboration between research groups and across disciplines and addressing gender equity.
7. **Encouragement of adaptive approaches to emerging challenges**², supporting rapid response and effective collaboration both nationally and internationally with other public and private sources of health and medical research funding.



¹ 'Priority populations' is intended to be read broadly as including, without being limited to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, rural and remote Australians, Australians with a disability, the elderly, those experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage, and LGBTQIA+ communities.

² 'Emerging challenges' is intended to be read broadly as including, without being limited to, pandemic responses, emerging pathogens, the health impacts of climate change, and antimicrobial resistance.