



## MRFF Grant Assessment Committees

Applications for funding under the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) undergo rigorous assessment processes by independent grant assessment committees (GACs). Learn about their role and the people who are involved.

### A merit-based selection process

An independent assessment of grants determines the projects that are to be funded through the MRFF.

Independent assessment is conducted by expert reviewers in their capacity as members of GACs. Independent review by suitably qualified and experienced experts enables decisions about the allocation of MRFF funding to be based on merit and alignment with assessment criteria.

### What are MRFF GACs?

Decisions on which projects should receive MRFF grant funding are based on the assessments of independent GACs.

GACs are set up by the agencies that administer MRFF grant opportunities – the [National Health and Medical Research Council \(NHMRC\)](#) and the [Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources \(Business Grants Hub\)](#).

GACs bring together national and international assessors to consider applications against technical and non-technical assessment criteria, with a strong focus on impact and value. The robust methodology underpinning the assessment process, and high-quality advice from experts sitting on GACs, support the MRFF in identifying high-impact projects that are most likely to deliver health and economic benefits for Australians.

The scientific and other technical expertise of GAC members is integral to the generation of knowledge and innovation through the MRFF, maintaining the integrity of science and supporting the best health and medical research in Australia.

The involvement of health services experts and consumers on GACs is particularly important given the emphasis placed on the translation of research funded by the MRFF.

## Who are the members of MRFF GACs?

GAC members come from different backgrounds and bring different perspectives. They include expert reviewers such as scientific experts, consumers, industry experts and health service providers. Members are selected on the basis that they will bring experience and expertise in a range of areas including:

- transdisciplinary
- academia
- clinical
- health services delivery
- translation research
- consumers and patients
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health
- industry and commercialisation expertise

The gender balance of GACs is also considered, along with geographic representation. NHMRC and Business Grants Hub also strive to include at least one international representative on each GAC to ensure MRFF funded research is internationally competitive.

359 experts participated in MRFF GACs in 2019-2020. Of these, 51% were female, and 49% were male. 8% were from overseas.

Details on reviewers who have taken part in MRFF GACs since the inception of the MRFF are available from our [Roll of Honour](#).

## How can someone become a MRFF GAC member?

People who would like to participate in MRFF grant assessments can register their interest on the [NHMRC website](#).

