

Medical Research

Future Fund

MRFF Quarterly Webinar
16 November 2021

Dr Masha Somi, CEO of Health and Medical Research Office Prof Ian Frazer AC, Chair of AMRAB Prof Caroline Homer AO, Deputy Chair of AMRAB





- 1. Introduction
- 2. Australian Medical Research Advisory Board Prof Ian Frazer and Prof Caroline Homer
 - I. Strategy and Priorities Consultation
 - II. Looking forward (next 12 months)
- **3.** Medical Research Future Fund Update
- 4. Medical Research Future Fund Missions
 - Roadmaps, Implementation Plans and Grant Opportunities
 - II. Brain Cancer Mission
 - III. Million Minds Mission
- **5.** Medical Research Future Fund Program Update
 - I. ANAO Audit
 - II. Investment Fund Legislation Amendment Bill 2021
 - III. Eligible Organisations
 - IV. Accelerator grants
- 6. What's Next?

Strategy 2021-2026 & related Priorities - Purpose of consultation

- Conducted public consultation to develop the 2021-26 Strategy and the related Priorities to:
 - better contextualise and articulate the unique role and contributions of MRFF within the broader support system for health and medical research and strengthen MRFF's role in supporting the translation of research into impact.
 - reflect on MRFF's current operating context, nationally and internationally, and the challenges and opportunities this poses and propose ways forward.
- Ensure an updated Strategy is:
 - meeting its purpose as described in the MRFF Act
 - accounting for critical current and future issues and factors (e.g. primary prevention)
 - allowing the MRFF to fund research to address national health priorities
 - delivering practical benefits from medical research and medical innovation to Australians.
- As the Priorities must be consistent with the Strategy, they were also revisited as part of the process.





Strategy 2021–2026 & related Priorities – Consultation Process

- The consultation process commenced on 20 September 2021 through the opening of an online consultation hub to provide opportunities for written submissions to be considered and closed 11 October 2021.
- The national consultation process included:
 - Public webinar (214 attended)
 - Virtual stakeholder roundtable (25 stakeholders attended)
 - Online written submissions through the online consultation hub (201 submissions).
- A consultation report has also been developed by AMRAB, that incorporates the summarised feedback received through the online consultation hub and the steps AMRAB have taken to address this feedback – available on the MRFF website.

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.



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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.

Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2021-2026

Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2021–2026

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Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2021-2026

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Guiding principles to support the strategy

Research funded through the MRFF will address:

- 1. New or emerging areas of health need
- 2. Existing areas of unmet health need
- 3. Improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the health system
- 4. Social, environmental, and cultural factors that impact health and wellbeing
- 5. Enhancements to the translation of research outputs to deliver impact
- 6. Promotion of capacity and capability in the health and medical research workforce
- 7. Encouragement of adaptive approaches to emerging challenges



Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities (draft)

- The draft version of the related Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities were published online on 8 November 2021.
- AMRAB developed the Priorities concurrently with the 2021-2026 Strategy, in order to align with and facilitate the achievement of the 2021-26 Strategy's vision, aim and strategic objectives.
- These Priorities will come into force following the passage of the Investment Funds Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (which will cause the existing 2020-22 Priorities to cease to have effect), or otherwise no later than 5 November 2022, when the 2020-22 Priorities expire.





Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities (draft)

Consumer-Driven Research	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health	
Research Infrastructure and Capability	Priority Populations	
Translation and Commercialisation	Antimicrobial Resistance	
Comparative Effectiveness Research	Global Health and Health Security	
Preventive and Public Health Research	Health Impacts from Environmental Factors	
Primary Care Research	Data, Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence	

Health and Medical Researcher Capacity and Capability





AMRAB will consult with the sector, including on the following areas:

- Consumer and clinician involvement in research
- Health and medical research workforce development
- Research quality

To effect this, AMRAB members are keen to attend biomedical and clinical conferences, and to visit research and health delivery organisations, on request



AMRAB will work with HMRO to assist with delivery and assessment of HMRO research programs addressing the Strategy and Priorities



AMRAB and NHMRC Council engagement Regular engagement focussing on:

- Working together to consider alignment and complementarity
- Engagement with the community





MRFF 10-year investment plan aligns with the Priorities and is the mechanism through which the objectives of the Strategy are met

Medical Research

- MRFF supported projects are
 - supporting clinical trials and responding to emerging priorities
 - helping researchers think big to tackle significant health challenges through investment, leadership and collaboration
 - accelerating the commercialisation and implementation of medical discoveries, improving research infrastructure and supporting jobs growth in the MTP sector
 - supporting Australia's researcher capacity and skill development to continue our success as a global health and medical research leader and innovator
- Grant opportunities under the MRFF 10-year investment plan align with MRFF Priorities, and support the strategic objectives of the MRFF which focus on equitable health outcomes, research translation, research workforce, and emerging and future challenges
- Under the MRFF 10-year Investment Plan, there is flexibility and funding available to address new and emerging needs that fall under the broad objectives of each initiative

HMRO's role in implementing the Strategy and Priorities

- Developing funding opportunities that address the Priorities, with AMRAB's advice
- Commissioning proposals for funding, through NHMRC and Business Grants hub
- Evaluating applications for funding, using independent and international review
- Approving proposals for funding, based on the independent reviews
- Advising the Minister of funding outcomes
- Managing funded applications, to monitor progress and risks
- Reviewing outputs of funded applications
- Reporting against the strategy and priorities to AMRAB, Government and Parliament



MRFF program update





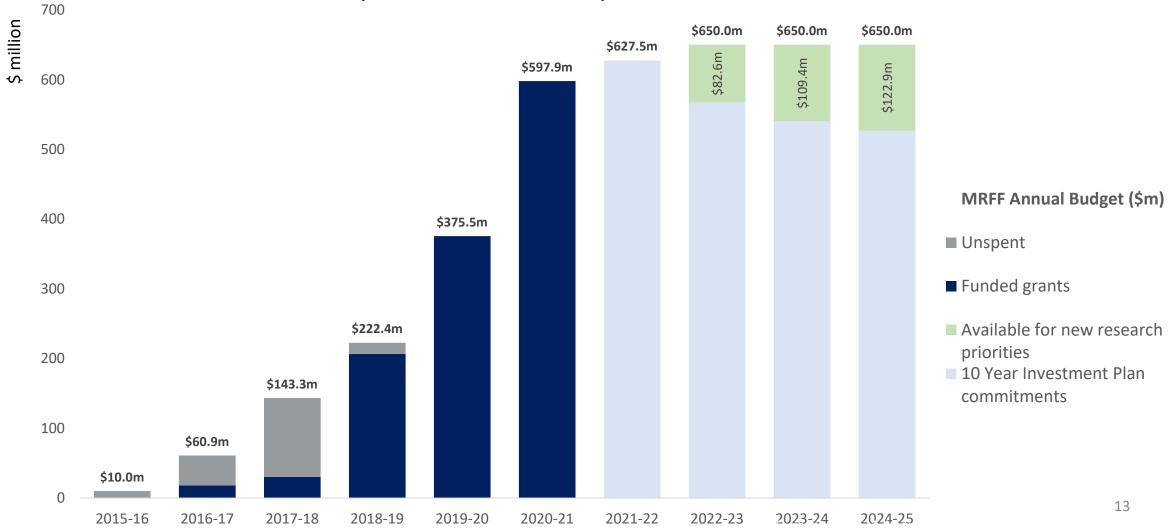
Since inception

2020-2021 Financial Year



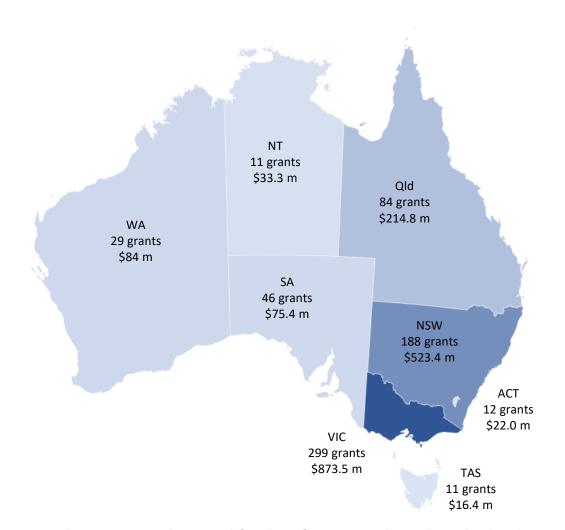
MRFF 10-year investment plan

\$1.8 billion across a total of 681 grants already funded (as at 11 November 2021)
Funds are available in future years for allocation to priorities





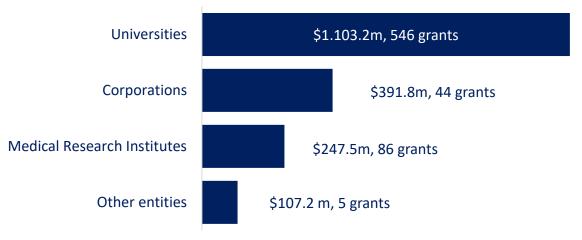
MRFF funds are being disbursed across all states and territories, to rural and remote areas and issues, and to a range of organisations



48 grants \$289 million

MRFF funding has been disbursed to a range of research projects undertaken in rural and remote areas, as well as to projects that address health topics of significance to rural and remote areas of Australia.

Under the MRFF Act 2015, MRFF funding can be provided to:



To date MRFF funds have been disbursed across all eligible organisation types, thus promoting a **diversity of research** and **supporting the spectrum of organisation types** within the health and medical research sector.

Note: The grant numbers and funding figures are based on the **lead organisation** of each MRFF-funded grant. In practice, many MRFF-funded grants are **collaborative research efforts** across multiple Australian locations and organisations.

MRFF strategic priorities are directing \$5 billion over 10 years across 4 themes with 20 initiatives



Medical Research Future Fund

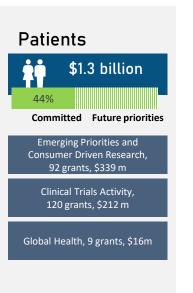
Themes and progress (as at 11 Nov 2021)

Initiative

Grant opportunity

Grant agreements

The MRFF 10 Year Investment Plan provides \$5 billion in disbursements across 4 themes









143 completed grant opportunities (as at 11 November 2021)

Invested \$1.8 billion across 681 grant agreements (as at 11 November 2021)

These investments are having a positive impact across Australia



'Patients' theme supporting clinical trials and responding to emerging priorities

Clinical trials, incl. rare cancers, rare diseases and unmet needs: \$635.3 million awarded through 247 projects including:

- 18 bringing large scale, multinational trials to Australia
- 3 (valued at \$125 million) for clinical trials infrastructure support to improve access to clinical trials in rural, regional and remote
 Australia.

COVID-19 research: \$96 million disbursed from the MRFF since March 2020 has been a stimulus for growth in the research sector:

- \$24+ million vaccine development
- \$35+ million therapies and potential treatments
- ~\$37 million public health activities, virus-host interactions (diagnostics, genomics, immunity)

ZERO Childhood Cancer National Precision Medicine Program

\$60 million disbursed to expand ZERO:

- World-leading personalised medicine trial for <21 yr olds with high-risk cancer
- Aims to identify the genetic drivers of each cancer and tailor treatments for increased survival with reduced side-effects
- Early results (Oct 2020) showed 70% of children who received the recommended, personalised treatment, had a positive response (tumour stopped growing, shrank, or completely regressed)
- Currently 500+ children enrolled. By end 2023, all
 Australian children with cancer will be able to
 participate.



Picture: Jack and his mum Vivian

"Because ZERO EXISTS, our Jack EXISTS,
and many other children will EXIST with
the right diagnosis and treatment thanks
to ZERO...without the existence of our
precious supporters our son would not be
alive today." (Vivian)

Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC) clinical trials - \$3.4 million across 2 trials

Specifically exploring treatments for MCC:

- MCC is a rare, highly aggressive neuroendocrine tumour of the skin
- It affects 300 Australians/year and is one of the most lethal skin cancers
- Australia (particularly Queensland) has the highest incidence of MCC worldwide
- In Europe/US the leading cause is viral exposure, but in Australia it is sun-related UV exposure.

Importantly, noting the different causes of MCC, these MRFF-funded trials are being **conducted in an Australian cohort**, with results most likely to reflect and benefit Australian patients.



'Research Missions' initiatives help researchers think big to tackle significant health challenges

New technologies and therapies: 'Genomics Health Futures' and 'Stem Cell Therapies' Missions aim to identify novel tests, diagnostics and treatments for Australians and reduce unnecessary interventions and health costs.

Tackling chronic conditions and Indigenous health: Critical research is being supported through the 'Indigenous Health Research Fund', 'Cardiovascular Health Mission', and 'Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission'.

Learning about neurology and ageing: 3 Missions focusing on the brain and ageing research and aim to:

- support older Australians to maintain their health and quality of life as they age, live independently for longer, and access quality care when they need it
- double the survival rate of Australians living with brain cancer over next 10 yrs
- improve patient recovery after brain injury.

The SuperbugAi Flagship - \$3 million

- Using genomics, electronic healthcare data and Al
- This project will develop an anti-microbial resistance (AMR) tracking and response system to enable earlier detection of AMR, personalised treatments for improved patient survival, and prevention of AMR outbreaks in the healthcare system.



Brain cancer survivorship - \$9.5 million for 3 projects

- In 2020, **2,000 Australians** were diagnosed with brain cancer. **Only 22%** will be alive in 5 years.
- There are no known prevention measures and, for some, no effective treatments
- These projects are conducting research on tailoring survivorship approaches for individual needs, and supporting access to a platform to allow patients to connect with other survivors to share experiences and support each other.



'Translation' initiatives accelerate commercialisation and implementation of medical discoveries, improve infrastructure and support a growing MTP sector

Commercialisation of biomedical and medical technologies: Medical Research Commercialisation initiative has awarded \$146 million to date.

Improving research facilities and systems: MRFF funds have been disbursed for **research infrastructure** including:

- facilities in rural and remote areas so people can participate in clinical trials without the need to travel to a major city
- the creation or extension of national research data infrastructure, with a focus on data registries, biobanks and data linkage platforms.

Contributing to jobs and growth: MRFF funding is discovering new drugs, devices and therapeutic industries, strengthening researcher-industry collaboration, supporting more clinical trials, reinforcing the MTP sector, saving lives, and improving quality of life. These are all key markers of economic wealth and health wealth under the 2018 National Health and Medical Industry Growth Plan.

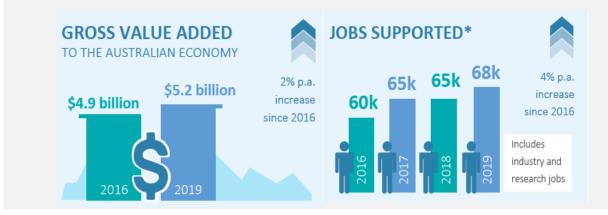
McMonty Medihood - \$0.6 million

- Fits quickly above the head and torso of a suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patient
- Acts as a physical barrier between the patient and frontline healthcare workers
- Made in Australia
- Deployed to rural areas of Australia, particularly those without specialised facilities like negative pressure rooms.
- Deployed internationally to support PNG and the Republic of Nauru.



MRFF funding contributes to jobs and growth in the MTP sector

In 2019, Australia's medical technology, biotechnology and pharmaceutical (MTP) sector contributed \$5.2 billion to the Australian economy. It supported approximately 68,000 jobs in research and industry and 1,278 companies.





'Researchers' initiatives build skills and capacity for Australia to remain a global medical research leader and innovator

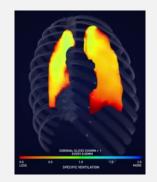
Fostering a culture of research in clinical practice: Clinician-Researchers initiative has awarded \$55.5 million across 96 grants to support research carried out by clinicians (e.g. surgeons, GPs, nurses, allied health professionals).

Building industry skills and ties with academia: Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry initiative is disbursing \$32 million to develop product ideas whilst providing researchers, clinicians, MTP professionals and innovators with industry placements, mentoring, exposure to entrepreneurialism, and training in research translation and commercialisation.

Supporting researchers to pursue revolutionary ideas: Frontier Health and Medical Research initiative supports researchers to push the boundaries to develop new health and medical **breakthroughs** that can revolutionise health care, potentially creating new industries and having **global impact**. The 2-stage program is providing **\$570 million** over **9 years**.

4D Functional Diagnosis: a new frontier in lung health for children - \$29 million

- Team comprised of world-leading Australian medical researchers, engineers, manufacturers and doctors
- This project delivers ground breaking lung scanners that are safe, rapid, and easy to use, enabling detailed diagnosis and treatment for patients of any age
- The scanners will fill the critical unmet need for sensitive lung health assessment for young children and could be applied to managing COVID-19
- This will establish Australia at the forefront of lung science, while kick-starting a local, fast-growing, highvalue, high-tech industry.



Catch them when they fall - \$0.2 million

- Awarded from the Clinician-Researchers initiative to Dr Fiona Shand, a clinical psychologist
- Researched best evidence care after a suicide attempt
- Findings have and will be used to develop and implement novel approaches to crisis care in **national** and **state** mental health strategies.



2020–21 Program information

Grant opportunities opened in 2020-21

Grant opportunities opened 2020-21	Total value^
36	\$812.7M

Grant agreements executed in 2020-21

Grant agreements executed in 2020-21*	Total value^
230	\$587.6M

[^] The value is based on the funding in the original grant opportunity guidelines. This includes round 1 of the 2020 COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate Research grant opportunity, which opened in 2019-20.

^{*} The grant agreements could relate to grant opportunities that opened prior to 2020-21. Not all grant opportunities opened in 2020-21 have been executed.



2020-21 Program information

• Grant agreements executed in 2020-21 (worth \$587.6 million) are spread across all four MRFF research themes



• 81 clinical trials*, worth \$168.6 million, have been supported

Grant agreements executed	Total value
81	\$168.6M



2020-21 Program information

 87 grants (worth \$169.6 million*) have been executed in 2020-21 to support Missions activity

Genomics Health Futures Mission, 21 grants, \$73.5M Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission, 11 grants, \$17.0M Traumatic Brain Injury Mission, 6 grants, \$3.3M Stem Cell Therapies Mission, 17 grants, \$18.7M Cardiovascular Health Mission, 16 grants, \$20.1M Indigenous Health Research Fund, 7 grants, \$7.4M Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission, 8 grants, \$27.1M Australian Brain Cancer Mission, 1 grant, \$2.6M

²²



MRFF Missions Update

MRFF Missions

- large programs of work that bring together key researchers, health professionals, stakeholders, industry partners and patients to tackle big health challenges
- tackle significant health challenges by bringing together key players:
 - researchers
 - health professionals
 - stakeholders
 - industry partners
 - patients
- This joint effort supports the discovery of new knowledge, tools, techniques, treatments and approaches, supporting improved health outcomes
- Missions challenge current ways of thinking and encourage researchers to 'research' differently

Genomics Health Futures Mission



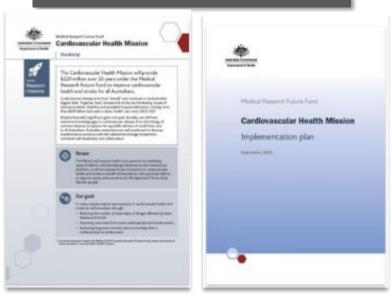


Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission





Cardiovascular Disease Health Mission



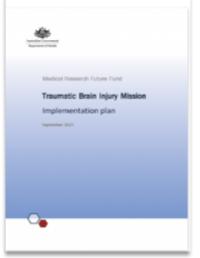
Stem Cell Therapies Mission





Traumatic Brain Injury Mission





Indigenous Health Research Fund

 Roadmap and Implementation Plan currently being finalised



New Mission Grant Opportunities

Name	Amount	Open	Close
The 2021 Australian Brain Cancer Mission GBM AGILE Grant Opportunity	Up to \$12M	27 September 2021	2 March 2022
2021 Cardiovascular Health Grant Opportunity	Up to \$34M for five streams	28 September 2021	23 February 2022
2021 Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Grant Opportunity	Up to \$25.5M for four streams	22 September 2021	16 February 2022
2021 Genomics Health Futures Mission Grant Opportunity	Up to \$56M for six streams	28 September 2021	16 February 2022
2021 Stem Cell Therapies Grant Opportunity	Up to \$25M for two streams	20 October 2021	23 February 2022
2021 Traumatic Brain Injury Grant Opportunity	Up to \$3.0 million will be available with an additional \$1 million provided through the EPCDR Initiative to support sports-related concussion research. This grant opportunity has two streams	17 September 2021	9 February 2022

Please go to www.grants.gov.au for detailed information on how to apply

Brain Cancer Mission - new GBM Agile grant opportunity





Goal

To double survival rates and improve quality of life for people with brain cancer over the next 10 years, with the longerterm goal of defeating brain cancer

Total investment of \$135.46 million achieved through an initial \$50 million from the MRFF.

The Australian Government has committed an additional \$10.26 million in MRFF funding to the Mission and brain cancer research.

Medical Research **Future Fund**

AUSTRALIAN BRAIN CANCER MISSION

The Government will establish a \$100 million fund for an Australian Brain Cancer Mission to double the survival rates and improve the quality of life of patients with brain cancer over the next 10 years, with the longer term aim of defeating brain cancer.

The Australian Government will contribute \$50 million under the Medical Research Future Fund and seek matching contributions from philanthropy, other governments, industry and the private sector

In an initial demonstration of the benefits of collaboration, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation has committed \$20 million and the Minderoo Foundation's Eliminate Cancer Initiative has committed \$10 million. towards this bold and important Mission.

Together we can make brain cancer history.

MEDICAL RESEARCH **FUTURE FUND**

The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) demonstrates the Government's strong commitment to research and innovation. The MRFF provides a long term sustainable source of funding for endeavours that aim to improve health outcomes, quality of life and health system sustainability.

The MRFF is a dedicated vehicle for priority investment in health and medical research

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

INCREASED PATIENT SURVIVAL, QUALITY OF LIFE AND CARE EXPERIENCES

- · Promote the benefits of surgery or treatment at centres of
- clinical excellence, and the merits of immediate referral. Audit and build national care standards, support decision-
- making, and articulate clinical pathways for patients. . Define patient navigator roles and work with governments
- to improve transport and other support schemes.
- · Invest in survivorship research to better understand the lifelong impact of a brain cancer diagnosis.

INCREASED AND FOUITABLE ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION IN CLINICAL TRIALS

- Define and overcome barriers to participation to ensure every patient has access to a clinical trial.
- Enhance canacity of Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology Oncology Group (ANZCHOG) sponsored trials and adequately support top trial centres.
- . Expand the capacity of the Cooperative Group for Neurooncology (COGNO) trials for adults.
- . Invest in and expand the capacity of known innovative clinical trials of great potential - with an immediate focus on GBM AGILE and ZERO Childhood Cancer.
- . Ensure research (domestic and international) is integrated with existing platforms and data collections.
- . Open a grant program for innovative clinical trials capable of supporting international collaborations

EXPANDED RESEARCH PLATFORMS AND **TECHNOLOGIES**

- Build a national bio-banking, laboratory, registry data management capacity for the entire patient cohort.
- Upscale existing pre-clinical technologies and platforms. including animal and in-vitro modelling capacity,
- immunotherapy, proteomics and genomics. Explore opportunities to encourage the biopharmaceutica industry to collaborate on drug discovery and trial new
- drugs in children Identify drugs of potential, and ensure access to new
- drugs by adults and children.

INCREASED RESEARCHER CAPACITY AND EXCELLENCE

- Establish a new centre for basic and clinical research excellence in paediatric and adult brain cancer.
- Support protected research time for clinicians through targeted PhD scholarships, postdoctoral and senior researcher and practitioner fellowships.
- Build domestic research talent through a contestable grant program for innovative research capable of supporting international research collaborations.
- Support and expand the Brain Cancer Discovery Collaborative to include all centres of brain tumour research excellence and entice new talent



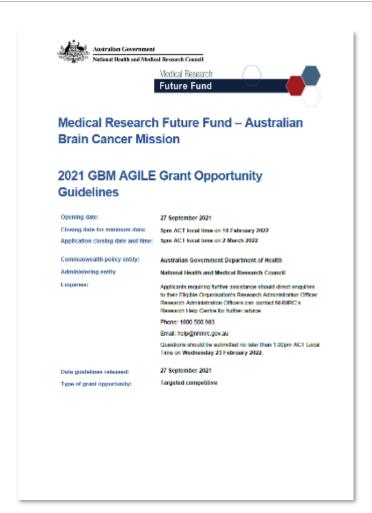






Objective:

 improve outcomes for Australians diagnosed with brain cancer (specifically glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) by leading, co-ordinating and managing the implementation and evaluation of the Australian arm of the GBM AGILE clinical trial.





Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission

- The Mission is an initiative of the Medical Research Future Fund and is providing \$125 million over 10 years from 2018-19 to support research on new approaches to mental health prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment and recovery.
- To date, the Mission has provided \$64.81 million in funding for 18 mental health research projects.
- Investments from the Mission have been guided by the Mission's Roadmap and the Mission's former Expert Advisory Panel led by Professor Shitij Kapur and Professor Helen Milroy

Review of the Million Minds Mission and EAP



The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) is undertaking a review of the Mission - final report due at the end of 2021.

As part of the evaluation process, the UTS team will approach mental health stakeholders to conduct a consultation feedback, including an online survey, regarding the Mission.

Next steps for the Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission

Some key activities are currently underway that will inform the future of the Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission (the Mission).

Expression of Interest for the next Expert Advisory Panel

The Mission is an initiative of the Medical Research Future Fund and is providing \$125 million over 10 years from 2018-19 to support research on new approaches to mental health prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and recovery.

To date, investments from the Mission have been guided by a Roadmap developed by the <u>former Expert Advisory Panel</u> (EAP) led by Professor Shittij Kapur and Professor Helen Milroy.

To advise on priority areas for investment for the remainder of the Mission, we are inviting applications from people interested in becoming a member of the next EAP.

The role of the EAP will be to define evidence and knowledge gaps that should be addressed through the Mission's remaining funding to assist in transforming mental health care and mental health outcomes for individuals and communities

The EAP will be supported in their deliberations by the findings of the evaluation of the Mission that is currently underway (see below).

We are seeking applicants with experience in a range of areas related to mental health, including:

- mental health researchers, including those with expertise in the mental health needs of vulnerable populations
- · mental health clinicians, including those with experience working with vulnerable populations
- · Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with mental health expertise
- · rural and remote mental health researchers and clinicians
- · mental health consumer representatives with lived experience of mental ill-health
- . those involved in the translation of mental health research into practice or policy.

Find out more about the Expression of Interest.

Applications close 9am (AEDT) Friday, 26 November 2021

Review of the Mission

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) has been contracted to undertake a review of the Mission with the final report of the evaluation due at the end of 2021.

The findings of the evaluation report will be provided to the newly-appointed EAP in early 2022.

As part of the evaluation process, the UTS team will approach mental health stakeholders to conduct a consultation feedback, including an online survey, regarding the Mission.

An Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) is being established

The EAP will be supported by the findings of the evaluation of the Mission that is currently underway

Applications close on **9am** (AEDT) **26 November 2021.**

Information on how to apply is at:

https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publica ons/expression-of-interest-mrff-million-minds mental-health-research-mission-expertadvisory-panel



Expression of Interest – MRFF Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission Expert Advisory Panel

Background and instructions

The Department of Health is inviting applications from people interested in becoming a member of the next Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission (the Mission) Expert Advisory Ranel (EAP).

The Mission is an initiative of the <u>Medical Research Future Fund (MBFF)</u> and is providing \$125 million over 10 years from 2018–19 to support research on new approaches to mental health prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

The role of the EAP is to define evidence and knowledge gaps that should be addressed through Mission research funding to assist in transforming mental health care and mental health outcomes for individuals and communities.

In line with the MRFF Mission Governance document, the EAP is to provide the Minister for Health and Aged Care with advice on the priorities for research investment through the Mission by refreshing the assisting roadmap and by developing an implementation plan.

The EAP requires diversity of membership, skills and backgrounds to enable it to meet its objectives. We are seeking applicants with experience in a range of areas related to mental health. This may include:

- mental health researchers, including those with expertise in the mental health needs
 of vulnerable populations
- mental health clinicians, including those with experience working with vulnerable populations
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with mental health expertise
- · rural and remote mental health researchers and clinicians
- · mental health consumer representatives with lived experience of mental ill-health
- . those involved in the translation of mental health research into practice or policy.

Applicants must be residents of Australia. Members from the Mission's previous advisory panel may apply.

Appointed members of the EAP will be ineligible to apply for funding from the Mission's grant opportunities that open during the term of the EAP and for one year following the cessation of the EAP. Members will be able to apply for MRFF grant opportunities outside of the Mission during this time.

The EAP is expected to be appointed from early 2022 and will conclude following the finalisation of the roadmap and implementation plan.

Department of Health - Expression of Interest - MRFF Million Minds EAP - 22 October 2021





- MRFF Performance Audit by the Australian National Audit Office
- Investment Funds Legislative Amendments Bill
- MRFF Eligible Organisations at NHMRC
- Accelerator grants
- Website updates



MRFF Updates

MRFF Performance Audit by the Australian National Audit Office

- Concluded in August 2021
- Three key recommendations, accepted by the Department
- More information on the Department's response can be found here: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/medical-research-future-fund-outcomes-of-performance-audit-by-the-australian-national-audit-office-anao

Investment Funds Legislation Amendments Bill

- Introduced in Parliament 25 August 2021
- Proposes changes to the MRFF Act
- More information can be found here: https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/08/proposed-changes-to-the-medical-research-future-fund-act-2015.pdf



MRFF Updates

MRFF Eligible Organisations (MRFF EO) at NHMRC

- Organisations can apply to NHMRC to become an MRFF Eligible Organisation.
- Separately identified in NHMRC's grant management system from NHMRC Administering Institutions (Als).
- Further information:
- https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/mrff-eligible-organisations
- https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/manage-your-funding/mrff-eligible-organisations

MRFF Accelerator Grants

- Large scale research projects (up to \$5M funding for up to 5 years)
- Drive implementation of substantial improvements to health care and/or health system effectiveness
- More information: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/mrff-accelerator-grants



MRFF Website - updates

Frequent updates to the MRFF website to:

- promote MRFF grant opportunities and outcomes
- ensure information is consistent, timely and accurate
- increase awareness and understanding of the MRFF

Refresh undertaken to make information more user friendly and comprehensive:

- initiative pages have been updated to make it easier for readers to find information about grant opportunities and awarded grants
- expanded grant reporting information

Next webinar



Expected – March 2022 [date TBC]

- Will cover:
 - Accelerator grants
 - Innovation grants
 - Other MRFF updates



Nominate topics by writing to MRFF@health.gov.au



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Invite us to give a presentation or discuss ideas

MRFF@health.gov.au

Or contact Dr Masha Somi, Branch Head



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Useful resources

- Note Information on various on MRFF web pages have been moved around but no information has been removed.
- MRFF grant calendar Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grant opportunities and their status: <u>www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/medical-research-future-fund/mrff-grant-opportunities-calendar</u>
- MRFF grant recipient list information of about funded grants: www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/medical-research-future-fund-mrff-grant-recipients
- MRFF projects more detailed information about some MRFF funded projects: https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/medical-research-future-fund/mrff-projects
- MRFF resources constantly updated page of publications and videos about the MRFF: https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/medical-research-future-fund/mrff-resources
- MRFF webinar quarterly presentation to all stakeholders about the MRFF. Latest one at: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/medical-research-future-fund-webinar-21-july-2021





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Thank you for your time

Questions?

