



Australian Government  
Department of Health



# Medical Research Future Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-year Investment Plan 2022-23 to 2031-32

## OVERVIEW

The Australian Government has committed \$6.3 billion for health and medical research through the 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-year Investment Plan (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan) for the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan provides funding for 21 initiatives between 2022-23 and 2031-32, to support lifesaving research, create jobs, strengthen the local industry base for commercialising research and innovation, and further grow Australia’s reputation as a world leader in medical research.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan builds on investments (actual and committed) made through the 1<sup>st</sup> 10-year Investment Plan, which was announced in the 2019-20 Budget and totalled \$5.1 billion from 2018-19 to 2027-28. Commitments made in the 1<sup>st</sup> 10-year Investment Plan will be carried forward and remain available for expenditure as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan provides flexibility for the MRFF to continue to be responsive to emerging health challenges while maintaining focus on addressing key health challenges. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan continues a strong focus on funding activities that will stimulate health and medical research across the entire research, translation and commercialisation pipeline.

## CONTEXT

Developing new drugs, devices, treatments and cures can take more than a decade. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan gives researchers and industry certainty and direction so that they can address areas of unmet need and excel in collaborative and transformative research.

MRFF activities are based on national priorities identified by the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board following a national consultation process. Activities put patients at the core and focus on translating research into practice so that all Australians can benefit.

## FUNDING THEMES AND INITIATIVES

MRFF funding is directed into 4 themes:

 Patients	This theme aims to bring benefits to patients, including supporting life-changing clinical trials, funding innovative treatments and advanced health care and medical technologies
 Research Missions	MRFF Research Missions (Missions) are large programs of work that bring together key researchers, health professionals, stakeholders, industry partners and patients to tackle big health challenges
 Researchers	This theme aims to support Australian researchers, including to help build their skills and capacity, support their research in priority areas and assist them to develop and bring new research discoveries to the market
 Research Translation	This theme aims to translate research outcomes into practice by building the evidence base to support the adoption of best practice care in to health care delivery

There are 21 initiatives under these themes, funded over 10 years to harness innovation, provide vital infrastructure, improve patient outcomes, and generate jobs and economic growth.

Today’s research is tomorrow’s health care. There is no better way to ensure Australians receive the highest quality health care than by investing in Australian medical research.

		2022– 2023 \$m	2023– 2024 \$m	2024– 2025 \$m	2025– 2026 \$m	2026– 2027 \$m	2027– 2028 \$m	2028– 2029 \$m	2029– 2030 \$m	2030– 2031 \$m	2031– 2032 \$m	Total over 10 years
<b>Patients</b> 	<b>Patients theme total</b>	147.5	141.5	138.0	138.0	138.0	138.0	138.0	138.0	138.0	138.0	<b>\$1,393.0 million</b>
	Clinical Trials Activity	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	\$750.0 million
	Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research	69.5	63.5	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	\$613.0 million
	Global Health	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	\$30.0 million

		2022– 2023 \$m	2023– 2024 \$m	2024– 2025 \$m	2025– 2026 \$m	2026– 2027 \$m	2027– 2028 \$m	2028– 2029 \$m	2029– 2030 \$m	2030– 2031 \$m	2031– 2032 \$m	Total over 10 years
<b>Research Missions</b> 	<b>Missions theme total</b>	161.9	148.0	148.0	138.0	138.0	153.0	153.0	153.0	153.0	153.0	<b>\$1,498.9 million</b>
	Australian Brain Cancer Mission <sup>1</sup>	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	Extension subject to evaluation					\$25.0 million
	Cardiovascular Health Mission	24.0	25.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	Extension subject to evaluation			\$149.0 million
	Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	Extension subject to evaluation			\$122.5 million
	Genomics Health Futures Mission	54.9	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	41.2	Extension subject to evaluation				\$296.1 million
	Indigenous Health Research Fund	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	Extension subject to evaluation			\$87.5 million
	Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission	25.0	15.0	20.0	10.0	10.0	5.0	Extension subject to evaluation				\$85.0 million
	Stem Cell Therapies Mission	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	Extension subject to evaluation				\$108.0 million
	Traumatic Brain Injury Mission	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	Extension subject to evaluation			\$35.0 million

<sup>1</sup> The total allocation to the Mission since 2018-19 is \$136.66 million (including \$76.4 million in philanthropic contributions and \$10.26 million from other MRFF initiatives).

		2022– 2023 \$m	2023– 2024 \$m	2024– 2025 \$m	2025– 2026 \$m	2026– 2027 \$m	2027– 2028 \$m	2028– 2029 \$m	2029– 2030 \$m	2030– 2031 \$m	2031– 2032 \$m	Total over 10 years
<b>Researchers</b>	<b>Researchers theme total</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>116.8</b>	<b>125.2</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>134.8</b>	<b>134.8</b>	<b>134.8</b>	<b>134.8</b>	<b>134.8</b>	<b>134.8</b>	<b>\$1,288.2 million</b>
	Clinician Researchers	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	\$200.0 million
	Early to Mid-Career Researchers	13.4	26.8	35.2	40.0	44.8	44.8	44.8	44.8	44.8	44.8	\$384.2 million
	Frontier Health and Medical Research	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	\$700.0 million
	Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry	4.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	\$4.0 million

<b>Research Translation</b>	<b>Translation theme total</b>	<b>233.2</b>	<b>243.7</b>	<b>231.6</b>	<b>223.5</b>	<b>223.75</b>	<b>213.75</b>	<b>188.75</b>	<b>188.75</b>	<b>188.75</b>	<b>188.75</b>	<b>\$2,124.5 million</b>
	Medical Research Commercialisation	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	\$450.0 million
	National Critical Research Infrastructure	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	\$650.0 million
	Preventive and Public Health Research	71.2	81.7	68.6	60.5	60.75	50.75	50.75	50.75	50.75	50.75	\$596.5 million
	Primary Health Care Research	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	\$100.0 million
	Rapid Applied Research Translation	22.0	22.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	\$228.0 million
	Research Data Infrastructure	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	\$100.0 million

<b>Total</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>650.0</b>	<b>650.0</b>	<b>642.8</b>	<b>629.5</b>	<b>634.55</b>	<b>639.55</b>	<b>614.55</b>	<b>614.55</b>	<b>614.55</b>	<b>614.55</b>	<b>\$6,304.6 million</b>
	<b>Balance over the forward estimates</b>	0.00	0.00	7.20	20.50 <sup>2</sup>	15.45 <sup>2</sup>	10.45 <sup>2</sup>	35.45 <sup>2</sup>	35.45 <sup>2</sup>	35.45 <sup>2</sup>	35.45 <sup>2</sup>	total funding over 10 years
		<b>650.0</b>	<b>650.0</b>	<b>650.0</b>	<b>650.0<sup>3</sup></b>							

<sup>2</sup> Indicative figures based on \$650 million being available in years after 2024-25 (i.e. beyond the Forward Estimates period of the 2021-22 Budget).

<sup>3</sup> \$650 million is carried forward as indicative of an amount expected to be available for MRFF disbursements after 2024-25. An actual amount will be confirmed through the annual Budget process.

## ALIGNMENT WITH THE MRFF STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

The MRFF is established under the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015* (the MRFF Act) as a \$20 billion vehicle for investment in medical research and medical innovation. The MRFF Act provides the legal framework for the distribution of MRFF funds.

The independent Australian Medical Research Advisory Board (AMRAB) determines the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy (Strategy) and the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities (the Priorities). The Minister for Health and Aged Care must take into account the MRFF Priorities that are in force when making funding decisions.

The MRFF Strategy and Priorities inform where the Australian Government directs MRFF investments in research. The MRFF 10-year Investment Plans are the mechanism for implementing the Strategy and the related Priorities and will continue to evolve to address emerging health challenges and respond to the evolution of these guiding documents.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan sets out the Australian Government's plans for the use of MRFF funding, by identifying levels of financial support from the MRFF for initiatives to be funded from 2022-23 to 2031-32. The MRFF initiatives under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan will contribute to outcomes that deliver on the vision, aim and strategic objectives of the 2021-2026 Strategy.

The table below provides a high level overview of how the MRFF initiatives align with the 2020-22 Priorities. This alignment is not exhaustive - many grant opportunities that are offered to address the MRFF initiatives will align with other Priorities.

The 21 initiatives in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan contribute to the strategic objectives outlined in the Strategy to deliver:

- equitable health outcomes through research-informed preventive health and health care across the spectrum from primary to tertiary care, for example through:
  - an 'Indigenous Health Research Fund', which aligns with the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health' priority by supporting Indigenous-led research to improve health outcomes and close the gap on health mortality and morbidity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
  - a 'Preventive and Public Health Research' initiative, which aligns with the 'Public Health Interventions' and 'Consumer-Driven Research' priorities, supporting targeted research into new ways to address the rise in chronic and complex diseases, and encouraging meaningful engagement with consumers.
- 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, for example through:
  - a 'Medical Research Commercialisation' initiative, which aligns with the 'Translational Research Infrastructure' priority by supporting early-stage health and medical research through to proof of concept and commercialisation

- a ‘National Critical Research Infrastructure’ initiative, which aligns with the ‘Translational Research Infrastructure’ and ‘Digital Health Intelligence’ priorities, supporting access to enabling research infrastructure that will facilitate translation of healthcare products and interventions to deliver more effective and efficient health care.
- a skilled and sustainable health and medical research workforce with expertise in research translation, innovation and commercialisation, for example through:
  - an ‘Early to Mid-Career Researchers’ initiative, which aligns with the ‘Clinical Researcher Capacity’ and ‘Translational Research Infrastructure’ priorities by developing researcher capacity during the early- to mid-career stages and providing opportunities to establish sustainable careers in the medical research workforce over the long-term
  - a ‘Clinician Researchers’ initiative, which aligns with the ‘Clinical Researcher Capacity’ priority by supporting healthcare professionals to build and grow research skills and capability in order to improve clinical care and practice.
- a health and medical research sector and health system positioned to respond to emerging and future health challenges, for example through:
  - a ‘Global Health’ initiative, which aligns with the ‘Global Health and Health Security’ and ‘One Health – Antimicrobial Resistance’ priorities by supporting research in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and containment, to prepare for and manage identified and emerging global health challenges
  - an ‘Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research’ initiative, which aligns with the ‘Consumer-driven Research’ and ‘Global Health and Health Security’ priorities, supporting research to translate new preventive interventions, diagnostics and therapeutics into clinical practice to improve patient care and address emerging priority areas or areas of unmet health needs.

The MRFF initiatives reflect the guiding principles set out in the 2021-26 Strategy. These guiding principles recognise the unique role of the MRFF within the health and medical research system in Australia, and are intended to serve as the foundation upon which all grant opportunities arising from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan are designed in order to realise the strategic objectives of the MRFF for 2021-26.

New draft Priorities<sup>1</sup> were also developed at the same time as the 2021-26 Strategy to ensure alignment with the 2021-26 Strategy’s vision, aim, and strategic objectives. The new draft Priorities will replace the 2020-22 Priorities when these Priorities cease to have effect.

Appendix A provides a high level overview of the alignment between MRFF initiatives and the new draft Priorities.

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<sup>1</sup> The new draft Priorities are the Priorities that are to take effect on 6 November 2022. These Priorities had been developed and published on the Department of Health’s website at the time of publication of this Plan, however had not yet taken effect.



2020-2022 priorities	21 MRFF initiatives
Consumer-Driven Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research</li> <li>• Preventive and Public Health Research</li> </ul>
Translational Research Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early to Mid-Career Researchers</li> <li>• National Critical Research Infrastructure</li> <li>• Research Data Infrastructure</li> <li>• Frontier Health and Medical Research</li> <li>• Medical Research Commercialisation</li> <li>• Genomics Health Futures Mission</li> <li>• Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry</li> <li>• Stem Cell Therapies Mission</li> <li>• Rapid Applied Research Translation</li> </ul>
Comparative Effectiveness Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Trials Activity</li> <li>• Preventive and Public Health Research</li> </ul>
Public Health Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventive and Public Health Research</li> <li>• Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission</li> <li>• Cardiovascular Health Mission</li> <li>• Australian Brain Cancer Mission</li> <li>• Clinical Trials Activity</li> </ul>
Primary Care Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary Health Care Research</li> </ul>
Clinical Researcher Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinician Researchers</li> <li>• Early to Mid-Career Researchers</li> <li>• Frontier Health and Medical Research</li> <li>• Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry</li> </ul>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Health Research Fund</li> </ul>
Ageing and Aged Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission</li> </ul>
One Health – Antimicrobial Resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Health</li> </ul>
Global Health and Health Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Health</li> <li>• Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research</li> </ul>
Drug Repurposing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Brain Cancer Mission</li> <li>• Preventive and Public Health</li> </ul>
Digital Health Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Critical Research Infrastructure</li> <li>• Research Data Infrastructure</li> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury Mission</li> </ul>



## FUNDING OVERVIEW

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan (2022-23 to 2031-32) builds on the significant funding allocations to MRFF initiatives under the 1<sup>st</sup> 10-year Investment Plan (2018-19 to 2027-28). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan enables the continuity and refinement of existing programs, as well as targeted investment in new and emerging priorities.

In doing so, it offers assurance to the medical research and medical innovation sector regarding the minimum level of funding that the MRFF will provide over the next ten years, and also certainty and direction on the research agenda, which allows for forward planning.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan demonstrates the Government's commitment to growing health and medical research and innovation in Australia, in order to realise enduring health and economic benefits for the community. A multi-year, long-term approach allows researchers to plan projects, make breakthrough discoveries, increase health efficiencies, and generate beneficial changes to health practice.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan carries forward all of the funding allocated for the years from 2022-23 to 2027-28 in the 1<sup>st</sup> 10-year Investment Plan, as well as committing to additional expenditure, comprised of:

- \$1.547 billion in funding for new initiatives or to enhance existing initiatives from 2022-23 to 2031-32
- \$944 million for extending other existing initiatives beyond the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> 10-year Investment Plan, from 2028-29 until 2031-32
- \$590.8 million for extending existing Missions (subject to demonstration of outcomes via evaluation and assessment of continuing need) or to create new Missions to address emerging priorities, from 2027-28 to 2031-32.

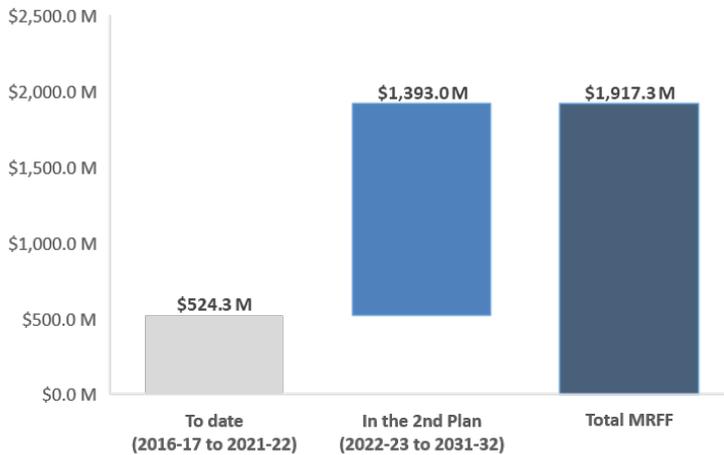
All of the initiatives funded under this 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan will be subject to evaluation over the course of this plan to determine the effectiveness of the Government's investments – [Appendix B](#) provides information on the MRFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy.

Information is provided throughout the plan on the funding allocation for each theme, and for each initiative. [Appendix C](#) provides notes that are relevant to understanding the details provided in this 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan.



## MRFF FUNDING THEME - PATIENTS

This theme aims to bring benefits to patients, including supporting life-changing clinical trials, funding innovative treatments and advanced health care and medical technologies.



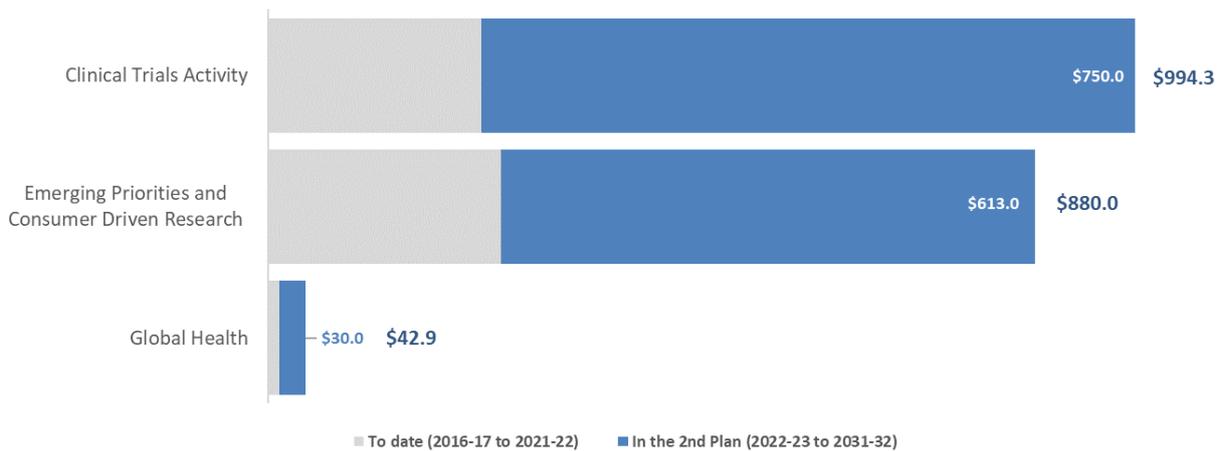
The \$1.393 billion allocated for the Patients theme under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan (2022-23 to 2031-32) builds on the funding already provided since the inception of the MRFF.

Overall, around \$1.9 billion has been made available from 2016-17 to 2031-32.

There are 3 initiatives under this theme:

- Clinical Trials Activity
- Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research
- Global Health

Funding allocation under the MRFF 10-year Investment Plan, since 2016-17 (million)



# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Clinical Trials Activity

### Objectives

The objective of this initiative is to increase clinical trial activity in Australia in order to improve the evidence base supporting clinical care and to help patients access trials relevant to their health circumstances, and enable researchers to bring international trials to Australian patients.

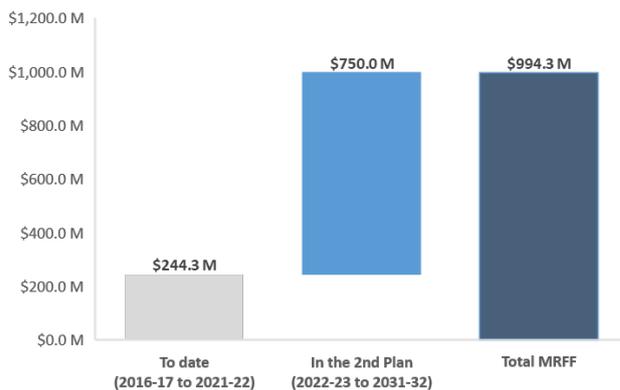
Funding supports clinical trials that test the effectiveness of therapies and treatments and create the evidence needed to improve clinical practice.

Through the 1<sup>st</sup> 10-year Investment Plan, the initiative focused on clinical trials addressing rare cancers, rare diseases, and unmet needs, and on bringing investigator-led international clinical trials to Australia.

Through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan, the initiative’s focus has been expanded through a new stream (Effective health interventions) to enable funding of research projects focused on any disease or condition that meets the objective specified in each grant opportunity. Early priorities through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan include:

- testing emerging therapies and technologies such as the use of molecular testing for targeting treatment and neurostimulation for spinal cord injury
- supporting implementation of proven interventions, diagnostics, therapeutics or models of care that are not routinely used in Australia
- comparing the effectiveness and acceptability of interventions addressing complex chronic conditions and chronic pain.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**18** grant opportunities were completed  
**156** grants valued at  
**\$296.1** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Comparative Effectiveness Research
- Public Health Interventions

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research

### Objectives

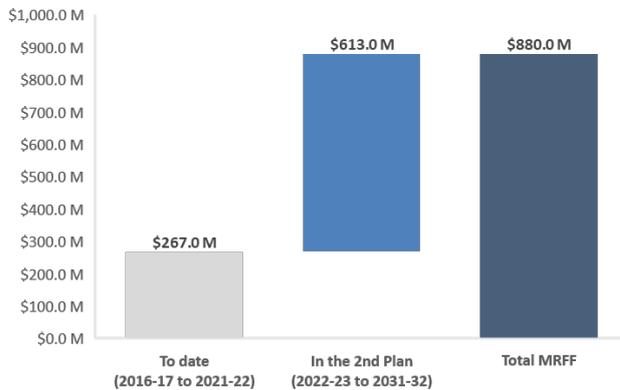
The objectives of this initiative are to support research that improves patient care and translation of new discoveries, and encourage collaboration between consumers and researchers.

Funding supports the development of new diagnoses, treatments and cures, and the translation of new discoveries into clinical practice.

The funding for this initiative will continue to support research on addressing emerging priority health needs and areas of unmet need. Early priorities through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan include:

- development of new approaches, interventions, therapeutics and assistive technologies for multiple sclerosis, chronic neurological conditions and children with developmental delay
- international collaborations, such as through the European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases, to research better and faster ways to diagnose and monitor rare diseases.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**48** grant opportunities were completed  
**92** grants valued at  
**\$339.2** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Consumer-Driven Research
- Global Health and Health Security

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Global Health

### Objectives

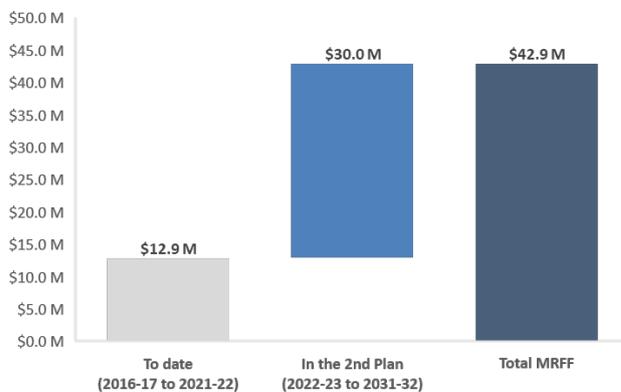
The objectives of this initiative are to develop knowledge and tools for addressing threats to Australia’s national health security from the regional and global challenges of antimicrobial resistance and drug-resistant tuberculosis.

Funding supports Australian researchers to collaborate globally to address shared challenges.

The funding for this initiative will continue supporting international frameworks and capabilities through the generation of new evidence and knowledge, particularly within the Indo-Pacific region, in order to address global health and health security issues. This is expected to lead to:

- a better understanding of global health threats, particularly the rise of antimicrobial resistance and drug-resistant tuberculosis
- the identification of the best ways to address these threats
- the development of tools to fight threats to Australia’s national health security.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**3** grant opportunities were completed  
**9** grants valued at  
**\$16.3** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

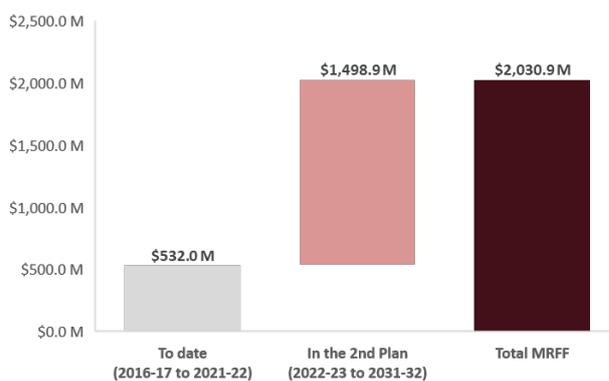
- Global Health and Health Security
- One Health – Antimicrobial Resistance

## MRFF FUNDING THEME - RESEARCH MISSIONS

MRFF Research Missions (Missions) are large programs of work that bring together key researchers, health professionals, stakeholders, industry partners and patients to tackle big health challenges.

Through Missions, this theme aims to:

- tackle significant health challenges
- enable the discovery of new medical interventions, diagnostic tools, treatments and devices.



The \$1.499 billion allocated for the Missions through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan (2022-23 to 2031-32) builds on the funding already provided since the inception of the MRFF.

This funding includes that already allocated for existing Missions from 2022-23 to 2031-32, as well as \$590.8 million to either extend existing Missions that demonstrate outcomes, or create new Missions to address emerging priorities.

The distribution of \$590.8 million of this funding to specific Missions will be determined following an evaluation of the progress of each Mission against the goals and objectives articulated in the relevant Roadmap and Implementation Plan.

Overall, over \$2 billion has been made available for MRFF Missions from 2016-17 to 2031-32.

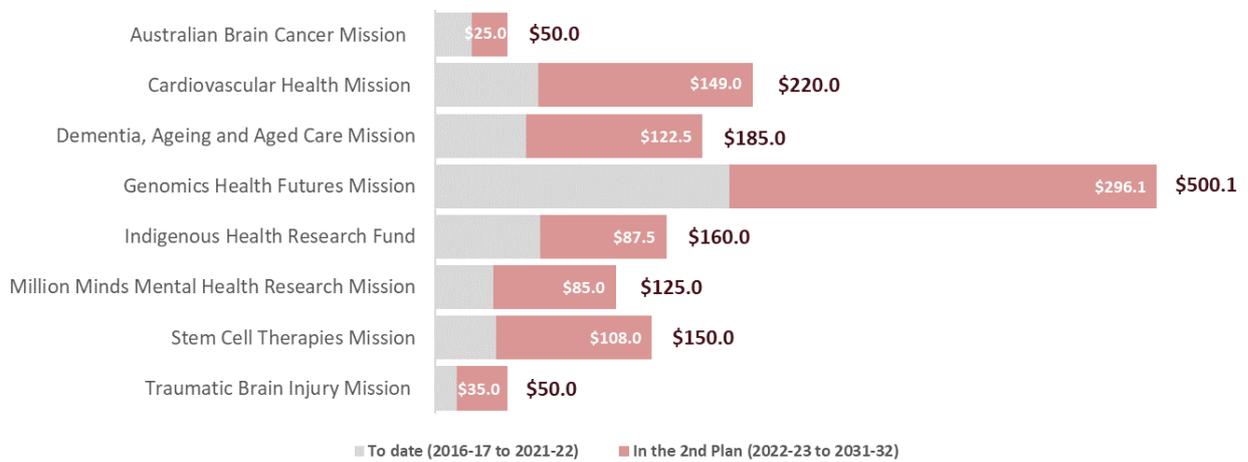
The [MRFF Mission Governance](#) document specifies that Roadmaps and Implementation Plans will guide the Minister for Health in making funding decisions for each Mission. These guiding documents are developed by Expert Advisory Panels established for each Mission and undergo international review and public consultation prior to finalisation.

Consistent with the [MRFF Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation Strategy](#), each Mission will be reviewed to enable an assessment of progress against its aims and objectives.

There are 8 MRFF Research Missions:

- Australian Brain Cancer Mission
- Cardiovascular Health Mission
- Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission
- Genomics Health Futures Mission
- Indigenous Health Research Fund
- Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission
- Stem Cell Therapies Mission
- Traumatic Brain Injury Mission

Funding allocation under the MRFF 10-year Investment Plan, since 2016-17 (million)



# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Australian Brain Cancer Mission

### Objectives

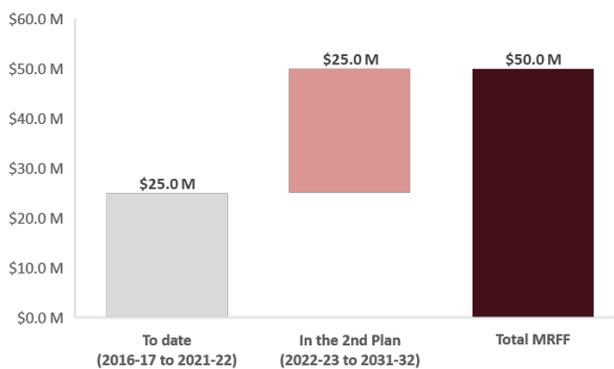
The objectives of this Mission are to:

- double the survival rate of Australians living with brain cancer over 10 years
- improve quality of life for people with brain cancer
- give every patient (adult and child) with brain cancer a chance to join a clinical trial
- boost Australian research and build research capacity.

Funding for this Mission supports research into brain cancer treatment. In the long term, the Mission aims to defeat brain cancer.

The Mission’s next Strategic Advisory Group will refresh the existing Roadmap and develop an Implementation Plan.

### Funding allocation



^The amounts exclude co-funding from Mission Funding Partners of \$76.4 million, and an additional \$10.26 million from other MRFF initiatives related to brain cancer research.

### Grant activities supported to date

**6** grant opportunities were completed  
**8** grants valued at  
**\$21.8** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Public Health Interventions
- Drug Repurposing

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Cardiovascular Health Mission

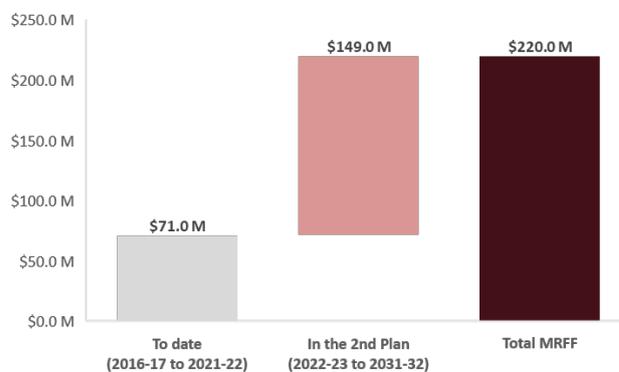
### Objectives

The objective of this Mission is to make transformative improvements in cardiovascular health and stroke management for all Australians.

Funding for this Mission supports research to improve heart health and reduce stroke in Australia.

The Roadmap and Implementation Plan for this Mission were published in September 2021.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**5** grant opportunities were completed

**30** grants valued at

**\$57.9** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022

\*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Public Health Interventions

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission

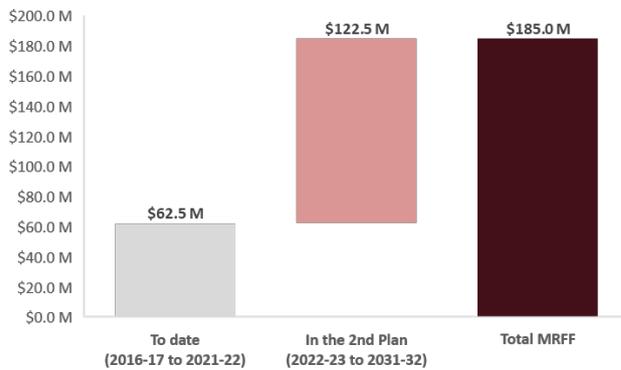
### Objectives

The objective of this Mission is to improve quality of life for Australians as they age.

Funding for this Mission supports research that will help 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.

The Roadmap and Implementation Plan for this Mission were published in September 2021.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**5** grant opportunities were completed  
**27** grants valued at  
**\$40.1** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Ageing and Aged Care

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Genomics Health Futures Mission

### Objectives

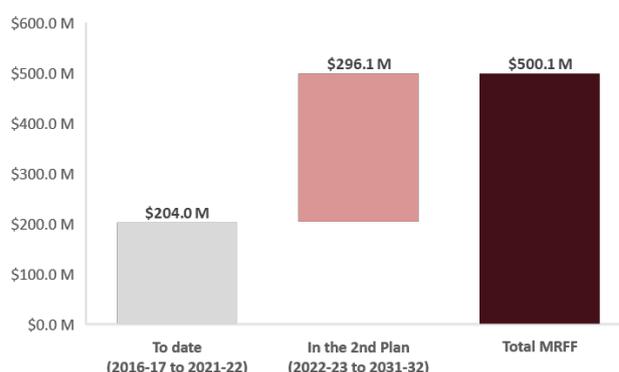
The objective of the Genomics Health Futures Mission is to save or transform the lives of more than 200,000 Australians through genomic research to deliver better testing, diagnosis and treatment. It will:

- help Australia move towards routine use of genomics in healthcare
- support new clinical trials and technology applications allowing Australian patients to benefit from the latest medical research
- create a new highly skilled workforce and new career pathways
- support new industries
- talk with the Australian community to share the value of genomics
- listen and respond to the perspective of communities on issues like privacy, family impact, and the legal and social aspects of using genomics in health care
- support development of secure data storage, access, analysis and sharing to benefit Australians.

Funding for the Genomics Health Futures Mission supports research to improve testing and diagnosis for many diseases, help personalise treatment options to better target and improve health outcomes, and reduce unnecessary interventions and health costs.

The Roadmap and Implementation Plan for the Genomics Health Futures Mission were published in September 2021.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**6** grant opportunities were completed  
**43** grants valued at  
**\$150.5** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022

\*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Translational Research Infrastructure

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Indigenous Health Research Fund

### Objectives

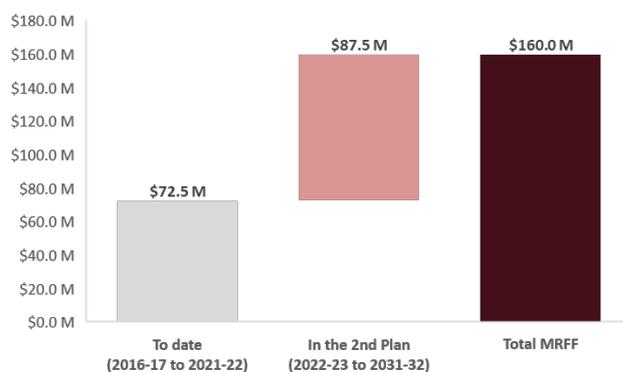
The objectives of the Indigenous Health Research Fund are to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through:

- Indigenous-led research practice and governance
- knowledge translation
- evidence-based structural change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice
- building on the unique knowledge, strengths and endurance of our communities, with particular reference to Country, culture and spirituality.

Funding for the Indigenous Health Research Fund supports Indigenous-led research to tackle health issues experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It aims to improve health outcomes and close the gap on health mortality and morbidity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Roadmap and Implementation Plan for the Indigenous Health Research Fund were published in December 2021.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**3** grant opportunities were completed  
**17** grants valued at  
**\$56.8** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission

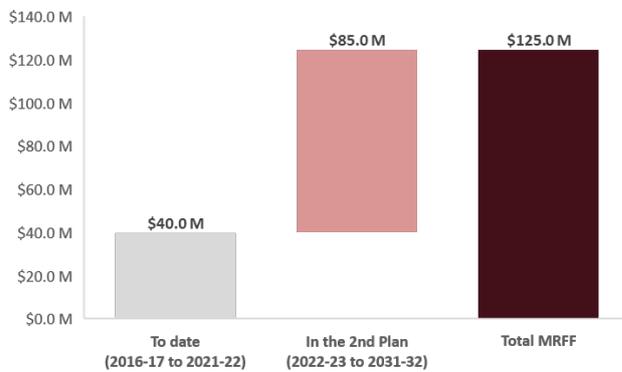
### Objectives

The objective of this Mission is to help an extra one million people be part of new approaches to mental health prevention, diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

Funding for this Mission supports research to improve mental health by translating research outcomes into practice.

The Mission’s next Expert Advisory Panel is to be established in 2022 and will refresh the existing Roadmap and develop an Implementation Plan.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**4** grant opportunities were completed  
**18** grants valued at  
**\$64.8** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Public Health Interventions

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Stem Cell Therapies Mission

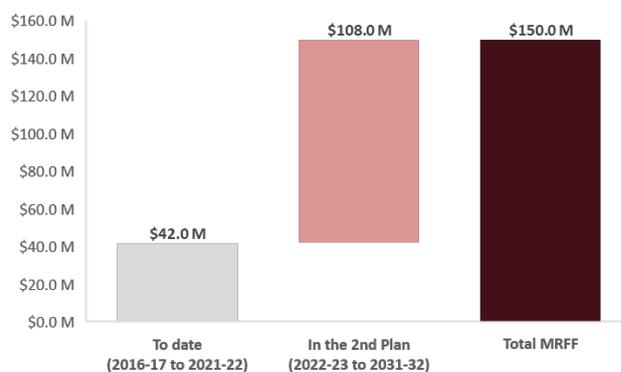
### Objectives

The objective of this Mission is to support world-leading translational stem cell research that develops and delivers innovative, safe and effective stem cell medicines to improve health outcomes, in partnership with patients and carers.

Funding for this Mission supports translational research to develop innovative, safe and effective stem cell therapies to improve health outcomes, in partnership with patients and carers.

The Roadmap and Implementation Plan for this Mission were published in October 2021.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**3** grant opportunities were completed  
**27** grants valued at  
**\$25.6** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022

\*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Translational Research Infrastructure

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Traumatic Brain Injury Mission

### Objectives

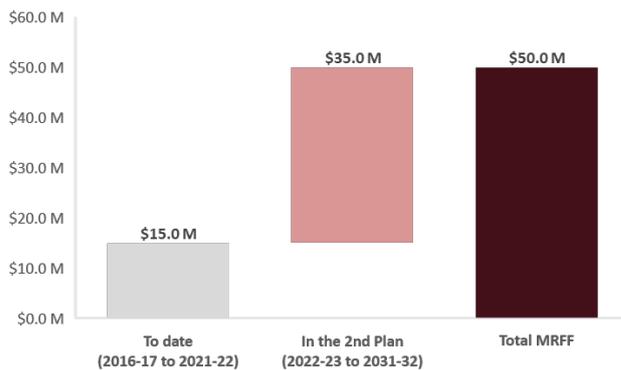
The objectives of this Mission are to:

- better predict recovery outcomes after a traumatic brain injury
- identify the most effective care and treatments
- reduce barriers to support people to live their best life after a traumatic brain injury.

Funding for this Mission supports research to improve patient recovery after brain injury. This includes projects that predict recovery outcomes or identify the most effective care and treatments, to reduce barriers to living the best quality of life after suffering a traumatic brain injury.

The Roadmap and Implementation Plan for this Mission were published in September 2021.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**2** grant opportunities were completed  
**9** grants valued at  
**\$9** million were awarded or announced\*

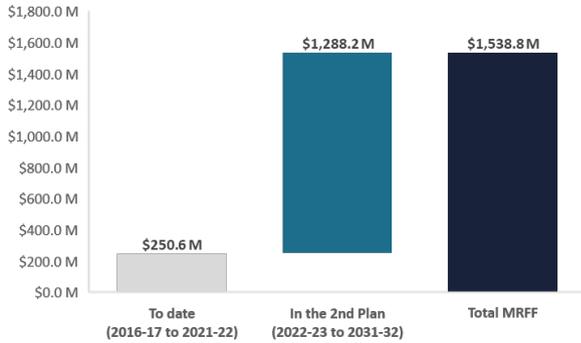
As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Digital Health Intelligence

# MRFF FUNDING THEME - RESEARCHERS

This theme aims to support Australian researchers, including to help build their skills and capacity, support their research in priority areas and assist them to develop and bring new research discoveries to the market.



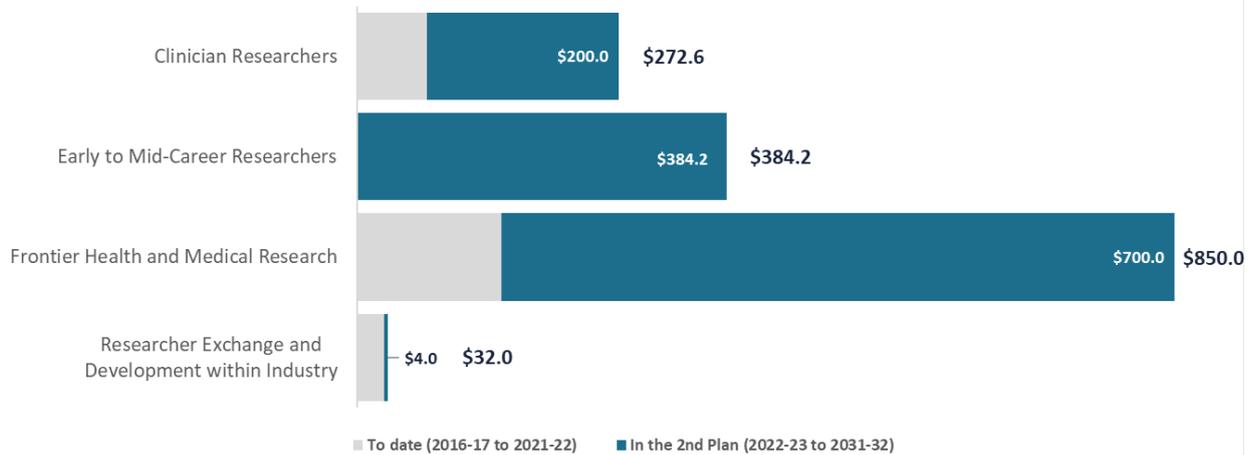
The \$1.288 billion allocated for the Researchers theme under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan (2022-23 to 2031-32) builds on the funding already provided since the inception of the MRFF.

Overall, \$1.539 billion has been made available from 2016-17 to 2031-32.

There are 4 initiatives under this theme:

- Clinician Researchers
- Early to Mid-Career Researchers
- Frontier Health and Medical Research
- Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry

Funding allocation under the MRFF 10-year Investment Plan, since 2016-17 (million)



# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Clinician Researchers

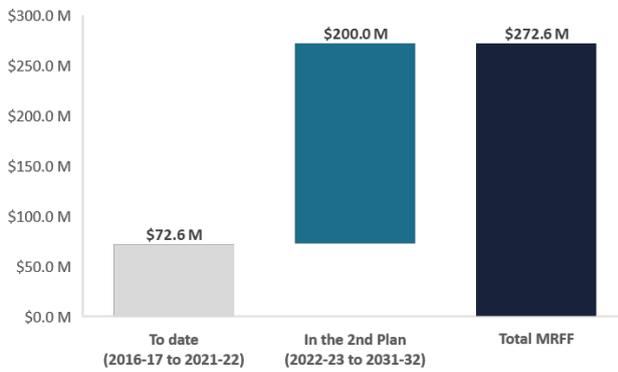
### Objectives

The objective of this initiative is to help the next generation of talented Australian health professionals drive medical research, make new discoveries and ensure implementation of best practice care for their patients.

Funding for this initiative supports health care professionals to undertake research that will improve clinical care and practice, including through engagement with patients.

The funding is also intended to support clinicians to focus on developing and refining their research skills and to build research capacity.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**3** grant opportunities were completed  
**96** grants valued at  
**\$55.5** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Clinical Researcher Capacity

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Early to Mid-Career Researchers

### Objectives

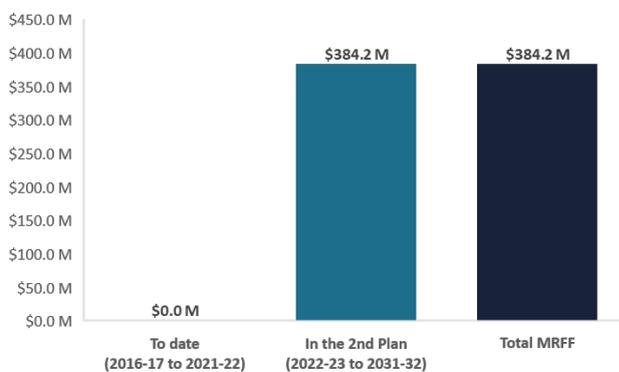
The objective of this new initiative is to build and grow research capacity and capability in Australia by supporting Early to Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) to continue their health and medical research careers.

This initiative capitalises on the new ideas and emerging talent of EMCRs by providing the cohort with dedicated funding streams that enable them to address significant health challenges, undertake novel research, and develop new ideas and approaches. This funding will support emerging health and medical research leaders to:

- make breakthrough discoveries
- address intractable health issues
- accelerate research translation
- develop their skills and progress their careers in Australia.

This initiative was designed on the advice of EMCRs working in the health and medical research sector, including through a dedicated roundtable with EMCRs from across the breadth of the sector held in May 2021.

### Funding allocation



### New initiative

**\$384.2** million allocated

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Clinical Researcher Capacity
- Translational Research Infrastructure

There will be 3 streams within the Early to Mid-Career Researchers initiative:

- **\$84 million** for **early career researchers** to develop and test the feasibility of novel solutions to challenging health issues, by utilising the new **incubator model** that supports early-stage small-scale research projects
- **\$206 million** for **mid-career researchers** to establish large interdisciplinary teams to devise and implement research that will improve health care and/or health system effectiveness, by utilising the new **accelerator model** that funds large-scale programs of work
- **\$95 million** for **accelerated research translation**, providing opportunities for EMCRs to lead co-funded (Government, University/medical research institute, private entity) projects that will accelerate the translation of research outcomes, by utilising a **targeted call for research model** that is conducive to furthering research-industry collaboration and translation into practice.

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Frontier Health and Medical Research

### Objectives

The objective of this initiative is to create opportunities to explore bold and innovative ideas, make discoveries of great potential, and to support the translation and commercialisation of these discoveries to achieve global health impact.

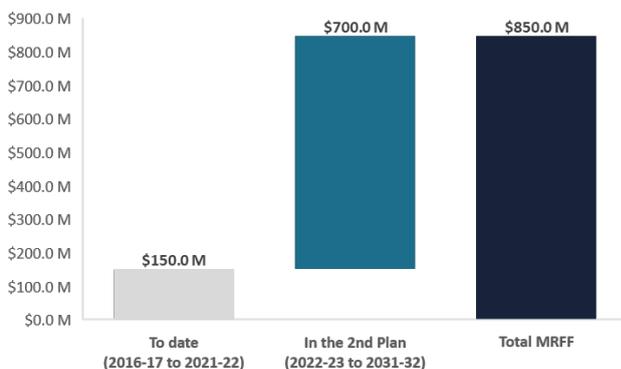
Funding for this initiative will support researchers to pursue big ideas to develop new products and interventions and implement these into clinical practice, benefiting patients, clinicians, and the health system.

Investments made through the 1<sup>st</sup> 10-Year Investment Plan's Frontier Health and Medical Research initiative adopted a stage-gated approach for research translation:

- Stage One provided successful project teams up to \$1 million over 1 year to develop a research plan for a promising new concept
- Stage Two provided successful project teams up to \$50 million over 5 years to implement their research plans at scale.

Investments through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan will continue to support researchers to generate novel and meaningful solutions to intractable health issues that are of importance to patients, their families and carers, leading to a tangible impact on Australian health outcomes.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**12** grant opportunities were completed  
**44** grants valued at  
**\$171.1** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022

\*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Clinical Researcher Capacity
- Translational Research Infrastructure

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry

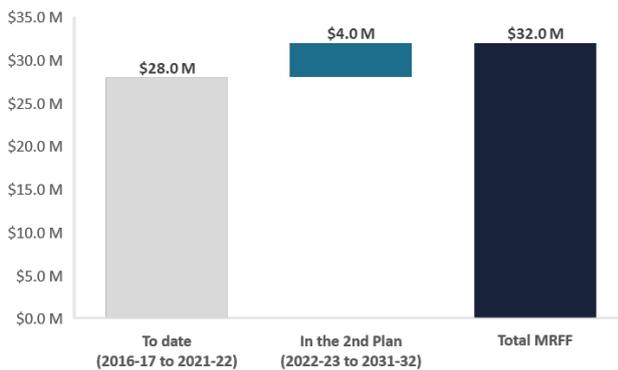
### Objectives

The objective of this initiative is to foster partnerships between industry, universities, registered training organisations and governments, and strengthen Australia’s success in research translation and commercialisation.

Funding is used to provide researchers with:

- industry placements
- mentoring
- exchange programs
- exposure to entrepreneurialism
- skills in research translation and commercialisation
- a diverse range of experiences beyond the research lab.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

1 grant opportunities were completed  
 1 grant valued at  
**\$32.0 million** was awarded or announced\*

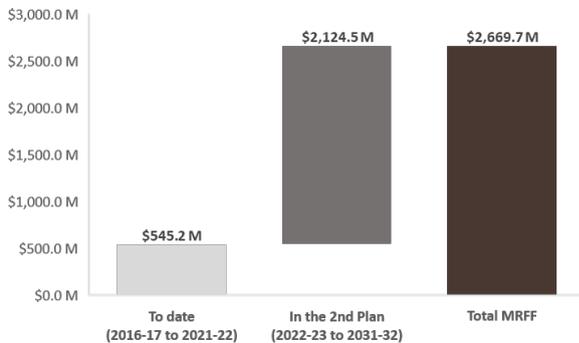
As of 21 January 2022  
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### Key alignment with Priorities

- Clinical Researcher Capacity
- Translational Research Infrastructure

## MRFF FUNDING THEME - RESEARCH TRANSLATION

This theme aims to translate research outcomes into practice by building the evidence base to support the adoption of best practice care into health care delivery.



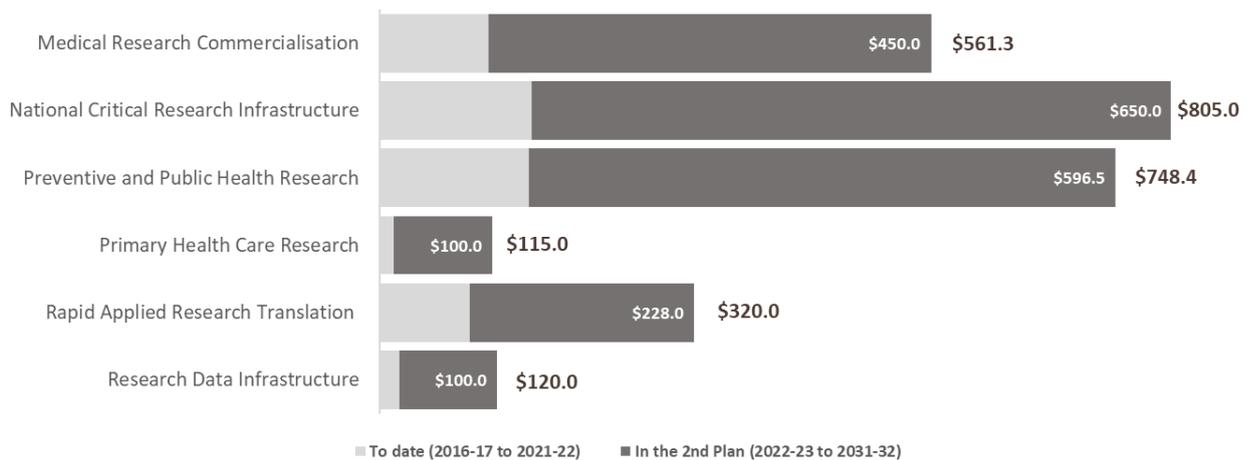
The \$2.125 billion allocated for the Translation theme under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan (2022-23 to 2031-32) builds on the funding already provided since the inception of the MRFF.

Overall, \$2.670 billion has been made available from 2016-17 to 2031-32.

There are 6 initiatives under this theme:

- Medical Research Commercialisation
- National Critical Research Infrastructure
- Preventive and Public Health Research
- Primary Health Care Research
- Rapid Applied Research Translation
- Research Data Infrastructure

Funding allocation under the MRFF 10-year Investment Plan, since 2016-17 (million)



# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Medical Research Commercialisation

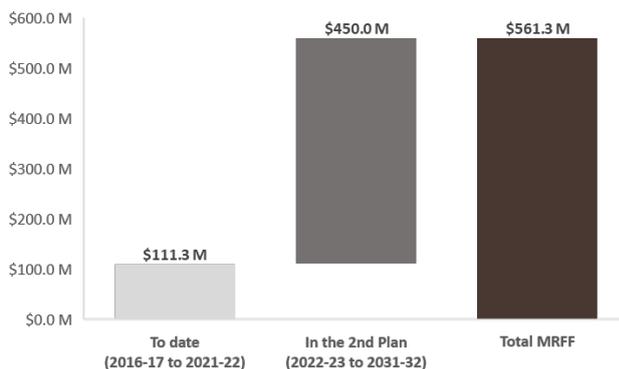
### Objectives

The objective of this initiative is to support early-stage health and medical research and innovation in Australia through to proof-of-concept and beyond, providing opportunities for commercialisation.

This initiative will build on previous support for projects with commercial potential (particularly from small and medium-sized enterprises), with a focus on supporting research discoveries, including for novel or repurposed drugs (preclinical and clinical), devices and digital health technologies, as they progress from proof of concept through to clinical implementation.

Early investments through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan include an ‘incubator’ style funding model that will be used to support and nurture early-stage medical research and medical innovation projects with commercial potential.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**4** grant opportunities were completed  
**7** grants valued at  
**\$146.3** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022

\*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Translational Research Infrastructure

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

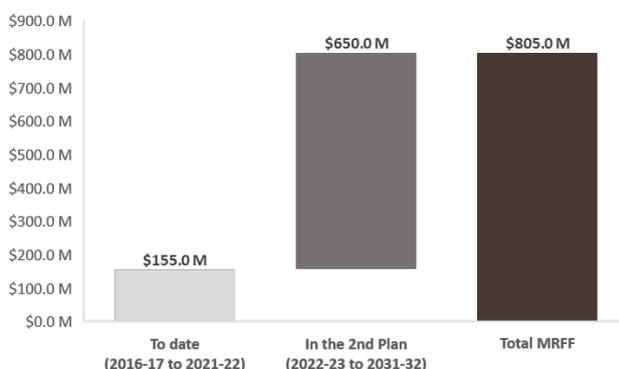
## National Critical Research Infrastructure

### Objectives

The objective of this initiative is to establish and extend infrastructure (facilities, equipment, systems and services) of critical importance that will be used to conduct world-class health and medical research. Through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan, funding will be provided through the following streams:

- innovation enablers – promoting the development and implementation of new research methodologies/applications including ‘omics’-led approaches and enhanced data linkage strategies by supporting development and/or expansion of research enablers such as biobanks, tissue repositories, novel platforms, and secure health data environments to create valuable research resources
- digitisation of health care – developing and translating into practice digital therapeutics, artificial intelligence enabled health interventions and technologies (e.g. wearables), applications or other software for use in clinical practice
- co-investment partnerships – co-investment with the research sector, state and territory governments, and industry in significant critical research infrastructure (e.g. facilities and equipment) to support development of research capacity, capability and/or effectiveness in an area of need or to enable Australian research using new platforms
- mRNA technology enablers – leveraging and enhancing emerging mRNA technologies, platforms and infrastructure to accelerate development of mRNA based vaccines and therapeutics and building the capacity and capability of Australian researchers and developing and enhancing the enabling technologies supporting the mRNA sector.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**4** grant opportunities were completed  
**12** grants valued at  
**\$152.1** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Digital Health Intelligence
- Translational Research Infrastructure

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Preventive and Public Health Research

### Objectives

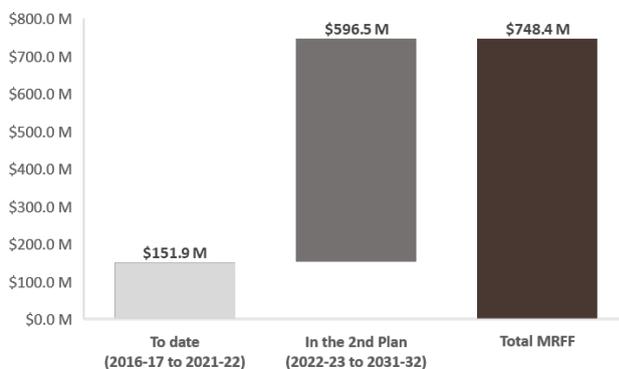
The objective of this initiative is to support research into new ways to address risk factors for chronic and complex diseases in Australia.

Building on earlier investments in preventive and public health research, through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan the initiative will support projects that:

- identify and prioritise research that will most benefit patients and their families (Consumer Led Research, \$100 million over 10 years)
- assess the effectiveness of drugs and interventions, in order to improve the evidence base on the cost-effectiveness and comparative effectiveness of health care and strategies (Health Technology Assessment, \$100 million over 10 years)
- support the development and implementation of strategies and approaches for improving the health of pregnant women, mothers, and young children, particularly those focused on vulnerable populations such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse populations, and people in rural and remote settings (Maternal Health and Early Childhood, \$75 million over 10 years)
- support the development and implementation of strategies and approaches for addressing modifiable risk factors such as diet, physical activity, and smoking, at key life course stages: childhood, adolescence, mid-life, and amongst older people (Promoting Healthy Lifestyles, \$75 million over 10 years)
- improve the quality of care received by Australians living with chronic respiratory diseases and conditions (Chronic Respiratory Conditions, \$65 million over 5 years).

In addition, the initiative will support ongoing investments in the Targeted Translation Research Accelerator, and will support research on the safety, quality and effectiveness of medicines use and medicines interventions by pharmacists.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**13** grant opportunities were completed  
**72** grants valued at  
**\$159.7** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Public Health Interventions.
- Consumer-Driven Research
- Comparative Effectiveness Research
- Drug repurposing

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

## Primary Health Care Research

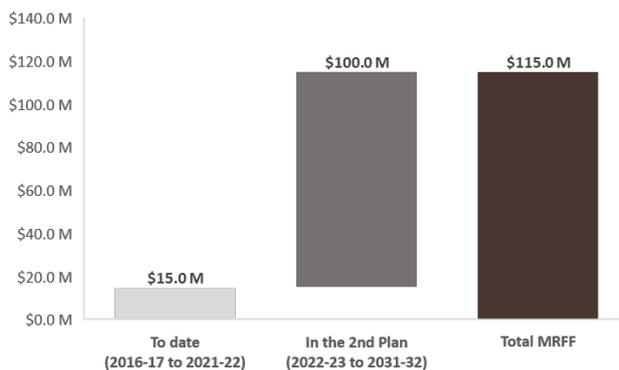
### Objectives

The objective of this initiative is to increase Australia's evidence base in primary health care through research to improve service delivery and patient outcomes, and translate this knowledge into action.

Through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan, there will be a focus on supporting projects that enhance equity of access to high quality primary health care through digital health innovation and that help patients to monitor and control their own health care, support continuity of care and enable health care providers and patients to communicate in innovative and timely ways.

Funding decisions will be driven by meaningful engagement with end users, such as patients, clinicians and health service providers, to address specific needs of Australian populations, including those in rural or remote locations.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**2** grant opportunities were completed  
**11** grants valued at  
**\$13.9** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022

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### Key alignment with Priorities

- Primary Care Research

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

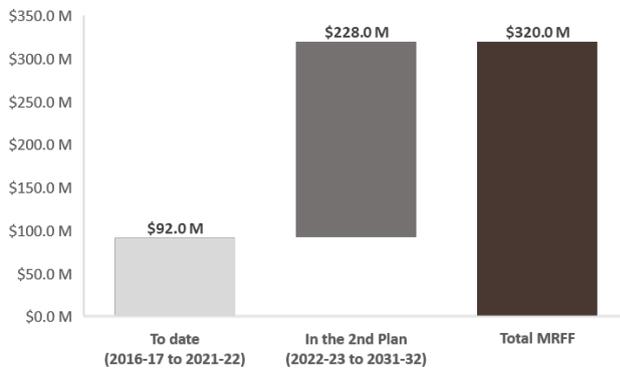
## Rapid Applied Research Translation

### Objectives

The objective of this initiative is to support transformative translational research, so that patients can benefit from better quality of care.

Funding for this initiative supports the translation of research evidence into clinical practice and better quality of care for patients by encouraging collaborations between academic researchers, health service providers, consumers and other end users on projects to improve health care delivery, service and systems sustainability.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**4** grant opportunities were completed  
**36** grants valued at  
**\$126.9** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022  
 \*amount awarded or announced may include amounts payable after 30 June 2022 and may not match funding allocation at the time of publication. Total funding allocated to an initiative is not expected to reduce over the duration of the MRFF 10-year investment plan.

### Key alignment with Priorities

- Translational Research Infrastructure

# MRFF FUNDING INITIATIVE

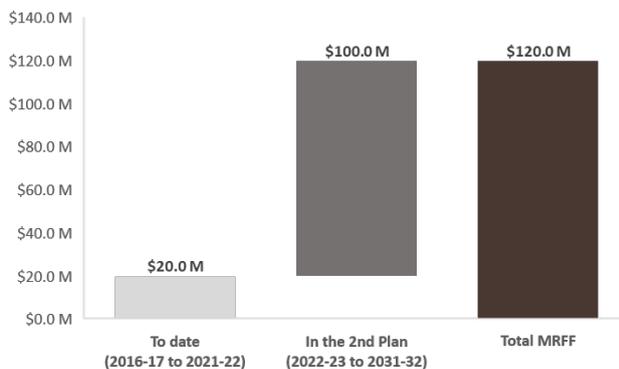
## Research Data Infrastructure

### Objectives

The objective of this initiative is to support strategic investments that establish and extend national research data infrastructure to support world-class health and medical research.

Funding for this initiative supports the creation or extension of national research data infrastructure with a focus on data registries, biobanks and data linkage platforms to enable and enhance Australian medical research. This will include supporting infrastructure that makes evidence-based care easier for health professionals, drives efficient use of resources and advances healthcare.

### Funding allocation



### Grant activities supported to date

**1** grant opportunities was completed  
**7** grants valued at  
**\$12.9** million were awarded or announced\*

As of 21 January 2022

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### Key alignment with Priorities

- Digital Health Intelligence
- Translational Research Infrastructure

## Appendix A: Alignment of the 21 MRFF initiatives with the new draft Priorities<sup>2</sup>

New draft priorities	21 MRFF initiatives
Consumer-Driven Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research</li> <li>Preventive and Public Health Research</li> </ul>
Research Infrastructure and Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Critical Research Infrastructure</li> <li>Research Data Infrastructure</li> <li>Clinician Researchers</li> <li>Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry</li> </ul>
Translation and Commercialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical Research Commercialisation</li> <li>Frontier Health and Medical Research</li> <li>Genomics Health Futures Mission</li> <li>Stem Cell Therapies Mission</li> <li>Cardiovascular Health Mission</li> <li>Rapid Applied Research Translation</li> <li>Early to Mid-Career Researchers</li> <li>Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission</li> </ul>
Comparative Effectiveness Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical Trials Activity</li> <li>Preventive and Public Health Research</li> </ul>
Preventive and Public Health Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventive and Public Health Research</li> <li>Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission</li> <li>Cardiovascular Health Mission</li> </ul>
Primary Care Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Health Care Research</li> </ul>
Health and Medical Researcher Capacity and Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinician Researchers</li> <li>Early to Mid-Career Researchers</li> <li>Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry</li> </ul>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indigenous Health Research Fund</li> </ul>
Priority Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission</li> <li>Clinical Trials Activity</li> <li>Australian Brain Cancer Mission</li> <li>Traumatic Brain Injury Mission</li> <li>Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission</li> </ul>
Antimicrobial Resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Health</li> </ul>
Global Health and Health Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Health</li> </ul>
Health Impacts from Environmental Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research</li> </ul>
Data, Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Critical Research Infrastructure</li> <li>Research Data Infrastructure</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The new draft Priorities are the Priorities that are to take effect on 6 November 2022. These Priorities had been developed and published on the Department of Health's website at the time of publication of this Plan, however had not yet taken effect.



## Appendix B: MRFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy

The MRFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 sets out the principles and approach used to monitor and evaluate the MRFF. It outlines the need for evaluations to be independent and impartial.

The monitoring, evaluation and learning framework is intended to support ongoing monitoring of MRFF grant opportunities to:

- provide information on the impact of the MRFF on the health and wellbeing of Australians
- assess the economic benefits delivered through MRFF investments
- identify ways to further improve support for Australian health and medical research from the MRFF.

MRFF investments are made within a complex landscape of modern health and medical research. Not only is MRFF decision-making underpinned by multiple framework documents (the Strategy, the Priorities and the 10-year Investment Plan) but it is programmatically diverse. It funds activities across the research spectrum, from discovery research to commercialisation and translation of innovative ideas and products, and improved health services. In addition it provides funding for grant activities that range in length (up to 5 years) and quantum (from hundreds of thousands to tens of millions of dollars).

The evaluation of MRFF activities is similarly complex, and faces challenges that other funders with less complex grant programs may not need to consider. In recognition of this complexity, and the need to consider a tailored approach for assessing outcomes, the MRFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy (Evaluation Strategy) sets out principles and an approach for monitoring and evaluating the MRFF (and learning from those activities), rather than a prescriptive methodology. It is an important feature of the Evaluation Strategy that it is subject to periodic review and refinement.

Over time, it is anticipated that each of the initiatives funded through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan will be subject to detailed evaluations.



## Appendix C: Explanatory Notes

The following explanatory notes are intended to assist with understanding certain details regarding the figures in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plan.

- The approach to reporting on the amount available for spending on each initiative is to detail the funding allocation for that initiative. This is the amount that is budgeted to be spent on each initiative across the period covered by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-year Investment Plans. Details are also provided of expenditure to date (grants awarded) as at 21 January 2022.
- References to funding allocations “from 2016-17” reflect that expenditure from the MRFF made before the inception of the 1<sup>st</sup> 10-year Investment Plan in 2018-19 was attributed to relevant initiatives. This has allowed for more accurate reporting on the use of MRFF funds over time. Expenditure prior to 2018-19 is additional to the amounts announced as available for expenditure in the 1<sup>st</sup> 10-year investment plan i.e. there has been no reduction of available amounts for individual initiatives due to this approach.
- Grants administration is complex and, in the case of the MRFF, needs to be responsive to a changing health environment and the emergence of new priorities. In some cases the total value of grants awarded for specific initiatives as at 21 January 2022 might not match the original funding allocation for that initiative at the time of publication of this document. Over the course of the next 10 years these variations will be addressed, so that what is actually spent on an initiative is expected to align with the funding announced for that initiative over the long-term.
- Totals for the number of grant opportunities include both competitive grant opportunities and other (targeted and ad hoc) grant opportunities.
- The number of grants and the total value of grants relate to those that were awarded or announced.
- There were 23 MRFF grant opportunities that contributed to the Coronavirus Research Response. In the sections above, these grant opportunities and resulting grants are recorded against the initiative through which the funds were allocated. Including all relevant grant activities (including COVID-19 research funded from the MRFF) in the value of grants funded from each initiative allows for accurate tracking of expenditure by initiative, so that overall funding profiles can be managed over time to align with amounts provided for in the 10-year Investment Plan.

