



Australian Government



Medical Research **Future Fund**

Genomic Cancer Clinical Trials Initiative Workshop
28 February 2020



Saraid Billiards PhD
Director
Health and Medical Research Office



Australian Government

Medical Research Future Fund

MRFF frameworks



Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015



Australian Government

Medical Research
Future Fund

MRFF 10 Year Investment Plan



Patients

Funding innovative treatments, supporting clinical trials, and delivering more advanced health care and medical technology to improve the health of all Australians



Researchers

Supporting our researchers to make breakthrough discoveries, develop their skills and progress their careers in Australia



Research
missions

Helping researchers think big to tackle significant health challenges through investment, leadership and collaboration



Research
translation

Moving research ideas from the lab to the clinic, so that medical discoveries become part of clinical practice for GPs, specialists and hospitals



Australian Government



MRFF 10 Year Investment Plan



Patients

\$1.3 billion/10 years

- \$614.2m for clinical trials
- 54 already funded

e.g. trial of molecularly targeted therapy for children and adolescents with medulloblastoma



Researchers

\$792.8 million/10 years

- 74 fellowships awarded
- 10 Frontiers projects

e.g. improve pre-hospital care for stroke for better patient outcomes



Missions

\$1.4 billion/10 years

- 8 Missions – brain/neurological; chronic conditions; transformational

e.g. Mackenzie's Mission (\$20m) - 10,000 couples to receive reproductive screening



Translation

\$1.5 billion/ 10 years

- 11 innovations funded to transform care

e.g. vision prosthesis to restore sight



Australian Government

Medical Research
Future Fund

Applying for MRFF funding

- Grant administration services - NHMRC or Business Grants Hub (BGH); all opportunities on GrantConnect
- Assessment panels – national and international representation with a broader range of expertise (e.g. health services delivery and implementation, consumers etc)



Australian Government

Medical Research
Future Fund

MRFF assessment criteria

- Criterion 1 - Project impact (40%)
- Criterion 2 - Project methodology (40%)
- Criterion 3 - Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (20%)
- Criterion 4 - Overall value and risk of the project (non-weighted)

NB: scoring matrix will differ between NHMRC and BGH



Australian Government

Medical Research
Future Fund

Key points

- Read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines
 - Address the objectives
 - Review the funding available
 - Be realistic
 - Understand the assessment criteria and scoring matrix
- One application per grant opportunity (NB: RCRDUN)



Australian Government

Medical Research
Future Fund

Clinical Trials Activity

- Goal: *To increase CT activity in Australia, help patients access CTs, and enable researchers to bring international trials to Australian patients*
- Budget: \$614.2 million/10 years
- Two initiatives:
 - Rare Cancers, Rare Diseases and Unmet Need (RCRDUN)
 - International Clinical Trials Collaborations (ICTC)



Australian Government

Medical Research
Future Fund

RCRDUN

Unmet medical need: where members of the Australian community are living with a serious (debilitating or life-threatening) health condition where there are no satisfactory options for prevention, diagnosis, early detection or treatment of the condition that would support improved health outcomes. In addition, an unmet medical need could arise where there has been little or no progress in the development of tools or therapies to address the condition.



Australian Government

Grant opportunities currently open

Patients

Researchers

Missions

Translation

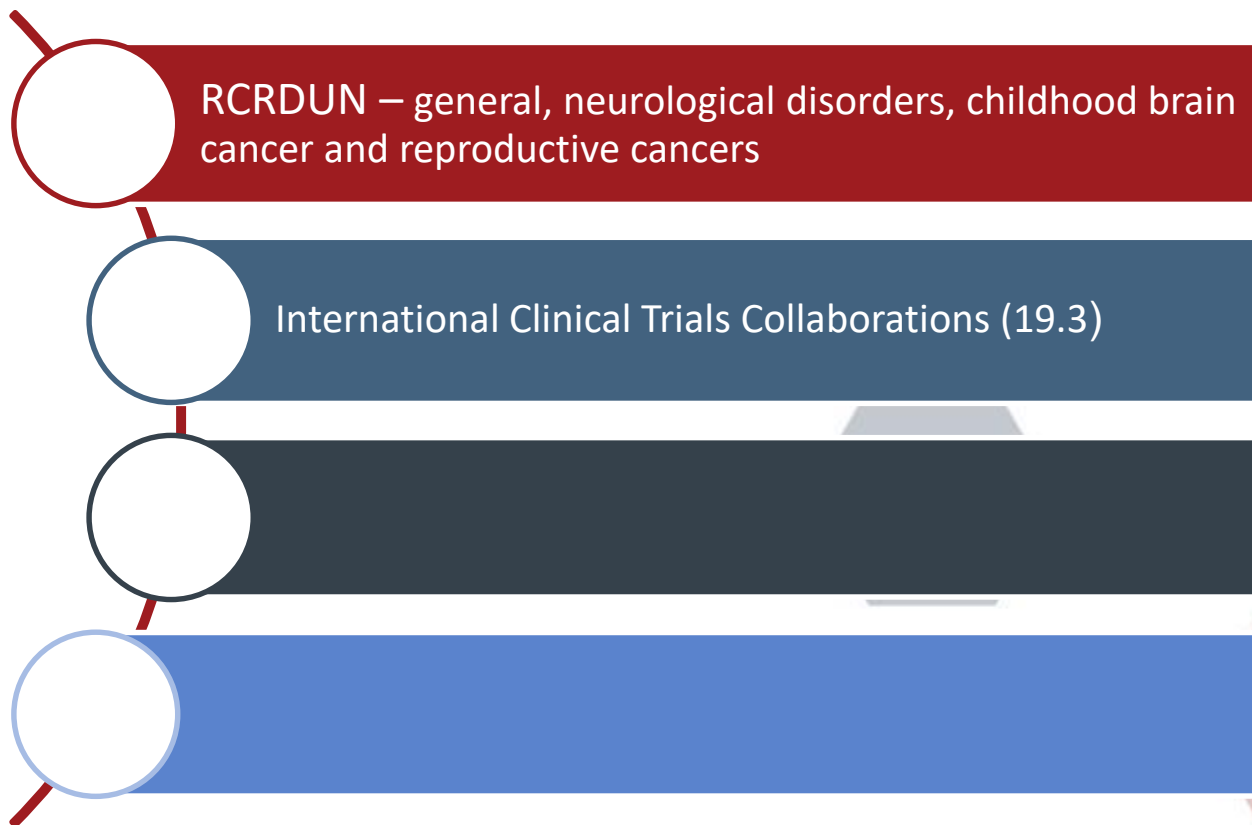
- \$100m Rural, Regional and Remote Clinical Trials Enabling Infrastructure (closes 3 March)



Australian Government

Medical Research
Future Fund

Current CT rounds under assessment





Australian Government

Medical Research
Future Fund

What's next?

- Future CT grant opportunities
 - EPCDR – Medicinal Cannabis
 - MOU with Texas Medical Center - collaboration in the areas of genomics; clinical trials; digital health; and mental health
- Genomics Health Futures Mission draft roadmap
 - Consultation to determine priority setting process
- Policy development/review of activities
 - adaptive CTs
 - CT activity evaluation and consultation



Australian Government

Medical Research
Future Fund

Recently released and to things to watch out for...

MRFF 2019-20
Implementation Plan

Upcoming grant rounds

New policies

New MRFF website

Medical Research and
Innovation Priorities

Medical Research and
Innovation Strategy



Australian Government

Medical Research Future Fund

MRFF website

[Home](#) > [Resources](#)

MRFF initiatives – implementation plan snapshots

This collection contains publications related to the implementation of Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) initiatives and missions.

[Listen](#) [Print](#) [Share](#)



Compiled reports

[Medical Research Future Fund initiative implementation snapshots report](#)

9 January 2020 | Report

[Medical Research Future Fund funding timelines 2019-21](#)

9 January 2020 | Fact Sheet

Individual initiative or mission snapshots

[MRFF snapshot – Australian Brain Cancer Mission](#)

9 January 2020 | Fact Sheet

[MRFF snapshot – Cardiovascular Health Mission](#)

9 January 2020 | Fact Sheet



Australian Government

Medical Research
Future Fund

Thank you

Questions?



GrantConnect – grants.gov.au

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/medical-research-future-fund>

saraid.billiards@health.gov.au