



MRFF Mission Governance

October 2019

Purpose of this document

To outline the governance of Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Missions, from development through to implementation. This includes the roles and responsibilities of the Expert Advisory Panels (EAPs) established to provide advice to the Minister for Health on MRFF Missions.¹ The development of priority areas for research investment will guide Mission investments to ensure that each Mission impacts on future health care.

Background

Expert Advisory Panels (EAP) have been established to provide advice to the Minister for Health on the MRFF's eight Missions outlined in the 10 year investment plan:

- Australian Brain Cancer Mission's Strategic Advisory Group;
- Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission's Expert Advisory Panel;
- Genomics Health Futures Mission's Expert Advisory Committee;
- Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission's Expert Advisory Panel;
- Indigenous Health Research Fund's Expert Advisory Panel;
- Stem Cell Therapies Mission's Expert Advisory Panel; and
- Cardiovascular Mission's Expert Advisory Panel.

An EAP is currently being established to support the Traumatic Brain Injury Mission.

Role of EAPs

EAPs have been appointed to provide the Minister for Health advice on the strategic priorities for research investment through the MRFF Missions. Their role is to define evidence and knowledge gaps that should be addressed through Mission research funding to assist in transforming health care and health outcomes for individuals and communities. This role includes the definition of key research questions that if answered will deliver meaningful change to patients through the translation of research.

EAP Members will consult and engage with other researchers, industry and consumer/patient groups and participate in media and public activities to build awareness of and facilitate interaction with the Mission and with other MRFF funded research.

EAP Membership

EAP Members are appointed by Government to provide advice to the Minister for Health for specific terms. An AMRAB representative will be appointed to each EAP to support the strategic alignment of Mission priorities with the MRFF and collaboration across the eight MRFF Missions.

¹ Note that while this document is to be used in conjunction with the Expert Advisory Group's Terms of Reference, the roles and responsibilities outlined in this document should be taken to supersede those Terms.

Duration of EAPs

EAPs will be established for a 24 month term, unless longer appointments are required to support Mission objectives. The Australian Government can opt to extend the terms of EAPs, should additional activities warrant the continuation of an EAP beyond its initial term.

Key deliverables

EAPs will provide advice on priorities for research investment through Missions by developing a Roadmap and Implementation Plan, including 2-3 questions/goals that investment through the Mission will support and be evaluated against.

Roadmap

A two page high level strategic document for the Mission which will include:

- the aim, vision and goals for the Mission; and
- possible themes and priorities for investment.

Implementation Plan

To support implementation of the Roadmap, EAPs will develop Implementation Plans to outline:

- 2-3 questions/goals that will outline more specifically how the Mission will benefit Australian patients, guide the investment priorities that will achieve this objective, and will be used to evaluate the ongoing progress of the Mission;
- priorities for investment, particularly defining research questions and outcomes for short, medium and long term investment;
- opportunities for leveraging additional investment through philanthropy and other sectors, to support achievement of the Mission's outcomes; and
- activities required to support the Mission's outcomes, and facilitate their longer term implementation, including community and industry engagement.

Public Consultation

A public consultation will be undertaken on the Roadmap and Implementation Plan to enable broad engagement on the priority setting process. The themes of feedback provided on the Roadmap and Implementation Plan, and how the feedback has been incorporated will be published on the Mission website.

Mission Implementation

The EAP will provide the Roadmap and Implementation Plan to the Minister for Health for approval.

The Health and Medical Research Office (HMRO) will use the Roadmap and Implementation Plan to call for proposals addressing the defined questions and expected outcomes.

- Requests for proposals will be published on [GrantConnect](http://www.grants.gov.au) (www.grants.gov.au)
- Grant administration services (excluding peer review) will be managed by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Business Grants Hub.

Proposals will be evaluated competitively through peer review by panels comprising Australian and international experts in the field.

- It is expected that a small number of collaborative programs will be funded for each of the defined questions/goals in each mission.

Following recommendations from the peer review panels, the Government will announce successful recipients.

Declarations of Interest

EAP Members must abide by the MRFF Declarations of Interest Policy Statement. The Statement, and supporting documents, enables members to be aware of their obligation to disclose any relevant interests that they may have, and to ensure that they effectively and consistently manage any conflicts of interest.

Secretariat Support

Secretariat Support for the EAPs will be provided by the HMRO or by relevant policy areas within the Department with oversight from HMRO. The HMRO can be contacted via HMRO@health.gov.au.