Overview of the Medical Research Future Fund

INVESTMENT
The Australian Government will invest $65.9 million from the first round of MRFF disbursements to deliver new medical breakthroughs, enhance patient care, improve health system outcomes, ensure Australia’s health security and drive innovation.

KEY ELEMENTS
- **$20 million** for preventive health and research translation projects.
- **$33 million** for clinical trials that will build on Australia’s world class research strengths and ensure Australia is a preferred destination for research.
- **$12.9 million** for breakthrough research investments that drive cutting edge science and accelerate research into better and new treatments and cures.

RATIONALE
- Health and medical research saves lives and plays an essential role in health system improvement.
- The first MRFF disbursements demonstrate the Government’s strategic and unequivocal commitment to health and medical research.
- The priority focussed research funded under the MRFF will complement ongoing investments under the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the new Biomedical Translation Fund (BTF).
- The MRFF will play a key role in building a stronger, sustainable health system capable of addressing the challenges of today and tomorrow.

DESIRED OUTCOMES
- Life-changing discoveries – new treatments, drugs and devices.
- Continuous improvement and innovation in the health system that benefits all Australians.
- Strengthen domestic research capacity through support, collaboration and the development of expert talent.
- Positioning Australia’s health and medical research sector at the forefront of the innovation economy.
- Enhancement of Australia’s reputation as a global leader in health and medical research.
KEY FACTS

- Through the MRFF the Australian Government will move towards doubling its current investment in health and medical research over the next five years from 2016-17.
- The MRFF will accumulate to $20 billion in 2021 and deliver disbursements of $1.4 billion in the first five years of its operation.
- The MRFF combined with the NHMRC and BTF will see Australia investing over $6 billion in health and medical research over the next five years from 2016-17.
- MRFF investment programs under the $65.9 million include:
  - $18 million to establish a national alliance of clinical trial networks and stimulate new trial and registry activity.
  - $8 million to support fellowships for the next generation of clinical researchers to prime a pipeline of talent capable of innovating healthcare.
  - $7 million to accelerate research efforts in two areas of critical need – adolescent and young adult cancer patients, and adults with Motor Neurone Disease.
  - $10 million to harness the expertise of Australia’s internationally accredited Advance Health Research and Translation Centres and new Centres for Innovation in Regional Health.
  - $10 million to boost preventive health research to provide Australians with the tools they need to adopt good health practices, prevent disease and stay out of hospital.
  - $2 million to work with global partners to expedite vaccine development to be prepared for, rather than react to, the threats posed by pandemics.
  - $5.9 million to tackle antimicrobial resistance by advancing novel treatments to help address this global health challenge.
  - $5 million to transform great new health biotechnological ideas through to proof-of-concept capable of attracting commercial interest.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Program implementation will commence in 2016-17.
- A variety of mechanisms will be deployed to administer programs consistent with the Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015, including utilising NHMRC expertise.
- Where appropriate, open competitive or merit-based collaborative peer review processes will be used. The scheduling of these approaches will vary under each program. Refer to individual factsheets at www.health.gov.au/mrff.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

🌐 www.health.gov.au/MRFF  📧 MRFF@health.gov.au