



E-MAILED
- 4 AUG 2021

**Deputy Premier
Minister for Health; Medical Research;
State Development, Jobs and Trade; Science**

Our Ref: 4-200400

Mr John Van Der Wielen
Chairperson
Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Advisory Council
C/- Research and Innovation Office
Department of Health
PO Box 8172
PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE WA 6849

RIO.DOH@health.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr ~~Van Der Wielen~~ *John,*

**RECOMMENDATION UNDER SECTION 4D OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
FUTURE HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND ACT 2012**

I write to the Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund Advisory Council (Advisory Council) with regard to section 4D of the *Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012* (the Act), which states:

4D. Requirements to be met before FHRI Account applied

- (1) Before making or approving arrangements under section 4C(1) that will operate during a financial year, or applying during a financial year money standing to the credit of the FHRI Account under section 4C, the Minister for Health must —
 - (a) direct the advisory group to make a recommendation on how money standing to the credit of the FHRI Account should be applied during the financial year under section 4C; and
 - (b) consider the advisory group's recommendation.
- (2) A direction under subsection (1)(a) may —
 - (a) include proposals for how money standing to the credit of the FHRI Account is to be applied during the financial year under section 4C; and
 - (b) require the advisory group's recommendation to state 1 of the following —
 - (i) that money standing to the credit of the FHRI Account should be applied during the financial year in accordance with the proposals;
 - (ii) that money standing to the credit of the FHRI Account should not be applied during the financial year in accordance with the proposals;
 - (iii) that money standing to the credit of the FHRI Account should be applied during the financial year in accordance with the proposals as the proposals are modified as specified in the recommendation...

Pursuant to section 4D(1) of the Act, I direct the Advisory Council to provide recommendations to me on how money standing to the credit of the Future Health Research and Innovation Account should be applied during current and future financial years.

Your recommendations will be provided to me when new or renewed Programs and/or Initiatives require my approval. This standing request may be retracted or amended and does not restrict the Minister for Health's ability to request additional recommendations under 4D(1), which may include the conditions contemplated under 4D(2).

I look forward to receiving and considering the Advisory Council's recommendations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Cook', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

HON ROGER COOK MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER;
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

- 4 AUG 2021



189 Royal Street,
East Perth, Western Australia 6004

PO Box 8172,
Perth Business Centre, WA 6849

Telephone (08) 9222 2077

fhrifund.health.wa.gov.au



Western Australian
Future Health Research
& Innovation Fund

Dear Minister

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING FUTURE HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND PRIORITIES

I, John Van Der Wielen, on behalf of the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Advisory Council, of which I am the Chairperson, recommend the Priorities listed in this document for your approval, noting that they will apply to the three financial years 2021/22 to 2023/24.

This recommendation is made in accordance with the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Governance Framework.

Yours sincerely



John Van Der Wielen
CHAIRPERSON

FUTURE HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL

09 August 2021

Proposed 2021/22 to 2023/24 FHRI Fund Priorities

Enhance clinical trial capacity and expertise to improve the quality of clinical trials in WA and make the State more attractive to funders of clinical trials (grant funding and commercial sponsors).

Enhance health and medical research literacy, skills and experience of consumers so that they engage more in research.

Enhance skills in innovation (including commercialisation), which will advance the quality and capacity of innovation in WA and help WA innovators to obtain funding to support their work.

Establish an innovation seed fund to support early stage ideas and enable these innovative ideas to secure follow-on funding from commercial/other funders.

Establish co-funding partnerships that will secure genuinely new non-government funding for research and innovation aligned with Priorities for the FHRI Fund.

Provide cash commitments for submission to major competitive co-funding programs, making Western Australian-led applications more competitive and, therefore, increasing the State's share of national and international competitive funding.

Support the development of early- and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career.

Target high-performing researchers in WA to maintain and/or advance the State's position as a leader in health and medical research.

Address, through research and innovation, key health issues and inequalities for Aboriginal Western Australians.

Rapidly and sustainably build mental health research and/or innovation capacity in WA.



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Western Australian
Future Health Research
& Innovation Fund

Dear Minister

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPLICATION OF FUTURE HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACCOUNT MONEYS DURING CURRENT (2021/22) AND FUTURE FINANCIAL YEARS

I, John Van Der Wielen, on behalf of the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Advisory Council, of which I am the Chairperson, recommend that Future Health Research and Innovation Account moneys be applied to the Programs and Initiatives listed in this document in the current (2021/22) and future financial years.

The following should be noted:

- the number of annual rounds within the proposed Priority duration (2021/22 to 2023/24) have been indicated
- expenditure associated with an annual round may extend over future financial years
- some Programs approved in 2020/21 have expenditure in 2021/22 and future financial years, which also require your approval (these are presented in a separate table after the new Programs and Initiatives).

This recommendation is made in response to your direction, dated 4 August 2021, which is in accordance with section 4D of the *Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012*.

Yours sincerely



John Van Der Wielen
CHAIRPERSON

FUTURE HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL

09 August 2021

NEW 2021/22 Recommended Programs and Initiatives

Programs and Initiatives	Priority alignment	Annual rounds
Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Workforce Advancement Program	Enhance health and medical research literacy, skills and experience of consumers so that they engage more in research	2021/22 2022/23 2023/24
Innovation Fellowships	Enhance skills in innovation (including commercialisation), which will advance the quality and capacity of innovation in WA and help WA innovators to obtain funding to support their work	2021/22 2022/23 2023/24
Innovation Seed Fund	Establish an innovation seed fund to support early-stage ideas and enable these innovative ideas to secure follow-on funding from commercial/other funders	2021/22 2022/23 2023/24
Co-Funding Partnerships Program	Establish co-funding partnerships that will secure genuinely new non-government funding for research and innovation aligned with Priorities for the FHRI Fund	2021/22 2022/23 2023/24
Major Research Application Support Program	Provide cash commitments for submission to major competitive co-funding programs, making Western Australian-led applications more competitive and, therefore, increasing the State's share of national and international competitive funding	2021/22 2022/23 2023/24

Programs and Initiatives	Priority alignment	Annual rounds
WA Near-miss Awards	Support the development of early- and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career	2021/22 2022/23 2023/24
Research Excellence Awards	Target high-performing researchers in WA to maintain and/or advance the State's position as a leader in health and medical research Support the development of early- and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career	2021/22
FHRI Fund Research Chair – Mental Health	Rapidly and sustainably build mental health research and/or innovation capacity in WA	2021/22
Innovation Challenge – Mental Health	Rapidly and sustainably build mental health research and/or innovation capacity in WA	2021/22
Translation Fellowships – Mental Health	Rapidly and sustainably build mental health research and/or innovation capacity in WA Support the development of early- and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career	2021/22
Sector-Initiated Proposals Program	The outcomes of any funded activity must align with one or more Priority	2021/22 2022/23 2023/24

2020/21 Programs and Initiatives with ongoing expenditure

Programs and Initiatives
FHRI Focus Grants: COVID-19
Clinician Research Fellowship (CRF) program
Medical and Health Research Infrastructure Fund
Research Translation Projects
WA Emerging Research Leaders Awards and Near-miss Awards
Enhancing biobank capacity and sustainability in WA
Implementation Science Fellowships: Aboriginal health and Country and regional WA health
FHRI Translation Fellows: Aboriginal health; and Country and regional WA health



**Deputy Premier
Minister for Health; Medical Research;
State Development, Jobs and Trade; Science**

Our Ref: 4-200488

Mr John Van Der Wielen
Chairperson
Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Advisory Council
C/- Research and Innovation Office
Department of Health

Via email: RIO.DOH@health.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Van Der Wielen *John,*

Thank you for your letter of 9 August 2021 in which you recommend FHRI Fund Priorities and Programs and Initiatives for implementation from 2021/22, and expenditure on Programs and Initiatives that commenced in 2020/21. I note that your recommendation regarding Priorities is in accordance with the FHRI Fund Governance Framework and your recommendation regarding Programs and Initiatives is in response to the direction I provided in a letter of 4 August 2021, pursuant to section 4D of the *Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012* (the Act).

I hereby accept all the FHRI Fund Advisory Council's recommendations, as set out in your letter of 9 August 2021 and its associated attachments.

I note that the Advisory Council has adopted Funding Principles for the FHRI Fund, which appear robust and reflect the object of the Act and the FHRI Fund Governance Framework.

I look forward to witnessing the benefits these approved Programs and Initiatives will bring and thank the Advisory Council for its ongoing efforts to progress the FHRI Fund's objectives.

Yours sincerely

HON ROGER COOK MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER;
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

30 AUG 2021



FUTURE HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND FUNDING PRINCIPLES

1. Open and Transparent

Ensure that the application and review processes are open and transparent, widely advertised and accessible to all relevant applicants to be able to identify the highest quality ideas and projects.

2. High-Quality

Implement a competitive and merit-based application and review process, ensuring that the best quality applications are funded, and that funding is only awarded if high-quality proposals are received.

3. Independent Review

Implement independent expert peer review to secure the integrity of the review and assessment process.

4. Partnerships and Collaboration

Give priority to proposals that demonstrate partnerships (whether formal or informal) and working collaboratively with others to maximise impact, including incentivising co-investment from the academic, research, government, private and philanthropic sectors.

5. Consumers and the Community

Ensure that consumers and the community are involved at every stage of the funding, research and innovation.

6. Build Culture

Strengthen the research and innovation culture in WA by investing in researchers and innovators to achieve their career aspirations, who can in turn create an environment, through mentorship and collaboration, which supports continued success.

7. Accelerate and Translate

Achieve impact through accelerating the development of innovative ideas into products or services with commercial and/or implementation potential; and enabling the translation of research into practice and policy.

8. Sustainable Long-Term change

Amplify the impact of the FHRI Fund funding by considering sustainability of the supported proposals post the grant period. Take a system change approach to addressing persistent social, economic and behavioural issues affecting health outcomes, acknowledging that long-term change requires a collaborative approach beyond an individual researcher or project.

9. Review and Evaluate

Evaluate the return on investment for all funded programs on a regular basis to maximise the benefits of the FHRI Fund and demonstrate these to stakeholders.