



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**



Western Australian
Future Health Research
& Innovation Fund

Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Annual Report 2023-24

Statement of submission

Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Medical Research

Dear Minister,

I submit for your information and submission to Parliament the annual report for the Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund for the financial year 2023-24. This report supplements the Department of Health Annual Report 2023–24, which includes details of how money standing to the credit of the Future Health Research and Innovation account was applied during the financial year, in accordance with section 4E (6) of the Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012.

Rebecca Tomkinson

Chairperson

Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Advisory Council

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Health acknowledges the Aboriginal people of the many traditional lands and language groups of Western Australia. It acknowledges the wisdom of the Aboriginal Elders both past and present and pays respect to Aboriginal communities of today.

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Chairperson's foreword

It is with great pleasure that I present the Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund Annual Report for 2023–24.

This is my first annual report for the fund, having been appointed to the role of [FHRI Advisory Council](#) Chairperson in February this year by the Minister for Medical Research, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contributions of Mr John Van Der Wielen who served as Chairperson before me, since the fund's inception in 2020. His leadership has been instrumental in positioning the FHRI Fund as Western Australia's strongest lever for funding health and medical research and innovation, and I look forward to carrying this momentum towards new frontiers.

The fund took great strides forward over the past year, awarding \$92.4 million in grants to drive world-leading health and medical research and innovation through 22 new programs and initiatives. After 4 years of operation, the fund is well and truly established in Western Australia and a performance review of the Advisory Council, expert committees and the Office of Medical Research and Innovation is being undertaken. This will supplement a robust independent evaluation which will be completed in late-2024 to investigate the FHRI Fund scheme's overall performance. Outcomes will be included in the 2024-25 annual report.

The council welcomed renowned Western Australian burns surgeon Professor Fiona Wood AO as a new member, and her experience in research and innovation will prove immensely valuable in strengthening the committee's already diverse expertise. The council will also welcome innovation expert Dr Marcus Tan in the 2024-25 financial year. Thank you to Dr Moira McKinnon, whose term as the regional health expert ended over the past year – her contributions were key in the successful operation and governance of the fund.

The council and I are committed to delivering adaptive and dynamic fund operations that serve the needs of Western Australian researchers and innovators. We have introduced funding cycles to enable greater clarity and certainty for the WA health and medical research and innovation sector, marking the start of each cycle with an open day. These open days are an opportunity to connect with the health and medical research and innovation community, to share ideas and to forge new partnerships.

This year also saw the establishment of the Expert Committee on Aboriginal Health, which will help ensure the FHRI Fund's programs and initiatives are developed and implemented to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal people in WA. I welcome the experience and perspectives of this committee in guiding the activities of the fund.

Preparing for the future

As we look to the future, I am pleased to advise several developments are underway, including work to develop the next FHRI Fund strategy. This work will be led by the Advisory Council and will pave the way towards setting the fund's strategic investment plan over the following years to provide a clear and transparent roadmap for WA researchers and innovators.

We will be strengthening our governance with the establishment of a Research Expert Committee and an Innovation Expert Committee, which will provide expert advice and recommendations to the Department of Health and Advisory Council on activities, matters and emerging areas of opportunity related to health and medical research and innovation in WA.

A new grant management system will be introduced to streamline the grant application and management processes and we will be delivering a Clinical Trials Roadmap that will set the direction for the quality and capacity for clinical trials in Western Australia and inform fund investments to improve access to clinical trials over the next 5 years.

The FHRI Fund has supported almost 600 researchers and innovators in the 4 years since its inception, either through direct grants or support to improve their applications for national funding programs, and many of these talented researchers have gone on to make outstanding progress towards improving health outcomes for the Western Australian community. Just a few of these stories are highlighted in this report, and I'm confident the year ahead will be filled with similar successes.

My sincere thanks go out to all who support the operation of the FHRI Fund, and to everyone that contributes to our state's thriving health and medical research and innovation sector.

Rebecca Tomkinson

Chairperson

Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Advisory Council

At a glance

Spotlight on 2023-24

- 451 applications received
- 170 grants awarded
- \$92.4 million awarded
- 22 programs launched in 2023-24
- 3 co-funding partnerships
- 15 grant review panels
- 69 review panelists including 11 health consumers
- 5 Advisory Council meetings and 3 open days

FHRI fund support 2020-24

- \$173 million total funding awarded
- 598 total recipients
- 67 total responsible entities funded

Career stage of successful applications

- Early career = 21%
- Mid-career = 20%
- Post-mid-career = 22%
- Not reported = 37%

Themes and priority goals

Awarded funds by FHRI Fund Theme:

- 46% focused on platforms
- 24% focused on people
- 30% focused on partners

Funding awarded to top 3 priority goals

- Goal 1: Support the development of early and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career – 13.52%
- Goal 6: Establish innovation programs and initiatives to support topical and early-stage ideas and enable opportunities for these innovative ideas to secure follow-on funding from commercial/other funders – 20.22%

- Goal 7: 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) – 45.72%

Broad research areas

- 38.71% focused on clinical medicine and science
- 25.81% focused on basic science
- 22.58% focused on public health
- 12.90% focused on health services

Based on the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRCs) Broad Research Areas, the NHMRC's research classification for which data has been collected across all grant rounds and schemes since the 1980s.

Top 5 burden of disease research and innovation topics

1. Infectious disease
2. Mental and substance use disorders
3. Cardiovascular disease
4. Hearing and vision loss
5. Type 2 diabetes

Top 5 clinical specialties

- Epidemiology
- Pharmacy
- Audiology
- Physiotherapy
- Respiratory and sleep medicine

Number of grants by program and amount awarded

- 3 x Collaborative centres - \$3.43 million
- 1 x Clinician research fellowship - \$2.85 million
- 3 x Co-Fund Partnership Programs - \$6.82 million
- 2 x Distinguished fellows - \$5.5 million
- 11 x Enabling schemes - \$9.81 million
- 19 x Innovation Challenge Generative AI Applications - \$0.94 million
- 3 x Innovation Challenge Child and Youth Mental Health (Stage 2) - \$4.4 million
- 10 x Innovation Challenge – Sustainable Health Priorities - \$4.06 million
- 10 x Innovation Fellowships - \$1.35 million
- 20 x Innovation Seed Fund - \$9.23 million
- 4 x Major Research Application Support - \$3.24 million
- 1 x National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) - \$2.08 million

- 19 x Research Infrastructure Support - \$25 million
- 13 x WA Cohort Studies – Operational Support Program - \$4 million
- 4 x WA Cohort Studies – Research Support Program - \$2.72 million
- 25 x WA Near Miss Awards (WANMA) Emerging Leaders - \$4.73 million
- 22 x WANMA Ideas Grants - \$2.2 million

To see the full list of initiatives funded over the past year, visit the [FHRI website](#)

In addition to the above programs and initiatives \$350,000 was awarded to implement the FHRI Fund Grant Management System and \$2.25 million was awarded to implementing the WA Health and Medical Research Strategy 2023-2033.

Highlights

Heart innovators never miss a beat

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Australia, but many people do not know they are at risk until too late.

Now, Western Australian med-tech company Lubdub Technologies is developing and manufacturing wearable, point-of-care technologies paired with artificial intelligence to provide patients with rapid, personalised heart health mapping without having to travel to see a specialist.

Lubdub empowers patients to track their heart health from home via a wearable electrocardiogram (ECG) patch, a saliva-based cardiac biomarker test and a wearable echocardiogram (Echo), all with app connectivity, to provide a full picture of their heart health.

Lubdub's co-founders include Fiona Stanley Hospital Consultant Cardiologist Professor Girish Dwivedi, also Wesfarmers Chair of Cardiology at the University of Western Australia (Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research) and Dr Nik Bappoo, co-founder and co-CEO of VeinTech and cardiovascular engineering research fellow at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. Nanoelectronics Professor Sharath Sriram, MedTech specialist at RMIT University is also a co-founder.

Lubdub received \$436,900 from the FHRI Fund's Innovation Challenge - Sustainable Health Priorities grants, which will help them progress their core technology towards initial clinical evaluations.

The company was also a finalist in the 2023 Western Australia Innovator of the Year award.

Supporting Western Australian innovation is a priority for the FHRI Fund, with work underway to establish an Innovation Expert Committee and the appointment of Dr Marcus Tan as the FHRI Fund Advisory Council member with innovation expertise.

Consumer and community at the heart of research

Consumer and community involvement in health and medical research and innovation ensures people's lived experiences and perspectives shape decisions about research priorities, policy and practice.

Consumer and community involvement occurs when consumers and community members work in partnership with researchers, innovators, clinicians, government

agencies, policy makers and funding bodies to enhance research and innovation outcomes.

Consumer and community members are an integral part of the research and innovation process, allowing for greater transparency, openness, and accountability for the work underway to ensure it is relevant to the needs of the community.

In 2023-24, 11 consumer and community involvement representatives participated in 15 grant review panels.

The FHRI Fund is supporting the Curtin Consumer-led Research Education and Support Training Program (CREST) who is piloting an online training program to help consumers and community members gain the skills to co-design and lead health projects in partnership with researchers and stakeholders.

In addition, a consumer and community involvement coordinator employed by the Western Australian Health Translation Network CCI Program is based at the at the Department of Health's Office of Medical Research and Innovation to provide advice about best practice consumer engagement across research and innovation.

Consumer and community involvement is actively embedded into FHRI Fund programs and initiatives in acknowledgement of the clear impact to improved health and wellbeing outcomes from research and innovation activities.

Enabling research impact through lived experience

After her daughter was diagnosed with cancer in 2007, Margaret wanted to use her lived experience to help the researchers who were seeking new ways to prevent and cure this disease.

Margaret completed consumer training through the Consumer and Community Involvement Program, allowing her to serve on the Consumer Advisory Council at the Child and Adolescent Health Service. She then took on the position of co-chairing the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre Community Reference Group and offered her expertise to several committees – including the National COVID-19 Consumer Advisory Council, the Consumer Advisory Council for Telethon Kids Institute, and the Development Pathways Project.

Margaret reported “For research to be truly effective, there need to be a strong partnership between researchers and consumers so that the needs of the community are incorporated into the research direction and outcomes,”

As consumer buddy, Margaret now works directly with researchers, supporting health and medical research projects from design to translation. Through her lived experience of

caring for someone with cancer she provides advice that helps to scope and refine projects, assists with grant applications, media releases, and helps research teams secure vital long-term funding.

In her words, Margaret said “consumer involvement was meaningful for everyone involved because the aim of research was to find new ways to save lives”.

Margaret is currently working with a team led by Chief Investigator Dr Jason Waithman, funded by a State Government WA Child Research Fund grant, which is investigating a novel adoptive cell therapy strategy for the treatment of sarcoma, a rare cancer that can grow in connective tissue such as bones, nerves, muscles, tendons, cartilage, and blood vessels.

Margaret is passionate about this work, adding “Those (cancer) cells belong to someone, and research using these cells could have a significant impact on future patients diagnosed with cancer. I feel it is a huge privilege to be connected to such amazing research and I love meeting with the researchers and their teams to hear of the new innovative ways they are tackling cancer, which will improve survival rates for children and young people.”

Local funding to drive national research success

Ear infections are an irritating but generally short-term problem familiar to many Australian families; however, many people are unaware of just how serious they can become. Hearing loss from untreated and chronic otitis media infections pose a significant threat to a child’s education, mental health, and long-term prospects. Ear disease is also a significant problem in Aboriginal communities, with Aboriginal children one of the most impacted groups.

Telethon Kids Institute and Curtin University Associate Professor Christopher Brennan-Jones led the project Healthy Ears for Healthier Lives: Tackling ear disease and preventable hearing loss in Indigenous Australian children, which aimed to find efficiencies in treatment for children referred to Perth Children’s Hospital (PCU) with ear infections.

A/Prof Brennan-Jones was awarded a 2020-21 WANMA Emerging Leaders Fellowship, enabling him to investigate the impact of treatment delays on developmental and mental health outcomes – and go on to win \$1.1 million through the NHMRC Targeted Call for Research into Hearing Health scheme.

“The WANMA grant gave me freedom and time to develop the most appropriate research program and approach for our work with the community. This takes time, particularly to ensure Aboriginal community voices are heard and their advice acted upon. Ultimately,

this paid off with the project securing an NHMRC grant along with great community engagement and support,” A/Prof Brennan-Jones said.

Working with clinicians, health services and the Djaalinj Waakinj Aboriginal Community Advisory Group, A/Prof Brennan-Jones and his team developed Ear Portal, a telehealth-based program that includes local health worker support. Ear Portal has demonstrated improved efficiency in ear treatment delivery without compromising accuracy, and reduced wait times from years to just two weeks, reducing the risk of long-term mental and physical health risks associated with untreated and chronic infections.

A/Prof Brennan-Jones acknowledged the support he received from partners, stating “The research is also reliant on partnerships between local service providers such as Cockburn Integrated Health and St John of God Hospital clinicians who volunteer their time such as Dr George Sim and Dr Francis Lannigan, and health services like the Child and Adolescent Health Service and Moorditj Koort that provide the support and infrastructure for the program,”

For his work in tackling ear disease, A/Prof Brennan-Jones has also been recognised as a finalist in the national Eureka Prize for Outstanding Early Career Scientist.

He said families were always relieved when there was a clear path to treatment for their child.

“Seeing kids hearing well after being picked up early in our program is ... the best part.”A/Professor Brennan-Jones.

Improving vision through precision health

A decade ago, there was no treatment available for people diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa (RP) – a genetic, degenerative eye condition that leads to severe tunnel vision by middle age. Patients simply had to find a way to adapt to their new life.

Thanks to the pioneering work of Western Australian ophthalmologist Dr Fred Chen, and a funding boost from the FHRI Fund, his team and collaborators at Murdoch University and PYC Therapeutics were able to develop the first ever drug for a common form of RP, offering hope for a better quality of life to thousands.

“Many patients have given up hope. The most memorable part is the excitement on my patient’s face when I tell them that there is a drug developed for their eye condition to slow down the progression.”

Dr Chen, who works from the Lions Eye Institute, Royal Perth Hospital, Perth Children’s Hospital, and the University of Western Australia, began focusing on this form of RP after

finding that up to 10 per cent of people carrying the affected gene did not develop the condition.

Dr Chen was awarded a 2020-21 WANMA Emerging Leaders Fellowship, allowing him time to improve his research funding application, which helped him win 6 national grants worth more than \$5.6 million and commented “The additional boost in (WANMA) funding encourages WA researchers to continue their important work whilst giving them another chance to apply for the incredibly competitive national grants.”

The collaboration with PYC Therapeutics has facilitated the development of a precision medicine drug for RP called VP-001. For many people, the condition is caused by the insufficient expression of a gene, PRPF31, in the retina. VP-001 works by upregulating the healthy copy of the PRPF31 gene – amplifying its genetic expression and correcting the insufficiency due to the faulty copy.

“Knowing the first ever RP drug was developed in Western Australia makes me proud to be a Western Australian and grateful that the FHRI Fund believes in what my team can achieve”, Dr Chen said.

VP-001 has completed phase 1 clinical trials in the United States, and plans are underway for a clinical trial in Perth.

Empowering mental health through the arts

The iconic ‘Life. Be in it’ campaign taught Australians that sport and exercise were good for wellbeing, and WA researcher Dr Christina Davis is hoping the ‘Good Arts Good Mental Health’® project will do the same.

Dr Davies received \$598,842 for her project as part of the FHRI Fund Translation Fellowships 2021: Mental Health program. Dr Davies’ research set out to create an evidence-based campaign, including the best messaging required to influence change and to trial programs to raise community awareness of the impact 2 hours of recreational arts each week can have on mental health (such as happiness, relaxation, connection to others).

Good Arts Good Mental Health®, which has been in development for over a decade, was co-designed with input from over 3,000 community members.

“When you say ‘art’ people think of painting or drawing, but the arts are so much more. Recreational arts are something we can do for relaxation, entertainment or as a health promoting hobby, and includes things like reading books, listening to music, singing,

dancing, craft, photography, sewing, woodwork, attending concerts and performances.”
- Dr Christina Davies

Good Arts Good Mental Health® is now a statewide campaign and is being promoted widely, including at events such as the 2024 AFL Western Derby, and forms part of a pilot for a national campaign.

A talented artist in her own right, Christina also illustrated many of the resources used in the Good Arts Good Mental Health® project, including the free colouring sheets which can be downloaded from the campaign website. The foundational research for the project is cited in Revive, Australia’s National Cultural Policy which was launched by the Prime Minister in 2023.

The project is now being evaluated, but it’s clear the name has sticking power – a 5-day arts challenge launched during Mental Health Week 2023 found as many as 11 per cent of the WA community recognised the slogan ‘Good Arts, Good Mental Health’.

The project is also supported by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, The Ian Potter Foundation, Minderoo Foundation, CircuitWest and St John of God Health Care.

Reimagining regional and remote health care

In 2023, the WA Government issued a global challenge for a digital solution, supported by research, to a pressing issue of healthcare delivery in the Pilbara region. From nearly 100 applications, 10 finalist teams were shortlisted and awarded \$200,000 each in grant funding to conduct a 12-month proof of concept, concluding in August 2024. The teams were competing for a \$5 million prize, enabled by the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund and keystone partners BHP and Rio Tinto.

In November 2023, The Challenge finalists embarked on a 3-day tour of the Pilbara, covering more than 1,100 kilometres to meet the staff who deliver health care in one of the most remote regions of the world. In partnership with the Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance (PAHA) and the WA Country Health Service (WACHS), The Challenge finalists toured hospitals, health campuses, clinics, and Aboriginal medical services across the region, including:

- Newman Hospital
- Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service (PAMS)
- Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
- Port Hedland Health Campus
- Mawankarra Health Service

- Karratha Health Campus.

With support of the PAMS team, The Challenge group also set out on a 4WD convoy on the bumpy dirt track to Jigalong – 2 hours outside of Newman – to meet the people who live and work in a remote Aboriginal community. A tour of the clinic and town was followed by a community lunch with locals to meet some of the people who are consumers of regional and remote health care.

The Minister for Medical Research, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC attended the tour, alongside representatives from The Challenge keystone partners Rio Tinto and the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund, as well as Microsoft, Salesforce and nbn co.

Connecting the research and innovation sector

Open days mark the beginning of each new FHRI funding cycle and offer the chance to showcase the work underway by researchers and innovators who have received FHRI Fund support.

The July 2023 Open Day was held in Geraldton and was co-hosted by the WA Country Health Service. This event included presentations from WA Near Miss Award (WANMA) recipient, clinician researcher and lecturer Dr Ivan Lin who spoke about the 'yarn with me' project, FHRI Fund AC member Kane Blackman, and Professor Sandra Thompson, director of the WA Centre for Rural Health.

The October 2023 Open Day included presentations from Professor Simon Laws, associate dean and director of the Edith Cowan University (ECU) Centre for Precision Health, Dr Marc Sim, ECU senior research fellow at the Nutrition and Health Innovation Research Institute, and Dr Pauline Zaenker, vice chancellor's research fellow at the ECU Centre for Precision Health.

The March 2024 Open Day was co-hosted by the WA Centre for Rural Health and the Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance and centered around women's and Aboriginal health. Initially scheduled for Karratha, the event was re-routed to the Harry Perkins Institute for Medical Research due to ongoing pilot strikes and local flooding.

The audience heard presentations from June Councillor, Chief Executive Officer of the Wirraka Maya Health Service, The Challenge finalists, and the Wal-yan Respiratory Research Centre team behind the Aboriginal Children's Excellent Lung Health Study.

Aboriginal health expert committee

The standing Expert Committee for Aboriginal Health was appointed in July 2023 to provide advice and guidance on FHRI Fund programs and initiatives. The committee plays a crucial role in ensuring FHRI Fund programs and initiatives contribute to closing the health equity gap for Aboriginal people in WA.

Two committee meetings were held during 2023-24 with a focus on guiding the design and development of a new Aboriginal health research funding program, as well as guiding the development of a set of Aboriginal health research assessment criteria for all FHRI Fund programs and initiatives. The new Aboriginal health research assessment criteria will aim to ensure only the highest-quality research and innovation activities of the most benefit for Aboriginal communities are supported by the FHRI Fund. The committee will continue to guide the development of these two initiatives which are expected to be finalised in 2024-25, with the outcomes of these to be reported in the next annual report.

Aboriginal health is a key focus area of the FHRI Fund, and the committee provides guidance to the Fund's Advisory Council, OMRI and the Minister for Medical Research.

Membership includes consumers and community members, Aboriginal health professionals, policy makers, researchers and innovators, as well as Ms Lesley Nelson, who represents the FHRI Advisory Council.

- **Ms Wendy Casey:** Director of Aboriginal Health Policy at the Department
- **Mr Peter Miller:** Human Research Ethics Officer at the Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee and member of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA).
- **Ms Amanda Collins Clinch:** Executive Manager, Office of the Chief Executive Officer, AHCWA
- **Mr Slade Sibosado:** Community Engagement Officer with the Kulunga Aboriginal Unit at The Kids Research Institute.
- **Abby-Rose Cox:** Evaluation and Research Manager at the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Research Alliance.
- **Professor Pat Dudgeon:** Member of the National Indigenous Health Research Network and Professor in the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia (UWA).
- **Associate Professor Glenn Pearson:** Director of First Nations Strategy and Leadership at The Kids Institute and an Associate Professor at the UWA.
- **Professor Dan McCaullay:** Dean of Kurongkurl Katitjin and ECU Director, Aboriginal Research.

Governance

The FHRI Fund is governed by the *Western Australian Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012* (the Act), which requires the Minister for Research to prepare and maintain a framework for the governance of the FHRI Scheme, including an Advisory Council and Governance Framework for decision-making and approving programs, schemes and contracts supported by the FHRI Fund.

All FHRI Fund disbursements must be via an approved program and initiative and OMRI staff draw on their policy and project management experience, and knowledge of the research and innovation funding environment, to develop and administer these programs and initiatives. The refreshed [FHRI Fund Strategy](#) outlines eight priority goals and three themes: ‘people, partners and platforms’ and each program and initiative developed by the Department of Health aligns with at least one of these themes

The FHRI Fund [Funding Principles](#) were determined by the Advisory Council and guide the design and implementation of programs and initiatives, and the assessment of applications, so funding is only awarded if high-quality proposals are received.

The Governance Framework requires all disbursements to be strategically targeted, and for a transparent, peer-reviewed selection process to be used. The FHRI Fund selection processes are based on those used by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) – Australia’s leading funder of health and medical research.

OMRI staff are not directly responsible for grant selection, instead forming grant review panels comprising of independent researchers, innovators, industry-based subject matter experts, and consumer representatives. Each panel member is chosen based on how relevant their skills are to the particular program or initiative.

In 2023-24, 69 review panelists and 11 health consumers sat on 15 panels.

To ensure review panels are as equitable as possible, OMRI considers the distribution of age, gender, and affiliations - including health service providers (HSPs), universities, industry, and medical research institutes - and level of experience.

The review panel’s assessment then allows the Department of Health to determine and approve the awarding of grants in accordance with financial and procurement processes and delegation authorities.

The appropriate selection method for each program and initiative is decided at the design stage and endorsed by the FHRI Fund Advisory Council.

Some programs and initiatives require alternative selection processes, such as the Research Institute Support (RIS), which considers funding based on previous grant income received, and the WANMA program, which is based on NHMRC scores.

Other alternative selection processes include performance-based formula funding. The selection process used in each program is stated in its guidelines and conditions.

The FHRI Fund secretariat maintains a register of researchers, innovators and consumers who have expressed an interest in sitting on a grant review panel, and invites potential panelists from this register, as well as candidates from other relevant sources.

There are no pre-requisites for sitting on a FHRI Fund grant review panel except having an active interest in health and medical research.

The FHRI Fund is always looking for more people who are interested to sit on a review panel, and people with lived experience of the health system are especially encouraged to apply. To find out more about grant review panels and their role, visit fhri.fund.health.wa.gov.au

In accordance with the FHRI Fund Governance Framework, outcomes from all selection processes used in 2023-24 are available on the FHRI Fund website and can be viewed at [Future Health Research and Innovation Fund - Funding outcomes](#).

Who approves FHRI Fund programs?

The FHRI Fund Advisory Council guides investment of FHRI Fund income. Its membership includes an expert in consumer and community health, a research expert, an innovation expert, 3 members with experience in fields such as business, law, finance, corporate governance and the philanthropic, charitable and not-for-profit sectors, one regional health expert and one Aboriginal health expert. There are also 2 non-voting State Government members, one of whom is the Director General of the Department of Health, or their nominee.

Visit the [FHRI Fund website](#) to learn more about governance.

FHRI Fund financial statement

The FHRI Fund is administered by the Treasurer. In accordance with Part 3 of the Act, the Department of Health as the accountable authority must include in its Annual Report information about the operation of the FHRI Fund during the financial year. The certification of financial statements for the FHRI Fund for the year ending 30 June 2024 and financial position as of 30 June 2024.

2023–24 FHRI Fund Account Financial Report

In June 2020, the Western Australian FHRI Account, an agency special purpose account under the *Financial Management Act 2006 section 16*, was established by the Act. The aim of the special purpose account is to provide secure and long-term source of funding in support of future health research and innovation.

	2024 (\$'000)	2023 (\$'000)
Balance at start of period	54,575	24,464
Receipts	54,792	49,959
Payments	(66,508)	19,848
Balance at end of period	42,859*	54,575

*includes amounts awarded to grant recipients that are yet to be paid.