



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



Western Australian  
Future Health Research  
& Innovation Fund

# Medical and Health Research Infrastructure Fund 2021

## Guidelines and Conditions

**Closing Date: 1:00pm, Thursday 25 February 2021**

[fhrifund.health.wa.gov.au](http://fhrifund.health.wa.gov.au)

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*The Medical and Health Research Infrastructure 2021 Program is administered by the [Research and Innovation Office](#) (RIO) (formerly the Research Development Unit), Department of Health. Queries regarding the Program and the application process can be submitted to [RIO.DOH@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:RIO.DOH@health.wa.gov.au)*

## 1. Introduction

The Medical and Health Research Infrastructure Fund (MHRIF) was implemented by the State Government in 1997 to promote excellence in health and medical research in Western Australia (WA) by providing funding support for the indirect costs of research.

This round of the MHRIF provides infrastructure support for the 2021 calendar year from the [Future Health Research and Innovation Fund](#).

## 2. Eligibility

The MHRIF supports WA medical and health researchers who have demonstrated research excellence, based on income received from nationally or internationally competitive, peer-reviewed research grants with a minimal infrastructure component.

### 2.1 WA Researcher

At the time of application, the researcher must be employed in a WA institution with sufficient tenure to expend the MHRIF funds in support of their medical or health research in WA.

The applicant must have Australian citizenship or hold Australian permanent residency.

### 2.2 Minimum Research Grant Income

Researchers must meet a criterion of 'excellence', which is demonstrated through the receipt of eligible research grant income of at least \$520,000 over a period of three years.

### 2.3 Eligible Research Grant Income

- Grants must be for medical or health research.
- The following are not eligible for the purposes of this clause:
  - Grants from WA Department of Health funded programs such as the Collaborative Cancer Grant Scheme, Clinician Research Fellowships, Merit Awards, Neurotrauma Research Program, Registrar Research Fellowships, Research Translation Projects or WA Child Research Fund.
  - Grants for quality assurance, clinical audit, needs analysis or literature review; and grants for equipment, travel, infrastructure or training/education.
- The applicant must be a Chief or Principal Investigator on the grant being claimed.

- The grant income must have been received in the previous three consecutive calendar years (2017-2019). *[Note that the call for applications would normally have occurred in 2020 but was deferred pending establishment of the FHRI Fund and approvals.]*
- Grants must be from a funding source where the grant is nationally or internationally openly competitive and scientific peer-review is performed at a national or international level.

Funding sources deemed eligible for the purposes of the MHRIF are listed in **Appendix A: Eligible Funding Sources**.

If a funding source is not listed in **Appendix A: Eligible Funding Sources**, eligibility of the funding source for MHRIF purposes will need to be assessed and *Application Form Section 10 – Funding Source Assessment* must be provided. It is incumbent on the researcher to complete the statements of compliance and provide all necessary documentation; otherwise the grant will not be included and this may affect overall eligibility if the minimum research grant income requirement is not met.

- The Department of Health has the final determination regarding eligibility status of grants.

### 3. Research Grant Income Conditions

#### 3.1 Researchers New to WA

For a researcher new to WA, the following applies:

- 50% of grant income received outside WA and expended on research outside WA will contribute to the calculation of the MHRIF grant if received in the following periods:
  - three calendar years prior to the year in which the researcher relocates to WA
  - calendar year in which the researcher relocates to WA.
- Grant income received outside WA but transferred to a WA institution will contribute in full to the calculation of the MHRIF grant.
- Grant income received by a WA institution from the date of relocation to WA will contribute in full to the calculation of the MHRIF grant.

#### 3.2 Multiple WA Chief/Principal Investigators

If multiple WA Chief/Principal Investigators are named on a grant, they must determine which of them will claim the grant income for MHRIF support.

If there is agreement between WA Chief/Principal Investigators to split grant income for MHRIF purposes, *Application Form Section 9 – Split Grant Details* must be provided as evidence of that agreement. A copy of Section 9 must be included in the application for each relevant WA Chief/Principal Investigator.

#### 3.3 National or International Chief/Principal Investigators

If a grant is jointly held with researchers outside WA, only the portion of funds applicable to the WA researcher and held by a WA institution can be claimed.

## 4. Calculation of Funding

The Department of Health will provide infrastructure funding on a two-tier grant system dependent on the applicant's principal place of research. The actual amounts awarded in each round depend on the total eligible research grant income claimed by all researchers and the MHRIF allocation available.

**Tier 1:** for researchers whose principal place of research is in institutions deemed to be independent medical research institutes for MHRIF purposes by the Department of Health. Tier 1 candidates are entitled to a MHRIF grant up to a maximum of 20% of their total eligible research grant income averaged over the relevant three years.

**Tier 2:** for researchers whose principal place of research is in other institutions such as universities and hospitals. Tier 2 candidates are entitled to a MHRIF grant up to a maximum of 10% of their total eligible research grant income averaged over the relevant three years.

The intent of the two-tier system is to recognise that the operational costs for independent medical research institutes are directly related to research activities, unlike research in university departments or hospitals where the primary function of those institutions is not research.

Medical research institutes in receipt of Tier 1 infrastructure grants in previous rounds of the MHRIF will continue to be deemed independent medical research institutes in this round. The Department of Health may be contacted for new assessments.

## 5. Definition of Infrastructure

Medical and health research infrastructure is usually defined as an institution's resources essential for supporting quality projects or programs in a particular field, including indirect costs associated with particular projects or programs, but excluding direct costs, which should be covered by research grants.

### 5.1 Included Expenditure Items

**All Researchers** may purchase the following items with their MHRIF grant:

- Animal holding and breeding facilities.
- Common services - telephone, fax, copying, postage, stationery, printing, computer network, accounts system.
- Computers.
- Provisional patents.
- Research equipment.
- Salaries of research support and administrative support staff (including salary on-costs<sup>1</sup>) to provide general support for activity in a given area, rather than to work for a specific research project.
- Travel costs not directly related to individual research projects.
- Vehicle running costs.

**Tier 1 Institute Researchers** may also purchase:

- Cleaning and maintenance.
- Lighting and power.
- Minor capital works.

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<sup>1</sup> Salary on-costs include payroll tax, superannuation, leave loading, workers' compensation and insurance payments.

- Rates and charges.
- Research library.
- Workshop.

## 5.2 Excluded Expenditure Items

The following items are not regarded as infrastructure costs:

- Meals/beverages/catering not directly related to research conferences and seminars.
- Postgraduate research student stipend.
- Project management costs.
- Salaries and salary on-costs<sup>1</sup> of staff supporting research at the institutional level (including Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Research Grant Officer, Director of Institute).
- Salaries and salary on-costs<sup>1</sup> of teaching and research staff (including the cost of 'buying time' to free such staff to do more research).
- Travel costs directly related to individual projects (including fares, accommodation, travel allowances).

## 6. Conditions of Grant

- a) The MHRIF grant must be spent in support of the recipient's medical or health research in WA and in accordance with Section 5 Definition of Infrastructure.
- b) If, prior to the MHRIF grant being fully expended, there are changes to the information provided in the MHRIF application, such as the researcher leaves the Administering Institution or the Principal Place of Research, the Department of Health's Research and Innovation Office must be notified immediately.
- c) The MHRIF expenditure is subject to the *Financial Management Act 2006 (WA)*, and may be subject to audit by the Office of the Auditor General or their representative and/or the Department of Health.
- d) Recipients must provide a self-assessment report on outcomes associated with the MHRIF grant during the 2021 calendar year by 30 April 2022. Guidelines and the report template will be provided prior to the due date.
- e) An audited financial acquittal statement for MHRIF expenditure in the 2021 calendar year must be submitted by 30 April 2022. Guidelines and the acquittal template will be provided prior to the due date.
- f) The recipient must endeavour to spend the entire MHRIF grant within the 2021 calendar year. If this is not possible an audited financial acquittal statement must also be provided for each subsequent calendar year in which funds are expended. Where relevant, acquittal statements must include the amount of any unspent funds, reasons for the carry over, and an estimation of when funds will be expended.
- g) Failure to comply with any of the above conditions may jeopardise eligibility for future funding under the MHRIF.

## APPENDIX A: ELIGIBLE FUNDING SOURCES

If you claim grants from funding sources that are not on the lists below, eligibility of the funding source for MHRIF purposes will need to be assessed and *Application Form Section 10* must be provided. It is incumbent on the researcher to complete the statements of compliance and provide all necessary documentation; otherwise the grant will not be included and this may affect overall eligibility if the minimum grant income requirement is not met.

### **The following funding sources are deemed eligible for MHRIF 2021:**

#### **1. Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR)**

Grants for medical or health research from funding sources on the 2018 Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR) are eligible and may be found at:

[https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/2018\\_acgr\\_listing\\_final.pdf](https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/2018_acgr_listing_final.pdf)

Note: the ACGR will not be updated beyond 2018.

#### **2. Department of Health-Approved Funding Sources**

- A Foundation Building Strength for NemaLine Myopathy, USA
- Action Duchenne, UK
- Arthritis Australia
- Association Francaise Contre les Myopathies
- Asthma Australia - National Research Program Grants
- Asthma Foundation of Western Australia
- Australian Paediatric Endocrine Group (APEG) - Novo Nordisk
- Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) - Foundation Grants
- Autism Speaks, USA
- Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation Limited - Accelerator Grant
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Requests for Proposals RFPs stream only)
- Brain Foundation - McArdle Disease Award (Research Gifts)
- BrightFocus Foundation
- British Heart Foundation
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Cancer Australia - Project Grant
- Cancer Council NSW - STREP Grants
- Cancer Council WA - Epidemiology Initiative
- Cancer Council WA - Research Project Grants
- Cancer Council WA - STREP Funding Scheme
- Cancer Research Trust - Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Cancer Research Trust - Collaborative Cancer Grant
- Cooperative Research Centres (if specific project was an identifiable part of the original application; each will be reviewed on a case by case basis)
- Cure Brain Cancer Foundation i Innovation Grant
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, USA
- Department of Health and Ageing – Dementia and Aged Care Services Fund - Research and Innovation Funding Round
- Duchenne Ireland
- Dutch Duchenne Parent Project - Small Project Grant

- Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA) - Clinical Exercise Physiology Research Grant
- Healthway - Priority Driven Research
- Heartkids Australia - Grants-in Aid
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute - International Research Scholars Program (America)
- International Olympic Committee - Anti-Doping Research Fund
- International Rett Syndrome Foundation
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) International, USA
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), UK
- Michael J Fox Foundation (MJFF), USA
- Muscular Dystrophy Association (USMDA), USA
- National Breast Cancer Foundation - Pilot Study
- National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), UK - Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme
- National Institutes of Health, USA
- National Stroke Foundation - Seed Grant
- Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, USA - Exploratory Award
- Pfizer Australia - Paediatric Endocrine Research grant
- Ramaciotti Foundations
- Red Nose Foundation - Project Grant
- Retina Australia
- Slater and Gordon Research Grant
- The Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia (ORIA) Research Grants
- US Department of Defense/Congressionally Directed Medical Research Schemes/Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program/Discovery Award
- Victorian Neurotrauma Initiative (VNI)
- Waltham/Isaz - Waltham Collaborative Research Award in Human Animal Interactions
- Wellcome Trust, UK
- World Health Organization

*Please note funding sources which have been deemed ineligible include:*

- Cancer Council WA - Capacity Building and Collaboration Grant
- Cancer Council WA - Research Fellowship
- Healthway - Research Fellowship
- Healthway - Starter Grant

*These grants may only be submitted for assessment if the funding scheme criteria has been modified since 2018 to meet the eligibility criteria.*





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