

Review of the function and operation of the Advisory Council

As part of the Advisory Councils commitment to continuous improvement and good governance, PwC was engaged to review the function and operation of the Advisory Council of the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund.

Background and approach

In February 2022, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) was engaged to review the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund (FHRI Fund) Advisory Council (AC). The Review outlines the performance and function of the AC as a whole and the operation of each AC member.

To undertake the review PwC completed the following;

- Review of AC governance artefacts;
- Interview of each AC member, voting and non-voting; and
- Completion of a performance survey by each AC member on each voting AC member.

The findings of the review will be shared with the AC and recommendations for improvements will form part of planning over the next 12 months.

Review approach and topics

	The role the Advisory Council	Expertise and diversity	Independence and ethics	Advisory Council operations
Category	The function and role of the AC and its members, including how it's understood by its members, government stakeholders and research stakeholders.	The expertise and diversity each AC member brings to the AC, expanding from specialised research, innovation and translation knowledge.	The management of independence by the AC and its members, including its ethical decision making capacity.	The operation of the AC by way of regular meetings, out-of-meeting communication and responsibility fulfillment.
Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of government stakeholders understanding of the role and priorities of the AC • Review of researcher's understanding of the role and priorities of the AC • Review of interviewee's understanding of the role and priorities of the AC • Suggestions of ways to improve alignment of understanding of roles, priorities and expectations within the AC and with key stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of AC's structure appropriateness to fulfil its objectives • Review of AC member's effectiveness in sharing their expertise and diverse experiences towards the achievement of the AC's priorities • Suggestions of how skills experience mix, the AC as a whole could be improved • Suggestions of how the AC could better leverage the expertise and diversity of AC members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of AC members effectiveness in managing their actual and perceived conflicts of interest • Review the control environment and if it is fit for purpose to meet its responsibilities • Observations on the AC or AC members' behavior concerning ethical performance? • Observations on weaknesses of the AC control environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the AC's alignment on key strategic priorities • Review how AC meetings are conducted and if they facilitate the achievement of its key roles and priorities • Review of AC member's ability to participate and contribute to their full potential under the current structure and operation of the AC • Review of the level and nature of discussion of strategic importance actively debated during AC meetings • Observations on how ways of working might evolve in the next 2-5 years
Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review AC member understanding of and alignment to the strategic priorities • Review AC member active contributions towards strategic goals in discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review AC member providing unique and valuable expertise and/or experience to the AC • Review AC member awareness of their responsibilities as an AC member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review AC member effectiveness in managing their real or perceived conflicts of interest • Review AC member integrity in AC matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review AC member time adequacy to effectively fulfil their responsibilities • Review AC member effectiveness in to AC discussion contributions