



Western Australian
Future Health Research
& Innovation Fund

FHRI Fund Communique

17 May 2022 meeting

Welcome to the first edition of the FHRI Fund Communique, with the latest information from the Future Health and Research Innovation Fund.

A communique will be published following each FHRI Fund Advisory Council meeting to update the sector with key decisions, opportunities and outcomes.

The ninth meeting of the Council on 17 May 2022 was a full-day session, with discussion focusing on the strategic directions of the FHRI Fund into the future.

The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Medical Research and Dr D J Russell-Weisz, Director General Department of Health joined the Council to give their perspectives on the future of health and medical research and innovation in WA.

The Minister for Medical Research also shared his vision for a medical research strategy and encouraged the Council to be bold in their design of the new FHRI Fund Strategy for 2023 onwards.

Strategic focus for Advisory Council

The meeting focused on several key issues starting with reviewing the Council's performance following a self-assessment exercise, informing recommendations for its function into the future.

The Council also reviewed progress against the current FHRI Fund Strategy, and this was used to build the foundations of a revised strategy for 2023 and beyond, including proposed programs and initiatives that would give effect to this revised strategy.

Strategies to engage with the health and medical research and innovation sector in WA were next on the agenda. The discussion centred on how the Department of Health's Research and Innovation Office (RIO) could assist the Council in engaging the sector to make informed decisions for its future direction.

Lastly, the Council considered the current RIO processes for developing, advertising, reviewing and awarding FHRI Fund grants.

Meeting outcomes

The Council agreed to a number of key outcomes at the May session:

1. There was resounding agreement that communication to the sector should follow each Advisory Council meeting to improve transparency of the Council's function.
2. Importantly, the Council have agreed to improved oversight of the grant development and award process.
3. It was also agreed that the FHRI Fund strategy will be revised and simplified, in consultation with the Sector, and will align with the Minister's medical research strategy.
4. The final agreed action was to further develop a communications plan, with the intention to guide more meaningful communication with the sector.

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