



FHRI Fund Communiqué #3

17 November 2022 meeting

It was my pleasure to welcome the Director General of the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI), Rebecca Brown, to the November meeting of the Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund Advisory Council (AC). Ms Brown described the exciting work JTSI is undertaking relevant to the FHRI Fund, including in relation to a State IP policy, an Innovation Strategy and the Science and Research Development Framework.

The AC heard from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) who are developing a plan for the evaluation of the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the Fund. They are also undertaking pilot evaluations of the Research Excellence Awards, the Research Institute Support program and the Major Research Application Support program.

In this meeting, the AC discussed mechanisms to enable stronger engagement with the WA research and innovation sector in an open and transparent manner.

Funding cycle open day

As I reported in my previous communiqué, funding Programs and Initiatives have been streamlined into 4-monthly cycles starting in November, March and July each year, to enable greater clarity and certainty for the sector and more planning time for applicants.

I was pleased to attend and represent the AC, at the inaugural Open Day which was held at the Dolphin Discovery Centre in Bunbury on 2 November 2022. The Open Day was co-hosted by The University of Western Australia and featured presentations from the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Medical Research, Professor Anna Nowak, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research at the University of Western Australia and Professor Cobie Rudd, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Regional Futures) & Vice-President at Edith Cowan University. Professor S.S. Vasan, Director, Office of Medical Research and Innovation and his team provided more information regarding the funding cycles and the Programs and Initiatives launched in this cycle.

There were over 110 attendees, online and in-person, and it was great to see participation from local south-west researchers and innovators.

[A recording from the day](#) as well as [questions and answers](#) that have been received regarding the newly launched Programs and Initiatives have been published on the FHRI Fund website.

The next Open Day is at the enAble Institute at Curtin University on 2 March 2023 which corresponds to the launch of the next funding cycle.

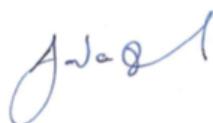
Key and new programs update

Eligibility criteria in terms of citizenship, employment and residency have been updated to encourage greater participation of WA researchers and innovators in the Fund's programs. Another new feature for many programs is the requirement to submit a minimum data form ahead of the application deadline, in line with the National Health and Medical Research Council practice.

Six funding programs were launched at the November Open Day, details of which can be found on the [FHRI Fund website](#).

One of these is the Major Research Application Support (MRAS) program, which provides in-principle support to competitive grant applications to national and international funding programs. The \$1 million MRAS application cap was temporarily lifted in July; the AC has now extended this arrangement until the end of 2023 to allow PwC's evaluation to be completed. The AC has also resolved that the external program requiring co-funding shall remain as an eligibility criterion.

The AC were pleased to see the interest from the sector and considered feedback from key stakeholders regarding the FHRI Fund Distinguished Fellows program. The program is set to be launched in early 2023, following further consultation with the sector.



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FHRI Fund Advisory Council Chair

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