



## FHRI Fund Communique #6

### September 2023 Meeting

Welcome to the September 2023 Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund Communique. This month it was our pleasure to welcome three new members to their first FHRI Fund Advisory Council (AC) meeting.

Lesley Nelson is the new member with expertise in Aboriginal Health, Dr Moira McKinnon brings expertise in WA rural and remote health and Jennifer Lawrence contributes expertise spanning the corporate and not-for-profit sector. Profiles of our [AC members](#) can be accessed from the FHRI Fund website.

During this session, representatives from the Department of Treasury and the WA Treasury Corporation delivered a joint presentation on the updated investment strategy for the FHRI Fund. It was agreed that regular updates would be presented to the AC to inform strategic decision making and advice.

We discussed and agreed to investigate a venture capital initiative aimed at investing in and fostering innovation. The need to enhance research and innovation capacity and capability across the health and medical research and innovation sector was also discussed. Additionally, we agreed on the importance of implementing programs to foster growth and support clinical trials within the state.

We are proud to announce that the FHRI Fund has now awarded a total of \$89.2 million in grants across the WA health and medical research and innovation sector (the Sector), a significant milestone promising substantial benefits for the WA community.

### Sector Engagement

AC engagement with the Sector has taken on a new dimension. We would like to hear from the Sector about issues, challenges and opportunities of significance to the FHRI Fund and we encourage you to visit the [FHRI Fund Website](#) where you can find out more and submit an abstract or summary for consideration. Selected submissions will be invited to present to the AC in 2024.

### Programs update

In a bid to offer the Sector confidence and continuity beyond 2023/24, we recommended four existing FHRI Fund programs for extension until 2026/27. Extension of the following programs has now been approved by the Minister for Medical Research:

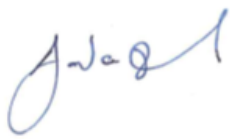
- Innovation Seed Fund (in response to feedback from the Sector this program has been expanded to include Innovation Maturity Level 3 (Proof of Concept) and Level 7 (Confirmatory Validation)
- Innovation Fellowships
- Co-Funding Partnerships Program
- WA Near Miss Awards Programs (Emerging Leaders and Ideas Grants)

## FHRI Fund Open Days

Mark your calendars for the upcoming FHRI Fund Open Day to be held on Tuesday 31 October 2023. This event, co-hosted by Edith Cowan University (ECU) at the Joondalup campus from 8:30am to 12:30pm, provides a platform to hear about developments across the Sector as well as promoting collaboration, partnerships and achievements of the WA research and innovation community. Attendees will also gain insights into programs available in the November cycle and hear about recent FHRI Fund recipients.

The event will feature presentations from the Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Medical Research; FHRI Fund Advisory Council Members; Professor Simon Laws, Associate Dean (Medical and Exercise Sciences), Professor of Translational Genomics in the School of Medical and Health Sciences and Director of the [Centre for Precision Health](#) at ECU and other esteemed speakers from the Sector.

[Registrations](#) are now open and attendance options for the Open Day are on-line or in-person at ECU Joondalup. We hope to see you there.



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