



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



Western Australian  
**Future Health Research  
& Innovation Fund**

# Annual Report 2022–23

**Western Australian Future Health  
Research and Innovation Fund**

# Statement of submission

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Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC  
Minister for Medical Research

Dear Minister

I submit for your information and submission to Parliament the annual report for the Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund for the financial year 2022–23. This report supplements the [\*Department of Health Annual Report 2022–23\*](#), which includes details of how money standing to the credit of the Future Health Research and Innovation account was applied during the financial year, in accordance with section 4E(6) of the *Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012*.

**John Van Der Wielen**  
Chairperson  
Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Advisory Council



# Contents

Chairperson's foreword	1	Glossary	28
At a glance	3	References	29
Introduction	5	Appendix 1. Department of Health responsibilities	30
Governance	6	Appendix 2. Table of Advisory Council Remuneration	31
Advisory council	8	Appendix 3. Expert Committee members	32
Evaluation	12	Appendix 4. FHRI Fund grants awarded during 2022–23	33
Strategic direction	13		
Programs and Initiatives	15		
Programs and Initiatives supported	19		
Open days	26		
Financial report	27		



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### Acknowledgement of Country

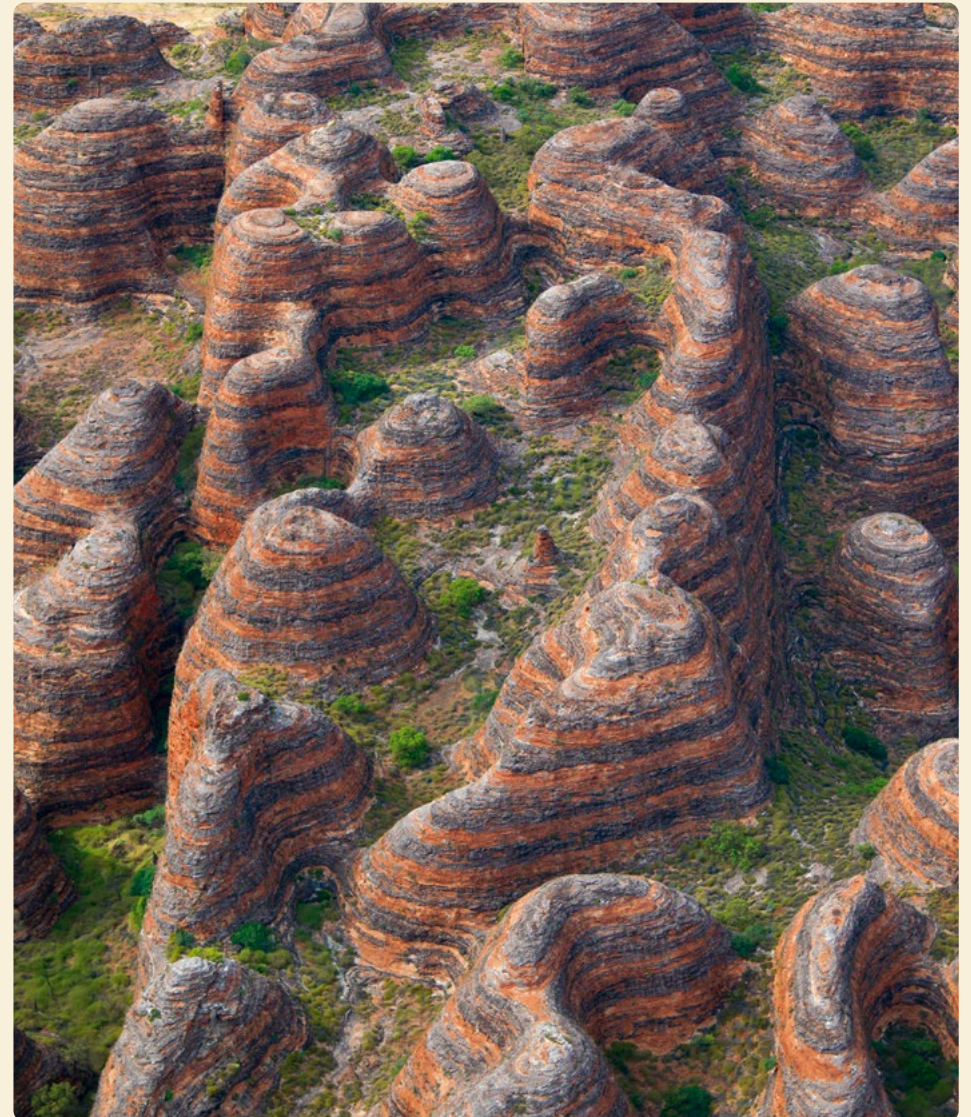
The Department of Health acknowledges the Aboriginal people of the many traditional lands and language groups of Western Australia. It acknowledges the wisdom of the Aboriginal Elders both past and present and pays respect to Aboriginal communities of today.

### Use of the term Aboriginal

Within Western Australia, the term Aboriginal is used in preference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, in recognition that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Western Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander may be referred to in the national context and Indigenous may be referred to in the international context. No disrespect is intended to our Torres Strait Islander colleagues and community.

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World Heritage Purnululu National Park (The Bungle Bungle), 250 km south of Kununurra, discovered by the outside world in the early 1980s.



# Chairperson's foreword

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It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund Annual Report for 2022–23. This report is a testament to the progress we have made in strengthening and embedding our foundations and governance, and the exciting new directions we are charting for the future.

We provide a secure source of funding to drive health and medical research and innovation, and I am pleased to highlight that in 2022–23 \$41.4 million was made available for health and medical research and innovation, alongside 13 initiatives<sup>1</sup> to improve the health and wellbeing of Western Australians, improve sustainability of the health system, contribute to the WA economy and advance our State as a leader in research and innovation. By the end of 2022–23, approximately \$81 million and 429 grants has been awarded since the commencement of the FHRI Fund.

For 2022–23, the FHRI Fund Advisory Council (Advisory Council) resolved to target 6 strategic objectives and, with the approval of the Minister for Medical Research the Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, introduced 8 priority goals and 4 focus areas. Our [Refreshed Strategy on a Page](#) reflects these refinements.

We have introduced 3 funding cycles to enable greater clarity and certainty for the WA health and medical research and innovation sector. The commencement of each funding cycle and launch of FHRI Fund initiatives is now marked by an open day, creating a shared platform for dialogue and exchange as well as the promotion of local examples of health and medical research and innovation excellence. We are also proud to highlight the active participation of researchers, innovators and consumers in the selection processes which determine FHRI Fund recipients.



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<sup>1</sup> Capability Building Program – National Reconstruction Fund – Medical Manufacturing – Stage 1; Co-Funding Partnerships Program – BrightSpark; DISCOV3R Focus Grants; Innovation Fellowships 2022–23; Innovation Seed Fund 2022–23; Major Research Application Support Program; The Challenge – Reimagining regional and remote health care; WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23, WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23, Clinician Research Fellowships (partnership with Raine Medical Research Foundation) – 2022–23; Clinician Research Training Program 2022–23;; Innovation Challenge 2023 – Generative Artificial Intelligence Applications – Stage 1; FHRI Fund Distinguished Fellows Program 2022–23.

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To further amplify engagement, we extended our efforts to the annual Science on the Swan Conference in Perth, where Advisory Council members contributed their expertise through panel discussions, and FHRI Fund recipients showcased their accomplishments. Engagement with the sector to develop new programs and initiatives was also a priority, resulting in the release of the Clinician Researcher Training Program, the Distinguished Fellows Program and the co-funded FHRI Fund and BrightSpark Early Career Child Health Fellowships Program, which were launched in 2023.

In line with [our governance framework](#), we embarked on a comprehensive review of our Advisory Council, that will shape our path forward into the next year. We held our annual strategy session, which has invigorated strategic discussions and reaffirmed our commitment to innovation, sector engagement and building partnerships and collaboration across the sector. An evaluation framework was also developed, which will assist in ensuring that our programs and initiatives are achieving objectives and leading to meaningful outcomes and impacts for WA.

In early 2023, the Minister launched the inaugural [WA Health and Medical Research Strategy 2023–2033](#), which was developed through extensive sector consultation, and sets out the priorities and direction of health and medical research for WA. As we move forward, we will ensure that our activities are contributing to achieving these shared visions for the State.

Additionally, the fund is committed to continuous improvement, and is commissioning a new online grant management system.

As we set our sights into the future, we remain resolute in our dedication to embedding consumer and community involvement into the fabric of all our activities, and acknowledge the crucial role that consumers and communities play in determining success at all stages of the health and medical research and innovation pipeline.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved with the FHRI Fund, and their ongoing commitment to supporting health and medical research and innovation in WA. I look forward to continuing to share the benefits and success of this exciting initiative and government investment into the prosperity, health and wellbeing of the WA community.

**John Van Der Wielen**

Chairperson

Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Advisory Council



# At a glance



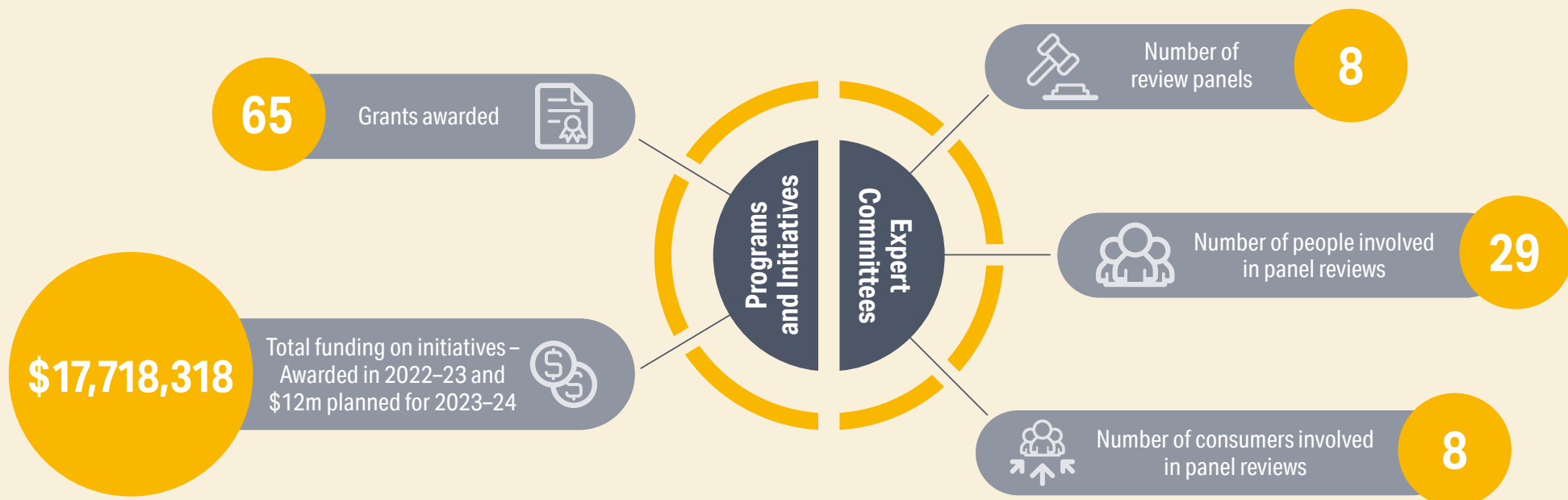
<sup>A</sup> BrightSpark Early Career Child Health Researcher Fellowships

<sup>B</sup> Reimagining regional and remote health care – Stage 1

<sup>C</sup> Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23

<sup>D</sup> Partnership with Raine Medical Research Foundation

<sup>E</sup> Generative Artificial Intelligence Applications





# Introduction

Research and innovation can improve health care and wellbeing through advancements in health and medical knowledge, policy and practice, and by contributing to the attraction and retention of a high calibre health and medical workforce. Research and innovation contribute to financial sustainability of the health system and have broad economic, environmental and social benefits.

The FHRI Fund provides a secure source of funding to support health and medical research and innovation.

Within this remit, the Fund targets priority areas that have the greatest potential to further its aims and benefit the WA community.

## The Act

The FHRI Fund is a State-owned sovereign wealth fund consisting of a pool of money set aside from the state's normal accounts.

It became operational in June 2020, enabled by the [\*Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012\*](#). Amendments repurposed the Western Australian Future Fund to establish the FHRI Fund scheme.

The Western Australian Future Fund was established with seed capital from the Royalties for Regions Fund, with the purpose of setting aside and accumulating a portion of the State's mining royalties for use by future generations of Western Australians.

The purpose of the FHRI Fund is to improve, through research and innovation, the health and prosperity of Western Australians, the sustainability of the health system and to advance the State's standing as a leader in research and innovation.

It receives annual credits of one per cent of the state's forecast royalty income so that its capital will continue to grow. To ensure longevity, this capital is preserved in perpetuity and only the annual forecast investment income is applied to support health and medical research, innovation and commercialisation.

## Object of the Act

The Act aims to provide a secure source of funding to support qualifying activities that contribute to:

- improving the financial sustainability of the WA health system
- improving the health and wellbeing of Western Australians
- improving WA's economic prosperity
- advancing WA to being, or maintaining WA's position as, a national or international leader in any qualifying activities.



# Governance

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The governance model for the FHRI Fund has several components.

Essential requirements are set out in the Act, and other provisions outlined in the accompanying governance framework, while the funding principles guide the design, implementation and measurement of benefits from programs and initiatives. Policies and processes guide day-to-day operation.

The key governance-related provisions in the Act require:

- the establishment and maintenance of an Advisory Council
- that Advisory Council recommendations are provided to the responsible Minister for consideration, on how money in the FHRI Fund account is applied
- a governance framework, which sets out the requirement for a strategy and priorities for funding
- that the governance framework, strategy, priorities, recommendations sought and received by the responsible Minister, and all funding awarded are tabled in Parliament and published on the FHRI Fund website, to assure transparency
- that the Advisory Council address conflicts of interest and includes steps to be taken if the member has any actual, perceived or potential material conflicts of interests.

## Key provisions of the governance framework

The FHRI Fund [governance framework](#) provides guidance to support effective and responsible operation, and promote accountability and transparency in decision-making.

The framework defines the roles and responsibilities of decision-makers and advisers, sets out strategic instruments that will guide how the FHRI Fund supports research and innovation, and describes the reporting, debiting and crediting arrangements for the accounts established under this scheme.

The governance framework includes information regarding:

- the Advisory Council
- an operational structure that efficiently supports the Advisory Council, expert committees, application and selection processes and post-award grant management
- transparent and competitive peer-reviewed selection processes
- effective communications policies and tools to ensure funding processes and decisions are available to all stakeholders
- an evaluation framework based on national and international best practice.

The State Government's roles and responsibilities are subject to legislation applicable to government agencies, which in the context of the FHRI Fund scheme may include the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, the *Auditor General Act 2006*, the *State Records Act 2000* and the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*.

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## Financial structure

Two accounts are established in the Act:

- The Treasury FHRI Fund, a Treasurer's special purpose account which holds the capital of the FHRI Fund.

In 2022–23, the Advisory Council worked with the Department of Treasury to review the investment strategy in order to achieve an improved investment portfolio, leading to improved returns.

- The FHRI Account, a Department of Health special purpose account, which is the operational account of the FHRI Fund and is credited annually with moneys equivalent to earnings that are forecasted from the investment of the Treasury FHRI Fund.

Moneys credited to this account are held until expended, or the Minister and Treasurer agree that surplus be returned to the Treasury FHRI Fund.

The Department of Treasury and the Department of Health are each responsible for the management of their respective accounts in accordance with relevant accounting standards and legislation. The Department of Health's responsibilities are further described in Appendix 1.



# Advisory council

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## Governance

The Advisory Council is committed to upholding high standards of integrity. It is guided by the *Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012*, the governance framework, its own governing documents and applicable Public Sector Commission policies.

The 4 main governance documents are:

- Advisory Council Charter
- Advisory Council Code of Conduct
- Advisory Council Conflicts of Interest Policy
- Advisory Council Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy.

These are based on related policies and guidelines published by the Public Sector Commission and the Department of Health.

## Roles and responsibilities

The Act requires the responsible Minister to establish and maintain an independent Advisory Council. This is comprised of eminent individuals, oversees the FHRI Fund and provides high-level strategic advice to the Minister and the Department of Health. It is responsible for:

- developing strategy and priorities
- developing and implementing assurance measures to ensure that programs and initiatives align with priorities

- ensuring that funding selection processes are conducted appropriately
- overseeing evaluations of the performance and benefits of the FHRI Fund, and presenting these to the Minister.

Accordingly, the membership has been designed to minimise conflicts of interest and comprise a diverse range of experience and knowledge. The Act requires that it consist of:

- a person with experience representing the community
- a person considered to be an expert in research
- a person considered to be an expert in innovation
- at least 3 other individuals whom, taken together, the Minister considers have a suitable variety and level of relevant expertise and experience<sup>2</sup>
- the Director General of the Department of Health, or nominee (non-voting)
- the Chief Executive Officer, or nominee, of another state government department that the Minister considers is most relevant to the needs of the FHRI Fund (non-voting).

At least one member will have experience in dealing with issues related to Aboriginal health, in recognition of the complex health issues currently faced by Aboriginal people and communities in WA. Under the governance framework, this member is preferably an Aboriginal person.

At least one member will have significant experience in country and regional health.

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2 Under the governance framework, relevant expertise and experience includes:

- business, finance, investment, law or corporate governance
- philanthropic, charitable, or not-for-profit sectors.



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## Membership terms

The Minister is responsible for appointing members and setting the conditions of their appointment. A member may be appointed for a term of up to 5 years and may be reappointed.

The appointment terms for the Advisory Council are shown in Appendix 2, and range from 2 to 5 years.

## Strategy session

As the FHRI Fund entered its third year of investing, the Advisory Council held a strategy session to discuss its future in the current ecosystem. The purpose was to reflect on previous achievements, understand the landscape and determine how the FHRI Fund could remain on the forefront of health and medical research and innovation investment.

Key areas of discussion included:

- a retrospective review since in 2020, including the current strategic focus
- global megatrends in health and well-being research
- prioritisation of strategy and consideration of other relevant national and state-based frameworks and strategies
- the function and operation of the Advisory Council, and how best to further utilise the knowledge and experience of members.

## Meetings

During 2022–23, the Advisory Council held 4 ordinary meetings, and one strategic planning day:

- **16 August 2022** – ordinary meeting
- **17 November 2022** – ordinary meeting
- **14 February 2023** – ordinary meeting
- **7 May 2023** – strategy meeting
- **9 May 2023** – ordinary meeting

## Current members

The 8-member council is chaired by Mr John Van Der Wielen, a professional director. Mr Van Der Wielen is the member under the Act who is an expert in business, finance and health economist.

In July 2022, Ms Vicki O'Donnell, the member with expertise relating to Aboriginal health resigned and in May 2023, Professor Sandra Eades, the remaining member with such expertise also resigned and a process to recruit a new member commenced.

**Table 1: FHRI Fund Advisory Council members, 2022–23**

Dr Glenn Begley	Private enterprise, previously CEO, BioCurate (expert in innovation)
Mr Kane Blackman	CEO, Good Sammy Enterprises, previously Commission Secretary, Insurance Commission WA (community representative)
Professor Sandra Eades AO	Dean (Indigenous), Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, previously Dean of Medicine, Curtin University (experience in dealing with issues related to Aboriginal health)
Adjunct Professor Dale Fisher	CEO, Silver Chain Group, Adjunct Professor at Monash and Swinburne Universities (expert in business and the not-for-profit sector)
Professor Christina Mitchell AO	Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University (expert in research)
Mrs Vicki O'Donnell OAM	CEO, Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Ltd (experience with country and regional health issues)
Dr David Russell-Weisz	Director General of the Department of Health (non-voting)
Ms Rebecca Brown	Director General of the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (non-voting).

## Remuneration

The Act provides that members, other than those who are public sector employees, may be remunerated to an amount, determined by the Minister, based on the recommendation of the Public Sector Commissioner. Such remuneration and all other reasonably incurred expenses are paid for by the Department of Health, and are not drawn from the FHRI Account.

The total remuneration paid to members to attend meetings for 2022–23 was \$11,106 (Appendix 2). An additional amount of \$119.44 was paid towards travel costs for membership attendance at open days.

Biographies are available on the FHRI Fund website.



**Mr John Van Der Wielen**  
Advisory Council Chair



**Dr Glenn Begley**  
Advisory Council member



**Mr Kane Blackman**  
Advisory Council member



**Professor Sandra Eades AO**  
Advisory Council member to May 2023



**Adjunct Professor Dale Fisher**  
Advisory Council member



**Professor Christina Mitchell AO**  
Advisory Council member



**Mrs Vicki O'Donnell OAM**  
Advisory Council member to July 2022



**Dr David Russell-Weisz PSM**  
Advisory Council member (non-voting)



**Ms Rebecca Brown PSM**  
Advisory Council member (non-voting)

# Evaluation

## Advisory council review

The *Advisory Council Charter* requires an annual performance evaluation of the council to determine if it is functioning effectively. In February 2023, the Office of Medical Research and Innovation (OMRI) at the Department of Health contracted the services of an independent consultant (PwC) to undertake this review.

The review outlined the performance and function of the Advisory Council as a whole, as well as the operation of each member. As part of the process, governance documents were reviewed, each member was interviewed, and each voting member was required to complete a performance survey. The findings and recommendations of the review will form part of future planning activities. Key points included for the Advisory Council to:

- continue to increase engagement opportunities with the health and medical research and innovation sector
- have explicit expectations for members participation
- incorporate knowledge of the WA research and innovation ecosystem
- progressively become more strategic in nature including the formation of sub committees for specific topics
- continue operating with robust ethics and integrity frameworks supported by a well-functioning controlled environment.

## FHRI Fund evaluation

The evaluation of the FHRI Fund aims to facilitate continuous improvement by evaluating the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of its instruments, their impacts and contributions to the object of the Act.

A 10-year evaluation plan was developed in February 2023, including formative, summative and topic-based evaluation approaches. The first evaluation is set to consider the first 3 years of operation (from 2020–21 to 2022–23).

The formative evaluation will aim to assess the process of determination and implementation of FHRI Fund instruments and inform improvements. The summative evaluation will be a major examination of the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of the FHRI Fund in its entirety at a given point in time.





# Strategic direction

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## Strategic instruments

Disbursements from the FHRI Fund investment income are guided by a strategy and by priority goals.

The Advisory Council is responsible for developing these. The Department of Health develops programs and initiatives that contribute to achieving one or more priority goals, and the Advisory Council provides a recommendation to the Minister regarding whether a funding allocation should be approved towards these. The strategy, priority goals and programs and initiatives are approved by the Minister.

## Strategy

The inaugural [\*WA FHRI Fund Strategy 2020–2022\*](#) was developed through extensive research, analysis of national and international best practice, alignment with important reports and other strategies, and substantial stakeholder consultation.

In August 2022, the Advisory Council resolved to target 6 strategy objectives across the themes of people, partners and platforms, and introduced 4 focus areas:

- **A** (Aboriginal, rural and remote health)
- **B** (burden of diseases)
- **C** (living with COVID-19 and long Covid)
- **M** (mental health, kept distinct to ensure parity of esteem).

The [\*strategy on a page\*](#), as approved by the Minister, reflects the above refinements and also lists the priority goals.

## Priority goals

Each priority goal is an approach, need or opportunity that has been determined to be critical to achieving the vision of the strategy.

They are developed by the Advisory Council and approved by the Minister. The Advisory Council provides advice on how investment income will be allocated across the priority goals.

The priority goals for 2022–23 were:

1. Support the development of early- and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career.
2. Enhance skills in innovation (including commercialisation), which will advance the quality and capacity of innovation in WA and help WA innovators to obtain funding to support their work.
3. Provide cash commitments for submission to major competitive co-funding programs, making Western Australian-led applications more competitive and, therefore, increasing the State's share of national and international competitive funding.
4. Establish co-funding partnerships that will secure genuinely new non-government funding for research and innovation aligned with priorities for the FHRI Fund.
5. Enhance health and medical research literacy, skills and experience of consumers so that they engage more in research.
6. Establish innovation programs and programs and initiatives to support topical and/or early-stage ideas and enable opportunities for these innovative ideas to secure follow-on funding from commercial or other funders.
7. Enhance clinical trial capacity and expertise to improve the quality of clinical trials in WA and make the State more attractive to funders of clinical trials (grant funding and commercial sponsors).
8. Target high-performing researchers in WA to maintain and/or advance the State's position as a leader in health and medical research.

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## Funding principles

Determined by the Advisory Council, these principles guide the design and implementation of programs and initiatives, how funding applications are assessed and to ensure there is a focus on achieving and measuring the practical benefits the FHRI Fund is achieving. The 10 funding principles are:

1. open and transparent
2. high quality
3. independent review
4. partnerships and collaboration
5. consumers and the community
6. build culture
7. accelerate and translate
8. sustainable long-term change
9. review and evaluate
10. equitable outcomes.

Further information can be found on the [FHRI Fund governance model website](#).

## Other key strategic programs and initiatives

### Sustainable Health Review

The *Sustainable Health Review* (SHR) was undertaken to assist in the delivery of a WA health system that is more person-centred, and to provide innovative and financially sustainable care to ensure Western Australians receive excellent care, closer to home, now and into the future.

The [2019 SHR Final Report](#) includes 8 enduring strategies and 30 recommendations. Immediate focus has been placed on 6 of the recommendations, designated as [priorities](#).

Strategy 8 – ‘innovate for sustainability,’ includes:

- **Recommendation 28** – Establish a systemwide network of innovation units in partnership with clinicians, consumers and a wide range of partners to quickly develop, test and spread programs and initiatives delivering better patient care and value.
- **Recommendation 29** – Ensure that future research activities and investments are linked to the priorities of the WA health system and are actively translated into practice.

Recommendation 28 has the implementation priority, ‘the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund aligned to provide a secure source of funding and foster a culture of innovation.’

Recommendation 29 has the implementation priority, ‘the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund aligned to provide a secure source of funding and foster a vibrant research and translation culture in WA.’

### WA Health and Medical Research Strategy

The [WA Health and Medical Research Strategy 2023–2033](#) outlines the priorities and direction of health and medical research for the state. The strategy leverages the distinct advantages and opportunities of WA’s unique geography and population to strengthen research capability across the sector.

This strategy outlines the following goals:

1. build and empower workforce
2. grow partnerships
3. leverage the ecosystem
4. promote research
5. sustainable and diversified funding.

The FHRI Fund is a key initiative in contributing towards these goals.

# Programs and initiatives

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## Overview

A program or initiative is a mechanism through which funding is directed to a specific purpose and contributes to achieving one or more of the priority goals.

Programs and initiatives are approved by the Minister with consideration to the recommendation of the Advisory Council.

The Department of Health is responsible for developing, implementing and managing programs and initiatives, with assistance from expert committees as appropriate. The Advisory Council oversees the programs and initiatives and assures they have been developed and implemented appropriately and align with the priority goals.

## Selection processes

For each program or initiative, one of the following selection processes was utilised to determine recipients of funding:

- **Selection based on assessment criteria:** eligible applications are critically evaluated through an open and competitive process that includes a panel review against defined assessment criteria with this informing the selection of funding recipients.
- **Selection based on measures of excellence:** eligible applications receive funding based on an open competitive process that includes a 'research excellence' measure, such as the amount of nationally and internationally competitive, peer-reviewed, grant income they have received, the number of PhD students supported, or the number of new projects approved by an appropriate review committee (i.e. scientific review committee or human research ethics committee) to demonstrate recency and relevancy.

## Expert committees

The OMRI is able to establish expert committees to support the Advisory Council, the Minister and the Department of Health, as required. expert committees are normally time-limited, and each has a clearly defined scope, as well as more general terms of reference related to conflicts of interest and ethical conduct.

## Review panels

Expert committees can include the establishment of review panels to assess applications for any given program or initiative.

The names and institutional affiliation(s) of committee members are shown in Appendix 3. The specific activities in which individuals participated have not been disclosed to preserve the independence of the selection processes. Individuals who have not provided consent for their name and affiliation to be published have not been included. It is noted that some individuals may have participated in more than one committee.

To assist with identifying suitable panel members, nominations are sought from people who are interested in being a reviewer in an application assessment process via the [registration page](#).

There are no prerequisites for nominating, other than having an active interest in health and medical research and innovation. People with lived experience (consumer representatives) are encouraged to nominate, as are researchers, innovators, clinicians, and policymakers.

On 30 June 2023, there was a total of 299 people who had registered interest in contributing to the peer review processes.

When a competitive review process is required, nominees that are best considered to have the skills and experience suited to the opportunity are contacted. Where specialist expertise is required, persons may also be approached by OMRI to invite participation.

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Factors such as gender, career stage and employing organisations are taken into consideration when selecting nominees to ensure diversity and fair representation across review panels and to mitigate the impact of bias. This supports the equity funding principle, which promotes equitable outcomes by considering the structures of bias, disadvantage and inequity in WA, for example Aboriginal status.

Consumer representatives who participate in a review process may be eligible to be paid an honorarium, however other members are not generally paid.

For programs that are technologically or commercially focused, some key reviewers from the private sector are paid for their expert input. In this respect, for some programs a specialist commercial provider, selected and approved through a competitive procurement process, was engaged to conduct all, or part (shortlisting), of the assessment.

For all review panels established in 2022–23, to assess applications a panel declaration including associated conflict of interest (if applicable), and terms of reference were included as part of the governance suite of documents for panel members.

Review panels for 2022–23, were established for the following programs:

#### **Capability Building Program: National Reconstruction Fund – Medical Manufacturing**

The panel comprised experienced innovators, commercialisers, content experts and consumer representatives.

#### **Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) in Research Workforce Advancement (Tender)**

The panel comprised key internal stakeholders within the Department of Health and the *Evaluation Handbook A Guide for Evaluation Panel Members* was used as guidance for the panel.

#### **DISCOV3R Focus Grants**

The panel comprised experienced researchers, experts, and consumer representation for the inaugural round.

#### **Major Research Application Support (MRAS)**

The 3 panels established for this program comprised experienced researchers, experts, and consumer representation over 4 rounds during 2022–23.

#### **Innovation Seed Fund**

The assessment was undertaken in 2 stages – shortlisting and full review of the shortlisted applications by a review panel. The panel comprised experienced innovators, commercialisers, content experts and consumer representatives.

#### **Innovation Challenge – Generative Artificial Intelligence Applications**

The panel comprised experienced innovators, commercialisers, content experts and consumer representatives.

#### **Innovation Fellowships**

The assessment was undertaken in 2 stages – shortlisting and full review of the shortlisted applications by a review panel. The panel comprised experienced innovators, commercialisers, content experts and consumer representatives.





## The Impact of funding on transformative health and medical Innovation – Dr Tim Inglis and the FAST Journey

The development and commercialisation of ground-breaking health and medical innovations require not only scientific excellence but also sufficient financial investment. Dr Tim Inglis and a WA team of researchers from PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA, UWA, and the Harry Perkins Institute embarked on a journey to revolutionise healthcare with the FAST (flow cytometry-assisted antimicrobial susceptibility test) technology. Their journey sheds light on the critical role the FHRI Fund played in this transformative innovation and its potential healthcare and economic benefits for WA.

The story begins with Dr Tim Inglis's admission of a 'laboratory error.' Rather than being a setback, this error ignited a series of observations that proved instrumental in the development of the FAST technology. Dr Inglis recognised the need to observe bacteria's behaviour in the early stages of antibiotic treatment to obtain rapid and accurate results. This new understanding laid the foundation for what has the potential to become a world-changing innovation.

The journey towards creating a clinical-lab ready diagnostic test requires adequate funding, skills and support. This is where the FHRI Fund played a pivotal role – Dr Inglis was successful in securing a number of grants which positioned the team to secure further national funding. The key grants he obtained included:

- **FHRI Fund 2021 Translation Fellowship:** Dr Inglis was awarded a translation fellowship, to advance the development of FAST and supporting technology in a country health context.
- **FHRI Fund 2022 Innovation Seed Fund Grant:** this grant supported the transformation of the original analysis prototype into end-user ready software. It not only positioned the team for additional support but also catalysed the formation of Cytophenix Pty Ltd, a spinout company dedicated to bringing FAST technology to the forefront of health care.
- **FHRI Fund supported Australian Clinical Entrepreneur (AusCEP) Program:** Dr Inglis's induction into the first cohort of the FHRI Fund-supported AusCEP program provided an opportunity for entrepreneurial upskilling. AusCEP aims to foster innovation of significance to the health of the WA community. It provided workshops, mentoring, expert advice, and networking opportunities for Dr Inglis.
- **NHMRC Ideas Grant 2022–2025:** this national grant underscored the recognition of the FAST technology's potential. It provided the team with further resources to advance their work, facilitating its continued development and refinement through a WA translational research consortium comprising 2 public health service providers and 2 universities.
- **CUREator Program:** the research team received a grant via the CUREator program, delivered by Brandon Biocatalyst as part of Brandon Capital, to progress the regulatory status of FAST with the US FDA and accelerate commercialisation of the FAST technology.



The impact of this funding has been critical. It has not only enabled the team to progress from an initial idea towards a clinical-lab ready diagnostic test but has also positioned WA as a key player in ground-breaking medical innovation. Key achievements include:

- **Patent for FAST in the European Union:** the FHRI Fund grants played a pivotal role in securing a patent, recognising the uniqueness and significance of FAST.
- **Establishment of Cytophenix Pty Ltd:** a partnership between the WA researchers, UWA, and Three Springs Technology, Cytophenix is poised to commercialise FAST's AI-driven technology to guide antibiotic choices in life-threatening infections.
- **Recognition at the Western Australian Innovator of the Year Awards:** Cytophenix's AI-driven technology has been recognised with Cytophenix selected as a finalist in the 2023 WA Innovator of the Year Awards, highlighting its transformative potential.

The FAST technology journey exemplifies the pivotal role funding plays in advancing transformative medical innovations. The support provided by interlocking grants and funding programs has accelerated the development of FAST with immeasurable potential healthcare and economic benefits for WA including the promise of saving lives, addressing the increasing threat of antibiotic resistance, and fostering innovation-driven growth. This case study underscores the importance of continued investment in health and medical research and innovation to achieve the objectives of the FHRI Fund and drive positive change for WA and beyond.



# Programs and initiatives supported

## Capacity and capability

The programs and initiatives launched during 2022–23 supported the building of capacity and capability across the research and innovation portfolios. The consultations, engagements and evaluations undertaken by the OMRI echoed common themes such as priming and advancing WA based research and innovation preparedness and boosting opportunities for creating optimum conditions while investing in the ability that currently exists, to enhance the researchers and innovators of the future.

Several fellowship-based schemes highlighted capacity and capability across institutions, for example the Clinician Research Fellowship (CRF Program) in conjunction with WA Health Service Providers and the Raine Medical Foundation, Innovation Fellowships and Distinguished Fellows Programs.

Additionally, 2 FHRI Fund schemes invested in strengthening WA national grant funding competitiveness. The Major Research Application Support Program (MRAS) and the WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders 2022 Program (WANMA EL) bolstered WA's opportunity with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).

## Grants awarded

Seven of the programs and initiatives supported in 2022–23 resulted in grants to the value of \$17.1 million being awarded to the sector, with grants from the remaining 6 programs to be awarded in 2023–24.

In addition, 2 grants were awarded in 2022–23 from programs implemented in 2021–22 to the value of \$0.6 million, resulting in a total of \$17.7 million in FHRI Fund grants being awarded in 2022–23.

A further 4 programs and initiatives implemented in 2022–23 will be awarded in 2023–24. These represent an additional \$12 million of grants.

Appendix 4 provides further details of grants awarded in 2022–23.

**Table 2. FHRI Fund grants advertised and/or awarded in 2022–23**

Programs and initiatives	Grants awarded	
	(n)	(\$)
<b>Awarded 2021–22</b>		
Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Workforce Advancement Program	1	\$573,970
<b>Awarded 2022–23</b>		
Capability Building Program – National Reconstruction Fund – Medical Manufacturing	3	\$56,500
Clinician Researcher Training Program 2022–23	3	\$5,390,000
Co-Funding Partnership Program – BrightSpark Early Career Child Health Researcher Fellowships (Partnership funds provided to BrightSpark Foundation)	1	\$2,520,000
DISCOV3R Focus Grants	1	\$300,000
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – Stage 1	10	\$2,000,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	23	\$4,577,848
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	23	\$2,300,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$17,718,318</b>

Programs and initiatives	Grants awarded	
	(n)	(\$)
<b>Advertised or implemented in 2022–23 and to be awarded in 2023–24</b>		
Clinician Research Fellowships (partnership funds provided to the Raine Medical Research Foundation) Awarded in 2021–22 (\$950,000 for 2022–23)	1	\$0
FHRI Fund Distinguished Fellows Program	2	\$5,481,477
Innovation Challenge – Generative Artificial Intelligence Applications	19	\$937,312
Innovation Fellowships	10	\$1,347,849
Innovation Seed Fund	9	\$4,312,665
Major Research Application Support	0	\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$12,079,303</b>

## Programs and initiatives awarded in 2021–22

### Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Workforce Advancement Program

**Priority goal:** enhance health and medical research literacy, skills and experience of consumers so that they engage more in research.

Funding of \$573,970 (ex. GST) was awarded to Curtin University through the Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Workforce Advancement program to co-design, implement, and evaluate a research training suite for consumers, carers, and researchers, to support co-design data driven research. The training program aims to increase participants knowledge of health and medical research, the process undertaken to design and conduct research projects, basic research methodology, research related documentation, such as a research proposal and/or research ethics application and provide participants with the ability to design and undertake specific elements involved in a research project.

## Programs and initiatives awarded in 2022–23

### Capability Building Program – National Reconstruction Fund – Medical Manufacturing

**Priority goal:** enhance skills in innovation (including commercialisation), which will advance the quality and capacity of innovation in WA and help innovators to obtain funding to support their work.

This program awarded \$56,500 to provide capability building support to WA entities to enable the development of a Funding Application Business Case for medical manufacturing initiatives. This activity aims to position these entities to be 'application-ready,' and competitive, for submission to the Australian Government's National Reconstruction Fund – Medical Manufacturing.

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## Clinician Researcher Training Program

**Priority goal:** support the development of early and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career.

This program was designed to build the clinician researcher workforce. The program has awarded \$5,390,000 for 22 clinicians across WA Health Service Providers (HSPs) and public-private partnership providers (PPPPs) to undertake a higher degree by research. The scholarships are co-funded through cash and in-kind contributions from the host universities.

\$610,000 has also been allocated to a capacity building and career development pool which applicants may apply to for funding throughout their scholarships. The CRT Program is also supported by the WA Health Translation Network (WAHTN) through coordination of a mentoring program for CRT scholarship recipients.

CRT scholarship recipients will undertake research in their area of specialty training or clinical work on a research project that aligns with their HSP's or PPPP's strategic and health priorities.

## Co-Funding Partnerships Program – BrightSpark Early Career Child Health Researcher Fellowships

**Priority goal:** establish co-funding partnerships that will secure genuinely new nongovernment funding for research and innovation aligned with priorities for the FHRI Fund.

The Co-FPP enables partnerships to be established to develop new funding programs or maximise the impact of existing funding programs that are aligned with the FHRI Fund priority goals and that are funded by both partners. The FHRI Fund has awarded \$2,520,000 through the Co-FPP as a co-contribution for a new Early Career Child Health Research Fellowships program. BrightSpark Foundation will also contribute \$2,520,000 with a further \$2,160,000 minimum contribution from the fellow's research entity over three annual rounds.

The WA Early-Career Child Health Researcher (ECCHR) Fellowships Program will provide research support to keep more WA based PhD graduates involved in WA based child health research. This program is targeted towards early-career researchers who are WA based PhD students (including close to completion of PhD and recent post PhD graduates) and is designed to assist early-career researchers become better qualified, experienced, and positioned for seeking longer term child health research funding through avenues like the NHMRC's Investigator Grants (Emerging Leadership) scheme.

## DISCOV3R Focus Grants

**Priority goal:** enhance health and medical research literacy, skills and experience of consumers so that they engage more in research.

This program provides competitive grant funding to WA researchers to investigate the effectiveness of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs), and to determine their suitability as a long-term testing solution for infection by SARS-CoV-2 and its variants. The funded research will contribute to the health and well-being of the WA community, through enhancing developments in COVID-19 rapid diagnosis and promoting biotechnology innovation in WA. In 2022–23 a grant of \$300,000 was awarded to a Curtin University researcher.

## The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – Stage 1

**Priority goal:** establish co-funding partnerships that will secure genuinely new nongovernment funding for research and innovation aligned with Priorities for the FHRI Fund.

The Government of Western Australia issued a global challenge for a world-leading medical research and innovation solution to resolve a pressing problem of health service delivery in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The Challenge is to develop and propose a solution that uses technology, supported by research, to improve health outcomes for people living in regional and remote WA. Submissions were encouraged from industry, private sector, public sector agencies, universities, research institutes or collaborations from around the world.



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The winner will demonstrate proof of concept against an outcomes-based framework and can integrate solutions into existing models of healthcare delivery in the Pilbara.

### **WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23**

**Priority goal:** support the development of early and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career.

The WANMA Program is designed to support WA researchers who have narrowly missed out on a highly competitive National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigators grant.

WANMA funding is provided through one-year Emerging Leaders (EL) Grants and 2 to 3-year EL Fellowships. The EL Grants are to be used by recipients to enhance areas of the NHMRC application which were identified by the NHMRC peer review process as being improvable, while the EL Fellowships allow the recipients to do the work proposed in their NHMRC application over 2 or 3 years.

In 2022–23 the program awarded 19 one-year EL Grants of \$100,000 and 4 EL Fellowships of up to \$393,090 for early-career and up to \$945,834 for mid-career researchers, provided over a 2- or 3-year period. Overall, \$4.57 million in funding was awarded to 23 early and mid-career researchers.

### **WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23**

**Priority goal:** support the development of early and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career.

The WANMA program provides support for WA researchers who have narrowly missed out on a highly sought-after National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Ideas Grant in 2022. The funding is provided as a one-off grant for 12-months of activity to improve aspects of the application that have been found by the NHMRC peer review process to be improvable, with the aim for the application

to be resubmitted to a future NHMRC round with an improved chance of success. Grants of up to \$100,000 were awarded to 23 early-and mid-career researchers with a total funding pool of \$2.3 million provided to the WA health and medical research sector.

### **Programs and initiatives implemented in 2022–23 and yet to be awarded**

Programs and initiatives that were implemented in 2022–23 but where grants were not awarded by the end of 2022–23 will have outcomes included in the 2023–24 Annual Report.

### **Clinician Research Fellowships**

**Priority goal:** support the development of early and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career.

The CRF Program is designed to support WA public health system clinicians to pursue research while continuing to perform some of their clinical duties. It enables high-quality research that will ultimately provide better healthcare outcomes in WA's public health system. Health experts involved in clinical duties, including allied health and health sciences, dental, medical, nursing and midwifery professions, are eligible to apply for the program. The initiative covers the costs of backfilling a proportion of the fellows' clinical work time and can be for up to 3 years in duration, depending on the research proposal.

### **FHRI Fund Distinguished Fellows Program**

**Priority goals:** support the development of early-and mid-career researchers, helping them to achieve an independent and self-sustaining career and Establish co-funding partnerships that will secure genuinely new non-government funding for research and innovation aligned with Priorities for the FHRI Fund.

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The program aims to attract outstanding and innovative world-class research leaders to WA, who will lead a substantial and high-quality innovative research program. The objectives of the program, through the appointment of the Fellows, is to build capacity of high quality, globally recognised research in WA by achieving: success in nationally and internationally competitive funding programs, high quality research outputs with demonstrated research and health impacts on the relevant field, sustainable and successful research careers for early- to mid-career researchers supervised by the Fellow, and successful completion of research students (Masters by research and PhD).

### **Innovation Challenge – Generative Artificial Intelligence Applications**

**Priority goal:** establish innovation initiatives to support topical and/or early-stage ideas and enable opportunities for these innovators to secure follow-on funding from commercial or other funders.

This Innovation Challenge is seeking creative solutions that use generative artificial intelligence (AI) technology to address significant health and medical challenges. The program will proactively build the capacity and capability of WA researchers and innovators to leverage the strengths and opportunities presented by generative AI. The aims of the program are to promote creative solutions to address challenges in 4 streams, and to enable WA researchers and innovators to be more competitive in applying for health and medical research and innovation funding opportunities that relate to the use of generative AI and mitigation of risk.

### **Innovation Fellowships**

**Priority goal:** enhance skills in innovation (including commercialisation), which will advance the quality and capacity of innovation in WA and help innovators to obtain funding to support their work.

The aims of the Innovation Fellowships are to build the innovation and entrepreneurial skills and expertise of talented individuals who have innovative

ideas but have not had the opportunity to fully develop these, and to contribute to enhancing the innovation knowledge and culture in WA.

### **Innovation Seed Fund**

**Priority goal:** establish an innovation seed fund to support early-stage ideas, which will attract at least 1:1 co-funding from other partners and will enable these innovative ideas to secure follow-on funding from commercial and/or other funders.

The purpose of the Seed Fund is to provide the opportunity for WA innovators to develop and commercialise their innovations, create high-level health sector jobs and enhance the production and manufacturing capacity of the State. The Seed Fund is directed towards activities that fall within the health and medical innovation and commercialisation stream of the FHRI Fund. The Seed Fund has been designed to bridge the gap in access to early-stage funding in WA and to 'prime' the commercialisation pipeline, providing the opportunity for start-ups to be more competitive in securing follow-on funding and developing into sustainable businesses.

### **Major Research Application Support**

**Priority goal:** provide cash commitments for submission to major competitive co-funding programs, making Western Australian-led applications more competitive and, therefore, increasing the State's share of national and international competitive funding.

This program provides in-principle financial support for research applications being submitted to nationally and internationally competitive grant funding rounds to boost their chance of success, with the aims of promoting high quality research, enabling opportunities for the translation of research findings into new knowledge and improved health and wellbeing, and enhancing WA's standing as a leader in health and medical research.



## Consumer and Community Involvement in Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Projects

Consumer and community involvement (CCI) remains visible and embedded in the application and award processes for FHRI Fund programs and initiatives to encourage best-practice research in WA research and innovation activities. WA continues to lead the way with FHRI Fund CCI processes in place to ensure the voices of people with lived experience are captured and incorporated into the ideation, design, delivery and translation of research and innovation for the benefit of WA communities.

The CCI governance of FHRI Fund programs and initiatives involves awarding 10 to 15 per cent of the grant assessment scoring criteria for existing and planned use of involvement of people with lived experience within a project and secondly, through people with lived experience within health or a carer actively participating within the grant application review process. A dedicated expert team of consumers, carers and community members have continued to work with the OMRI in these past 12 months to guide the employment of new best-practice processes, including the adoption of mandatory reporting of CCI components in funded projects in interim and final reports. This initiative will help to identify WA research and innovation projects with 'gold star' consumer involvement as well as identify challenges for involvement.





The involvement of consumers and communities in research and innovation has been shared at each of the 3 open days hosted by OMRI this year. At 2 of these, the team's CCI Coordinator promoted to the WA research sector the importance of CCI in all aspects of research and innovation, together with key elements of involvement that are considered for grant success. In addition to this promotion and awareness raising, the coordinator directly supported and trained 5 FHRI Fund grant review panels on awarding appropriate scores for consumer involvement relating to co-design, translation and budgets for grant applications.

To ensure the CCI practices of our grant review process is continuing to maintain best practice standards, the coordinator has undertaken a review of grant review panel experience, training and CCI scoring for 4 established grant review panels during the reporting period. The review will lead to several recommendations for additional opportunities for ongoing improvement and refinement to the grant review panel process and training. With the CCI component of grant schemes now being well embedded, an additional review of consistency and compliance of planned CCI by research and innovation teams was undertaken for one of the funded programs to give additional insight and recommendations regarding increased support, training and resourcing in the research and innovation sector to further develop best-practice CCI across WA.

A new initiative launched in February 2023 focused on a program to build the capacity of consumers in research and innovation co-design. The Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Workforce Advancement Training Program, now named Curtin CREST, has been supported by the CCI Coordinator based at OMRI and the OMRI team to guide and support the programs development. Delivery of the first program is expected in early 2024.

The commitment to building the capacity of WA researchers and innovators with regards to involving people with lived experience in their projects was supported during the reporting period by the WA Health Translation Network's (WAHTN) CCIProgram CCI Masterclass series, and a tailored CCI session in OMRI's 'success in grant writing' workshop series for midwifery and allied health professionals. This year's WAHTN Science on the Swan 2023 Conference employed a 'partnering for success' theme, with a specific focus on CCI through a targeted FHRI Fund grant session and CCI award, breakfast, CCI in research session and conversations with the FHRI Fund Panel on support for consumer and community involvement in research and innovation.

The FHRI Fund remains committed to raising awareness and building capacity of WA researchers and innovators in consumer and community involvement, thereby ensuring funded projects are best practice in their design, delivery and translation and enhance their relevance and impact on WA communities.

# Open days

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2022–23 saw the establishment of FHRI Fund open days to mark the commencement of each funding cycle. Three funding cycles commencing in July, November and March of each year were introduced with the inaugural open day in November 2022 and the second following in March 2023. The open days have provided an opportunity for researchers and innovators to network with other members of the health and medical research and innovation sector, engage with members of the Advisory Council and OMRI staff, hear about exciting developments and initiatives in the health and medical research and innovation community, hear about new programs and initiatives being launched in each cycle, celebrate recipients of recently closed funding opportunities.

Open days are co-hosted by OMRI and a partner organisation, with every second open day scheduled in a regional, remote or rural location in line with the focus area of Aboriginal, rural and remote health. Attendance is in-person and online and the event is also recorded and hosted online.

## November 2022

The first open day was held at the Dolphin Discovery Centre in Bunbury, on 2 November 2022. It brought together researchers, innovators, community members and the academic and private sectors, and was coordinated by the OMRI and the University of Western Australia.

At this open day, 6 programs were launched:

- Clinician Researcher Training Program
- Co-Funding Partnerships Program
- Innovation Fellowships
- Innovation Seed Fund
- Major Research Application Support Program
- WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders
- FHRI Fund Distinguished Fellows Program.

Further information can be found [online](#).

## March 2023

Curtin University's enAble Institute co-hosted the second open day on 2 March 2023 together with OMRI. The open day included a focus of attention on mental health research.

Seven programs were launched:

- Clinician Research Fellowships Program
- Co-Funding Partnerships Program
- DISCOV3R Focus Grants
- Major Research Application Support
- WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants
- Innovation Challenge 2023 – Generative Artificial Intelligence
- Capability Building Program – National Reconstruction Fund (Medical Manufacturing).

Further information can be found [online](#).



# Financial report

The FHRI Fund is administered by the Treasurer. In accordance with Part 3 of the Act, the Department of Health as the accountable authority must include in its Annual Report information about the operation of the FHRI Fund during the financial year.

The certification of financial statements for the FHRI Fund for the year ending 30 June 2023 and financial position as at 30 June 2023 is provided in the [Department of Health Annual Report 2022–23](#).

## Estimate of investment income

Under section 4B of the Act, each financial year the FHRI Account is to be credited with an amount equal to the forecast investment income for the financial year from the FHRI Fund.

If the State Budget Papers for the financial year have not been handed down before the commencement of the financial year, the Act provides that an estimate of investment income must be tabled in Parliament, before the start of the financial year.

The Treasurer tabled in each House of Parliament the estimate of income from the investment of FHRI Fund money for the year ending 30 June 2023 to be \$48.6 million.

The Treasurer’s statement noted that an amount equal to the estimate of income derived will be charged to the FHRI Fund and credited to the FHRI account in the 2022–23 financial year.

## Financial statements

In June 2020, the FHRI Account, an agency special purpose account under the *Financial Management Act 2006* section 16, was established by the Act.

Relating to the financial statements for the FHRI Account, balances for the financial year ending 30 June 2023 are presented below.

## 2022–23 expenditure

FHRI Fund expenditure from the FHRI Account in 2022–23 was made up of expenditure on Programs and Initiatives implemented from 2020–21, 2021–22 and 2022–23. The total expenditure from the FHRI Account in 2022–23 was \$18,216,071.65.

## 2022–23 FHRI Fund Account Financial Report

In June 2020, the Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI Account), an agency special purpose account under the *Financial Management Act 2006* section 16, was established by the *Western Australian Future Fund Amendment (Future Health Research and Innovation Fund) Act 2020*.

The aim of the special purpose account is to provide secure and long-term source of funding in support of future health research and innovation.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Balance at start of period	24,464	15,149
Receipts	49,959	32,547
Payments	(19,848)	(23,232)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>54,575*</b>	<b>24,464</b>

\*Note this amount includes i) additional investment income allocated in 2022–23; and ii) funds that are committed through existing agreements and not yet expended.



# Glossary

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<b>Advisory council</b>	Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Advisory Council
<b>CCI Coordinator</b>	Consumer and Community Involvement Coordinator
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>FHRI</b>	Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation
<b>FHRI Account</b>	The operational account that is used to support Programs and Initiatives
<b>FHRI Fund</b>	The Treasury FHRI Fund which is the capital-holding account
<b>Governance Framework</b>	Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Governance Framework
<b>NHMRC</b>	National Health and Medical Research Council
<b>Program and initiative</b>	<p>A program or initiative is a mechanism through which funding is directed to a specific purpose and contributes to achieving one or more of the priorities.</p> <p>Programs and Initiatives are approved by the responsible Minister based on the recommendation of the Advisory Council.</p>
<b>The Act</b>	<i>Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012</i>
<b>WA</b>	Western Australia
<b>WANMA</b>	Western Australian Near-Miss Awards

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# Appendix 1. Department of Health responsibilities

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## Department of Health

The Department of Health assists the Minister to administer the Act and is the State Government agency responsible for managing and/or supporting the decisionmakers and advisers of the FHRI Fund scheme.

The Director General performs a central coordination role for the FHRI Fund scheme and administers the FHRI Account on behalf of the Minister. The Director General recommends the programs and initiatives to the Minister and is also a non-voting member of the Advisory Council.

The OMRI, a unit within the Department of Health, provides administrative and operational support to the FHRI Fund and reports to the Director General.

## Office of Medical Research and Innovation (OMRI)

Created on 1 July 2022 within the Department of Health, the OMRI supports the FHRI Fund's operations as well as providing policy and funding support for health and medical research and innovation for both the WA health system and the wider WA health and medical research and innovation sector.

The OMRI is funded by the Department of Health and not from the FHRI Account. It is the responsibility of the Department of Health to ensure that the OMRI has sufficient resources to support the FHRI Fund scheme.

The OMRI is responsible for:

- supporting the Advisory Council to develop the strategy and priorities
- developing and maintaining the governance framework and evaluation framework for the FHRI Fund scheme
- implementing FHRI Fund scheme programs and initiatives and managing them post-award

- providing secretariat support to the Advisory Council
- assembling expert committees to support the Advisory Council, the Minister and the Department of Health, as required.

OMRI works with a CCI Coordinator to ensure the FHRI Fund embeds best practice consumer and community engagement in its activities. The CCI coordinator develops, assesses and reviews OMRI's community involvement and impact and supports research and innovation to link with consumers ensuring the research question is appropriate, the methodology supports participation, and the results can be translated into better health care.

## FHRI Fund delegation schedule

The Minister uses an Instrument of Delegation under the Act to delegate functions of the Act to the Director General, Department of Health.

Under the Act, the Director General is able to delegate functions that are delegated to him to a public service officer within the FHRI Account Department, which is the Department of Health. Department of Health officers listed in the Director General's instrument of delegation are:

- Deputy Director General
- Chief Finance Officer, Executive Director, System Finance
- Director, Research and Innovation
- Manager, Research and Innovation Office (position 00016234)
- Manager, Research and Innovation Office (position 00001428).

## Appendix 2. Advisory council remuneration

Position	Name	Term of appointment	Period of membership 2022-23	Type of remuneration	Base salary and sitting fees	Meeting Attendance	Gross or actual remuneration
Chair	John Van Der Wielen	3 years to October 2023	12 months	Sessional	\$1,270 for meetings over 4 hours, \$825 for meetings of 4 hours or less	4 meetings 1 strategic planning day	\$2,475
Member	Glenn Begley	3 years to October 2023	12 months	Sessional	\$825 for meetings over 4 hours, \$537 for meetings of 4 hours or less	4 meetings	\$1,611
Member	Kane Blackman	5 years to October 2025	12 months	Eligible	\$825 for meetings over 4 hours, \$537 for meetings of 4 hours or less	4 meetings 1 strategic planning day	\$3,510
Member	Sandra Eades AO	5 years to October 2025	11 months	Sessional	\$825 for meetings over 4 hours, \$537 for meetings of 4 hours or less	0 meetings	\$0
Member	Dale Fisher	3 years to October 2023	12 months	Sessional	\$825 for meetings over 4 hours, \$537 for meetings of 4 hours or less	1 meeting 1 strategic planning day	\$1,899
Member	Christina Mitchell AO	5 years to October 2025	12 months	Sessional	\$825 for meetings over 4 hours, \$537 for meetings of 4 hours or less	3 meetings	\$1,611
Member	Vicki O'Donnell OAM	2 years to July 2022	2 months	Sessional	\$825 for meetings over 4 hours, \$537 for meetings of 4 hours or less	0 meetings	\$0
Member non-voting	Director General, Department of Health or nominee	Ongoing	12 months	Not eligible	Not applicable	4 meetings 1 strategic planning day	\$0
Member non-voting	Director General, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	Ongoing	12 months	Not eligible	Not applicable	3 meetings 1 strategic planning day	\$0
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$11,106</b>



## Appendix 3. Expert committee members

No.	Names
1	Dr Bahareh Badrian (WA Department of Health, Office of Medical Research, and Innovation)
2	Dr Revle Bangor-Jones (WA Department of Health, Office of the Chief Health Officer)
3	Mr Tim Benson (Health Consumer Advocate)
4	Megan Burley (WA Department of Health, Health Networks)
5	Professor Karen Chapman (The University of Edinburgh)
6	Dr Laurence Cheung
7	Laura Depczynski (WA Department of Health, Health Networks)
8	Mr Mark Foley (Health Consumer Advocate)
9	Dr Alma Fulurija (Telethon Kids Institute)
10	Dr Andrew Gibson (Murdoch University)
11	Associate Professor Juliana Hamzah (Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research)
12	Associate Professor Fang-Xu Jiang (HealthRegen Pty Ltd)
13	Dr Mary Kennedy (Edith Cowan University)
14	Associate Professor Anthony Kicic (Telethon Kids Institute)
15	Dr Welber Marinovic (Curtin University)

No.	Names
16	Ms Clare Masolin (Health Consumer Advocate)
17	Mr Rohan McDougall (Curtin University)
18	Dr Helga Mikkelsen (Brandon Capital)
19	Associate Professor Frances Mitrou (Telethon Kids Institute)
20	Ms Nicole Philippson (Edith Cowan University)
21	Mr Lindsay Rowe (Child and Adolescent Health Service)
22	Dr Celine Royet (Vital Trace)
23	Dr Paul Sadleir (Sadlier Laboratories Pty Ltd and Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital)
24	Mr (Eawin) Michael Seward (Health Consumer Advocate)
25	Associate Professor Hamid Sohrabi (Murdoch University)
26	Dr Kimberley Wang (The University of Western Australia)
27	Dr Stacey Waters (WA Department of Health, Office of the Deputy Director General)
28	Dr Tracey Wilkinson (MTPConnect, WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub)
29	Dr Yu Yu (The University of Western Australia)

## Appendix 4. FHRI Fund grants awarded during 2022–23

Program or initiative	Responsible entity	Activity title	Funding
Capability Building Program – National Reconstruction Fund – Medical Manufacturing	Alcolizer Pty Ltd	Virulizer™: Commercialisation, upscaling and manufacturing	\$20,000
Capability Building Program – National Reconstruction Fund – Medical Manufacturing	Australian Institute of Robotic Orthopaedics (AIRO) Pty Ltd	Reimagining orthopaedic surgery through robotic laser joint resurfacing: replacing antiquated and invasive techniques to restore natural joint function and improve well-being for millions.	\$20,000
Capability Building Program – National Reconstruction Fund – Medical Manufacturing	OncoRes Medical	Scaling, manufacturing and commercialising a WA-invited medical technology for global export	\$16,500
<b>Capability Building Program – National Reconstruction Fund – Medical Manufacturing total</b>			<b>\$56,500</b>
Clinician Researcher Training Program 2022–23	Curtin University		\$2,940,000
Clinician Researcher Training Program 2022–23	Edith Cowan University		\$490,000
Clinician Researcher Training Program 2022–23	The University of Western Australia		\$1,960,000
<b>Clinician Researcher Training Program 2022–23 total</b>			<b>\$5,390,000</b>
Co-Funding Partnerships Program	BrightSpark Foundation		\$2,520,000
<b>Co-Funding Partnerships Program total</b>			<b>\$2,520,000</b>
Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Workforce Advancement Program	Curtin University		\$573,970
<b>Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Workforce Advancement Program total</b>			<b>\$573,970</b>
DISCOV3R Focus Grants	Curtin University	Sensitivity of COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for new variants of SARS-CoV-2	\$300,000
<b>DISCOV3R Focus Grants total</b>			<b>\$300,000</b>

Program or initiative	Responsible entity	Activity title	Funding
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1	Agile 8 Pty Ltd	Smarter, Faster and Culturally Safer Virtual Care using XRAI Vision	\$200,000
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Digital yarnning using interoperable computer integration for sharing medical records and photographs to Close the Gap	\$200,000
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1	Curtin University	Healthy Connections	\$200,000
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1	Curve Tomorrow Pty Ltd	Pilbara Engage – Digital Care Pathways	\$200,000
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1	DermR Health Solutions Pty Ltd	The DermR Patch	\$200,000
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1	Lions Eye Institute	Chronic Disease Care on Country: Outreach Screening Incorporating Artificial Intelligence with Multidisciplinary Specialist Management	\$200,000
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1	Real Serious Games Pty Ltd	Dreamscape – Virtual Journeys – Health and Happiness	\$200,000
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1	Telstra Health	Pilbara Digital Twin	\$200,000
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1	The University of Western Australia	Health Innovation – Transformative Interconnected Digital Ecosystem (HI-TIDE)	\$200,000
The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1	Women and Infants Research Foundation	Lyfe Languages – a globally scalable and sustainable Pilbara community co-designed innovation ecosystem	\$200,000
<b>The Challenge – reimagining regional and remote health care – stage 1 total</b>			<b>\$2,000,000</b>

Program or initiative	Responsible entity	Activity title	Funding
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	Development of a New Phenotype Maternal Epigenetic Age Estimator as a Risk Factor for Perinatal Morbidity	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	Improving how we measure the value of health care outcomes	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	Increasing the pace of change to equity in Aboriginal perinatal health: Evidence for advocacy and intervention	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	Targeted approaches for understanding and promoting optimal nutrition across the lifespan	\$100,000 (awarded and declined)
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Edith Cowan University	Emerging technologies and approaches to enhance health for people on texture modified diets	\$393,090
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Edith Cowan University	Genetic analysis of Alzheimer's disease and comorbidities	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Edith Cowan University	Improving quality of life in people with lower limb osteoarthritis	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Edith Cowan University	Nitrate: the Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of human health?	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Murdoch University	An immunogenomic roadmap to define tissue-relevant genetic-, cellular-, and epitope-risk signatures of Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis towards personalised prevention and treatment.	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Murdoch University	Physical activity and dementia prevention: Establishing evidence for impact and translation	\$100,000

Program or initiative	Responsible entity	Activity title	Funding
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Murdoch University	Positive Health Behaviour in Neurological populations	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Murdoch University	Strengthening functional connectivity to reduce tremor in Parkinson's disease.	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Murdoch University	Tackling antimicrobial resistance human-animal interface: A One health approach	\$945,834
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	North Metropolitan Health Service	Eliciting sexual health concerns in survivors of breast and gynaecological cancer	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	South Metropolitan Health Service	Improving Outcomes for patients with Diabetes-related Foot Ulceration	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Telethon Kids Institute on behalf of UWA	Maternal Nutritional Strategies for Child Allergy Prevention	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Combating Clostridium difficile infection through One Health-focused genomics	\$945,834 (awarded and declined)
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Enhancing medicines safety in older people through Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) interventions	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Improving health outcomes of dystonia through genetics	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Interrogating the genetic architecture of melanoma	\$100,000 (later accepted a Fellowship \$945,834)



Program or initiative	Responsible entity	Activity title	Funding
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Listen up! Your memory may depend on it. Impact of Hearing Rehabilitation on Cognitive Functions, Mental & Psychosocial Well-being of Indigenous Older Adults.	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Prevention or cure? Mitigating respiratory disease after intrauterine growth restriction	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23	Women and Infants Research Foundation	Artificial Placenta development	\$393,090
<b>WA Near-Miss Awards – Emerging Leaders Fellowships and Grants 2022–23 total</b>			<b>\$4,577,848</b>
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	An intervention for remyelination: A novel therapy to stop progression of Multiple Sclerosis	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	Neurofeedback as an Intervention for Persisting PostConcussive Symptoms after Mild Traumatic Brain Injury	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	Gut microbiota and immune cells as mediators of prolonged pathology in mild traumatic brain injury	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	Immune-microbial priming in neonatal sepsis: tracing the IMPriNTS of early-life infections	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	Investigating the relationship between net Pregnane-X receptor (PXR) activation and health outcomes	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	Quantifying the influence of continuity of care provided by general practitioners (GPs) on quality use of medications in the elderly	\$100,000

Program or initiative	Responsible entity	Activity title	Funding
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	The Speech Movement and Acoustic Analysis Tracking tool for the differential diagnosis of a speech sound disorder	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Curtin University	Understanding the role of bone marrow adipocytes in children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Ear Science Institute Australia	Using advanced phenotyping derived from novel functional measures to drive precision diagnosis of hearing loss	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Edith Cowan University	Autoantibodies as Biomarkers of Response to Immunotherapy and Onset of Immune-related Adverse Events in Cutaneous Melanoma Patients	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Edith Cowan University	Determination of bone mineral density from a hand radiograph: Facilitating early identification of osteoporosis	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Edith Cowan University	Pardon the vegetables: how nitrate source determines health impact	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Edith Cowan University	Transdermal delivery of lithium for bipolar disorder treatment	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Fiona Wood Foundation	Understanding how a childhood burn can impact on lifetime health	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Murdoch University	Characterising Extent and Health Impacts of the Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Exposome in Population-Based Cohorts	\$100,000

Program or initiative	Responsible entity	Activity title	Funding
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	North Metropolitan Health Service	An novel immunosuppressants preserve tissueresident anti-viral immunity and successful outcomes after transplantation?	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	Telethon Kids Institute on behalf of UWA	Junk-food filled school neighbourhoods: building the evidence for change	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Developing a bone-targeting RNA-silencing oligonucleotides to treat osteoporosis	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Developing a novel angiogenic protein to heal broken bones	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Developing next generation cell therapies for enhancing skin regeneration after injury	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Development and application of an electronic phenotype for national surveillance of chronic coronary disease: informing health planning, policy and practice	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Eyeing New Therapeutic Targets for Metastatic Uveal Melanoma Using New Era Transcriptomics	\$100,000
WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23	The University of Western Australia	Genetic and environment influences on the development of myopia: addressing a rising global prevalence post-pandemic	\$100,000
<b>WA Near-Miss Awards – Ideas Grants 2022–23 total</b>			<b>\$2,300,000</b>
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>\$17,718,318</b>

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