



Western Australian
Future Health Research
& Innovation Fund

Co-Funding Partnerships Program

Guidelines and Conditions

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1. Introduction

The Co-Funding Partnerships Program (Co-FPP) is a Program of the Western Australian (WA) [Future Health Research and Innovation \(FHRI\) Fund](#).

The FHRI Fund provides a secure source of funding to drive health and medical research, innovation, and commercialisation and through these activities, improve the health and prosperity of all Western Australians. It also provides an opportunity to diversify the economy, create jobs, improve the sustainability of the health system and position WA as a leader in research and innovation.

The Co-FPP contributes to the [FHRI Fund Priority Goal](#):

- Establish co-funding partnerships that will secure genuinely new non-government funding for research and innovation aligned with Priorities for the FHRI Fund.

Partnerships will only be formed where the proposed use of partnership funds aligns with:

- at least one of the FHRI Fund Priority Goals; and
- at least one of the FHRI Fund Focus Areas.

The Co-FPP is administered by the Office of Medical Research and Innovation (OMRI), WA Department of Health (Department of Health). Queries may be directed to DOH.OMRI@health.wa.gov.au.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Co-FPP is to establish collaborations and funding partnerships to bring genuinely new non-government funding or maximise the impact of existing charitable funding for health and medical research and innovation in WA, and to build a culture that supports co-operation and interconnectedness.

The aims of the Co-FPP are to:

- create new opportunities through increased funding for health and medical research and innovation in WA
- identify Funding Partners whose interests and objectives, in WA health and medical research and innovation, are shared with those of the FHRI Fund, resulting in shared strategic thinking, leveraged knowledge, and expanded impact.

The objectives of the Co-FPP are to:

- leverage additional funding for research and innovation in WA
- create new or enhanced funding programs to support research and/or innovation aimed at addressing FHRI Fund Priority Goals and Focus Areas
- form partnerships that have strategic, reputational, and operational benefits.

In addition, quantifiable outcomes for each partnership program will be determined in consultation between OMRI and the Funding Partner.

The Co-FPP provides a unique opportunity for Funding Partners, with benefits such as:

- Leveraged funding in a shared area of interest, increasing impact.
- Reputational benefits of being involved in Programs supported by the FHRI Fund, which is the State's premier and legislated vehicle to support health and medical research and innovation.

- Promotional opportunities to publicise co-funded Programs, including through Ministerial media statements, the FHRI Fund website and extensive stakeholder distribution channels.
- Access to expert personnel to design bespoke funding programs that are transparent and competitive or choose from tried and tested FHRI Fund programs tailored for the co-funded Program.
- Best-practice application review processes, including access to expert reviewers drawn from an extensive database including consumers, clinicians, academics, and private industry.
- Unparalleled cross-sector reach, including into hospitals, universities, research institutes and industry to ensure high-quality applications are received.
- Robust grant award and management processes, ensuring co-funding is spent appropriately.
- Embedded evaluation, so that the benefits of the co-funding are tracked.
- No administration costs drawn from Funding Partner or FHRI Fund contributions, meaning every dollar will be put towards research or innovation.

Examples of successful funding partnerships enabled by OMRI include the:

- FHRI Fund and Raine Medical Research Foundation for the [Clinician Research Fellowships](#)
- FHRI Fund and BrightSpark Foundation for the [WA Early-Career Child Health Researcher Fellowships](#)
- FHRI Fund and Royal Perth Hospital Research Foundation for the [Research for the Innovation and Impact Grants](#)
- FHRI Fund and Cancer Research Trust for the WA Collaborative Cancer Research grant
- FHRI Fund and Cancer Council WA for the [Cancer Research Project Grant scheme](#).

3. Program description

The Co-FPP will provide a mechanism for Funding Partners to co-fund FHRI Fund research and/or innovation Programs that address shared goals. Potential Funding Partners include charitable organisations, non-government organisations and the private sector. In general, WA State Government agencies and entities whose funding is primarily provided by the WA State Government are not eligible. The Co-FPP has two streams:

- Stream A is open to all eligible entities who will contribute genuinely new funding to establish a new co-funded program.
- Stream B is for co-funding of an existing successful WA funding program and is open only to active charitable organisations listed in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission register. See [Search for a charity | ACNC](#)

The partner funding must be altruistic in nature, for the benefit of Western Australians. As such, the Funding Partner must not benefit directly from the funding or the research or innovation it supports. It is recognised that Funding Partners benefit reputationally from participating in the Co-FPP and that this reputational benefit could result in increased income. However, for the purposes of the Co-FPP, such benefits are secondary or indirect and generally will not affect Co-FPP eligibility.

The Co-FPP arrangement and funding will be transparent, with funding distributed for research and/or innovation in an open competitive way.

Co-funding opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Co-design a new grant Program (Stream A), or co-funding of an existing program (Stream B) to:
 - address a specific issue
 - provide health and medical research / innovation fellowships
 - provide infrastructure support for research and/or innovation
 - research projects or innovation activities seeking to address a significant health issue, such as research to develop a new test to aid earlier diagnosis of a disease.
- Untied partner funding, with the resulting co-funded Program being at the discretion of OMRI.

A prospective Funding Partner may submit an expression of interest to co-fund an FHRI Fund Program at any time. However, expressions of interest and proposals to partner that are received in the final month of a FHRI Fund 4-monthly Funding Program cycle will be considered after the next funding cycle commences. The Funding Program cycles commence at the start of March, July, October and December each year.

Co-FPP proposals must consider the following:

- Contributions from the FHRI Fund of between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 per annum per proposal will be considered. Note that proposals cannot request ongoing funding.
- The requested FHRI Fund contribution must be at least matched in cash by the Funding Partner.
- Alignment of the proposed Program with the FHRI Fund [Funding Principles](#).
- Identified outcomes associated with the proposed Program must be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound.
- The proposed administration model, i.e., if it is proposed that OMRI would administer the Program or if the Funding Partner proposes to administer the co-funded Program (if it has the capacity and experience to do so), noting that the co-funding contributions cannot be used for administration costs.
- Award of funding through the co-funded Program will be through open, competitive, and transparent processes, with guidelines and conditions for applicants. This applies no matter whether the Funding Partner or OMRI administers the Program.
- Partnerships will be transparent, accountable, and based on agreed ethical principles, goals, commitments, and respect for each Funding Partners' role and responsibilities.

4. Eligibility

To be eligible for this Program all of the following eligibility criteria apply to both Co-FPP Streams:

- Applications must be submitted in accordance with Section 6 Application Instructions.
- Partnerships will only be formed where the proposed use of partnership funds aligns with the following:

At least one of the FHRI Fund Strategy Priority Goals:

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 (note that this Priority Goal is not suitable for selection by potential partners as it is already the focus of the Co-FPP).
5. Enhance health and medical research literacy, skills, and experience of consumers so that they engage more in research.
6. Establish innovation P&Is to support topical and/or early-stage ideas and enable opportunities for these innovative ideas to secure follow-on funding from commercial/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.

AND

At least one of the FHRI Fund Strategy Focus Areas:

- Aboriginal, rural, and remote health
 - Burden of disease
 - Living with COVID-19 and Long-Covid
 - Mental health.
- Eligibility criteria applying only to Stream A:
 - Applications can be made by an individual.
 - Applications can be made by an organisation, such as a charity or a private company with an active Australian Business Number (ABN). An organisation not based in Australia (and therefore not having an ABN) must provide evidence that it is a legally constituted entity in the corresponding country.
 - The Funding Partner must contribute genuinely new funding that will result in a net increase in health and medical research or innovation funding in WA (e.g. this excludes funding that is simply being re-directed from health and medical research or innovation funding that the Funding Partner already provides).
 - Eligibility criteria applying only to Stream B:
 - Applications can be made by an active charitable organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.
 - Applications can seek support for an existing funding program if it meets all Co-FPP eligibility criteria except those criteria applying only to Stream A. OMRI reserves the right to negotiate with potential Stream B partners to modify an existing funding program to ensure it meets all relevant Co-FPP eligibility criteria.
 - The existing program proposed to be co-funded has been recently reviewed or evaluated and OMRI, at its absolute discretion, is satisfied that the outcome of this review or evaluation provides robust evidence that the program is

operating efficiently and effectively and is producing high quality outcomes that are consistent with the purpose of the program.

Funding Partner proposals that will be considered under the Co-FPP include those that:

- have no direct financial benefit to the Funding Partner from the FHRI Fund co-funding
- will result in a Program that is truly open and competitive, where the recipients of funding are determined by an independent panel, without influence by the Funding Partner, the FHRI Fund or the Department of Health
- will result in a Program whose funding will be spent entirely in WA (exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis)
- are from individuals or organisations whose values and objectives complement those of the Department of Health. For example, exclusions are those that own, control or are involved directly in:
 - the production and manufacture of tobacco and tobacco-related products including cigarettes and cigars
 - an industry that produces products or services that may contribute to poor physical health or mental well-being of the community
- propose activities that meet the FHRI Fund's definitions of [research](#) and [innovation](#), and do not duplicate existing initiatives and project activities
- provide structure and sufficient supporting information for assessment at the Proposal to Partner stage.

An applicant may submit more than one application to the Co-FPP.

OMRI reserves the right to request further information and make final decisions on the eligibility of applicants.

5. Program funding

Requests for between \$500,000 and \$1 million per annum from the FHRI Fund will be considered, which must be matched in cash by the Funding Partner. Proposals must be for a limited duration. Specific funding and payment conditions will be negotiated with Funding Partners.

The intention is that funding will be spent within WA unless goods and services expenditure items are not available in WA.

OMRI reserves the right to negotiate reductions in the amount of the funding awarded on a case-by-case basis.

Funding will only be made available for the scope of work described in the Proposal to Partner form, subject to any modifications approved by OMRI. The Department of Health will not underwrite any costs beyond the funding awarded through this Program.

Funding is offered subject to FHRI Fund budget availability, which could be varied in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

6. Application instructions for Funding Partners

The process to select a Funding Partner under the Co-FPP includes the following steps:

1. Expression of interest (EOI) online form submitted by a prospective Funding Partner (available from the [FHRI Fund website](#), or [email OMRI](#) to request an electronic version).

2. OMRI reviews EOI and consults with a prospective Funding Partner to determine fit for the Co-FPP.
3. Suitable Funding Partners will be invited to submit a Proposal to Partner form.
4. A suitably experienced panel will review proposals received and provide recommendations regarding which proposals, if any, should be supported.

A Program will be agreed with the Funding Partner, and an agreement negotiated and executed.

Acknowledgement of receipt of EOI and Proposal to Partner will be provided via e-mail to applicants within 5 working days of receipt.

Queries regarding the application process should be directed by email to DOH.OMRI@health.wa.gov.au.

7. Selection process

Submitted EOIs will be considered against eligibility and appropriateness for the Co-FPP, with those found to be suitable invited to submit a Proposal to Partner application.

The following information applies to the subsequent Proposal to Partner stage.

Assessment process

Co-funding will be on merit, based on a process of assessment and selection. The review process shall be conducted by a suitably experienced panel.

Conflicts of interest that may arise will be treated in accordance with the WA health system [Managing Conflict of Interest Policy and Guidelines](#).

Applications must meet the eligibility requirements and will be assessed based on the criteria set out in the table below.

Priority Goal and Focus Area alignment Potential of the co-funded Program to address at least one Priority Goal and at least one Focus Area
Impact Magnitude of the benefit that will be received by the target group of the co-funded Program
Excellence Potential of the co-funded Program to support research and/or innovation that is excellent at a national or international level
Feasibility The extent to which a suitable (in the context of the above three criteria) transparent, competitive, robust and achievable Program can be implemented with the funding and timeframe specified

Selection of Funding Partners

Based on the panel review, FHRI Fund co-funding will be awarded in accordance with the Department of Health financial and procurement processes and delegation authorities.

The Department of Health reserves the right to negotiate details of the co-funding partnership, including the timing of the funding or to request modification to program proposals/plans, on a case-by-case basis.

8. Consumer involvement

In line with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) definition, consumers are people who have lived experience of a health issue. They include patients, their friends, families, carers, and members of the general public. Consumers can also be

people who represent the views and interests of a consumer organisation, a community or a wider constituency.

There is increasing recognition of the benefits of involving consumers in research and innovation. Effective consumer involvement can ensure research and innovation is relevant to the WA community and improves translation into policy and practice.

Co-funded Programs must incorporate best-practice consumer and community involvement considerations. This includes in the design of the Co-funded Program and requirements for applying to the Program.

Consumer involvement should incorporate:

- Clearly defined relationships with health consumers or community groups who have 'lived experience' of the issue the Activity addresses.
- Demonstrated understanding of the benefits derived from involving people with a lived experience.
- Inclusion of consumers in the Activity where appropriate.
- Plans to involve consumers in the Activity throughout the delivery timeline.
- Budget strategy with funds allocated to support, implement and acknowledge consumer involvement (e.g. stakeholder training opportunities, honoraria and payments, additional time to support involvement activities, administration support and consultations and events associated with involvement activities).

Guidance on consumer involvement can be found at the [Consumer and Community Involvement Program](#) website and the [NHMRC Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research 2016](#).

9. Contractual arrangements

Funding agreement

A suitable agreement will be determined with the Funding Partner depending on the nature of the co-funding partnership.

The Department of Health reserves the right to withdraw an offer of co-funding to a Funding Partner if the Terms and Conditions cannot be agreed between the parties.

Intellectual property

Intellectual Property (IP) that arises out of a Program or activity funded through a co-funding partnership will vest with the administering institution of that project or activity. Neither the Department of Health nor the Funding Partner will have a claim to the IP. However, consideration will be given to the provisions of the [Western Australian Government Intellectual Property Policy 2015](#) (or any future iterations of this) that IP rights should be allocated to optimise the economic, social or environmental benefits for WA from the use, commercialisation and disposal of the IP.

10. Approvals

Co-funded Programs supported through the Co-FPP will be conducted in accordance with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#). If applicable, all relevant ethics and governance approvals must be obtained and lodged with the administering institution before funding is released to successful applicants to the co-funded Program.

11. Publicising, acknowledgements, and publications

A joint announcement of the Co-funded Program will be coordinated. All parties will withhold announcement/media coverage until after this has occurred. All media regarding the Co-funded Program will acknowledge all funding partners. Recipients of funding through the Co-funded Program will acknowledge the support of all partners in publications, conference presentations, public discussion, press statements etc.

In order to maximise knowledge exchange, funding recipients must comply with the NHMRC's 'Publication and dissemination of research: a guide supporting the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research', which can be downloaded from the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) page, and the NHMRC's [Open Access Policy](#).

All peer-reviewed publications that are supported in whole or in part by the Co-funded Program must be made immediately open access, that is, without any embargo period at the time of first online publication, regardless of whether such publication is an advanced or early online publication or the Version of Record.

12. Confidentiality

Specific co-funding confidentiality conditions will be determined during negotiations with the Funding Partner.

All other information provided in applications and reports will be maintained confidentially by OMRI, review panels and, where applicable, the FHRI Fund Advisory Council. If requests are received by OMRI to make public any aspect of the co-funding that has not already been agreed to be made public, the authorisation of the Funding Partner will be sought, notwithstanding information requested under the [Freedom of Information Act 1992 \(WA\)](#) or information pertaining to the receipt of State Government financial assistance tabled in the Parliament of Western Australia.

13. Evaluation

OMRI undertakes evaluations of Funding Programs, which will include unsuccessful applications. All applicants to the Co-funded Program are required to contribute to the evaluation.

14. Complaints

Applicants who feel that their interests have been adversely affected by an action taken by OMRI in administering the Program may lodge a complaint. Complaints can only be considered when they refer to the administrative process and not to the funding decision. Complaints must be submitted via email (marked Confidential) to: Deputy Director General (OfficeoftheDDG@health.wa.gov.au).



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