



Western Australian
Future Health Research
& Innovation Fund

Co-Funding Partnerships Program

Guidelines and Conditions

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Purpose	3
3. Program description	4
4. Eligibility	5
5. Application instructions for partners	6
6. Selection process	6
7. Funding conditions	7
8. Approvals and agreements	7
9. Contractual arrangements	7
10. Complaints	8
11. Confidentiality	8

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 Strategy objective: Work with partners to secure new funding for research and innovation in WA.

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

- at least one of the four arms of the object of the [Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012](#); and
- addressing Aboriginal health and/or regional Western Australia health issues as these are recognised as requiring particular attention by the Advisory Council; and/or
- at least one of the [FHRI Fund Strategy objectives](#).

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 RIO.DOH@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 for health and medical research and innovation to WA, and to build a culture that supports co-operation and interconnectedness.

The expected outcomes of the Co-FPP include:

- New opportunities will be created through increased funding for health and medical research and innovation in WA.
- Funding Partners will be identified 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.

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 or Initiative.

- 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:

- Department of Health / Channel 7 Telethon Trust [WA Child Research Fund](#)
- FHRI Fund / Raine Medical Research Foundation [Clinician Research Fellowships](#).

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 partner funding must be altruistic in nature, for the benefit of Western Australians. As such, the Funding Partner must not benefit personally from the funding or the research or innovation it supports.

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 to address a specific issue.
- Health and medical research / innovation fellowships.
- 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 a FHRI Fund Program at any time and assessment of co-funding proposals will occur throughout the year. This will facilitate co-funding opportunities and provide agility to respond quickly to Funding Partners and the needs of the WA community.

Co-FPP proposals must take into account 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 be for an ongoing program.
- The requested FHRI Fund contribution must be at least matched in cash which is genuine new research and/or innovation funding 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 initiative.
- 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:

- Applications can be made by an individual.
- Applications can be made by an organisation, such as a charity or a private company with a valid 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.
- Partnerships will only be formed where the proposed use of partnership funds aligns with the following:

At least one of the four arms of the object of the Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012:

- a) Improving the economic sustainability of the Western Australian health system.
- b) Improving the health and wellbeing of Western Australians.
- c) Improving the prosperity of the State.
- d) Advancing Western Australia to being, or maintaining Western Australia's position as, a national or international leader in research and innovation activities.

AND

At least one of the following:

- addressing Aboriginal health and/or regional Western Australia health issues as these are recognised as requiring particular attention by the Advisory Council; **and/or**
- at least one of the FHRI Fund Strategy objectives (see Appendix 1 or [here](#)).
- Applications must be submitted in accordance with Section 5 [Application Instructions](#).

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

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

- are genuinely new funding and, therefore, 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)
- have no 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
- 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.

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

5. 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 reviews proposals received and provides recommendations regarding which, if any, should be supported.

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

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

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

6. 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 alignment Potential of the co-funded Program to address the FHRI Fund Strategy objectives and/or Aboriginal and/or regional WA health challenges and contribute to the objectives of the Act
Impact Magnitude of the benefit that will be received by the target group of the co-funded Program/Initiative
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.

7. Funding conditions

Specific funding and payment conditions will be negotiated with Funding Partners.

The co-funding can be proposed for a finite period.

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

8. Approvals and agreements

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, relevant governance approvals (ethics and institutional / site) must be in place before funding is provided to successful applicants to the co-funded Program or Initiative.

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.

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.

10. Complaints

Applicants who feel that their interests have been adversely affected by an action taken by OMRI in administering a funding round 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)

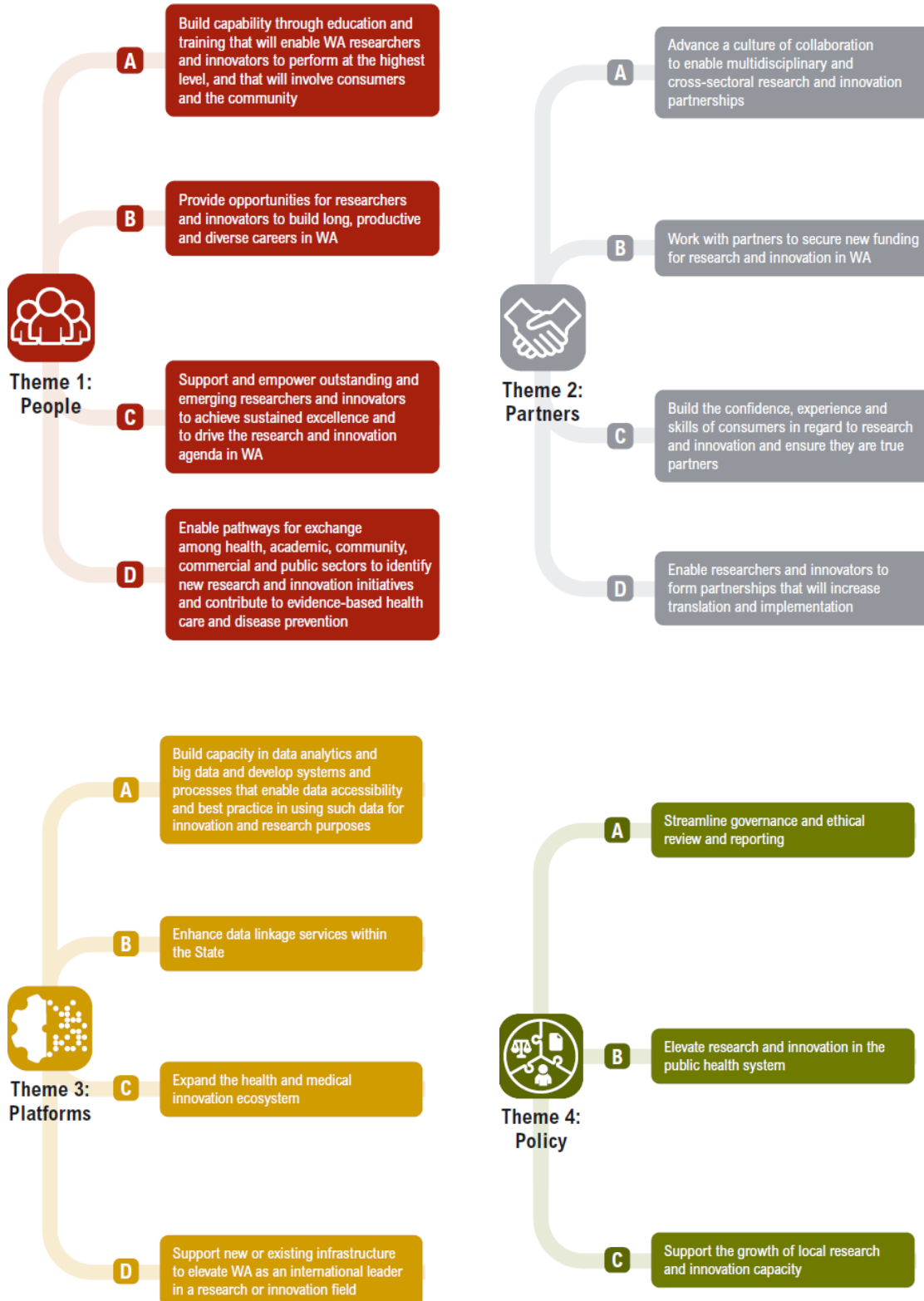
11. Confidentiality

Specific co-funding confidentiality conditions will be determined during negotiations with the Funding Partner. Generally, the Co-FPP and funding will be transparent, with an agreed joint statement between the Minister for Medical Research, Department of Health and the funding partner used for publicity purposes.

All other information provided in applications and reports will be maintained confidentially by OMRI and review panels. If requests are received by OMRI to make public any aspect of the co-funding, other than the agreed statement, the authorisation of the Funding Partner will be sought.

Applicants are advised that the Department of Health is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)*. This provides a general right of access to records held by State Government agencies. In addition, information pertaining to the receipt of State Government financial assistance may be tabled in the Parliament of Western Australia.

Appendix 1. FHRI Fund Strategy objectives





This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© Department of Health 2022

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.

