



Western Australian
Future Health Research
& Innovation Fund

WA Near-miss Awards: Ideas Grants 2024-25

Guidelines and Conditions

Applications close:
1:00 pm (AWST) Friday 7 February 2025

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1. Introduction

The Western Australian Near-miss Awards (WANMA) is a funding 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.

This Program contributes to the [FHRI Fund Priority Goal](#):

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

The expected outcomes are in alignment with the following objectives of the [Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012](#):

- improving the health and wellbeing of Western Australians
- advancing Western Australia to being, or maintaining Western Australia's position as, a national or international leader in research and innovation activities.

The Program 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 WANMA (the Program) provides funding to early- and mid-career researchers to who have applied to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Ideas Grants 2024 program and been found to be 'fundable' but were not funded (referred to as a near-miss). The funding is to be used by recipients to enhance areas of their application that have been identified by the NHMRC peer review process as being improvable, increasing their chances of success with an application to a future round.

The Program is directed towards activities that fall within the [health and medical research stream](#) of the FHRI Fund.

The aims of the Program are to:

- develop outputs that include increases in research support personnel, publications, presentations, translational outcomes, collaboration, commercialisation and career development
- develop outcomes that include improved health promotion and healthcare, health workforce benefits and economic benefits
- support high quality research in WA.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- support early- and mid-career researchers to assist with career development and retain these researchers in WA
- increase the success rate of WA early- to mid-career NHMRC Ideas Grants applications
- increase NHMRC grant income brought into WA.

3. Program description

The Program will provide grants to near-miss applicants in the NHMRC Ideas Grants 2024 program.

Funding will be awarded to each Activity Lead in order of the highest NHMRC scores, until the funding pool is fully committed, or all eligible applications have been selected for funding. This funding will be provided as a one-off grant for a 12-month period of activity.

The Activity Lead will be responsible for coordinating the Activity, ensuring its timely execution and resubmitting an enhanced application to the NHMRC Investigator Grants Opportunity in 2026.

The Responsible Entity* will be accountable for the governance and financial management of any funding awarded.

Please note that for the purpose of this document, the term 'Activity Lead' is used to refer to the Chief Investigator A of the NHMRC near-miss application (the applicant).

* *It is acknowledged that the term Administering Institution has traditionally been used by universities and research institutes, however for this grant, the term Responsible Entity is inclusive of industry and reflects that grant agreements are the responsibility of the contracted entity.*

4. Eligibility

To be eligible for this Program all of the following criteria apply:

- The Responsible Entity must:
 - have an active Australian Business Number (ABN)
 - have a physical and operational presence in WA
 - be a WA university, WA research institution or WA public health service provider¹.
- The Activity Lead must:
 - be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent resident of Australia, or have an appropriate work visa in place for the duration of the Activity
 - physically reside in WA for a minimum of 80 per cent of the period of the Activity
 - have no overdue reports for any grant funding program administered by OMRI (including FHRI Fund programs) from any year (excludes authorised extensions)
 - ensure that funding has not been awarded for any component of the Activity or NHMRC project
 - not hold a WANMA Fellowship and WANMA grant at the same time
 - as at 15 May 2024, not have held their PhD, or equivalent, for more than 10 years from the date their PhD thesis was passed (not the submission date or conferral date), taking into consideration any career disruptions as defined in the NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy
 - be eligible to, and agree that they will, resubmit their near-miss application to an NHMRC grant round as described in the 'Program Conditions' section below
 - have a position or title at the Responsible Entity for the period of the Activity.
The Activity Lead will be required to declare which of the following applies:
 - (a) *employee of the Responsible Entity; or*
 - (b) *honorary or adjunct title at the Responsible Entity.*

¹ WA public health service provider means a health service provider established by an order made under section 32(1)(b) of the *Health Services Act 2016*, such as the Child and Adolescent Health Service, East Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service, South Metropolitan Health Service, WA Country Health Service and PathWest.

In the case of (a), if the Activity Lead is also employed by the WA public health system (may include Clinical Academics) they will [register](#) a Conflict of Interest for this grant in accordance with the Department of Health [Managing Conflicts of Interest Policy](#) that addresses how the Activity Lead intends to ensure WA Health intellectual property (IP) is protected.

In the case of (b), if the Activity Lead is employed by another entity (the Employer), this entity must have an active ABN, a physical and operational presence in WA and evidence must be provided that either:

- i. an affiliation agreement* exists between the Responsible Entity and the relevant Employer; or*
- ii. the intention is for this Activity to be subcontracted* to the relevant Employer and there is in-principle agreement between the Responsible Entity and the Employer for this arrangement.*

** the affiliation/subcontract agreement must clearly define each entity's responsibilities in relation to the Activity, and in accordance with the 'Contractual arrangements' section below, include relevant permissions to use third-party intellectual property (IP) required to deliver the Activity and address ownership of new IP generated by the Activity.*

- The Activity Lead's NHMRC Ideas Grants 2024 application must have been assessed by the NHMRC and found to be 'fundable but not funded', with a score above 4.50 (equivalent to a category 5 score).
- The Responsible Entity or other entities that fund or are involved in the Activity must not be part of an industry that produces products or services that may contribute to poor physical health or mental wellbeing of the community.
- The grant funding must not constitute the entire financial base of the Responsible Entity i.e. the Responsible Entity must have other external sources of income.
- The Responsible Entity must ensure applications meet all eligibility criteria as set out in these guidelines.
- The near-miss NHMRC application must be for Ideas Grants 2024 funding. Applications made through the Ideas Grants selection process, which are only seeking funding from another funder are not eligible for WANMA.
- Applications must be submitted in accordance with the 'Application instructions' section of this document.
- An Activity Lead may submit more than one application to the Program, providing that there is no overlap in the Activity or NHMRC project.
- An application may be deemed ineligible and excluded from further consideration if OMRI identifies that:
 - it does not meet all eligibility criteria as set out in these guidelines
 - the proposed Activity duplicates activity previously or currently being undertaken
 - it includes any incomplete, false or misleading information
 - it was submitted after the advertised closing date and time.
- Grant offers may be withdrawn if it is determined that eligibility criteria are not met.
- OMRI reserves the right to request further information and make final decisions regarding eligibility.
- Decisions made in relation to previous grant programs will not be regarded as precedents and will not be considered when assessing eligibility for this grant program.

5. Program funding

Funding amounts of \$100,000 excluding GST are available to successful applicants to finance the Activity to be completed within a 12-month period.

Activity Leads may use their funding for the following items, provided they are essential to the work proposed in the NHMRC near-miss application:

- Pilot studies:
 - may include research costs related to contributing additional data and information to the resubmission of the NHMRC near-miss application
 - may not include indirect research costs associated with pilot studies.
- Salary costs:
 - may include salary for personnel assisting on pilot studies, consultations, or development of publications and grant applications directly related to the near-miss application
 - may include Award/Agreement increases and salary increments as appropriate
 - may include leave entitlements that accrue and are taken during the period the salary is being paid by the grant funding (noting annual leave is accrued at a rate of 7.69% and long service leave at a rate of 2.5% of the base salary paid by grant funding)
 - may not include leave entitlements accrued outside this period, parental leave, sabbatical, severance and termination payments
 - may include superannuation, payroll tax and workers compensation as on-costs up to a maximum of 30%, noting that WA public health system salaries can only include superannuation as a salary on-cost
 - may include the Activity Lead's salary, providing:
 - the Activity Lead's total employment does not exceed one full-time equivalent when combined with other fractional employment
 - the funding only supports the portion of the Activity Lead's salary that is directly attributable to conducting the Activity.
- Travel:
 - to conduct pilot studies, receive training or establish new collaborations (providing the new collaborators will be investigators on the resubmitted application)
 - for conferences is acceptable provided the Activity Lead is presenting work that is directly related to the Activity
 - expenses must meet the Responsible Entity's policy on 'best fare' or equivalent
 - expenses to a maximum of \$6,000 relating to the above-mentioned purposes may be included. This can include airfares, meals, other transport costs (e.g. taxis), accommodation and registration or course fees.
- Consumer and community involvement:
 - may include related costs, including payments to participants, venue hire, printing, catering, advertising and online surveys
 - funds can also be used for travel where regional consultation is required, provided the \$6,000 travel cap is not exceeded.
- Minor equipment:
 - may include equipment that is specialised and essential to enhancing the near-miss application. Software can be included under this item
 - may not include general use computers and equipment
 - the total value of all equipment items must not exceed 10% of the budget request or \$15,000, whichever is the lesser amount, and quotes for each item must be attached to the application.
- Professional services:

- may be included if they are required for the application resubmission, such as biostatistics, health economics and specialist data analysis.
- Publications:
 - may include publication costs associated with manuscripts that are directly related to the activity, provided that the NHMRC Open Access Policy for publications is adhered to and the publication does not delay resubmission to the NHMRC.
- Indirect research costs:
 - may not be included, this extends to administration charges, levies and overhead costs.
- Other items:
 - the Activity Lead can request to use funding for activity items not contained in the section above, provided they are essential to the work proposed in the NHMRC near-miss application, during the period of the grant. OMRI must approve any additional activities prior to them commencing.

Funding will only be made available for the scope of work described in the NHMRC application or any modifications to the scope of work approved in writing by OMRI. The Department of Health will not underwrite any costs beyond the funding awarded through the Program.

The intention is that funding will be spent within WA unless goods and services expenditure items are not available in WA and/or it is beneficial to WA if goods or services are procured from outside WA.

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

Relevant external funding information must be included in the relevant section of the Application Form.

6. Program conditions

NHMRC Resubmission

As the purpose of this Program is to support enhancement of future NHMRC applications, the Activity Lead must resubmit their application for funding to the NHMRC, unless other funding is received by the Activity Lead for the same Activity or NHMRC project in the interim.

The re-submission should be to the same NHMRC grant program that the Program funding was provided for. In some instances, OMRI may provide approval for resubmission to another NHMRC grant program, round or alternative national peer-reviewed health and medical research funding program. Activity Lead's must submit a formal request in this regard, which will be considered by OMRI on a case-by-case basis.

Activity Leads are required to resubmit their NHMRC application in 2026.

7. Application instructions

The instructions below must be followed when making a submission:

- The Application Form available from the [FHRI Fund website](#) must be submitted by **1:00 pm (AWST) Friday 7 February 2025**.
- The application must be completed in Arial font 11 point or larger.

- Electronic signatures are acceptable if approval to use the electronic signature has been obtained from that person.
- The application is to be emailed to DOH.OMRI@health.wa.gov.au as a **single** Adobe Acrobat PDF or Microsoft Word file, not exceeding 5 MBs, including CVs and bibliographic references (if applicable). The application document and email subject line must be titled as follows:
Activity Lead SURNAME, First name – WANMA IG 2024-25
e.g. SMITH, Alex – WANMA IG 2024-25
- Applications must be complete, include requested certifications and be submitted by the closing date/time. Consideration must be given to the time needed to comply with internal deadlines.

Acknowledgement of receipt of the Application Form will be provided via email to the Responsible Entity and Activity Lead within 5 working days of the closing date.

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

8. Selection process

Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants in order of the highest NHMRC scores until the entire funding pool has been allocated, or there are no remaining applicants who meet the eligibility criteria.

9. Consumer involvement

In line with the NHMRC definition, consumers are people who have lived experience of a health issue. They include patients and potential patients, carers, and people who use health care services. 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.

Health consumers should be engaged during the development of funding applications and embedded in the proposed Activity by being provided with a detailed description of their role and contribution and, where appropriate, included as a team member.

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. 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](#).

It is recommended that all team members complete the free online 30 minute [Consumer and Community Involvement in Health Research](#) course (or equivalent) and for the Activity Lead to complete the free online 30 minute [Consumer & Community Involvement and Grant Writing](#) course.

10. Contractual arrangements

Grants to entities external to the WA public health system are offered in accordance with the Department of Health Grant Funding Agreement (and its Terms and Conditions) which is a legal agreement between the Department of Health (Us) and the Responsible Entity (You).

The Responsible Entity must ensure that appropriate agreements are in place with the Activity Lead, team members and participating entities.

The Department of Health reserves the right to withdraw an offer of award to a Responsible Entity if the Grant Funding Agreement and/or Grant Funding Agreement Terms and Conditions cannot be agreed between the parties.

Insurance

A Responsible Entity external to the WA public health system will be required to provide evidence of insurance as a condition of the Grant Funding Agreement, which may include:

- Public Liability (mandatory for all grants)
- Professional Indemnity (mandatory if the Responsible Entity is conducting a clinical trial, provides any form of medical treatment or advice, training, or will provide any tailored design, advice or specification services)
- Property for the Responsible Entity's replacement value of assets (mandatory for building, plant, machinery, equipment)
- Workers Compensation (mandatory if the Responsible Entity has employees or is paying salaries, noting this includes payments to working Directors)
- Product Liability (mandatory if the Responsible Entity manufactures, supplies, sells, services or repairs a product)
- Motor Vehicle if the Responsible Entity owns vehicles
- Clinical Trials if the Responsible Entity undertakes clinical trials (note this insurance may include Professional Indemnity)
- Cyber Liability if the Activity involves confidential data, e.g. identifiable patient information.

OMRI recommends that you seek advice from your insurance advisors to confirm what level and type is required for the Activity.

The Responsible Entity is responsible for ensuring participating entities have appropriate insurance.

Note that any Activity that requires site governance approval will also be required to provide evidence of appropriate insurance during the governance process, which may vary depending on the site.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property (IP) that arises out of the Activity will vest with the Responsible Entity (You). However, consideration will be given to the provisions of the [Western Australian Government Intellectual Property Policy 2023](#) (or any future iterations of this), and 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. For information, the IP clause that will apply to this Program is:

1. The ownership of any Intellectual Property generated by undertaking the Activity shall vest in You.
2. The ownership of any background or pre-existing Intellectual Property and associated Moral Rights, used or incorporated in the Activity that is presently vested in a Party shall remain vested in that Party, unless otherwise agreed.
3. Each Party will be entirely and solely responsible for the use in the Activity of any Intellectual Property and associated Moral Rights it has provided to undertake the Activity which belongs to, or is licensed from, any other party, and indemnifies the other Party against all claims by a third party arising out of use of that Intellectual Property and associated Moral Rights.
4. Subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Agreement, You hereby grant to Us, a non-exclusive, irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free licence to use (excluding the ability to sub-licence or grant further licences) any of the Intellectual Property generated in the Activity, and which falls within the scope of WA Health's normal activities. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, activities related to healthcare provision, teaching, training and research. This license does not automatically extend to any potential or eventual commercial development of the Intellectual Property, and any commercial products that might directly or indirectly result from the Activity Intellectual Property. However, where You believe that there is the potential for commercialisation of the Intellectual Property developed in the course of the Activity, both Parties shall negotiate in good faith the appropriate legal and beneficial interests, rights and access to the Intellectual Property by Us.
5. You indemnify and will keep indemnified Us and all Our respective officers, employees and agents from and against all costs, losses, expenses, actions, suits, demands, claims, damages and other liabilities resulting from Your failure to comply with this agreement, or otherwise resulting from the actual or alleged infringement of the Intellectual Property rights or associated Moral Rights of any third party by You.
6. Your obligations under this Agreement are continuing and survive expiration or termination of the Agreement.

Where relevant, agreements between the Activity Lead, team members and participating entities must include relevant permissions to use third-party IP required to deliver the Activity and have Freedom to Operate for the Activity. When a team includes a member(s) from the WA public health system as a participant in the Activity (i.e. the WA public health entity is not the Responsible Entity), the IP agreement must be authorised at an appropriate level by the relevant WA public health system entity.

Any questions regarding such IP matters should, in the first instance, be directed to OMRI (DOH.OMRI@health.wa.gov.au).

Requests for variation

Requests for variations to the Grant Funding Agreement, such as Activity description or Responsible Entity, must be directed to OMRI.

Funding will be for the awarded Activity Lead only and cannot be transferred to another Activity Lead unless in exceptional circumstances approved by OMRI.

Approval of the variation will be at the discretion of the Department of Health. If variations are not approved this could result in termination of the grant with associated funding reverting to, or being recoverable by, the Department of Health, where for example eligibility or viability of the Activity is affected.

11. Funding conditions

Payment instalments

Funding will be provided in one instalment* to the Responsible Entity, subject to execution of a Grant Funding Agreement.

* *Within the WA public health system, payment will be made to the Responsible Entity via a General Ledger Journal (GLJ) transfer progressively upon receipt of evidence of expenditure.*

If ethics and governance approvals are required (refer to 'Approvals' section of this document), then the Responsible Entity may only release funding to the Activity Lead once all approvals for the Activity have been obtained and lodged with the Responsible Entity.

Additional funding sources

Additional sources of funding are permitted, and encouraged, provided the additional funding supports activities that complement, but do not duplicate, the Activity for which grant funding under this Program is awarded.

Partial payment or suspension of funds

The Department of Health reserves the right to:

- provide funding instalments in parts, based on milestone achievement and risk assessment of future milestones
- suspend payment of funding instalments or part instalments where Activity viability has become uncertain.

Termination of funds

Funds shall revert to, or be recoverable by, the Department of Health in instances where:

- eligibility requirements are no longer met, unless a request for variation to address this is approved by OMRI
- the Activity is terminated by OMRI as a result of insufficient progress being made at the time of Progress Reports or any interim Progress Report, or it has been otherwise determined by either the Responsible Entity or OMRI that the Activity is no longer viable
- full or partial funding for the Activity is obtained from another source, noting the date funds revert to, or are recoverable from, would be the date you are notified by the funding source
- funds are used for purposes other than those for which they were awarded
- funds were spent on activities that require ethics and/or governance approvals and such approvals were not obtained before undertaking the activities
- funds are not fully expended at the conclusion of the Activity (including any extensions approved by OMRI)
- it is determined that misleading or fraudulent information has been provided
- the Responsible Entity does not enter into formal agreements with respect to this Activity, which includes Intellectual Property ownership, where appropriate
- other entities fund or are involved in the Activity that are part of an industry that produces products or services that may contribute to poor physical health or mental wellbeing of the community
- the Activity Lead does not reapply to the NHMRC as stated in the 'Program conditions' section of this document and no alternative arrangements have been approved by OMRI
- the Activity Lead is no longer employed by the Responsible Entity, unless a transfer of Responsible Entity has been approved by OMRI.

12. Approvals

Research ethics and research governance

The Responsible Entity, and any participating entity, will be responsible for obtaining and lodging all relevant research ethics and governance approvals that are required for undertaking funded activities, and ensuring these are maintained as required for the duration of the Activity.

Research ethics approvals must be obtained from relevant ethics committees (human and/or animal). Research governance authorisation (also known as site specific assessment or access request review) must be obtained from each relevant institution/site conducting the Activity or providing access to data, participants or tissue samples.

For information on research ethics and governance submission requirements for the WA public health system please refer to the following websites: [Research Ethics](#); [Research Governance](#); [Multi-centre Research](#).

Use of data collections

An Activity that requires access to and use of WA Department of Health data collections requires review and approval for data release in accordance with the [Health Services Act 2016](#) and the [Health Services \(Information\) Regulations 2017](#). This is in addition to research ethics and governance approvals and will include a feasibility assessment to determine whether the data requested is appropriate for the purposes of the study and approval for use of the data from the data custodian.

Preliminary cost and time estimates can be obtained by contacting DataServ@health.wa.gov.au. Cost estimates should be included in the proposed budget and an estimate of time for release of the data should be incorporated into the milestones in the Application Form.

For further information please review the [Data Linkage Services](#) website.

Should the application for funding be successful, we recommend you immediately begin the data request and approval process.

13. Reporting

The Activity Lead and Responsible Entity are responsible for meeting reporting requirements over the duration of the Activity and at its conclusion.

All reports are to be completed on templates provided by OMRI.

Progress Activity Report

OMRI reserves the right to request a Progress Report at any point.

OMRI reserves the right to suspend or withdraw funding where insufficient progress has been made.

Final Activity Report

A Final Report detailing the Activity and outcomes must be submitted to OMRI at the conclusion of the Activity. Failure to submit the Final Report at this time may render the Activity Lead ineligible for further funding from the FHRI Fund and OMRI until the Final Report is received.

Financial Report

A financial acquittal statement outlining the expenditure of funds must be submitted to OMRI at the conclusion of the Activity. Acquittal statements must be certified by an authorised finance officer (or equivalent) of the Responsible Entity.

OMRI reserves the right to request interim Financial Reports at any stage during the Activity.

Any unexpended funds must be returned to the Department of Health. Any over-expenditure is the responsibility of the Responsible Entity, and no claim may be made against the Department of Health.

Resubmission Reports

The Responsible Entity is required to provide notification of NHMRC reapplication status for each Activity Lead (see the 'Program conditions' section of this document), including:

- a copy of the resubmitted application and the application assessment summary; or
- the reason that a resubmission was not made and the plans for resubmission in a future round (noting a variation should be requested prior to the grant end date).

This report is required within one month of the outcomes for the relevant NHMRC scheme being published.

14. Publicising, acknowledgements and publications

The Minister for Medical Research and/or the Department of Health will publicly announce recipients, including the title of the Activity. All other parties must withhold announcement/media coverage until after OMRI advises this has occurred.

Acknowledgement of FHRI Fund support must be made in publications, conference presentations, public discussion, press statements etc. A copy of any published material or media must be provided to Us.

In order to maximise knowledge exchange, funding recipients must comply with the NHMRC '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 Open Access Policy](#).

15. Confidentiality

Activity title, Activity Lead, funding amount, Responsible Entity, plain language summaries and sections indicated on applications or reports may be used for publicity purposes.

All other information provided in applications and reports will be maintained confidentially by OMRI, review panels, evaluation panels and the FHRI Fund Advisory Council. If requests are received by OMRI to make public any aspect of the Activity, other than the aspects listed above, the authorisation of the Responsible Entity 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.

16. Evaluation

OMRI undertakes evaluations of Funding Programs, which will include unsuccessful applications. All parties in the application, including team members and consumer representatives, are required to contribute to the evaluation.

17. Complaints

Responsible Entities or Activity Leads 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).



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

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