



Western Australian
Future Health Research
& Innovation Fund

Fellowships Part C Visiting Fellows 2026

Guidelines and Conditions

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1. Introduction

The Fellowships Part C - Visiting Fellows Program (the Program) is a funding program of the Western Australian (WA) [Future Health Research and Innovation \(FHRI\) Fund](#).

The Program is a part of the FHRI Fund Fellowships Scheme, which consists of:

- Part A – Research Fellows
- Part B – Distinguished Fellows
- Part C – Visiting Fellows.

Further information on Part A – Research Fellows and Part B – Distinguished Fellows is available at [FHRI Fund Current Opportunities](#).

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 Program contributes to the following [FHRI Fund Strategy Theme and Priorities](#):

Strategic Theme 3: Foundational Confidence. Support the people, systems, and infrastructure that underpin WA's health and medical research and innovation sector, ensuring it can attract top talent, win national grants, and deliver sustainable growth.

- **Priority 8: Attract and retain world class talent.** Attract and retain global research leaders to WA with competitive programs and conditions. This includes offering strong infrastructure, career incentives, and opportunities to lead impactful work.
- **Priority 9: Make WA competitive.** Deliver funding and ecosystem support that improves WA's success in national and global funding rounds. Investments will focus on closing capability gaps, supporting funding navigation, encouraging collaboration, and rewarding open science.

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 purpose of the Program is to attract outstanding international and interstate health and medical researchers and innovation experts (the Visiting Fellow) to Western Australia (WA) to explore health and medical research and innovation opportunities.

The aims of the Program are to:

- attract talented interstate and international mid- to senior-career researchers and/or innovation leaders with a track record of venture creation or investment to visit WA to explore opportunities and synergies
- showcase WA health and medical research and innovation opportunities and infrastructure
- establish a pipeline of world-class talent visiting WA and leverage opportunities offered through the Fellowships Part B - Distinguished Fellows program.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- establish mutually beneficial collaborations and partnerships between the host organisation (Responsible Entity) and the Visiting Fellow
- facilitate knowledge exchange on topics of strategic interest to WA
- increase collaborative and competitive grant applications made to national and international grant schemes.

3. Program description

The Program will provide grants to cover travel and visa costs and a stipend for living expenses for Visiting Fellows to visit WA for a 30-day, 60-day or 90-day visit to engage in outreach activities (the Activity).

The Responsible Entity must nominate a suitably qualified Activity Lead to oversee, coordinate and deliver the Visiting Fellow's program of activities.

The Activity Lead will be responsible for coordinating the Activity and ensuring its timely execution.

The Activity Lead will work collaboratively with the Visiting Fellow to plan, coordinate and deliver the Visiting Fellow's placement, ensuring alignment with the Program objectives and maximising mutual benefit to both the Visiting Fellow and the Responsible Entity. This includes ensuring that optimal opportunities for collaboration and networking within the Western Australian research and innovation sector are arranged, whilst also exploring options for WA to become a longer-term destination.

Funding will be awarded through a competitive and merit-based process.

During the visit the Visiting Fellow will be expected to undertake a range of outreach activities including but not limited to:

1. cultivating new, and consolidating established, partnerships
2. hosting public lectures, masterclasses, academic or industry workshops, symposia and/or round table discussions on the Visiting Fellow's area of research expertise
3. contributing to the development of funding proposals for current and planned collaborative projects where possible, including potential to contribute to a FHRI Fund Distinguished Fellows program application, where applicable
4. contributing to other capacity and capability activities, including but not limited to:
 - a. expanding capacity and capability in relation to the Visiting Fellow's area of expertise
 - b. mentoring higher degree by research candidates, early career and mid-career researchers or early-stage venture leaders
 - c. providing a Masterclass on a topic of relevance/interest
5. engaging in approved media activities to promote the FHRI Fund.

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

* *It is acknowledged that the term Administering Institution has traditionally been used by universities and research institutes, however, 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.
- 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
 - commit to arranging the travel and accommodation needs of the Visiting Fellow and their outreach activities during the visit
 - 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) *employee¹ of the Responsible Entity or Director of the company that is the Responsible Entity; or*
 - (b) *honorary or adjunct academic title at the Responsible Entity.*

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](#) (WA Health staff access only) 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 Activity will 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 Visiting Fellow must:
 - not be working or living in WA or already committed to relocating to WA, and must not be employed by a WA university, research institution, WA public Health Service Provider or public-private partnership provider at the time of application
 - be able to commit to a consecutive 30-day, 60-day or 90-day visit
 - physically be present in WA throughout the duration of the proposed visit
 - if a health and medical researcher, must be at a mid- to senior-career stage
 - if a health and medical innovation expert, must have a track record of venture creation or investment.
- 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.

¹ Refer to the Australian Taxation Office [Difference between employees and independent contractors](#)

- The Responsible Entity must ensure applications meet all eligibility criteria as set out in these guidelines.
- Applications must be submitted in accordance with the ‘Application instructions’ section of this document.
- 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
 - 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

The Visiting Fellow will be provided with an attractive funding package to support the visit consisting of funding amounts between \$17,500 ex GST and \$45,000 ex GST.

The funding package consists of a fixed stipend (not tied to employment) to help cover living expenses during the visit period and a one-off non-stipend component for costs associated with airfares, travel visa and travel insurance. Amounts (excluding GST) are set out below.

Visit period	Total funding package	Stipend included	Non-stipend included
30-days	Up to \$17,500	\$13,500	Up to \$4,000
60-days	Up to \$31,000	\$27,500	Up to \$4,000
90-days	Up to \$44,500	\$40,500	Up to \$4,000

It is advised to seek taxation guidance from the Visiting Fellow’s home country’s taxation office.

Funding will be in accordance with the following:

- Stipend costs:
 - can include accommodation costs i.e. rent, hotel fee, board etc during the visit period (excludes costs for extended travel beyond the awarded visit period)
 - can include travel and transport costs in WA
 - can include meals and other living expenses incurred during the visit period
 - cannot include salary, leave entitlements, superannuation, payroll tax, workers compensation or on-costs.
- Non-stipend costs:
 - can include travel from usual place of residence outside of WA to WA including airfares and transport costs (taxi, ride share, public transport) at the beginning of the WA visit and return costs at the end of the visit period
 - can include travel visa fees and travel insurance costs associated with the visit period
 - cannot include costs associated with delivering the outreach activities or any other items not listed.
- Overhead charges cannot be included.

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

All budget items should be adequately described and justified as consideration is given to budgets during the assessment process.

Budgets must be calculated accurately, as requests for additional funding will not be considered.

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 'Budget' section of the Application Form.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify the Activity budget that you provided in your application when we negotiate your *Grant Funding Agreement*. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

The Responsible Entity will receive the grant (stipend and non-stipend) and distribute it to the Visiting Fellow.

The Responsible Entity is to create a separate cost centre or account for the grant to easily track costs and facilitate financial reporting.

6. Program conditions

Travel Visa and insurance

Internationally based Visiting Fellows must ensure they have an appropriate travel visa and insurances.

Outreach Activities

The Responsible Entity must ensure the outreach activities proposed in the application are funded and achieved during the Visiting Fellow's visit and the expected outcomes of the visit are realised.

Requests for variation to the Activity proposed in the application must be directed 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.

7. Application instructions

Applications for Fellowships Part C: Visiting Fellows 2026 will open on Thursday 18 June.

The instructions below must be followed when making a submission:

- The Application Form and an optional 3-minute video presentation must be submitted via the Department of Health Grant Management System at any time.
- Applications must be complete and include requested certifications. Consideration must be given to internal deadlines.

Instructions for the Grant Management System are located at <https://fhrifund.health.wa.gov.au/Funding/GMS-link-page>.

Acknowledgement of receipt of the Application Form will be provided via email to the Responsible Entity and Activity Lead after submission in the Grant Management System.

Queries related to the Guidelines and Conditions can be directed to DOH.OMRI@health.wa.gov.au with the subject line beginning with 'Query – FHRIFundVF2025-26'.

Queries regarding the application process can be directed to DOH.GMS@health.wa.gov.au with the subject line beginning with 'GMS Application Assistance – FHRIFundVF2025-26'.

The 3-minute video presentation is optional and can include:

- introduction of the Visiting Fellow
- description of existing and potential collaborations in WA
- description of potential benefits to be gained by the WA research sector through the visit
- plan for outreach activities.

8. Selection process

Assessment process

Funding will be awarded on merit, based on a process of assessment and selection of eligible applications.

The Program will be open continuously and applications will be assessed as they are submitted against the Assessment criteria.

All eligible applications will be referred for full assessment and scoring by a review panel comprising of experienced health and medical research and/or innovation experts, Aboriginal and/or consumer representative(s).

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

This assessment will be based on the criteria and % weightings set out in the table below.

Assessment Criteria	%
<p>Quality of the Visiting Fellow</p> <p>Relative to opportunity, the Visiting Fellow demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scope of research work undertaken • major accomplishments that have had a significant impact in their field including program leadership, influencing policy and/or practice • recognition internationally as a leader in their field including publications • track record of attracting national and international funding for research • track record of partnerships including with industry resulting in research translation through commercialisation and/or realisation of health or other impacts • track record of mentoring research students and post-doctoral fellows within and beyond their research group • goals and aspirations for the visit. 	40
<p>Significance of the outreach activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relevance of the areas of interest to WA research and innovation priorities • details of pre-established partnerships and/or collaborations in the WA research and innovation sector related to the visit • outreach events and activities planned during the visit 	30

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential contributions to the WA health and medical research and innovation ecosystem resulting from the visit. 	
<p>Environment of the Responsible Entity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> level of support offered by the Responsible Entity to assist the Visiting Fellow's travel arrangements opportunities for local, national and international collaborations and partnerships offered to the Visiting Fellow access to required resources, including expertise, equipment and cash support for planned outreach activities The potential for a future Fellowships Part B - Distinguished Fellows application resulting from the visit. 	30

Selection of recipients

Based on the assessment and recommendations of the review panel(s), the Department of Health will determine and approve the awarding of grants in accordance with the Department of Health financial and procurement processes and delegation authorities.

OMRI reserves the right to offer lower funding rates than requested and/or request modification to the Activity on a case-by-case basis.

9. Contractual arrangements

Grants 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).

While finalising the *Grant Funding Agreement*, OMRI may ask for further information and verification to confirm compliance with Section 4. Eligibility and Section 5. Program funding.

The Responsible Entity must ensure that appropriate agreements and subcontracts are in place with the Visiting Fellow.

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 appropriate insurance that covers the Visiting Fellow 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.

The Visiting Fellow will be required to have appropriate health insurance. OMRI recommends that you seek advice from your insurance advisors to confirm what level and type of insurance 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.
4. 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.
5. Your obligations under this Agreement are continuing and survive expiration or termination of the Agreement.

Where relevant, agreements between the Visiting Fellow, 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, Activity Lead or Responsible Entity, must be directed to 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.

10. Funding conditions

Payment instalments

Funding will be provided 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 the first instalment to the Visiting Fellow once all approvals for the Activity have been obtained and lodged with the Responsible Entity.

Partial payment or suspension of funds

The Department of Health reserves the right to:

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

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.

Termination of funds

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

- eligibility requirements are no longer met
- the Activity is terminated by OMRI as a result of insufficient progress being made, or it has been otherwise determined by either the Responsible Entity or OMRI that the Activity is no longer viable
- 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 Activity end date (including any extensions approved by OMRI) by the Responsible Entity
- 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 Visiting Fellow is no longer sponsored by the Responsible Entity, unless a transfer of Responsible Entity has been approved by OMRI

11. 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 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.

12. Reporting

The Visiting Fellow 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.

Final Activity Report

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

Financial Report

A *Financial Report* outlining the expenditure of funds must be submitted to OMRI at the conclusion of the Activity and may be required during the Activity. *Financial Reports* must be certified by an authorised finance officer (or equivalent) of the Responsible Entity.

OMRI reserves the right to request a *Financial Report* 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.

13. 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](#).

14. Confidentiality

Activity title, Activity Lead, Visiting Fellow, 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, co-funding partners 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.

15. 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.

16. Complaints

Responsible Entities, Activity Leads or Visiting Fellows 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, Infrastructure, Medical Research, and Innovation (ODDG.IMRI@health.wa.gov.au).



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