The MRFF Strategy & Priorities
Responding to the consultation

Greg Mullins, Head of Policy
Research Australia
31 May 2016
Introduction

- Overview
- Strategy
- Priorities
- Consultation questions

The MRFF - A Timeline

- 2014: Budget announcement
- 2015: MRFF Act passed
- 2016/17: $61 million available
- 2021/22: Reach target capital balance of $20B
- 2022/23: Achieve $1B p.a. (5% net earnings rate)
Funding for...

- **Medical Research**
  includes research into health.

- **Medical Innovation**
  - the application and commercialisation of medical research for the purpose of improving the health and wellbeing of Australians; and
  - the translation of medical research into new or better ways of improving the health and wellbeing of Australians.
Funding for...

MRFF

innovation

research

NHMRC

training
Funding to...

- States and Territories via the COAG Reform Fund;
- corporate Commonwealth entities (e.g. the CSIRO); and
- universities, medical research institutes, and corporations.
Funding by...

Funding decisions are made by the Health Minister in accordance with the five-year strategy and two yearly funding priorities which are to be determined by the MRFF Advisory Board.
Advisory Board

Professor Ian Frazer, AC (Chair) Inaugural President of Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences and former Australian of the Year

Professor Anne Kelso CEO of the NHMRC

Mr. Yasser El Ansary CEO, Australian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (AVCAL)

Jennifer Williams Former CEO of the Red Cross Blood Service, Alfred Health and Austin Health and former Director Aged Care Community Health and Mental Health, Department of Health Victoria.
Dr. Deborah Rathjen  CEO, Bionomics and a Director of the Cancer Therapeutics CRC

Professor Karen Reynolds  Deputy Dean, School of Computer Science, Engineering & Mathematics, Flinders University and a Director of the Medical Device Research Institute

Professor Doug Hilton  Director, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and President of AAMRI

Professor Peter Hoj  President and Vice Chancellor, University of Queensland

Advisory Board
5 Year Strategy

- Ensure a coherent and consistent approach to funding
- Consider NHMRC Strategy
- Can’t require payment to an individual or a specific project

‘The Strategy will take into account national health needs, gaps in current investment, and the strategic sequencing needed to deliver the best results from expenditure on health and medical research and innovation. The Strategy will aim to drive alignment and coordination across the sector and provide a pathway to fully embed medical research and innovation in the health system.’ (Dept. of Health, in response to a query)
2 Year Priorities

- Consistent with MRFF Strategy
- Burden of disease
- Practical benefits to as many as possible
- Provide greatest value
- Complement and enhance existing funding

‘The Priorities will be set every two years and will sit beneath the over-arching, higher level Strategy, and will be used by the government to guide decision making about funding disbursement. Final decisions about where the funding goes is for the government of the day.’ (Dept. of Health, in response to a query)
Consultation Process

- Submissions by 6 June
- Call for Submissions paper ‘Building Blocks’ diagram
- Optional pro forma for responses for Strategy, Priorities
- 3 pages, maximum 11 point font
Submissions on the Strategy

‘Submissions on the Strategy should be broad reaching, addressing the challenges to the performance and delivery of outcomes from health and medical research and innovation in Australia and/or other challenges relevant to the topic. Submissions must be kept to three pages in length.’

Address:
- Gap - a specific health or health system issue
- Solution
- How you would measure success
- Fit to the Building blocks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT CHALLENGES</th>
<th>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>MANDATORY CONSIDERATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate the translation of research into health outcomes universally embedded across the health system</td>
<td>Prevents and cures of tomorrow</td>
<td>Burden of disease on the Australian community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximise productivity within the health and research system</td>
<td>Economic benefits</td>
<td>How to deliver practical benefits from medical research and medical innovation to as many Australians as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce barriers to collaboration</td>
<td>Leveraging and enhancing collaboration and integration</td>
<td>How to ensure that financial assistance provides the greatest value for all Australians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support research and innovation from concept to delivery</td>
<td>A translation pathway that maximises opportunities for success</td>
<td>How to ensure that disbursements complement and enhance other assistance provided to the sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance and sustain research enabling technologies, infrastructure and workforce</td>
<td>Healthcare policy and delivery have a strong evidence base</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous improvement and efficiency in healthcare delivery</td>
<td>Contemporary infrastructure that meets research needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY INTERACTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- National Health and Medical Research Council
- Industry, philanthropy, the taxation system and other grants
- National Innovation and Science and Research Agenda
- National Science and Research Priorities
- State and territory health and medical research initiatives
- The health system - medical workforce, hospitals
- Commonwealth Health Portfolio priorities
- Health and medical researchers
- Consumers
Submissions on the Priorities

Seven questions in total to be addressed:

What is the gap in Australia’s health system to be addressed by this priority?

How does your area of priority address either an existing or a new health or health system challenge?
Submissions on the Priorities

- Comment on which aims and objectives your priority is likely to meet.
Submissions on the Priorities

- Mandatory considerations – which of the mandatory considerations set out in the Medical Research Future Fund Act (2015) does your priority proposal address?
  - Burden of disease on the Australian Community
  - How to deliver practical benefits from medical research and medical innovation to as many Australians as possible
  - How to ensure that financial assistance provides that greatest value for all Australians
  - How to ensure that disbursements complement and enhance other assistance provided to the sector
Submissions on the Priorities

- Outline of priority proposal:

‘In its call for Submissions on the Priorities, the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board is not asking for individual funding proposals. Rather the Advisory Board is seeking submissions on priorities that would address a system issue or important community challenge, and take a broad view, not focus on individual research projects or disease burdens.’ (Dept. of Health, in response to a query)’
Submissions on the Priorities

- Outline of priority proposal-how specific?

1. Increase capacity in health services research
2. Create an Institute of Health Services Research to increase capacity in health services research
3. Create an Institute of Health Services Research at University X.
Submissions on the Priorities

- What measures of success do you propose and what will be the impact on health care consumers?

- Please outline any linkages your proposal has with stakeholders, policy agendas and other health and medical research funding agencies.
Submissions on the Priorities

Due 6 June

11 point font

Only 3 pages

Can propose more than one priority
Questions?

greg.mullins@researchaustralia.org
03 9662 9420