



The MRFF Strategy & Priorities

Responding to the consultation

Greg Mullins, Head of Policy
Research Australia
31 May 2016

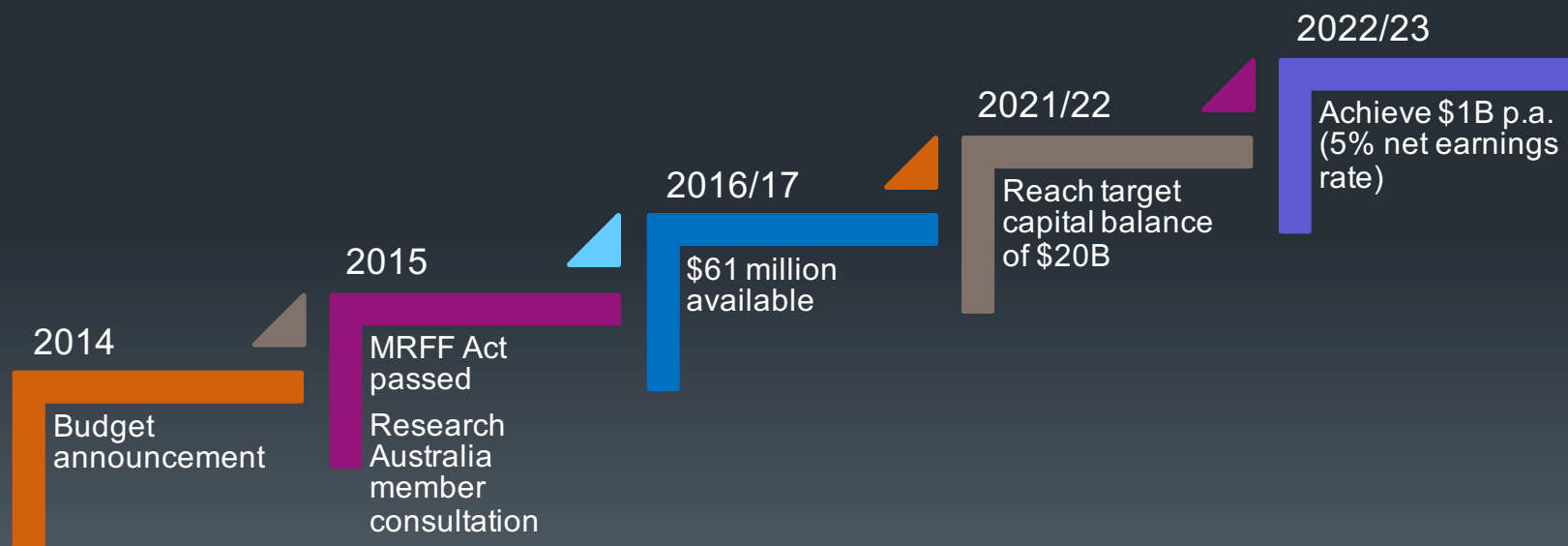
Introduction

- Overview
- Strategy
- Priorities
- Consultation questions



https://consultations.health.gov.au/research-data-and-evaluation-division/mrff/consult_view

The MRFF - A Timeline



Funding for...

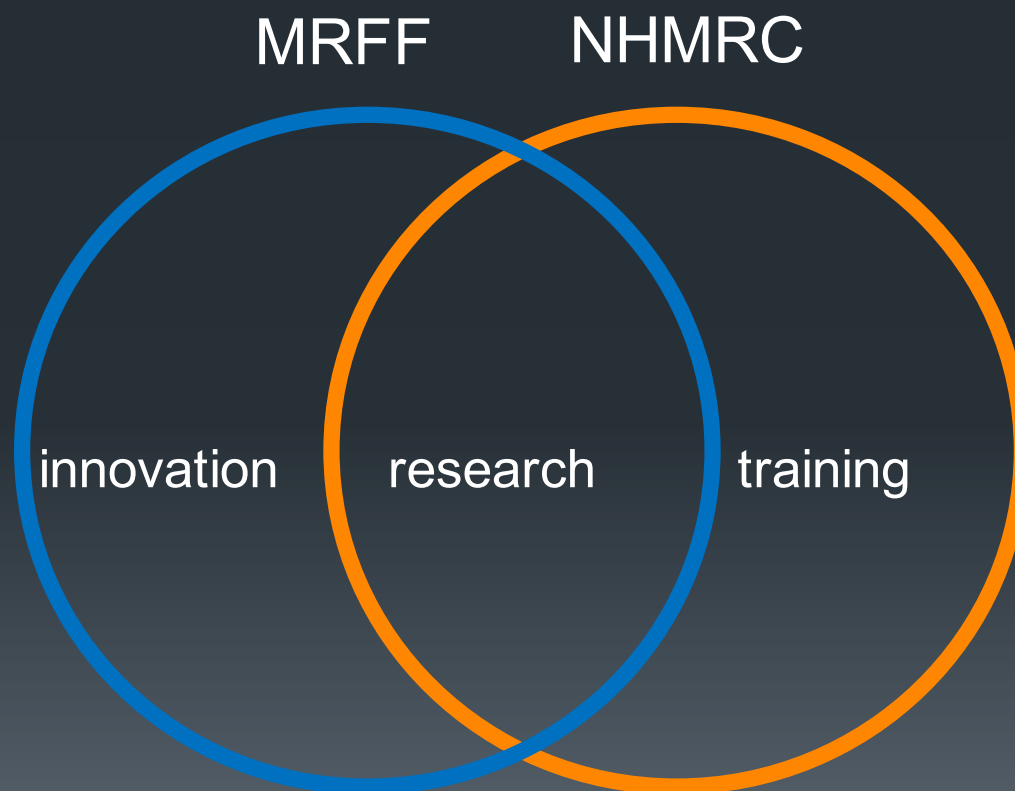
- **Medical Research**

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...



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*

FIGURE 1. BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGY

CURRENT CHALLENGES						
Facilitate the translation of research into health outcomes	Research universally embedded across the health system	Maximise productivity within the health and research system	Reduce barriers to collaboration	Support research and innovation from concept to delivery	Enhance and sustain research enabling technologies, infrastructure and workforce	Continuous improvement and efficiency in healthcare delivery

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES			
An excellent and responsive health and medical research system that improves lives.	Preventions and cures of tomorrow	Leveraging and enhancing collaboration and integration	A balanced and appropriately skilled workforce
	Economic benefits	A translation pathway that maximises opportunities for success	A research engaged workforce
	Sustainable, high-quality, cost-effective health care	Healthcare policy and delivery have a strong evidence base	Contemporary infrastructure that meets research needs

MANDATORY CONSIDERATIONS			
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 the greatest value for all Australians	How to ensure that disbursements complement and enhance other assistance provided to the sector

KEY INTERACTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS								
National Health and Medical Research Council	Industry, philanthropy, the taxation system and other grants	National Innovation and Science 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?**

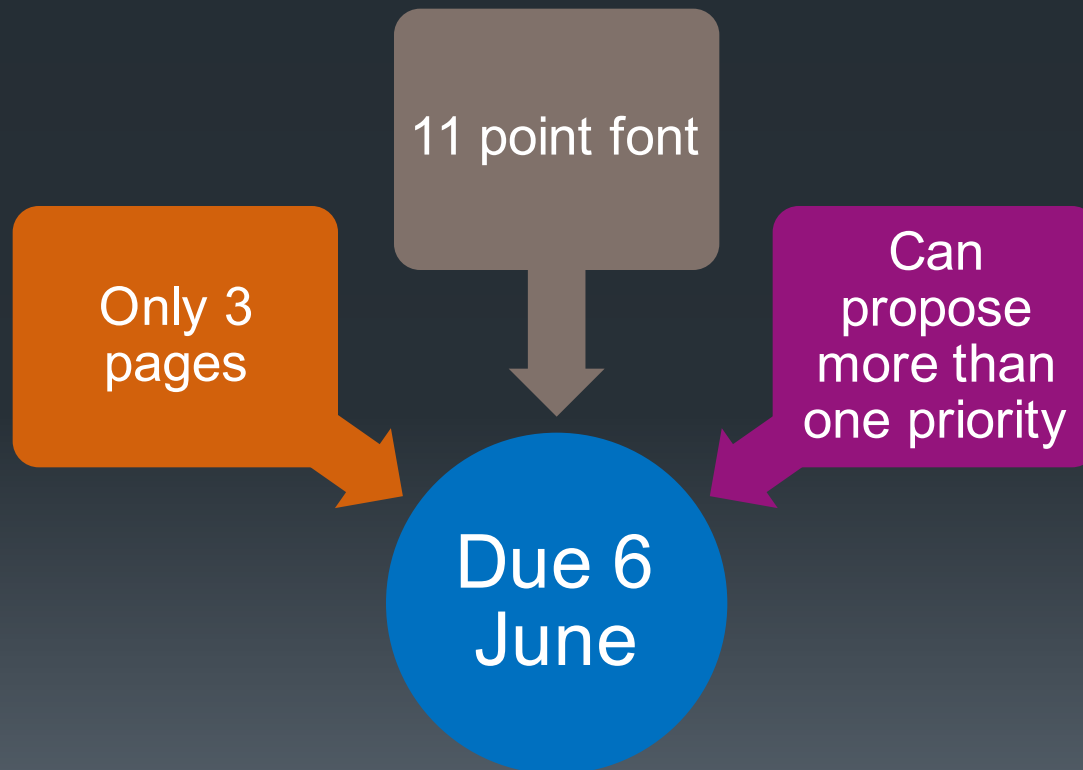
1. Increase capacity in health services research
2. Create an Institute of Health Services Research to increase capacity in health services research
3. Create an Institute of Health Services Research at University X.



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





Questions?

greg.mullins@researchaustralia.org

03 9662 9420