



Frequently Asked Questions

Medical Research Future Fund 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research Grant Opportunity

This grant opportunity aims to support researchers to pursue big ideas to develop new products and interventions and implement these into clinical practice, benefiting consumers, clinicians, and the health system.

1. What is the focus of the 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity?

The 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity has a focus on:

- earlier stage research with a 10-year time horizon for a program of research (called a 'moonshot') to reach the market.
- a structured, stage-gated funding approach to fund programs of research incrementally through a series of "linked projects".

2. What key changes to the application and assessment process should applicants note?

Key changes for applicants to note include:

- The grant opportunity will be continuously open for expressions of interest until the indicative close date of 31 March 2026.
- The two-stage application process is comprised of an expression of interest stage and a full application stage.
- Assessments will be run twice per year.
- Full applications are submitted by invitation only, for projects of up to 5 years under the program of research.
- Research teams can determine the length of each project (up to 5 years) to progress the research at a pace that suits their individual programs of research.
- Programs of research can receive a maximum of \$25 million in funding.

3. How does the stage-gated approach to funding work?

A stage-gated approach has been incorporated into the funding mechanism to sequentially fund research activities ("linked projects") to allow greater flexibility for research teams to work at their own pace and de-risk the overall research program.

Research activity milestones will be used to monitor the progress of each project. This will allow:

- review of progress to determine if funding should continue.
- identification of whether an invitation should be extended to submit subsequent full applications for funding under the wider program of research.

4. What is a program of research?

A program of research is a series of linked projects that cumulatively address the objective and intended outcome of the grant opportunity, with the intention of achieving full implementation of the proposed technology in 10 years.

The program of research can propose to develop novel health technologies and/or re-purpose existing health technologies in a novel way.

5. At what stage of the research process can I apply for funding under this grant opportunity?

Applicants can propose projects to commence research at any stage in the research pipeline from proof-of-concept, with the intention of achieving full implementation of the proposed technology in 10 years.

6. What is meant by implementation of a technology?

Funding through this grant opportunity is intended to continue to support programs of research to the point where they are competitive for private investment, for example through venture capital or acquisition of intellectual property (IP). Programs of research may also be at the point where they are ready to be applied nationally in the health system.

7. What is covered under the term health technology?

A health technology may be considered a medicine, medical device, vaccine, procedure and/or system (e.g. computer-supported information systems) developed to solve a health problem and improve quality of life.

8. Can I submit a full application for a 5-year \$25 million grant?

- The 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity intends to support programs of research comprising a series of linked projects.
- For each project within the program of research the maximum grant period is 5 years.
- The maximum overall investment from the MRFF in a single 10-year program of research is \$25 million.
- The amount of funding requested for a single project is at the applicants' discretion. There is no minimum grant amount and no requirement to apply for \$25 million for a 5 year grant.
- Projects that progress well may be invited to submit subsequent full applications for additional projects under the program of research if the cumulative requested amount for the program of research does not exceed \$25 million.

9. If my project is successful, and I have requested less than \$25 million, can I apply for further funding?

Yes, you can apply for further funding, if you are invited to submit a subsequent full application for funding an additional project under the program of research.

- To give research teams flexibility the grant opportunity will be continuously open with the last grants intended to be awarded by 30 June 2027.
- If your program of research has already been awarded \$25 million under the grant opportunity, you will not be invited to apply for further funding.

10. What should be included in the expression of interest form?

The expression of interest form should outline your proposed program of research with a 10-year time horizon.

It is up to you on how best to describe the program of research and the proposed approach, which may include reference to the projects that you wish to seek funding for in any invited application.

You should read the 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity guidelines for further information.

11. When can I submit my full application?

Full applications are submitted by invitation only following assessment of an expression of interest by the independent grant assessment committee.

12. What should be included in the full application?

In the full application, you will need to describe the proposed program of research in further detail, as well as the project/s within the program of research for which you are seeking funding.

You may also want to address feedback received from the grant assessment committee at the expression of interest stage.

You should read the 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity guidelines for further information before applying.

13. What will the due diligence review cover?

The due diligence review for the 2022 Frontiers grant opportunity are prepared by an independent organisation. The review is based on the submitted full application and looks at information on market position, intellectual property arrangements, risk management, governance, and/or financial position.

14. Is there any general feedback you can provide?

Based on applications received and assessed, those that have progressed to the next stage have clearly articulated:

- a vision for the program of research including how each project is linked
- a bold and novel idea that is evidenced by data and research
- considerations around feasibility and dependencies, including planning for subsequent projects
- the current research or marketplace landscape
- a pathway to implementation and adoption of the technology, including reference to approval processes and regulatory authorities
- the impact on Australia and/or Australians
- how consumers have been involved in the design of the project/program of research
- the diversity of the research team
- that the project team has considered whether the project would benefit from collaboration with other teams either nationally or internationally

15. Can Chief Investigators be on more than one expression of interest or full application?

No. A person must not be named as a Chief Investigator (CI) on more than one active expression of interest and/or full application being considered for funding under this grant opportunity. If a CI is named on more than one active expression of interest and/or full application, all will be considered ineligible. An active expression of interest or application is one submitted and currently under assessment or awaiting outcome.

16. What are the assessment criteria?

The 2022 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity includes the following assessment criteria:

Expressions of interest will be assessed against:

- Criterion 1 - Vision and novelty (50%)
- Criterion 2 - Team capability (50%)

Full applications will be assessed against:

- Criterion 3 - Project impact (40%)
- Criterion 4 - Project methodology (30%)
- Criterion 5 - Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (30%)
- Criterion 6 - Overall value and risk of the project (non-weighted).

17. Do applicants need to provide evidence of strategic partnerships?

Yes. Partnerships and co-investment are encouraged to maximise impact of investment, demonstrate a feasible path to translation through interest from relevant organisations, provide opportunities for more mature sites/agencies to build the capacity of emerging sites/agencies, reduce duplication of activities, and reduce potential respondent administrative burden on participating communities.

18. Can an individual receive MRFF funding for a project that currently receives funding from other sources?

A grant cannot be provided to you if you currently receive funding from another source for the same purpose.

Important information when submitting an expression of interest

19. How long will this grant opportunity be open?

- Submissions for expressions of interest will be accepted at any time while the grant opportunity remains open.
- It is expected that expressions of interest will close on 31 March 2026.
- The last grants will be awarded by 30 June 2027.

20. What do I need to do to submit an expression of interest?

An expression of interest can be submitted at any time at business.gov.au while the grant opportunity remains open. The grant opportunity will be continuously open for expressions of interest until the indicative close date of 31 March 2026. Please refer to the [Sample application form](#) for further information.

21. How do I submit a full application?

If you submit an expression of interest and following assessment you are invited to submit a full application, you will receive instructions on how to submit a full application online.

22. Need more information?

For more information, visit business.gov.au or call 13 28 46.