

**Additional information to support the addendum to the
Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) – Clinician Researchers Initiative
2020 Clinician Researchers: Applied Research in Health Grant Opportunity Guidelines**

- This document is being made available to support applicants to better understand the addendum to the Guidelines for the MRFF – Clinician Researchers 2020 Clinician Researchers: Applied Research in Health Grant Opportunity (the Guidelines) released on 23 March 2021.
- The intention of the MRFF Clinician Researchers Initiative is to support clinicians to become involved in research. As noted in Section 1.3:

Health research frequently addresses questions derived from clinical practice. When clinicians are involved in research there are a number of benefits including: increased clinical relevance of research questions, gaining access to clinical settings for research, bringing clinical expertise and insider perspectives to the research, having researchers who are trusted by participants which may encourage their participation, and having researchers who are motivated to disseminate applicable findings and continue their commitment to the researched.
- The term ‘clinician researcher’ is defined in Section 1.3 of the Guidelines:

For the purposes of this grant opportunity, a clinician researcher is defined as a health professional (including allied health professionals) who works directly with patients to do research on health and disease and to develop new treatments. The term ‘health professional’ encompasses all health disciplines where the individual practices in a clinical capacity in either/both the private and/or public sector.
- On analysis of queries received, it has become apparent that there has been some misinterpretation of the Guidelines, particularly the role of academic researchers in this Grant Opportunity.
 - It was intended that the Chief Investigator teams would be comprised of clinician researchers only.
 - However we have been advised that some project teams intend to include non-clinician researchers in the Chief Investigator teams.
- As a result, an Addendum was released on 23 March 2021 to clarify that:
 - the Chief Investigator team must comprise clinician researchers only
 - academic researchers can provide methodological and other support to the research team and that any costs associated with providing this support can be included as project costs (so long as they meet the definition of eligible expenditure).
- These changes were taken to:
 - ensure applicants are fully aware of the eligibility requirements, as soon as possible
 - reduce the number of ineligible applications submitted to the Grant Opportunity.
- We understand that a number of organisations will need to review and potentially revise their projects.
- As a result, the due date for this Grant Opportunity has been extended to 5.00pm AEST 10 May 2021 (moved from 12 April 2021).
- All further enquiries should be directed to clinicians@industry.gov.au.