

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015

Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2016-2021 Determination 2016

Authority

Section 32D of the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015* (the Act) provides that the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board (Advisory Board) must determine the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy.

Purpose

The purpose of the *Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2016-2021* (the Strategy) is to ensure that a coherent and consistent approach is adopted in providing financial assistance under the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). It sets out the vision, aims and objectives for the MRFF.

Background

The MRFF was established under the Act to provide financial assistance to support health and medical research and innovation, with the objective of improving the health and wellbeing of Australians.

First disbursements from the MRFF will be made in the 2016-17 financial year by the Australian Government following consideration of the Strategy and the accompanying *Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2016-2018*.

The Advisory Board was announced on 4 April 2016 and comprises of:

- Professor Ian Frazer AC (Chair)
- Mr Yasser El-Ansary
- Professor Peter Høj
- Dr Deborah Rathjen
- Professor Karen Reynolds
- Ms Jennifer Williams
- Professor Anne Kelso AO

In developing the Strategy, the Advisory Board has taken into consideration other health and medical research strategies including the work of the Commonwealth Science Council, National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and the National Innovation and Science Agenda to ensure a coordinated narrative.

The Act determines that the Strategy is in force for five years. A subsequent Strategy must be determined and in force as soon as this Strategy ceases.

Details

In addition to outline the vision, aim and objectives of the MRFF, the Strategy proposes a number of strategic research platforms that have potential for funding impact and aim to better prepare the Australian health system for the future.

These platforms recognise the opportunities and benefits within the health and medical research sector and the challenges and cultural issues that once addressed will position Australia as an innovator in healthcare.

These platforms serve as a reference point for the two-yearly identification of the Priorities, the first of which accompany this Strategy.

The Strategy also proposes an impact measurement framework to assess the return on investment from the MRFF.

Consultation

Section 32EA of the Act requires the Advisory Board to consult with organisations with expertise in medical research and innovation, organisations that represent consumers who benefit from health and medical research and innovation, and any other person or organisation.

The Strategy has been developed following extensive national consultation with consumers, healthcare providers, researchers, organisations and individuals. The consultation process included a call for written submissions, public forums, invited roundtables, meetings with jurisdictional health departments and a national webinar.

The call for written submissions opened on 6 May and closed on 6 June 2016. 167 submissions were received in relation to the Strategy. Public forums were held during July and August 2016 in Adelaide, Perth, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane. A total of approximately 700 individuals were in attendance. The national webinar was held on 31 August 2016 and the recording has been made available online.

The submissions and feedback received through the consultation process were considered in the development of the Strategy.

The Strategy commences the day after registration on the Federal Register of Legislation.

This Strategy is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislation Act 2003*.