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Australia injects $311M for dementia, cancer and additional medical research

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Twelve grant opportunities from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) to support health and medical research and innovation projects in key areas such as dementia, aged care, and applied research led by clinicians.

Australian Government is launching twelve grant opportunities from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), with a total value of almost $311 million.

The funding aims to generate improved health care and outcomes by supporting health and medical research and innovation projects in key areas such as dementia, aged care, and applied research led by clinicians.

A total of $17.5 million is on offer for research into dementia and aged care. Almost half a million people are currently living with dementia in Australia, with this number expected to reach around 1.1 million in less than 30 years.

The 2020 MRFF grant opportunity from the Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission targets large scale, interdisciplinary research into dementia and aged care in four streams.

- $1 million to develop measures to assess dementia care at a local organizational level and improve its quality
- $6 million to develop interventions for holistic and multidisciplinary care, including new digital technologies to support care, managing transitions between care types, and managing the progression of dementia
- $8 million for research to develop better diagnostic and prognostic tools for dementia, including biological markers of disease onset and progression
- $2.5 million for research into effective infection control practices in aged care settings and during transitions.

The MRFF is a capital preserved fund that matured at $20 billion in July 2020. It is long-term, sustainable investment in Australian health and medical research and innovation to improve lives, build the economy and contribute to health system sustainability.

The Australian Government will invest a record $6.6 billion in health and medical research between 2020-21 and 2023-24.

Details of the 2020 MRFF grant opportunities are below.

Grant opportunity	MRFF stream	Funding
2020 Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission	2020 Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission	$17.5 million
2020 Clinician Researchers: Applied Research in Health	Clinician Researchers	$25 million
2020 Paediatric Cancer	Emerging Priorities and Consumer Driven Research (EPCDR)	$9.6 million
2020 Improving Diagnosis in Cancers with Low Survival	EPCDR	$25 million
2020 Rapid Applied Research Translation	Rapid Applied Research Translation	$55 million
2020 Early Stage Translation and Commercialisation Support	Medical Research Commercialisation	$79 million
2020 Genomics Health Futures Mission	Genomics Health Futures Mission	$45 million
2020 Stem Cell Therapies Mission	Stem Cell Therapies Mission	$19 million
2020 Cardiovascular Health Mission	Cardiovascular Health Mission	$20.3 million
2020 Traumatic Brain Injury Mission	2020 Traumatic Brain Injury Mission	$4.3 million
2020 Indigenous Health Research Fund	Indigenous Health Research Fund	$11.1 million
Total		**$310.8 million**

Further to the launch to the 11 MRFF grant opportunities, public consultation opened on 14 Dec 2020 on the Roadmaps and Implementation Plans for six MRFF Missions: Cardiovascular Health Mission; Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission; Genomics Health Futures Mission; Indigenous Health Research Fund; Stem Cell Therapies Mission; and Traumatic Brain Injury Mission.