



**The Hon. Greg Hunt MP**  
Minister for Health and Aged Care

**MEDIA RELEASE**

30 June 2021

**\$180 million in medical research to improve the lives of Australians**

The Morrison Government is investing \$180 million in ground-breaking medical research projects around Australia to improve the lives of Australians and their loved ones.

Funded through the Government's \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund, 105 medical research projects will receive funding to improve health outcomes, including for Australians with cancer, dementia, brain injuries, heart problems, neurofibromatosis and many others.

\$18.7 million will be provided through the Stem Cell Mission for 10 projects that will address illnesses facing many Australians and their families, including heart disease, COVID-19, epilepsy and childhood cancer.

The Murdoch Children's Institute will receive almost \$1 million to evaluate the potential of a bioengineered heart tissue to be used for congenital heart repair in children. This project will radically transform patient outcomes and improve the quality of life of children affected by heart disease.

Through the Genomics Health Futures Mission, nine researchers will receive a share of \$46.5 million for genomics research, which will support health clinicians to identify genetic disorders and diagnose rare diseases faster, positioning Australia as a global leader in this area.

Australian researchers fighting against paediatric and childhood cancers will also receive \$18.4 million as part of the 2020 Paediatric Cancer Grant Opportunity and 2020 Childhood Cancer Research Grant Opportunity, to improve treatment, therapies and survival rates for Australian kids.

To improve health outcomes for Australian patients, we're investing \$12.9 million in seven research projects that will use data to improve access, quality, safety and efficiency of our primary health care system as part of the 2020 Primary Healthcare Research Data Infrastructure grants.

Monash University will receive \$9.6 million to focus on discovery research projects, including next-generation precision oncology, tumour immunotherapy and epigenomics, which will help make a real world difference for the thousands of Australian kids each year facing a cancer diagnosis and the fight of their lives.

Cancer remains the leading cause of death in Australia. We're providing \$21 million through the 2020 Improving Diagnosis in Cancers with Low Survival Rates Grant Opportunity to eight projects, which aim to improve the early diagnosis of ovarian cancer, liver cancer, lung cancer, as well as cancers where the primary site or origin is unknown.

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Authorised by Greg Hunt MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Somerville, Victoria.

We are supporting home grown research into cardiovascular health, with \$20.1 million in new funding to support 16 projects from real-time cardiac monitoring, to after stroke care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, from medicine management for stroke patients to arm strength and rehabilitation.

We're providing \$17 million for 11 research projects as part of the Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission, which will help senior Australians maintain their health and quality of life as they age, keep their independence for longer and access quality care when they need it.

Seven projects will receive a share of \$7.4 million to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the 2020 Indigenous Health Research Grant Opportunity.

Australian researchers at the University of Melbourne are investigating further COVID-19 vaccine candidates. Through the COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate Research grants, we're providing \$6 million to the University for two projects to help protect Australians against future pandemics.

The 2020 International Clinical Trial Collaborations grant opportunity is providing \$5.6 million for three projects, which will bring international clinical trials into back pain, caesarean births and Hodgkin lymphoma to Australia.

\$4.6 million will also be provided through the 2020 Neurofibromatosis Research grant opportunity to four Australian research projects looking into neurofibromatosis - a devastating genetic condition that can cause cancer, blindness, deafness, and chronic pain.

To help improve the lives of Australians who have suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI), we're providing \$3.3 million to six projects through the Traumatic Brain Injury Mission.

These grants are part of the Morrison Government's \$20 billion Medical Research Future, which is a long-term, sustainable investment in Australian health and medical research helping to improve lives, build the economy and contribute to the sustainability of the health system.

Further information about the MRFF is available at [www.health.gov.au/mrff](http://www.health.gov.au/mrff)

#### **2020 Genomics Health Futures Mission Grant Opportunity**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	The Australian Functional Genomics Network	\$6 million
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	A national large-scale automated reanalysis program to increase rare disease diagnosis	\$3 million
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	New technologies for improved diagnosis of ataxia and the repeat expansion disorders	\$653,000
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Mitochondrial Diagnostic Network for Genomics and Omics	\$3 million
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	The Australian Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN-Aus): An internationally networked national approach for transforming diagnosis for individuals living with rare diseases	\$3 million
James Cook University	The KidGen National Kidney Genomics Program – improving genomic outcomes for Australian families with genetic kidney disease	\$3 million

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University of Western Australia	Closing the gap in diagnosis of neurological disorders including ataxias and neuropathies – a trans-Australia collaboration	\$3 million
University of Melbourne	Genetic mosaicism as a stable and robust blood DNA biomarker for precision risk assessment for cancer	\$2.1 million
University of Melbourne	Precision Diagnosis for the Remaining 50% of Unsolved Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies	\$3 million
University of Melbourne	Diagnosis, discovery and novel phenotype characterisation using multimodal genomics in patients with inherited bone marrow failure and related disorders	\$3 million
University of Melbourne	Evaluating clinically relevant biomarkers to improve early detection and treatment of head and neck cancer	\$2.2 million
University of Melbourne	Novel predictive disease modelling using liquid biopsies to improve outcomes in melanoma	\$2 million
University of Sydney	Genomic risk prediction and risk-tailored screening and early detection for common cancers	\$3 million
Monash University	Population genomic screening of young adults to prevent cancer in Australia	\$3 million
University of Queensland	Improving genomic testing rates for inoperable lung cancer patients	\$2.5 million
Flinders University	A liquid biopsy DNA methylation blood test for personalised treatment of patients with gastrointestinal cancers	\$2 million
Macquarie University	Integrated Multimodal Precision Liquid biopsy to Enhance MELanoma and NSCLC Treatment (IMPLEMENT)	\$2 million

### 2020 Stem Cell Therapies Mission Grant Opportunity

Institution	Project	Funding
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Evaluating safety and efficacy of bioengineered heart tissue for congenital heart repair	\$999,000
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	New therapies preventing heart damage during chemotherapy	\$879,000
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Stem cell models of glomerular kidney disease for understanding disease and developing treatments	\$934,000
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Insights into CDKL5 neuronal regulation: pathways to improving neurological outcomes for CDKL5 Deficiency Disorder	\$854,000
University of Melbourne	Stem cell therapies for digestive disease	\$584,000
University of Melbourne	iPSC clinical trials - population wide screening of patient iPSC's to reassess high value drug targets for motor neuron disease	\$1 million
University of Sydney	Induced pluripotent stem cell derived cardiomyocytes: a new therapy for "no-option" end stage heart failure	\$5 million

University of Sydney	Stem Cell Derived-Retinal Organoids to Test Novel Genetic Therapies	\$498,000
University of Sydney	Improving decisions about access to stem cell interventions	\$800,000
Monash University	Locally administered extracellular vesicles for perianal fistulising Crohn's disease	\$936,000
The University of Adelaide	A Precision Medicine Based Approach to Treat Craniosynostosis in Children	\$441,000
The University of Adelaide	Developing an Evidence-Based Model for Building Trust in Australian Stem Cell Research and Therapies	\$995,000
University of Wollongong	Novel SMART AAV vectors for gene therapy for Friedreich's Ataxia	\$983,000
The University of Queensland	Transforming the paradigm of epilepsy care with precision medicine	\$1 million
University of South Australia	Identification and assessment of new treatment options for the childhood cancer Neuroblastoma	\$982,000
South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute Limited	Engineered human stem cells for mutation-specific eradication of myelofibrosis	\$853,000
The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	the sySTEMs initiative: systems biology-augmented, stem cell-derived, multi-tissue panel for rapid screening of approved drugs as potential COVID-19 treatments	\$998,000

### 2020 Paediatric Cancer Grant Opportunity

Institution	Project	Funding
Monash University	The Victoria Paediatric Cancer Consortium: A multi-institutional partnership to catalyze advances in childhood cancer research and clinical implementation	\$9.6 million

### 2020 Childhood Cancer Research Grant Opportunity

Institution	Project	Funding
University of New South Wales	Improving outcomes for children with high risk cancer	\$1.5 million
University of New South Wales	Rationalised inclusion of HDAC inhibitors with standard-of-care chemotherapy to improve outcomes for primary and relapsed neuroblastoma	\$614,000
University of Melbourne	Studying the origins, maintenance and resistance mechanisms of poor prognosis paediatric leukaemia at single cell resolution to develop novel therapeutic approaches.	\$1.5 million
University of Sydney	Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres (ALT): Target discovery to treatment	\$1.48 million
The University of Adelaide	Adolescents with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia: Focussing on the gut microbiota, its role in therapeutic response and potential as an effective adjunct therapeutic in this high-risk group	\$1.29 million

University of South Australia	ABOLISH Neuroblastoma: Defining the Aetiology and underlying BiOLogy of neuroblastoma to Innovate and SHape new options for prevention, diagnosis and treatment	\$1.42 million
St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research	Reducing tumour incidence in adolescents with germ-line mutations in RECQL4	\$958,000

### 2020 Primary Healthcare Research Data Infrastructure Grant Opportunity

Institution	Project	Funding
The University of Queensland	Improving surveillance infrastructure for Indigenous primary health care	\$2 million
South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute Limited	Registry of Senior Australians: Improving Care and Outcomes in Aged Care	\$2 million
University of Melbourne	Platform to Enhance Prostate Cancer Shared care Integration (PEPSI)	\$2 million
Monash University	Optimising health information exchange during aged care transfers	\$2 million
The University of Adelaide	Imagendo: Diagnosing endometriosis with imaging and AI	\$2 million
Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Limited	Regional collaboration to create a Kimberley Health Evidence Data Platform.	\$1 million
Menzies School of Health Research	Territory Integrated Care: Primary health data Linkage Using Software	\$2 million

### 2020 Improving Diagnosis in Cancers with Low Survival Rates Grant Opportunity

Institution	Project	Funding
University of New South Wales	Microbial based biomarkers powered by artificial intelligence for early detection of liver cancer in Australia. The Australian Liver Cancer Microbiome Consortium	\$4 million
University of South Australia	Predicting and Preventing Ovarian Cancer: a machine learning approach	\$1.3 million
The University of Queensland	Implementing a Multivariate Index Assay for the Earlier Detection of Ovarian Cancer	\$2.7 million
The University of Queensland	Lung cancer screening for early detection	\$2.8 million
University of Sydney	Ready to screen. Targeting the high-risk population to improve lung cancer diagnosis	\$2 million
University of Western Australia	The IC3 Trial: Identifying Cirrhosis and Liver Cancer in Primary Care	\$3.2 million
Swinburne University of Technology	Solving Unknown Primary cancER Earlier Diagnosis (SUPER-ED): A stepped wedge cluster randomised controlled trial implementing a new model of care to support earlier diagnosis	\$2.4 million

Flinders University	Shining Light into the “unknown” on Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with Cancer of Unknown Primary	\$2.4 million
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### 2020 Cardiovascular Health Grant Opportunity

Institution	Project	Funding
Monash University	Statins and Progression of Coronary Atherosclerosis in Melanoma Patients Treated with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors	\$1.7 million
Monash University	ECMO-Rehab: A Randomised Controlled Trial of Early Cardiac Rehabilitation to Improve Survival and Recovery in Critically-ill Patients on ECMO	\$663,000
Monash University	New models of rehabilitation to improve work and health outcomes after stroke	\$1 million
The University of Newcastle	Stroke in patients with large Ischaemic Core: Assessment of Reperfusion therapy Impact on Outcome (SICARIO)	\$1.5 million
The University of Newcastle	Yarning up After Stroke	\$485,000
University of Sydney	Safety and Tolerability of AZD6482 in Reperfusion for Stroke (STARS)	\$2.7 million
University of Sydney	LesioLogic	\$1.1 million
University of Sydney	Digital solutions for heart failure best practice care	\$937,000
University of Sydney	Guardian Angel: Implementation of a peer support program for people with heart disease	\$656,000
University of Melbourne	REACHING FOR YOUR WORDS: A Phase IIa umbrella trial of integrated UPper limb & Language Impairment and Functional Training (UPLIFT) after stroke.	\$993,000
University of Melbourne	Improving life after stroke with tailored support: Innovation in use of national registry data	\$506,000
The University of Adelaide	The SPRINTS Project: Stroke – Prevention of Reperfusion Injury and Neuroinflammation – a Therapeutic Strategy	\$2.6 million
University of New South Wales	Development of novel, clinically viable strategies for reducing cardiac damage and preventing future events in myocardial infarction (MI) survivors by targeting inflammation	\$2.8 million
University of New South Wales	CardiacAI: Deep learning to predict and prevent secondary cardiovascular events	\$545,000
The University of Queensland	Measuring, Monitoring, and Motivating Adherence to Self-Managed Aphasia Treatment	\$389,000
The University of Queensland	Development of drugs to prevent ischemic injuries of the heart and brain	\$1,499,560

### 2020 Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Grant Opportunity

Institution	Project	Funding
The University of Queensland	Alignment, Harmonisation, and Results: translating Core Outcome Measures to Improve	\$999,000

	Care (COM-IC) for People Living with Dementia into Australian practice	
The University of Queensland	Technology Assisted and Remotely Delivered Anxiety Psychotherapy Intervention for People living with Dementia and Their Care Partners (Tech-CBT)	\$1.6 million
National Ageing Research Institute	Drawing out care: Using animation and digital technologies to support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) family carers and people living with dementia	\$798,000
Monash University	Knowledge brokers for evidence translation to improve quality use of medicines in residential aged care	\$2 million
Macquarie University	SENSEcog aged care: Hearing and vision support to improve quality of life for people living with dementia in residential aged care	\$1.2 million
Flinders University	Creating partnership in iSupport program to optimise carers' impact on dementia care	\$1.4 million
University of New South Wales	Development, validation and implementation of a computerised tool to assess instrumental activities of daily living	\$1.3 million
Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health	Blood testing to predict and discriminate dementias	\$4 million
University of Melbourne	Music Attuned Technology Care eHealth (MATCH): A music based mobile eHealth	\$2 million
University of Melbourne	Development and Implementation of the National Infection Surveillance Program for Aged Care (NISPAC)	\$998,000
University of Melbourne	IMpleMenting Effective infection prevention and control in ReSidential aged carE (IMMERSE)	\$758,000

#### **Indigenous Health Research Fund - 2020 Indigenous Health Research**

Institution	Project	Funding
The University of Adelaide	Working with Aboriginal families and health and social service providers to assess the feasibility of a novel care package to reduce cannabis and alcohol use and social stress in pregnancy	\$675,000
The Council of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research	Developing cultural sensitivity and capability through communication training for mental health professionals	\$705,000
University of New South Wales	Understanding how cultural resilience impacts Aboriginal health & quality of life	\$560,000
University of Sydney	Understanding the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and wellbeing to health: Implementation of the What Matters 2 Adults wellbeing measure	\$998,000
La Trobe University	Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future: Trauma-integrated perinatal care to improve health outcomes for Indigenous parents and infants in a rural setting	\$1.5 million

University of Sydney	VOICE - Validating Outcomes by Including Consumer Experience. Developing a patient reported experience measure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing primary health care	\$1.4 million
The Sax University	Indigenous Led Evaluation of Aboriginal Programs (ILEAP)	\$1.5 million

### 2020 COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate Research Grant Opportunity – Round 3

Institution	Project	Funding
University of Melbourne	AdaptiVax-CoV: A novel adaptable SARS-CoV2 VLP vaccine to produce broad humoral and T cell responses to S, E and M viral proteins	\$3 million
University of Melbourne	Chimeric next generation COVID vaccines	\$3 million

### 2020 International Clinical Trial Collaborations

Institution	Project	Funding
Macquarie University	Determining the impact of a new primary care model for low back pain: A cluster randomised trial	\$2.1 million
University of Melbourne	The C*STEROID Trial: An international, randomised placebo-controlled trial to determine the effect of antenatal corticosteroids on newborn health when given prior to planned caesarean section birth from 35+0 to 39+6 weeks of pregnancy	\$2.2 million
University of Sydney	RADAR: A randomised PET-adapted study of bleomycin-free treatment of early stage Hodgkin lymphoma	\$1.4 million

### 2020 Neurofibromatosis Research grant opportunity

Institution	Project	Funding
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumour Genomics in Neurofibromatosis 1 (MaGeN)	\$1.6 million
The University of Newcastle	The Neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) Cutaneous Neurofibroma Consortium: Identifying Genetic modifiers of disease burden to inform treatment pathways	\$1.6 million
Monash University	Defining NF1 clinical variation at the microscale to discover new therapeutic targets	\$818,000
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	A randomised control trial of remote microphone listening devices in children with neurofibromatosis type 1 and central auditory deficits	\$599,000

### 2020 Traumatic Brain Injury Mission

Institution	Project	Funding
Curtin University	An informatics approach to predict outcomes and monitor intervention efficacy following moderate to severe traumatic brain injury	\$500,000
University of Sydney	From injury to long-term physical activity for people living with traumatic brain injury	\$407,000

Monash University	PRECISION-TBI – Promoting evidence-based, data driven care for critically ill moderate-to-severe TBI patients	\$499,000
Monash University	The Australian Traumatic Brain Injury National Data (ATBIND) Project	\$366,000
Monash University	Exercise therapy for mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) and persistent post-concussion symptoms (PPCS) across the lifespan	\$500,000
University of Tasmania	Transforming Awareness, Literacy & Knowledge of Traumatic Brain Injury (TALK-TBI)	\$1 million

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