



2009 Round 13 of the Medical and Health Research Infrastructure Fund (MHRIF)

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

1. Background

The Medical and Health Research Infrastructure Fund (MHRIF) was established in 1997 to promote excellence in medical and health research in Western Australia. To date, the State Government has allocated approximately \$45 million in infrastructure support to medical and health researchers through twelve rounds of the MHRIF.

2. Eligibility for the 2009 Round 13 of the MHRIF

At the time of application for the MHRIF, researchers must be employed by a WA institution or hold a current grant to conduct research in a WA institution.

Minimum Total Grant Amount

Eligibility for infrastructure funding for individual medical and health researchers in WA under the 2009 Round 13 of the Medical & Health Research Infrastructure Fund (MHRIF) is based on the following criterion of excellence:

Researchers must receive a minimum of **\$350,000** in support of medical or health research from all state, national and international competitive peer-reviewed granting sources during the 2006-2008 calendar years.

Eligible Grants

The emphasis of the scheme is providing infrastructure support for grants with a minimal infrastructure component, such as NHMRC program and project grants. Please note that:

- a) Only grants for medical and health research are eligible. (Grants such as NHMRC Fellowships and Special Initiative Grants, ARC Linkage and Discovery Grants, and other competitive peer-reviewed national and international research grants may be claimed.)
- b) Grants for equipment, travel, infrastructure or training/education are ineligible, even if awarded by a research funding agency such as the NHMRC (e.g. Enabling Grants).
- c) State research grants (from WA-based organisations) must be subject to national peer review and openly competitive (e.g. not restricted to researchers of one institution).
- d) Grants from research organisations where the original funding was derived from a WA Government agency are excluded.
- e) Grant schemes not identified in **Appendix A – Eligible Grants** require comprehensive supporting evidence to show that the grant is from a competitive, peer-reviewed funding source and has national or international peer review with a purpose of medical and health research. For state grants, evidence must be provided to demonstrate that

national peer review is part of the process and that it is openly competitive, e.g. not restricted to researchers of one institution.

Appropriate supporting documents could include, for example, a letter or copy of the guidelines from the granting body detailing how calls for applications were made, eligibility criteria, mechanisms for peer-review and composition of the peer-review panel. **Web site links alone are insufficient.** It is incumbent on the researcher to provide the necessary documentation; otherwise the grant will not be included and this may affect MHRIF eligibility.

Grants Expended Outside WA

For researchers new to WA, grant monies expended outside WA must be **reduced by 50%** in the MHRIF application. The proportion of any research grants transferred to WA upon arrival will contribute to the calculation of the MHRIF grant as normal, along with grants received since arriving.

Split Grants (Multiple Chief Investigators)

If multiple CIs are named on a grant, they must determine which of them will be eligible to claim the income from the grant, either towards the **\$350,000** threshold or, where a researcher has achieved eligible status, as additional funds eligible for MHRIF support. Applicants may agree to split the grant income between CIs. In this case Section 6 of the MHRIF Application Form must be completed as evidence of agreement.

3. Calculation of Funding for Eligible Applicants

The Department of Health will provide infrastructure funding on a two-tier grant system dependent on the 'principal place of research'. The funds are proportionately adjusted based on the amount of funds available:

Tier 1 - for researchers in independent medical research institutes that are not eligible for Commonwealth infrastructure funding from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (formerly the Department of Education, Science and Training). Tier 1 candidates are entitled to MHRIF funding up to a maximum of **20%** of their total eligible grants averaged over the relevant three years.

Tier 2 - for researchers who are not working in independent medical research institutes (e.g. universities, hospitals). Tier 2 candidates are entitled to MHRIF funding up to a maximum of **10%** of their total eligible grants averaged over the relevant three years.

The intent of the two-tier system is to recognise that researchers in independent institutes incur additional costs to those incurred by researchers working in university departments or hospitals.

Tier 1 status therefore only applies to researchers whose research, or the majority of it, is conducted in the physical location of a Tier 1 institute, where the infrastructure costs of their research is incurred. In some cases a researcher may be administratively linked to another institution. However, if their research is based at the Tier 1 institute and they are required to contribute to the infrastructure costs of that institute, then they are eligible for Tier 1 funding.

Medical research institutes in receipt of Tier 1 infrastructure grants in previous rounds of the MHRIF will continue to be accredited as independent medical research institutes for the 2009 Round 13.

Institutes seeking Tier 1 accreditation for MHRIF for the first time in the 2009 Round 13 of the MHRIF must obtain accredited independent institute status from the NHMRC in order to apply to the Department of Health. Details of the application process will be sent upon request. Please contact the Research Development Unit on 9489 2827 or shrac@health.wa.gov.au

4. Definition of Infrastructure

Medical research infrastructure is usually defined as an institution's resources essential for supporting quality projects or programs in a particular field, including indirect costs associated with particular projects or programs, but excluding direct costs, which should be covered by research grants. The costs incurred by researchers working in independent institutes are different to those incurred by researchers working in university departments or hospitals.

All Researchers may purchase the following items with their MHRIF grant:

- Animal holding and breeding facilities
- Research equipment
- Vehicles
- Salaries of research support and administrative support staff (including salary on-costs*) to provide general support for activity in a given area, rather than to work for a specific research project
- Common services - telephone, fax, copying, postage, stationery, printing, computer network, accounts system
- Computers
- Provisional patents.

Tier 1 Institute Researchers may also include:

- Lighting and power
- Research library (if an institute has an affiliation agreement with the university which allows it to use library facilities, this cost is not applicable)
- Cleaning and maintenance
- Workshop
- Rates and charges
- Minor capital works.

Excluded Items. The following items are not regarded as infrastructure costs:

- Salaries and salary on-costs* of teaching and research staff (including the cost of 'buying time' to free such staff to do some more research)
- Salaries and salary on-costs* of staff supporting research at the institutional level (including Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Research Grant Officer, Director of Institute)
- Postgraduate research student stipend
- Travel costs directly related to individual projects (including fares, accommodation, travel allowances)
- Project management costs
- Meals/beverages/catering not directly related to research conferences and seminars.

5. Conditions of Grant

The MHRIF expenditure is subject to the Financial Management Act 2006 (WA) and the following conditions:

- a) The funds should be spent in WA by the applicant in accordance with the grant offer. See section 4 Definition of Infrastructure.
- b) Researchers must provide a report on the outcome of the grant within 3 months of the close of the calendar year for which the funding was provided (i.e. the 2009 Round 13

* Salary on-costs include payroll tax, superannuation, leave loading, workers' compensation and insurance payments.

report is due by 31 March 2011). Guidelines for completion of this self-assessment report will be provided to successful applicants with their award letter.

- c) An audited financial acquittal statement for the relevant period (i.e. 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010 for the 2009 Round 13 grants) must be submitted within 3 months of the close of the calendar year for which the funding was provided (i.e. by 31 March 2011). This statement must:
- state that monies have been spent in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant;
 - provide details on the principal areas of expenditure;
 - only include MHRIF income (specifying any carry-over funds from earlier MHRIF grants) and expenditure; and
 - be signed by an appropriate independent officer for the institution, (e.g. authorised finance officer, accountant or auditor) who is independent of the research program/unit.
- d) If the grant is not fully expended in the year for which it was provided an additional acquittal statement must be provided for the following year(s) in which funds are expended. The researcher must advise the Department of Health in writing of their intention to carry over funds, and the reasons, before the close of the calendar year for which the funding was provided.

Failure to comply with any of the above conditions may jeopardise eligibility for future funding under the MHRIF.

6. GST Arrangements

The following principles have been adopted in relation to the GST:

- a) Infrastructure grants paid to individual researchers in organisations registered for the GST will be increased by 10% (GST inclusive amount) to accommodate the GST payable on each infrastructure grant.
- b) The GST inclusive amount will be paid to the researcher's host institution, which will be responsible for ensuring that the full GST exclusive amount is credited to the researcher's MHRIF account.

Where a host institution has more than one MHRIF grant recipient, the GST inclusive amount will be a one-line addition to the total amount paid to the host institution, rather than an addition to the infrastructure grant paid to each researcher.

- c) Upon receiving a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) from the Department of Health, the host institution will remit 1/11th of the total GST inclusive amount to the Australian Tax Office, thus enabling the Department to claim input credits back from the ATO.
- d) The Department will not fund the GST payable on goods or services purchased by a researcher using an infrastructure grant under the MHRIF. Individual researchers in organisations registered for the GST will be required to fund that component themselves, and claim it back as an input tax credit.

APPENDIX A – ELIGIBLE GRANTS

If you claim grants from funding schemes that are not NHMRC or are not contained on the lists below you will need to provide comprehensive supporting evidence to show that the grant is from a competitive, peer-reviewed funding source and that the peer-review was performed at a national or international level. **The researcher must provide the necessary documentation**; otherwise the grant will not be included as an eligible grant and this may affect eligibility. **See section 2(e) for details on documentation required.**

The following grants are deemed eligible for the 2009 MHRIF Round 13:

1. Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR)

Grants for medical or health research from funding schemes on the *2009 Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR) - Grants paid in 2008* list are eligible and may be found at:

http://www.innovation.gov.au/ScienceAndResearch/programs_funding/Documents/2009%20ACGR%20revised%2014%20May%2009.pdf

AND the following:

2. Department of Health Approved Grant Schemes

AFL Research and Development Board
Aktion Benni & Co e.v.
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Arthritis Foundation of Australia
Arthritis Foundation of Western Australia
Association Francais Contre Les Myopathies
Asthma Foundation of Western Australia
Australian Associated Brewers
Australian Brewer's Foundation Medical Research Advisory Committee
Australian Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust
Australian Health Management Group - Medical Research Fund
Australian Health Ministers Advisory Committee – Priority Driven Research Program
Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering
Australian Kidney Foundation
Australian Lung Foundation
Australian Menopause Society
Australian Orthopaedic Association
Australian Research Council
Australian Retinitis Pigmentosa Association
Australian Rotary Health Research Fund
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Requests for Proposals RFPs stream only)
BUPA Foundation
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Cancer Council Victoria
Cancer Foundation of Western Australia
Children's Hospital Research Foundation (USA)
Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundations
Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing (CDHA) - Diagnostic Imaging Research Program
CDHA – General Practice Evaluation Program
CDHA – Research into Drug abuse Grant Program
CDHA – Pharmaceutical Health and Rational Use of Medicines (PHARM) Program
CDHA - Pharmaceutical Education Program (PEP)
Cooperative Research Centres (only if specific project was an identifiable part of the original

application to DEST)
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (US)
Diabetes Australia
Eli Lilly Endocrinology Research Grant
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC)
Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN), USA
Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Fund
German National Genome Research Network (BMBF)
German Research Foundation (DFG)
GlaxoSmithKline (Glaxo Wellcome) International Research Programme
Grains Research and Development Corporation
Grape Wine Research Development Corporation
Haemophilia Foundation Australia Research Fund
Health Research Council of NZ
Healthway (Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation)
International Duchenne Parent Project
International Institute for Research in Paraplegia
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International
Japanese Foundation for Ageing and Health
March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation
Muscular Dystrophy Association (USMDA)
Merck Sharp & Dohme Medical Schools Grant
Motor Neuron Disease Research Institute of Australia
National Breast Cancer Foundation
National Cancer Institute, Department of Health and Human Services
National Childhood Cancer Foundation
National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF)
National Heart Foundation
National Institutes of Health, USA
Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia (ORIA)
Pharmacia Foundation Australia - Senior Research Fellowships
PPP Healthcare Medical Trust
Raine Medical Research Foundation – Priming Grants
Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation
Retina Australia
Roche Pillar Awards
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)
Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation - Clinical Investigatorships
Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation - Senior Medical Research Fellowships
The Cancer Council Western Australia
The National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression
Theodore & Vada Stanley Research Awards Program
Ulverschroft Foundation
Wales Office of Research & Development for Health and Social Care
Wellcome Trust
World Health Organization

APPENDIX B – MEDICAL & HEALTH RESEARCH CLASSIFICATION CODES

Please ensure that only research with classifications relevant to Medical and Health research are entered on the MHRIF Application.

For research up to 2008 the following codes apply:

Australian Standard Research Classification (ASRC 1998) - Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines (RFCD) Codes

For research from 2008 the following codes apply:

Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC 2008) - Field of Reference (FOR) Codes

Research classification codes can be accessed from the Australian Bureau of Statistics via the following website:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1297.02008>

Examples of codes from 1998 and conversion in 2008:

1998 Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines (RFCD) Codes				2008 Field of Reference (FOR) Codes			
Discipline Code	Discipline Description	Subject Code	Subject Description	Group Code	Group Description	Field Code	Field Description
321000	Clinical Sciences	321010	Infectious Diseases	110300	Clinical Sciences	110309	Infectious Diseases
321100	Nursing	321103	Clinical Nursing: Secondary (Acute Care)	111000	Nursing	111003	Clinical Nursing: Secondary (Acute Care)
321200	Public Health and Health Services	321204	Mental Health	111700	Public Health and Health Services	111714	Mental Health
329900	Other Medical & Health Sciences	329901	Podiatry	110300	Clinical Sciences	110318	Podiatry