



TTRA

TARGETED TRANSLATION
RESEARCH ACCELERATOR
DIABETES + CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Powered by **MTPConnect**

PILLAR 2 RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDING GUIDELINES

ROUND 3 | DECEMBER 2022

MTPConnect is calling for Round 3 of TTRA Research Projects applications to address Indigenous Priority Areas for diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Applications open on 30 January 2023 and will close on 28 April 2023.

For more information, contact ttra-dc vd@mtpconnect.org.au



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Science and Resources

Industry
Growth
Centres

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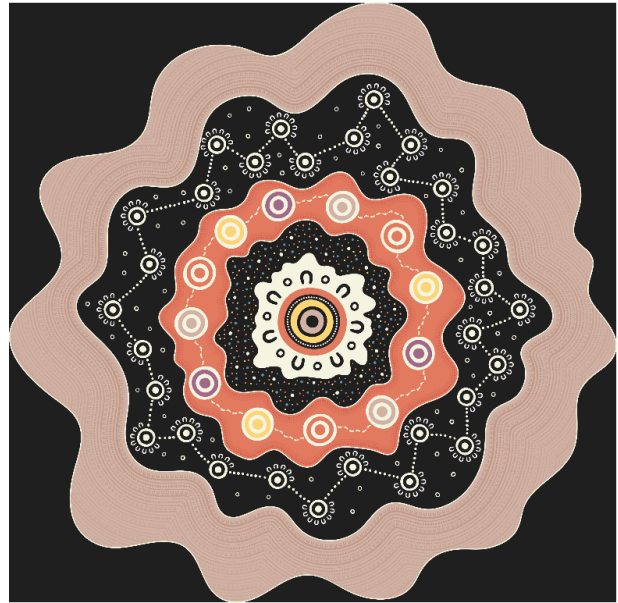
MTPConnect acknowledges the sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the traditional custodians of Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

MTPConnect acknowledges all those involved in the development of these Guidelines, including the TTRA Research Projects Round 3 Co-Design Group and the TTRA Partners.

Description of the artwork

The artwork by Ngarrindjeri artist, Jordan Lovegrove, shows the growing ripple effect that Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-led research has on health and wellbeing. The big meeting place in the centre represents Lowitja Institute and MTPConnect. The smaller coloured meeting places connected by footprints that surround it represents our connection and work with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities and other partners. The other small meeting places with pathways between, represent the communities that this research positively impacts.

The artwork has been used with permission from the Lowitja Institute.



OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

This opportunity is offered by the Commonwealth under the Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Program which forms part of the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). The TTRA Research Projects funding can provide between \$200,000 - \$1 million to help eligible organisations develop or progress innovative preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic and disease management products, services and/or models of care to benefit the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease. The project term for funded TTRA Research Projects is a maximum of 24 months. While not a requirement to be eligible for the funding opportunity, there is an expectation that applicants will provide cash and/or in-kind co-contributions and this will be viewed favourably.

ABOUT THE TARGETED TRANSLATION RESEARCH ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

Medical Research Future Fund

The MRFF, established under the Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015 (MRFF Act), provides grants of financial assistance to support health and medical research and innovation to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians. It operates as an endowment fund with \$20 billion of capital preserved in perpetuity. The MRFF provides a long-term sustainable source of funding for endeavours that aim to improve health outcomes, quality of life and health system sustainability.

In the 2019-20 Budget, the Government announced its continued commitment to supporting lifesaving medical research with a \$5 billion 10-year investment plan for the MRFF. It will place Australia at the leading edge of research in areas like genomics and will support the search for cures and treatments, including for rare cancers. The plan is underpinned by four key themes – patients, researchers, translation and missions.

This MRFF investment is guided by the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2021–2026 and related set of Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2022–2024, developed by the independent and expert Australian Medical Research Advisory Board following extensive national public consultation.

Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA)

The \$47 million Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) program, delivered by MTPConnect, is funded through the MRFF's Preventative and Public Health Initiative.

The TTRA for Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease (D&CVD) provides a new, integrated research program to improve the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of D&CVD and their associated complications in Australia. The TTRA:

- Under Pillar 1, has established two new Research Centres in Australia, one for diabetes related complications and one for cardiovascular disease related complications.
- Under Pillar 2, has established a contestable funding program to support discrete D&CVD Research Projects.
- Promotes the clinical and commercial translation of innovative digital health technologies, medical devices, therapeutics or behavioural interventions, for D&CVD.

The TTRA takes a national and inclusive approach to working with clinicians, researchers, health administrators, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health groups, regional, rural and remote Australians and consumers. It is delivered in collaboration with an independent Board of experts.

MTPConnect

MTPConnect is Australia's Growth Centre for the medical technology, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector. As an independent, not-for-profit organisation MTPConnect works to forge stronger connections between research and industry and maximises opportunities for Australians to make scientific and technological breakthroughs that are successfully translated and commercialised.

In this way, MTPConnect is building a more resilient and competitive medical products sector.

As part of the Industry Growth Centre Initiative, MTPConnect deploys funding for the Department of Industry, Science, and Resources. It also operates five programs, including TTRA, for the MRFF:

- BioMedTech Horizons (\$45 million)
- Biomedical Translation Bridge (\$22.3 million)
- Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry (\$32 million)
- Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (\$47 million)
- Clinical Translation and Commercialisation Medtech Program (\$19.75 million)

About the Pillar 2 TTRA Research Projects

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are significantly disproportionately burdened by diabetes and cardiovascular disease at 2-4 times the rate of the wider population. Community-led innovations and approaches are needed to address these health inequities, and this requires specific, targeted research funding. Recognising this need, Round 3 of the TTRA Research Projects funding opportunity will fund projects that develop or progress innovative preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic and disease management products, services and/or models of care to benefit the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease.

This focus directly aligns with *guiding principle #2 of the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2021-2026: Research funded through the MRFF will address existing areas of unmet health need to address underinvestment and support capacity development with a focus on achieving equity in health outcomes, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other priority populations.*

In establishing this round of funding and to maximise its impact, MTPConnect has been guided by the TTRA Indigenous Advisory Group (IAG) which includes prominent Indigenous researchers, clinicians and thought leaders, as well as representatives from organisations that have deep engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through direct healthcare delivery.

To determine the Indigenous-specific Priority Areas that Research Projects must address in Round 3, MTPConnect commissioned Lowitja Institute, a community-controlled organisation and Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, to lead the needs assessment process. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, living with diabetes and cardiovascular disease were centred in this work, ensuring that the priorities identified will have an enduring positive impact on health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Through Pillar 2 Research Projects funding, the Research Projects must develop innovative preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic and/or disease management products, services and/or models of care for diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease to address one of the following Priority Areas:

- **Priority 1: Strengths-based perspectives to chronic disease** - A need to adopt a strengths-based perspective to chronic disease, which builds and develops the existing strengths, skills and capacities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- **Priority 2: Culturally safe programs and supports** - Development of culturally safe programs and supports for D&CVD prevention and promotion of 'healthy lifestyles' among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, using empowering, evidence-based, health promotion campaigns.

- **Priority 3: Culturally safe strategies to address cardiometabolic disease** - Culturally safe strategies to address cardiometabolic disease / risk factors to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women prior to pregnancy and during pregnancy. This should also include a focus on babies through the life course, including management of women with pre-existing and gestational diabetes.

Priority numbering does not reflect weighting or preference, it simply provides a convenient reference link to the application form.

The TTRA Research Projects funding aims to nurture these health and medical research projects to reach significant milestones on the pathway to implementation and translation with the potential to attract further funding and support. The TTRA supports projects across a range of modalities including digital health, medical devices, therapeutics and health service innovations.

Activities supported will include, but are not limited to, prototype development and product testing, lead generation and optimisation, observational studies, pre-clinical studies, clinical trial activity and regulatory support, and effectiveness/implementation trials (as appropriate to the product, service and/or model or care that you are developing or progressing).

Ideas and concepts with no technical validation or supporting evidence at the time of application are out of scope for TTRA Research Projects funding. Validation can include data from your own research, a partner's research and/or from published literature or a patent.

Purely descriptive research with no development or progression of a product, service and/or model or care is out of scope for TTRA Research Projects funding.

Projects to develop research tools (e.g., databases or animal models) in isolation are not eligible. Non-human health programs are not eligible. There must be evidence of research that has been undertaken that validates the problem or the potential of the product, service and/or model of care. The applicant must demonstrate understanding of the community that the product, service and/or model of care is intended to benefit.

Successful applications will include a viable plan for translation and implementation with benefit for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

Interested parties are encouraged to discuss plans for application with MTPConnect at any time throughout the application process. MTPConnect can provide general advice on the TTRA Program, including the application process should you wish to apply. In addition, applications from researchers within universities/medical research institutes should be discussed with the relevant technology transfer office/business development group of the applicant prior to submission.

MTPConnect delivers the TTRA program in accordance with the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines](#) (CGRGs).

TTRA Partners

To deliver the TTRA Research Projects funding opportunity and to support applicants and awardees, MTPConnect partners with leading organisations that are embedded in the Australian research translation ecosystem. Each TTRA Partner has deep knowledge that aligns with the different types of projects that are supported by the TTRA program.

ANDHealth



ANDHealth is Australia's only organisation which designs and delivers specialised technology identification, screening and commercialisation programs proven to accelerate the scale up and commercial growth of

digital health companies. Our mission is to strengthen the Australian digital health ecosystem and support Australian digital health companies to prepare for institutional investment and international market entry.

ANDHealth's non-equity-taking, industry-led programs actively de-risk digital health innovations across key areas of clinical and commercial validation, providing hands-on support, access to clinical and industry experts, and to global networks. ANDHealth's ANDHealth+ cohort companies have so far created (across the 10 companies who participated in the pilot): 351 jobs; 45 clinical trials; 901 commercial pilots; 23 international market launches; generated \$31.4 million in revenue, raised \$74.3 million in dilutive and nondilutive funding, and have impacted 244,302 patients.

Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation (AusHSI)



Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation, based at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), are one of Australia's leading health service research centres, with strengths in health economics, implementation science, statistics and data analysis. AusHSI enable health service organisations to make changes that bring about greater efficiencies and improved patient outcomes. By combining leading edge health services research with hands on experience, AusHSI generate practical insights and independent guidance on how to identify, implement and evaluate innovation for real life health practice problems.

Lowitja Institute



Lowitja Institute is Australia's only national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health research institute named in honour of its Patron, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG. It is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation working for the health and wellbeing of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through high impact quality research, knowledge exchange, and by supporting a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

Established in January 2010, the Lowitja Institute operates on key principles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, a broader understanding of health that incorporates wellbeing, and the need for the work to have a clear and positive impact.

Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP)



The Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) is an ideas incubator driving entrepreneurial culture within the medtech sector. MDPP fosters collaborations between researchers, industry, end-users and government and develops novel medical devices with global market potential.

MDPP forms the essential links between clinical need and knowledge with technical expertise and industry know how. As such, the program is a key enabler for the sector, building the bridge to connect bench to bedside and supporting ideas to the proof-of-concept and prototypes that are required to drive engagement with industry and end users.

MDPP is a national initiative working closely with more than 30 partners across Australia. Since commencing operations MDPP has assessed over 1000 ideas for new medical and assistive technologies. The program has facilitated 196 ideation workshops, completed 120 R&D projects for medtech companies, and provided manufacturing, partnering and new long-term commercial opportunities to over 30 manufacturers. MDPP has also provided a stream of new clients and work to 15 service providers (intellectual property, industrial design, product development, finance and regulatory). The overwhelming response to the MDPP, and results to date, are evidence that the Program continues to break new ground and revolutionise industry-institutional engagement.

UniQuest and QEDDI

UNIQUEST

UniQuest is Australasia's leading university-based commercialisation company, managing the intellectual property of The University of Queensland. Since 1984, it has created more than 125 start-up companies based on UQ research. These companies have gone on to create more than 450 new jobs and raise more than \$965 million to take UQ technologies to market. UniQuest's notable successes include the blockbuster cervical cancer vaccine GARDASIL® and start-up companies Spinifex Pharmaceuticals and Inflazome Ltd, which were acquired in two of the largest university start-up exits in Australian history. Marketed products containing UQ IP licensed by UniQuest have generated gross sales of more than A\$57 billion.

The Queensland Emory Drug Discovery Initiative (QEDDI) is a small molecule drug discovery and development group dedicated to translating academic biomedical research into new medicines. QEDDI has an industry-experienced team dedicated to advancing biomedical research into new drug candidates to enable commercial partnerships and accelerate new drug development. Its pipeline includes new treatments for unmet medical needs, including cancer, inflammatory disorders and neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. QEDDI is a business unit of UniQuest and the only example of its kind in an Australian university.

Encouraging Partnerships

Applicants are encouraged to seek strategic partnerships involving organisations whose decisions and actions affect Australians' health, health policy and health care delivery in ways that improve the health of Australians. Organisations that are capable of implementing policy and service delivery and would normally not be able to access funding through most MRFF funding mechanisms, including Indigenous-led services, are highly valued as partners.

Partnerships and co-investment are encouraged in order to maximise impact of investment, provide opportunities for more mature sites/agencies to build the capacity of emerging sites/agencies, reduce duplication of activities, and reduce potential respondent administrative burden on participating communities. Partnerships are also encouraged to ensure the proposed research is of relevance to consumers and delivery of services, and to support translation of research outcomes into practice.

Partner organisations include:

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Services (non-ACCHOs)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak representative bodies and professional community-controlled organisations
- Indigenous business and technical advisory groups
- Medical research institutes, i.e. organisations that have conducting medical research as a primary purpose, and which are also registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission
- Universities
- Corporate Commonwealth entities, i.e. Commonwealth entities that are bodies corporate

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- Corporations, i.e. Australian public companies, Australian private companies and other incorporated entities
- Those working in federal, state, territory or local government – in the health portfolio or in other areas affecting health, such as economic policy, urban planning, education or transport
- Those working in the private sector such as employers, private health insurance providers or private hospitals
- Non-government organisations and charities
- Community organisations such as consumer groups
- Healthcare providers, and/or
- Professional groups.

In some instances, a body of a type listed above may be eligible to apply for MRFF funding in its own right, for example in the case of commercial entities or non-government organisations that are corporations. The above list recognises the desirability of entering into partnerships as a means of advancing the outcomes of the MRFF and is not intended to imply that the types of bodies listed are ineligible to seek MRFF funding.

Partnerships with an overseas partner organisation are acceptable, provided the objectives of the grant opportunity are fully met. However, you cannot use the grant to cover retrospective costs or to support research projects undertaken outside of Australia (although funding can be sought to support the Australian-based components of multinational clinical trials).

While partnerships are encouraged, they may not necessarily be relevant for all projects. Where relevant, partner funding contributions will be viewed favourably.

Ethical research conduct

All applicants for the TTRA Research Projects Round 3 funding opportunity should ensure that they have read and are familiar with [*Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders*](#) published by the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC). All applications should ensure that the proposed research embodies the six core values outlined – spirit and integrity, cultural continuity, equity, reciprocity, respect and responsibility.

In addition, any research that includes human participants should adhere to the [*National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 \(Updated 2018\)*](#) published by the NHMRC.

Round 3 expected key dates

Research Projects Application	Start Date	End Date
Guidelines published	16 Dec 2022	-
Applications open	30 Jan 2023	-
Applications close	28 Apr 2023	-
Application outcomes	Mid Jul 2023	-
Contracting	Jul 2023	Aug 2023
Funding Term	Sep 2023	Aug 2025

APPLICANT AND PROJECT ELIGIBILITY AND USE OF FUNDING

Applicant and project eligibility

For a proposal to be deemed eligible for TTRA Research Project Funding it must meet the following criteria:

- Entities eligible for funding under the TTRA Program are defined in s24 of the Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015 and include:
 - a medical research institute
 - a university
 - a corporate Commonwealth, state or territory government entity
 - a corporation.
- Applicants must have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Corporations must have less than 200 employees, community-controlled organisations are exempt from this eligibility requirement.
- The applicant's Research Project must address one of the identified Priority Areas.
- The applicant's Research Project must involve research focused on the translation/implementation of a product, service and/or model of care (to treat, diagnose, cure, mitigate and/ or prevent disease) that benefits the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people living with diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease.
- Applicants must meet any applicable timing, formatting, system or other similar administrative requirements from MTPConnect during the application process.
- Individuals involved in the development of these guidelines are ineligible from apply for TTRA Research Projects Round 3 funding.

Where applicable (public research organisations), applications must be prepared in consultation with the Institutional Business Development/Technology Transfer Office.

Applications must be received on or before the closing date. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

Funding recipients must adhere to the terms and conditions of funding set out in a funding agreement as determined by MTPConnect.

Use of funding

TTRA Research Projects that are successful for funding under the TTRA Program will enter into a funding agreement with MTPConnect and receive up to \$1 million over the agreed term (maximum 24 months). Commonwealth Funding provided through the TTRA program can only be spent on eligible expenditures incurred on eligible activities during the term of the project and in accordance with the terms of the funding agreement with MTPConnect and the [Commonwealth Terms & Conditions for Standard Funding Agreement](#) (Dec 2018).

Examples of *eligible expenditure* include, but are not limited to:

- project consumables directly attributable to the delivery of project outcomes
- salaries (whole FTEs or fractional) directly attributable to the delivery of project outcomes. The maximum salary claimable per person, including packaged components (superannuation) is limited to \$175,000 per financial year. On a case-by-case basis, whereby it can be adequately justified, TTRA funding may support salaries greater than \$175,000 per financial year
- labour expenditure for leadership staff (e.g., Founder, CEO, CSO, CMO) is considered eligible, provided there are direct, demonstrated and monitored links to project objectives and outcomes. Salaries for leadership staff will be limited to 10% of the total amount of eligible labour expenditure claimable per person (i.e., maximum \$17,500). On a case-by-case basis, whereby it can be adequately justified, TTRA funding may support leadership salaries greater than \$17,500 per financial year
- labour on-costs are eligible with an allowance of up to 30% on top of eligible salary amounts. Examples of labour on-costs are payroll tax, workers compensation insurance. These costs must be reasonable, appropriate, and separately identified in the project budget
- accessing specialist professional services including regulatory consultants, manufacturing and product development firms, technology evaluation, process evaluation, key opinion leaders or strategic stakeholders
- accessing intellectual property (IP) expertise as a service, freedom to operate search costs, and provisional and PCT drafting and filing costs (or costs associated with comparable stages of IP protection e.g., trade marks, designs, copyright, circuits etc.)
- access to specialist equipment, hardware and software essential to the research
- purchase of equipment that is essential to research capped at \$80,000 in total. Justification for purchase of equipment, and why the applicant institution(s) cannot support the expense, must be provided
- prototyping and development of a Minimum Viable Product
- annual independent auditing costs directly related to TTRA reporting requirements
- market research/testing and engaging with major customers, and end-users including clinical trials
- Data procurement and efforts to obtain regulatory approval, however associated fees paid to the Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments are not eligible, including Therapeutic Goods Administration.
- International activity expenditure where it can be justified that this work cannot otherwise be performed in Australia and is critical to the success of the project. If proposed international activities and expenditure exceeds 10% of the total TTRA Research Projects funding, the Department of Health must provide its approval (which will be managed by MTPConnect)
- Essential travel within Australia directly related to project activities
- Essential travel overseas on a case-by-case basis directly related to project activities.

Examples of *ineligible expenditure* include but are not limited to:

- rent or other property fees
- major or minor capital works projects
- salaries, activities, equipment or supplies that are already being supported through any other source of funding

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- service or repair costs for eligible equipment purchases made with TTRA funding
- purchase of computers, except where these are an integral component of a piece of laboratory equipment or are of a nature essential for work in the research field, for example, a tablet/laptop for remote data collection, a computer which is dedicated to data collection from a mass spectrometer, or used for the manipulation of extensively large datasets (i.e., requiring special hardware)
- reimbursement of activities that have occurred prior to the execution of a Funding Agreement
- financing costs, including interest
- debt financing
- costs related to obtaining resources used on the project, including interest on loans, job advertising and recruitment, and contract negotiations
- costs related to preparing the funding application, preparing any project reports and preparing any project variation requests
- conference attendance, and associated travel (except in pre-approved circumstances where the research outputs of the Research Project are to be presented)
- health insurance, travel insurance, foreign currency, airport and related travel taxes, passports and visas
- entertainment and hospitality costs
- personal subscriptions (e.g., personal journal subscriptions)
- personal membership of professional organisations and groups
- airline club membership
- communications costs (mobiles, telephone calls), except where an integral component of data collection for the project
- institutional overheads and administrative costs
- basic office supplies and equipment
- any other activities that are the usual requirement of business.

The above list is not exhaustive. Other costs may be ineligible where it is determined that they do not directly support the achievements of the planned outcomes for the Research Project or that they are contrary to the objectives of the TTRA program. Enquiries about expenditure eligibility can be directed to MTPConnect at ttra-dcvt@mtpconnect.org.au.

The applicant must ensure it has adequate funds to meet the costs of any ineligible expenditure associated with the Research Project. This will be provided through a declaration at the end of the application form, and in any required Letters of Support.

The TTRA Program will accept applications for Research Projects that have already been submitted to other funding sources. However, the TTRA Program will not fund research activities that are already funded by an alternative source. Should your application to an alternative funding source be successful it may impact on the eligibility of your TTRA application/funding.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Before applying, you should read and understand these guidelines and the sample application form that will be available on [the TTRA Research Projects Round 3 webpage](#) once the round opens.

Notice of Intent

All applicants are required to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) prior to gaining access to the application form. The NOI is to be submitted through Qualtrics, with a link to the Qualtrics form to be found on [the TTRA Research Projects Round 3 webpage](#) once the round opens for applications in January 2023. There is no deadline for completing and submitting a NOI, but applicants will only receive the link to the application form in SmartyGrants once a NOI has been submitted. MTPConnect encourages applicants to submit their NOI and begin their application in SmartyGrants as early as possible.

The NOI will require minimal information including, but not limited to, project lead, lead organisation details, project title, non-confidential public summary, and type of product, service and/or model of care that your project is developing or progressing.

SmartyGrants platform

Following submission of a NOI, applications for TTRA Research Projects funding must be completed online in SmartyGrants, the TTRA online application portal.

Late applications will not be considered. Any additional attachments over what is permissible, or repeated submissions for the same Research Project, will not be accepted.

All sections that require free text are word count-limited and clearly outlined. Additional words beyond the specified limit of each section will prevent submission of the application.

Attachments to the application must be submitted in line with the instructions provided within the application form in SmartyGrants. You should only attach requested documents. Information in attachments that was not requested will not be considered.

Attachments will include Letters of Support, Project Plan and Supporting Information. Other attachments may also be requested and will be outlined in the application.

Please ensure any materials supplied via attachments is referenced appropriately (relevant figure/table number and the page number of the supporting data document) within the application in SmartyGrants.

You need to allow enough time for each file to upload before trying to attach another file. Files can be up to 25MB each; however, we do recommend trying to keep files to a maximum of 5MB – the larger the file, the longer the upload time.

Applications must upload Letter(s) of Support to provide evidence of partnerships and co-contributions, if applicable. The Letter(s) of Support should outline the nature of the partnership, the partners commitment to the project, what is being contributed (if applicable) and if this is in-kind and/or cash, be on the organisation's letterhead, and signed by an appropriately authorised individual (i.e., Head of School or Institute/Dean/Provost/CEO/Chair).

Separate Letters of Support from each partner organisation must be uploaded.

All applications received will be acknowledged automatically upon submission. Following submission, applicants will be provided with a Reference Number to be used in all future communications in relation to the application.

Applicants requiring further assistance should contact MTPConnect at ttra-dcvd@mtpconnect.org.au.

Application and selection process

TTRA Research Projects Round 3 Application Process:

To apply for the TTRA Research Projects Round 3 funding opportunity, applicants will need to complete and submit a NOI. Once the NOI has been received, applicants will be able to access the application form to complete and submit through the SmartyGrants online platform.

Applications should provide a comprehensive outline of the project and address all of the eligibility and selection criteria outlined in these guidelines.

TTRA Research Projects Round 3 Webinar Series:

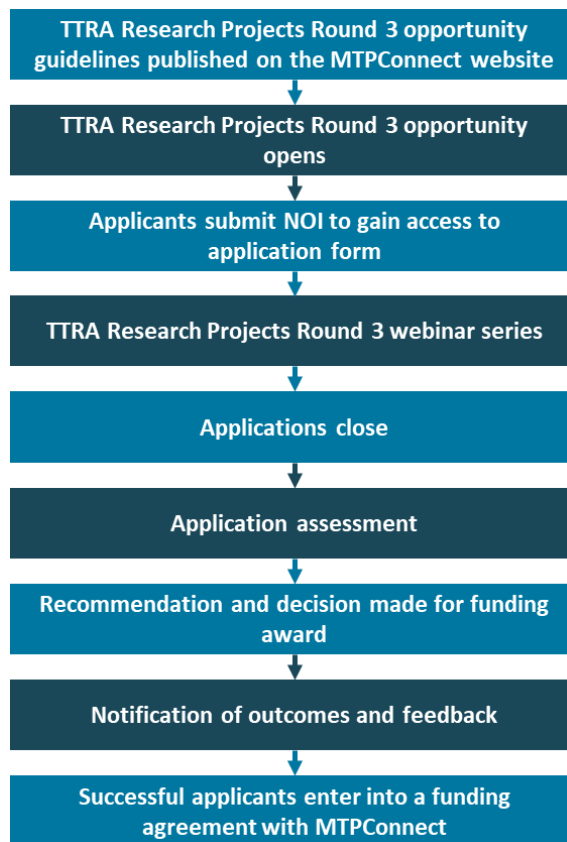
While applications are open, MTPConnect and the TTRA Partners will host a series of webinars designed to provide applicants with a greater understanding of some of the key aspects to consider when preparing their application. These webinars will also provide an opportunity for applicants to engage with and ask questions of experts in these areas, as well as the MTPConnect and TTRA Partners team. More details of the webinar series will be published when the round opens.

Application Assessment: Applications will be reviewed by the TTRA Assessment Panel, an independent panel of experts with experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research, clinical, implementation science and research translation expertise, and community and consumer perspectives. The TTRA Assessment Panel will review all eligible applications against the selection criteria articulated in these TTRA Research Projects Funding Guidelines. The TTRA Assessment Panel will make recommendations for funding award to the most meritorious Full Proposals. Funding recommendations must be approved by the TTRA Expert Advisory Board.

Funding Award: Applicants whose proposals are awarded funding will enter into a funding agreement with MTPConnect to receive up to \$1 million over the defined project term (maximum 24 months) to be paid in accordance with the agreed budget and a quarterly payment schedule. Payments are paid in advance and are subject to satisfactory progress on the project plan and achieving agreed milestones.

The funding agreement will have a clear project plan which will include resourcing, timelines, milestones, go/no-go decision points and a risk register. Funding recipients will have regular reporting and audited financial obligations to MTPConnect.

Unsuccessful applicants will be provided with feedback on their application.



SELECTION CRITERIA

You must address all selection criteria in your application. Your application will be assessed based on the weighting given to each criterion.

Feasibility of your proposed project will be assessed across your plans for community engagement, translation/implementation strategies and the track record of your team including history of collaboration and partnerships.

Challenge, Solution and Impact (20%)

All applications will be assessed on how the product, service and/or model of care meets one of the Priority Areas called for, its potential intended impact, including preliminary evidence to support this potential.

- a. Clear description and evidence of the scope of the challenge within the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community and how the proposed product, service and/or model of care, will address the identified Priority Area.
- b. Applicant clearly describes how their product, service and/or model of care will benefit health and wellbeing, including achieving and/or enhancing equity of health service delivery and/or access.
- c. The product, service and/or model of care has beneficence as a core value, with robust preliminary evidence to support the potential for it to benefit health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, as well as be of value for communities, health service providers and health system managers. For example, evidence may include technical (where applicable) and stakeholder validation of the product, service and/or model of care, including current evidence for proof-of-concept, efficacy and safety.
- d. There is strong evidence of clear advantage and differentiation of the proposed product, service and/or model of care over the current standard of care and other current solutions.
- e. Implementation of the product, service and/or model of care will contribute to community economic and workforce development.

Community Engagement (20%)

Applicants will be assessed on evidence of engagement with cultural knowledge holders and integration of Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing, community engagement in the design of the product, service and/or model of care and the proposed project, as well as plans for community engagement throughout the delivery of the project and the future implementation of the product, service and/or model of care.

- a. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individuals, communities and/or organisations have previously been engaged and their feedback has informed the design of the product, service and/or model of care and supports the need for it.
- b. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individuals, communities and/or organisations have been engaged in the conceptualisation and design of the proposed project, and will support project delivery and future implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the product, service and/or model of care.
- c. The applicant has evidence that they can legally access necessary data to deliver the project and describes sound and appropriate strategies for data sovereignty and security.
- d. Applicant provides clear plans for knowledge sharing and ongoing reciprocity, with benefits for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individuals, communities and/or organisations resulting from their engagement in the project.

Project Plan (20%)

All applications will be assessed on their proposed TTRA project plan and its feasibility.

TTRA Research Projects Round 3 Funding Guidelines

- a. The project plan includes relevant approaches and methodologies, and has clearly justified activities, deliverables/milestones and outcomes.
- b. The proposed activities will significantly advance the translation of the product, service and/or model of care to a point where its potential value and impact is clear (e.g., demonstrated feasibility, evaluated its use in the intended setting, developed evidence to support implementation).
- c. The project plan includes a process evaluation that will inform future implementation, scale and/or spread of the product, service and/or model of care.
- d. The proposed project has a well justified and appropriate budget, including details of any co-contributions, and well-defined and appropriate timeframes.
- e. All ethical considerations have been identified and appropriate ethics approval either obtained or a clear pathway to ethics approval outlined, in accordance with the *Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders produced by the NHMRC*.
- f. Key project risks are identified, and appropriate management/mitigation strategies outlined.

Translation and Implementation (20%)

All applications will be assessed on their product, service and/or model of care's potential for implementation and adoption, benefiting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

- a. Strategies to engage a broad range of stakeholders (e.g., health services, education, community, industry, government, advocacy, consumers) that can support implementation of the product, service and/or model of care both throughout and beyond this project
- b. Consideration of how the product, service and/or model of care fits within clinical workflows and/or typical individual health journeys. The applicant describes how it is anticipated that consumers, healthcare professionals and/or health systems will engage with the product, service and/or model of care, including potential barriers, and how this will be assessed through this project.
- c. Consideration of future, wider implementation of the product, service and/or model of care, including (as applicable), regulation, commercialisation, end user uptake/adoption, and funding models.
- d. Appropriate methodology for ongoing process and outcome evaluation of the product, service and/or model of care to assess acceptability, sustainability, cost effectiveness, and inform broader future implementation.

Team and Capabilities (20%)

All applications will be assessed on their TTRA project team's composition, experience, diversity and access to requisite infrastructure.

- a. The team outlined has the requisite experience and demonstrated cultural competence and track record in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research to achieve the milestones and translation/implementation objectives of the proposed project. This includes employing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and embedding Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander leadership in all aspects of the project.
- b. Appropriate governance structures have been or will be put in place to support the delivery of the project.
- c. The team establishes appropriate partnerships across the health sector to enable the translation and uptake of the product, service and/or model of care.
- d. The team includes researchers across career stages and there are clear pathways for building the capacity and capabilities of the entire team.

- e. The team has access to the requisite resources and infrastructure, including necessary capacity from the lead organisation as well as partners, to complete the project.

APPLICATION OUTCOMES

Notification of application outcomes

Applicants will be contacted about the outcome of their application in a timely manner. The email address registered as the account owner within the online application portal and the identified project lead will receive all correspondence. Unsuccessful applicants will be provided with feedback on their application by MTPConnect in partnership with the TTRA Partners.

If you are successful, MTPConnect will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the funding, including embargo conditions and the timing of any public communications you make regarding being awarded funding.

Funding agreement

The successful applicant must enter into a legally binding funding agreement with MTPConnect.

The funding agreement must be fully executed before any payments can be made. MTPConnect is not responsible for any expenditure incurred by the applicant until a funding agreement is executed. MTPConnect will not reimburse the applicant for any activities that have occurred prior to execution of a funding agreement.

The approval of Research Project funding may have specific conditions determined during the assessment process or other considerations made by the TTRA Expert Advisory Board or the Department of Health Program Delegate. These will be identified in the offer of Research Project funding.

MTPConnect may recover TTRA funds if there is a breach of the funding agreement.

The offer of funding may lapse if both parties do not sign the funding agreement within the timeframe outlined in key dates. Under certain circumstances, MTPConnect may extend this period. MTPConnect bases the approval of TTRA Research Project funding on the information provided in the application. MTPConnect will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the project as approved by the TTRA Expert Advisory Board, MTPConnect and the Department of Health Program Delegate.

The funding agreement will adopt a simple applicant-friendly intellectual property (IP) model whereby IP ownership will reside with the applicant. Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities involved in health research will be recognised and reflected in the funding agreement. Any reports and materials delivered to MTPConnect will be subject to a non-exclusive use licence to MTPConnect and the Commonwealth for their purposes.

Payments

The funding agreement will state the:

- maximum amount MTPConnect will pay
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the TTRA program
- any in-kind contribution the funding recipient or partners will make
- any cash contributions provided by the funding recipient or partners.

MTPConnect will not exceed the maximum funding amount under any circumstances. If the funding recipient incurs additional costs, these must be met by the funding recipient.

MTPConnect will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the funding agreement. Payments are subject to the funding recipient making satisfactory progress on the research plan and achieving agreed milestones.

If the funding recipient is registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable MTPConnect will add GST to payments. MTPConnect must be notified if GST registration status changes during the project period.

TTRA funding may be assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. MTPConnect recommends the successful funding recipient seek independent professional advice on taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. MTPConnect does not provide advice on tax.

Announcement

The representative of the Commonwealth Government may publicly announce successful applicants and may include the name of the business, project title and non-confidential project summary (provided by the applicant), and amount of funding awarded.

Details of successful applicants and projects may also be published on MTPConnect and the Department's websites.

FUNDING RECIPIENTS

Ongoing project management, guidance and support will be provided by both MTPConnect and the assigned TTRA Partner(s) for the duration of the TTRA funding term.

The funding recipient will be required to provide regular project and financial reports and annual independent audits to MTPConnect to demonstrate the delivery of activities, achievement of milestones, financial acquittal and compliance with the funding agreement. MTPConnect will make payments in accordance with the agreed schedule set out in the funding agreement. Payments will be stage gated and provided upon receiving satisfactory quarterly progress reports and achieving milestones in the proposed timeframe.

Keeping us informed

MTPConnect must be notified if anything is likely to affect your Research Project and/or its activities.

If a funding recipient becomes aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the funding agreement, MTPConnect must be contacted immediately.

MTPConnect must be notified of any events relating to your Research Project and its activities and provide an opportunity for the Minister for Health or their representative to attend.

Reporting

Funding recipients must provide reports to MTPConnect at the times and with details specified in the funding agreement. Progress reports will be required quarterly, and a final report will be required at the TTRA funding-term end. Sample templates will be provided for these reports.

We will expect the report to cover:

- progress against agreed milestones
- activity expenditure, including expenditure of TTRA funds
- additional funding recipient or partner contributions.

We may ask the funding recipient for ad-hoc reports on activities. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing milestones and/or projects, or about any post TTRA funding plans.

Independent audits

Funding recipients will be required to provide an annual independent audit report. An audit report will verify the funding recipient spent TTRA funding in accordance with the funding agreement. The audit report requires the funding recipient to prepare a statement of funding income and expenditure. A report template will be provided.

Compliance visits

MTPConnect and/or the Department of Health delegate may visit the funding recipient during or at completion of the TTRA funding term, to review compliance with the funding agreement. Inspection of any records the funding recipient is required to keep under the funding agreement may be made. MTPConnect and/or the Department of Health will provide the funding recipient with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

Funding agreement variations

MTPConnect recognises unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, the funding recipient can request a variation to the funding agreement, including:

- changing project milestones
- changes to project partners
- changing project activities
- extension of timeframe for completing the project (due to the nature of TTRA program funding, extensions to Round 3 Research Project funding terms beyond 24 months will only occur in extremely limited circumstances)

Note the program does not allow for an increase of TTRA funds.

Funding agreement variations need to be proposed in writing, a template will be provided.

You should not assume a variation request will be successful. MTPConnect will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the Research Project outcomes
- consistency with the TTRA Research Project Funding Guidelines and any relevant policies of the Department of Health
- changes to the timing of funding payments
- availability of TTRA program funds.

Funding acknowledgement

Successful funding recipients must not make any public announcement, including by social media, in connection with the awarding of their Research Project until the Minister for Health has publicly announced the outcome, or as otherwise instructed by MTPConnect.

If the funding recipient makes a public statement about Research Project activities, including in a media release, brochure, publication, website or by social media, funding must be acknowledged by using the following: 'This project received MRFF funding from the Australian Government's TTRA program, delivered by MTPConnect.'

PROBITY

Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest may affect the performance of the funding opportunity or program. A conflict of interest may arise when an individual prioritises, or gives equal weight to, a secondary interest over a

primary interest. Where a conflict of interest exists, or is perceived to exist, it undermines the credibility, reputation and efforts of the TTRA Program, its governance and its administrator.

There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if Research Project personnel have a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer, member of the TTRA Expert Advisory Board, Assessment Panels, MTPConnect or TTRA Partners.

As part of the application, the applicant must declare any perceived or existing conflict of interest or confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If the applicant later identifies an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, they must inform MTPConnect in writing immediately.

Use of your information

MTPConnect may use and refer applications and the information contained therein to external experts or Government Departments for assessment of the application and MTPConnect's programs, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative funding opportunities. Any information which is identified as and is confidential by nature will be appropriately treated as such by MTPConnect.

The applicant should minimise any personal information contained in the application to that required by MTPConnect for assessment and contact purposes. MTPConnect will treat personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) as specified in its [Privacy Policy](#).

Freedom of information

MTPConnect may be subject to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and, if such a request is made, MTPConnect will consult with the applicant before any decision is made to release the application or supporting documentation.

Intellectual property management

All intellectual property related to the project defined in the application is owned by the applicant, subject to any arrangements it has with third parties. If MTPConnect or its Partners creates intellectual property as part of the funding recipient mentoring, the intellectual property will be owned by the applicant. Inventorship will be determined based on standard protocols.

MTPConnect and the TTRA Partners do not require a return on investment. TTRA Partner involvement in the TTRA mechanism is on a service basis. If a TTRA Partner and applicant enter into a commercial arrangement at the end of a TTRA funded project, then any requirement for return on subsequent investment after the end of the funding period will be negotiated outside of the TTRA mechanism.

Legislation, policies and industry standards

MTPConnect will ensure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines](#) (CGRGs).

Funding recipients are required to be compliant with all relevant laws and regulations, including those specified in the Commonwealth Terms & Conditions for Standard Funding Agreement and principles of ethical conduct in research published in the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) website.

To the extent that research involves the use of animals, the applicant will be required to comply with the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes which promotes the ethical, humane and responsible care and use of animals used for scientific purposes.

To the extent that a project involves work with children or vulnerable people, the applicant will be required to undertake clearance checks to demonstrate and ensure that its personnel are in compliance with legislative requirements including the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. To the extent that the project involves collecting and using personal information, the applicant will be required to comply with privacy requirements; including obtaining appropriate consents for the collection, storage and use of personal information. It is a condition of the funding that all applicants meet these requirements and these requirements will be set out in funding recipients' funding agreements with MTPConnect.

ENQUIRIES AND FEEDBACK

For further information or clarification, contact the MTPConnect TTRA team by email at ttra-dc vd@mtpconnect.org.au

Mana Liao, Acting Senior Director TTRA program, can also be contacted on +61 435 185 302



MTPConnect

MedTech and Pharma Growth Centre

CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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is available at www.business.gov.au/industrygrowthcentres