



2026 Independent Research Institutes Infrastructure Support Scheme (IRIISS) Guidelines

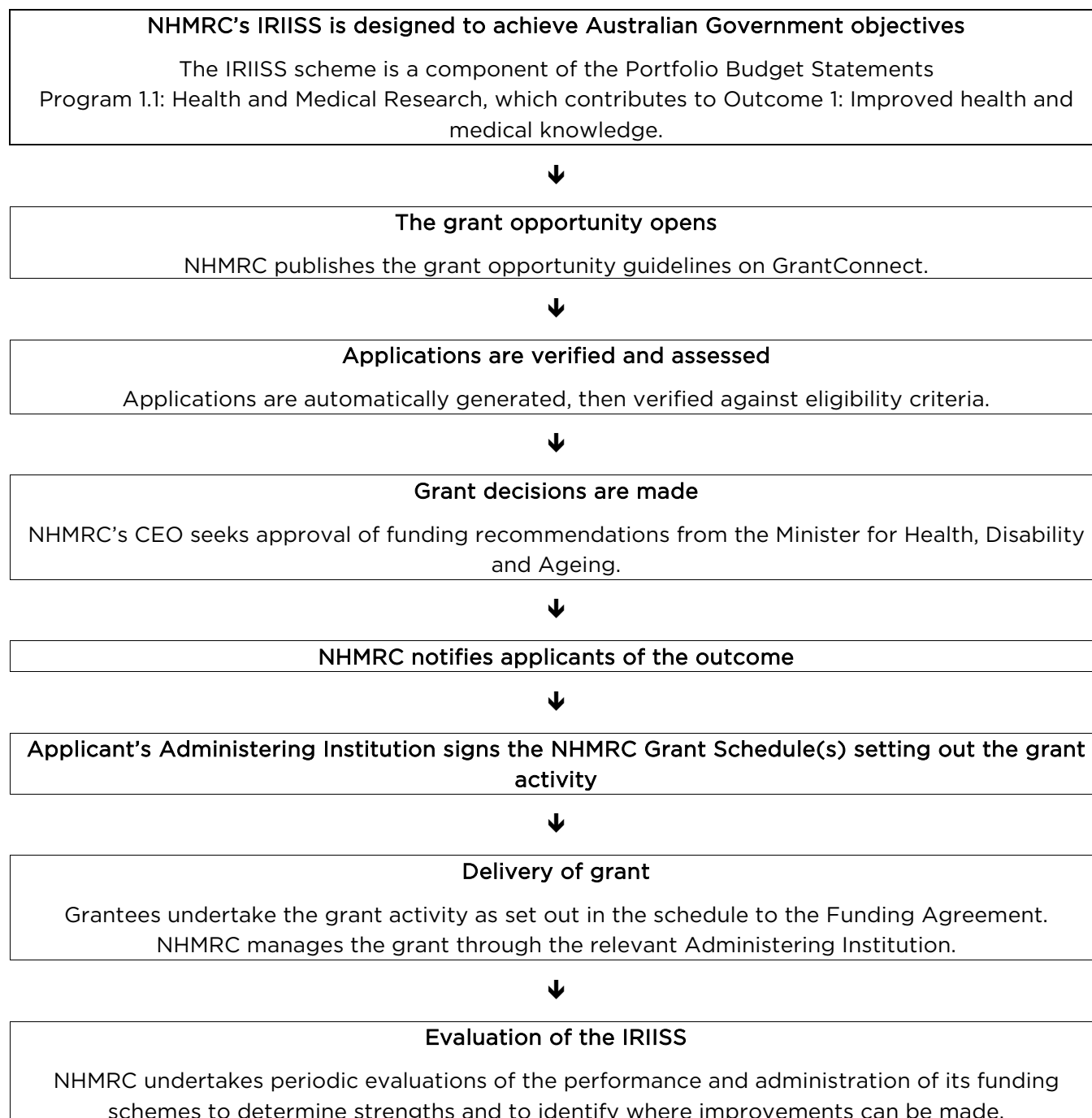
Opening date:	29 July 2026
Closing date and time:	17:00 ACT local time on 23 September 2026
Commonwealth policy entity:	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Enquiries:	Applicants requiring further assistance are to direct enquiries to their Administering Institution's Research Administration Officer. Research Administration Officers can contact NHMRC's Research Help Centre for further advice: ▪ Phone: 1800 500 983 (+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers) ▪ Email: help@nhmrc.gov.au NHMRC will not respond to any enquiries relating to this grant opportunity submitted after 1300 ACT local time on 21 September 2026. Note: NHMRC's Research Help Centre aims to provide a reply to all requests for general assistance within 2 working days. This timeframe may be longer during peak periods or for more detailed requests for assistance. Submission of a registration form and activation of an account in NHMRC's granting system must occur at least 3 business days before application close, noting that account activation processes cannot be guaranteed in less than this time.
Date guidelines released:	29 July 2026
Type of grant opportunity:	Demand-driven (Eligibility-based)

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1. 2026 IRIISS processes



1.1. Introduction

These grant opportunity guidelines (guidelines) contain information for the IRIISS grant opportunity.

Applicants must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant scheme/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grants will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

GrantConnect (www.grants.gov.au) is the authoritative source of information on this grant opportunity. Any alterations or addenda to these guidelines will be published on GrantConnect.

The IRIISS grant opportunity will be undertaken in accordance with the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#) (CGRPs), available from the [Department of Finance website](#).

Commonwealth funding for this grant opportunity, including where future or additional funding opportunities are indicated, is subject to the relevant Commonwealth Government funding policy and priorities at the time of notification and accordingly may be subject to change. This may affect the funding available, and its timing, provided under this grant opportunity. Any such changes will be notified as soon as possible.

2. About the grant program

2.1. About NHMRC

NHMRC is the Australian Government's key entity for managing investment in, and the integrity of, health and medical research. NHMRC works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program in accordance with the [National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992](#) (NHMRC Act) and the CGRPs.

Consistent with the NHMRC Act, the grant program aims to foster health and medical research throughout Australia, and to raise the standard of individual and public health throughout Australia. Grants are awarded through several grant opportunities each year across the 4 pillars of health and medical research: basic science research, clinical medicine and science research, public health research, and health services research.

NHMRC funds high-quality research and researchers, as determined through peer review, to help achieve our mission of building a healthy Australia. Across NHMRC grant opportunities, NHMRC welcomes any research proposals within its remit (and consistent with the specific objectives of the grant opportunity), including those that seek to address Australian Government priorities, such

as Australia's national science and research priorities and NHMRC's strategy and priorities for health and medical research, as outlined in its annual Corporate Plan. NHMRC's International Engagement Strategy aims to foster Australian participation in international networks and collaborative research, and NHMRC welcomes research that addresses global and regional health priorities where it advances health and medical knowledge and improves the health of Australians.

The specific objectives of this IRIISS grant opportunity are outlined in 2.2 below.

2.2. IRIISS Grants objectives

IRIISS allocates funds for infrastructure support to independent medical research institutes managing NHMRC research funds.

IRIISS aims to develop and maintain infrastructure to support high quality health and medical research by contributing to infrastructure costs associated with competitively awarded NHMRC research grants managed by independent medical research institutes.

Funding for IRIISS will be provided from NHMRC's Medical Research Endowment Account, which is underpinned by section 51 of *NHMRC Act 1992*.

The intended outcome of the IRIISS grant is to:

- support high quality health and medical research by contributing to infrastructure costs associated with competitively awarded NHMRC research grants managed by independent medical research institutes.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1. Grants available

The provisional funding allocation for the 2026 IRIISS grant opportunity is \$33,802,801.15. NHMRC's Research Committee annually reviews and recommends indicative budget amounts to be awarded across individual funding schemes.

There will be a single IRIISS payment made in 2026 to each eligible institution calculated based on eligible grant payments in the 2025-2026 financial year. Funds will be allocated pro rata to ensure fairness for costs that have been incurred by independent medical research institutes administering competitively awarded NHMRC research grants.

There is no minimum grant allocation for IRIISS funding.

Indexation is applied to the total funding allocation for IRIISS annually.

3.2. Grant period

IRIISS Grants commence 1 November 2026, and the funds must be expended by 31 October 2028.

4. Eligibility criteria

Applications will only be accepted from [NHMRC Administering Institutions](#).

The Chief Investigator A (CIA) and Administering Institution must ensure applications and grants meet all eligibility requirements as set out in these guidelines. Applications that do not meet these eligibility requirements may be ineligible and may be excluded from further consideration.

Where an eligibility ruling is being considered, NHMRC may request further information to assess whether the eligibility requirement has been met.

Decisions are made based on current policies and considerations specific to this grant opportunity. Decisions made in relation to previous grant opportunities or other NHMRC funding schemes will not be regarded as precedents and will not be considered when assessing compliance with the requirements of this grant opportunity.

Administering Institutions will be notified in writing of ineligible applications and are responsible for advising applicants of the decision.

NHMRC staff will not make eligibility rulings before the minimum data deadline. Grant offers may be withdrawn if eligibility criteria are not maintained. Action may also be taken over the life of a grant if eligibility criteria to continue holding a grant are not met.

4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

IRIIS grants are only awarded to NHMRC-approved Administering Institutions that are independent medical research institutes.

A list of medical research institutes that received IRIIS funding in 2025 is at Appendix A. NHMRC will contact these institutions in 2026 to confirm that they continue to operate as an independent medical research institute.

Independent medical research institutes that do not appear at Appendix A and believe they are eligible to receive IRIIS funding have until 13:00 ACT local time on 19 August 2026 to contact NHMRC and request that they be considered for funding.

There will be a single IRIIS payment made to each eligible institution based on eligible grant payments during the 2025–26 financial year.

4.1.1. Independent medical research institutes

An independent medical research institute is as an independent legal and business entity, engaged in health and medical research, that is not directly accountable to another organisation or organisations. NHMRC defines an independent medical research institute as an institution that:

- is established by an Act of Parliament or by incorporation under the Corporations Laws;
- is a separate legal entity with its own Australian Business Number that it does not share with any other research organisation;
- is established for the conduct of health and medical research, with such objects written into the organisation's Constitution or Articles of Association or articulated in its enacting legislation;

- has an independent governing Board of Management with scientific and administrative experience, skills and qualifications, and on which no university, hospital or any other identifiable group or organisation has a majority representation;
- has a Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Institute, who is accountable only to the Board of Management of the Institute; and
- has researchers working within the institute who are accountable to the Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Institute.

Before funding is awarded, NHMRC will seek confirmation in writing from the independent medical research institute that the above is true for their institute. NHMRC may ask for supporting documentation.

4.1.2. Maintenance of State and Territory Government support

It is recognised that most State and Territory Governments provide infrastructure support for medical research institutes. The intent of IRISS is for the Commonwealth to supplement rather than replace on-going State and Territory contributions. Independent medical research institutes in each jurisdiction may not be eligible for IRISS payments if their State or Territory Government significantly decreases the overall level of infrastructure support that it provides.

To assist NHMRC to monitor State and Territory funding, NHMRC may request eligible institutes to provide information on the level of funding they are receiving from their State or Territory Government.

4.2. Exclusion of applications

An application may be excluded from further consideration if NHMRC identifies that:

- it contravenes an eligibility rule or other requirement as set out in these guidelines
- it, or the Administering Institution [contravenes an applicable law or code](#), or
- it is inconsistent with the objectives of the NHMRC Act and/or the purposes of the MREA.

An application will be excluded if the Administering Institution is the subject of a decision by NHMRC's CEO or delegate that any application they make to NHMRC, for specified funding schemes, will be excluded from consideration for a period of time, whether or not they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements. Such decisions will generally reflect consequential action taken by NHMRC in response to findings of a serious breach of the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) (the Code) (including a finding of research misconduct, where this term is used) or a Probity Event. See the Code for a definition of 'research misconduct' and the [NHMRC Research Integrity and Misconduct Policy](#).

Such exclusion may take place at any time following CIA and Administering Institution certification of the application.

If a decision is made to exclude an application from further consideration, NHMRC will provide its decision and the reason(s) for the decision to the Administering Institution's Research Administration Officer (RAO). The Administering Institution's RAO is responsible for advising applicants of the decision. Decisions to exclude an application may be reviewable by [NHMRC's Commissioner of Complaints](#).

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. Eligible grants activities and expenditure

IRIIS payments can be used to support the following types of overhead infrastructure, where that infrastructure is used to support a health and medical research activity:

- non-capital aspects of facilities such as libraries, laboratories, computing centres, animal houses, herbaria and experimental farms;
- the purchase, installation, maintenance and hire and lease of equipment; and
- salaries of research support staff (including research assistants, accounting and administrative staff and technicians) employed to provide general support for a research activity. IRIIS payments can be used to support the salary of a research assistant supporting a number of research projects, but not the salary of a research assistant dedicated to a particular project.

IRIIS Grants funds can be attributed to costs incurred during the 2025-26 financial year.

5.2. What the grant money cannot be used for

Items not regarded as elements of research infrastructure for the purposes of IRIIS, and which cannot be funded are:

- capital works, e.g. the construction of buildings;
- rental of accommodation;
- salaries or stipends of researchers other than research support staff;
- salaries of staff supporting specific research at the institute level; and
- travel costs directly associated with individual projects with the exception of travel costs to allow participation in international consortia.

5.3. Duplicate funding

NHMRC may compare the research proposed in grant applications grants previously funded, currently funded and funded by other agencies (e.g., Australian Research Council or Department of Health, Disability and Ageing) to determine whether future IRIIS funding remains applicable.

6. How to apply

The 2026 IRISS grant opportunity is a non-competitive and non-application, eligibility-based process. Applications are automatically generated in NHMRC's granting system.

6.1. Overview and timing of grant opportunity processes

September 2026

Applications open in NHMRC's granting system

October 2026

Anticipated notification of outcomes

Applications must be submitted electronically using NHMRC's granting system (unless otherwise advised by NHMRC).

Late applications will not be accepted.

6.1.1. CIA certification

The following assurances, acknowledgements and undertakings are required of the CIA before submitting an application:

- All required information has been provided and is complete, current and correct.
- All eligibility and other application requirements have been met.
- All personnel contributing to the grant activity have familiarised themselves with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#), the [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#), the [Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes](#) and other relevant NHMRC policies concerning the conduct of research, and agree to conduct themselves in accordance with those policies.
- The application may be excluded from consideration if found to be in breach of any requirements, in accordance with the guidelines.

And if funded,

- The research will be carried out in strict accordance with the conditions governing NHMRC grants at the time.
- The Head of Department of the Administering Institution (and Participating Institution/s, if applicable) will ensure the appropriate facilities will be available.
- The research may be used for internal NHMRC quality evaluations/reviews.

6.1.2. Administering Institution certification

The following assurances, acknowledgements and undertakings are required of the Administering Institution before submitting an application:

- Reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the application is complete and correct and complies with all eligibility and other application requirements.

- The application is being submitted with the full authority of, and on behalf of, the Administering Institution, noting that under section 136.1 of the *Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995*, it is an offence to provide false or misleading information to a Commonwealth body in an application for a benefit. This includes submission of an application by those not authorised by the Institution to submit applications for funding to NHMRC.

Administering Institutions must ensure that the RAO is authorised to certify and submit applications. Where a researcher is a nominated position holder for the Administering Institution, the Administering Institution is to manage Conflict of Interest and separation of duties and ensure the researcher does not certify their own application.

6.2. Withdrawal of applications

Applications may be withdrawn at any time by written notice from the Administering Institution's RAO to NHMRC.

An application may be 'marked for deletion' by the applicant in NHMRC's granting system before the close of the round. This authorises NHMRC to delete the application once the grant opportunity has closed. The application will not be deleted while the grant opportunity remains open for application submission.

6.3. Questions during the application process

Applicants requiring further assistance should direct enquiries to their Administering Institution's RAO.

All policy enquiries must be submitted in writing by the Administering Institution's RAO to NHMRC's Research Help Centre. Frequently asked policy questions will be addressed via the scheme's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document, which will be updated on [GrantConnect](#) as required and should be reviewed before submitting a query.

NHMRC's Research Help Centre details:

Phone: 1800 500 983 (+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers)

Email: help@nhmrc.gov.au

Refer to the [Research Help Centre webpage](#) for opening hours.

7. The grant selection process

Applications will be considered through a demand driven grant process which uses verifiable and objective criteria as the basis for allocation grants. NHMRC will check applications to ensure eligibility criteria are met. Eligible applications will be considered successful provided sufficient grant funding is available.

7.1. Who will approve grants?

In accordance with paragraph 7(1)(c) of the NHMRC Act, NHMRC's CEO or their delegate makes recommendations on expenditure from the MREA to the Minister with portfolio responsibility for

NHMRC. The Minister, acting on the advice of the CEO, determines expenditure from the MREA (subsection 51(2) of the NHMRC Act).

8. Notification of application outcomes

NHMRC will advise applicants and their nominated Administering Institution's RAO of the outcome of the application as early as possible, following the approval of grants. Advice of outcomes may occur before the approval of grants if an application has been assessed as uncompetitive or excluded for other reasons.

NHMRC may advise applicants and their Administering Institution's RAO of the outcome [under media embargo](#). This means that the information must not be made public until the media embargo is lifted. During the media embargo period, applicants must not publicise the information or post comments about their or the grant opportunity's grant outcomes in public domains such as social forums, websites, journals or newspapers.

9. Successful grant applications

Administering Institutions whose applications are approved for funding will have access to a letter of offer through NHMRC's granting system. Administering Institutions responsible for administering approved applications will also have access to the letter of offer and to the Schedule to the Funding Agreement. The Administering Institution is responsible for accepting the Schedule through the online signing/acceptance process within NHMRC's granting system.

NHMRC's CEO or delegate may withdraw or vary an offer of a grant if they consider that it is reasonably necessary to protect Commonwealth revenue.

9.1. Information required from grantees

Grantees may be required to supply additional information about their grant activity before payments commence. This will be stated in the Schedule to the Funding Agreement, relevant grant opportunity guidelines or letter of offer.

9.2. Obligations and approvals

NHMRC-funded grant activities must comply with [applicable guidelines, laws and approval requirements](#).

Institutions applying for NHMRC funding (both Administering and Participating Institutions) must also be aware of their obligations under the [National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse – Grant Connected Policy](#). Relevant institutions that have been named in an application for the Redress Scheme or named in the Royal Commission, and have not joined the Redress Scheme, will be ineligible to receive NHMRC funding.

Note: NHMRC-funded research with ethics and biosafety considerations must be referred for approval to the relevant institutional committees and approval bodies.

9.3. NHMRC Funding Agreement

All grants are offered in accordance with the [Funding Agreement](#) (with any conditions specified in Schedules and these guidelines), which is a legal agreement between NHMRC and the Administering Institution. Schedule(s) are accepted by the Administering Institution electronically in accordance with the provisions of the Funding Agreement.

A grant will not commence, nor grant funds be paid, until:

- the Funding Agreement between NHMRC and the Administering Institution is in place, and
- the appropriate Schedule to the Funding Agreement is executed in accordance with clause 2.3 of the Funding Agreement.

9.3.1. Responsible and ethical conduct of research

NHMRC expects the highest levels of research conduct and integrity to be observed in the research that it funds. Under the Funding Agreement, NHMRC funded research must be conducted in accordance with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#).

9.4. NHMRC policies

Under the Funding Agreement, it is the responsibility of Administering Institutions and CIs to be aware of, and comply with, all relevant [legislation and policies](#) relating to the conduct of the grant activity. This includes adhering to the key principles and applicable requirements of the CGRPs and the published grant opportunity guidelines.

9.5. Payments

Payments will commence once all outstanding obligations (e.g. conditions, eligibility rules or data requirements specified in the Schedule to the Funding Agreement, relevant grant opportunity guidelines or letter of offer) have been met by the CIA and the Administering Institution.

9.6. Suspension of grants

NHMRC funding may be suspended for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, requests made by the CIA. Variations will generally only be granted if allowed in the grant opportunity guidelines and the NHMRC [Grant Variation Policy](#).

Funding may also be suspended by NHMRC, in circumstances as set out in the Funding Agreement, including when there has been a failure to comply with a Policy or Guideline, or on the basis of a Probity Event or an investigation of an alleged breach of the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) (including research misconduct, where this term is used).

9.7. Tax implications

All amounts referred to in these guidelines are exclusive of GST, unless stated otherwise.

Administering Institutions are responsible for all financial and taxation matters associated with the grant.

10. Announcement of grants

Grant outcomes are publicly listed on the [GrantConnect website](#) within 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by the CGRPs.

11. How we monitor your grant activity

11.1. Variations

A variation is a change (including a delay) to a grant. There are specific circumstances under which grantees are to report and seek approval of a variation to an NHMRC grant (including the grant activity) relative to the peer reviewed application. Requests must comply with the grant opportunity guidelines and the *NHMRC Grant Variations Policy*. Requests to vary the terms of a grant are to be made to NHMRC via the Grant Variation portal in NHMRC's granting system. For information on grant variations see the [NHMRC Grant Variations Policy](#).

Grant variations cannot be used as a means to meet NHMRC eligibility requirements.

11.2. Reporting

Administering Institutions are required to report to NHMRC on the progress of the grant and the use of grant funds. Where an institution fails to submit reports (financial or otherwise) as required, NHMRC may take action under the provisions of the Funding Agreement. Failure to report within timeframes may affect eligibility to receive future funding.

11.2.1. Financial reports

[Annual financial reports](#) are required in a form prescribed by NHMRC. At the completion of the grant a financial acquittal is also required.

A single IRISS Grant payment will be made annually to each eligible Administering Institution, based on that year's allocation. Funds may be combined with funds from the previous year's grant, however, funds must be reported against the respective grant under which funds were awarded. All funds must be expensed before the relevant research activity end date.

11.2.2. Non-financial reports

The Funding Agreement requires the CIA to prepare [reports](#) for each grant activity. While having outstanding obligations from previous NHMRC grants does not disqualify applicants from applying for other NHMRC grants, it is a condition of funding that outstanding obligations from previous NHMRC grants, including submission of a Final Report, have been met before commencement of a new grant.

Information included in the Final Report may be publicly released. Use of this information may include publication on the [NHMRC website](#), publicity (including release to the media) and the promotion of research achievements.

The Administering Institution is also required to provide NHMRC with any other report in respect of any research activity within the timeframe, in the format and containing the information requested by NHMRC. All information provided to NHMRC in reports may be used for internal reporting and reporting to government. This information may also be used by NHMRC when reviewing or evaluating funded research projects or funding schemes, or designing future schemes.

11.3. Evaluation of the IRIISS

NHMRC undertakes periodic evaluations of the performance and administration of its grant opportunities to determine their effectiveness and to identify where improvements can be made.

11.4. Open Access Policy

All recipients of NHMRC grants must comply with all elements of [NHMRC's Open Access Policy](#) as a condition of funding.

12. Probity

12.1. Fraud and corruption

NHMRC as a Commonwealth agency is subject to the Commonwealth Fraud and Corruption Control Framework 2024, under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and is serious about preventing, detecting and responding to fraud and corruption.

Under the Commonwealth *Criminal Code Act 1995*, it is an offence to provide false or misleading information to a Commonwealth body in an application for a benefit.

NHMRC manages fraud and corruption matters in alignment with the [NHMRC Fraud and Corruption Control Framework](#).

12.2. Complaints process

As per the [NHMRC Complaints Policy](#), applicants or grantees can lodge a formal complaint about an NHMRC process related to funding via their Administering Institution's RAO and in writing to NHMRC Complaints Team at: complaints@nhmrc.gov.au. Complaints must be lodged within 28 days of the relevant NHMRC decision or action. NHMRC will provide a written response to all complaints. NHMRC will not review the merits of a funding decision, but it will investigate complaints about the administrative process followed to reach a funding decision.

If applicants or grantees are dissatisfied with the response from the NHMRC Complaints Team, they can raise their concerns with the [NHMRC Commissioner of Complaints](#). Note that the Commissioner of Complaints does not undertake a merits review.

Applicants or grantees can complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman if they do not agree with the way NHMRC has handled their complaint. The Ombudsman will not usually consider a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with NHMRC and, where relevant, the Commissioner of Complaints.

12.3. Conflicts of Interest

NHMRC is committed to ensuring that interests of any kind are dealt with consistently, transparently and with rigour, in accordance with sections 16A and 16B of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (made under the subsection 29(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act)).

Applicants are not required to declare actual or perceived interests.

12.4. Privacy: confidentiality and protection of personal information

NHMRC treats applicants' personal information in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles and the *Privacy Act 1988*. The [NHMRC Privacy Policy](#) details the types of personal or sensitive information that may be collected by NHMRC and how it will be handled. Applicants need to familiarise themselves with the NHMRC Privacy Policy before providing personal information to NHMRC.

Information that is generally regarded as confidential information is application information and any other information specifically identified as such by applicants and grantees, and will be received by NHMRC on the basis of a mutual understanding of confidentiality.

NHMRC may disclose personal and/or confidential information to:

- overseas entities, Australian, State/Territory or local government agencies, organisations or individuals where necessary to assess an application or to administer a grant
- the peer review committee and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help NHMRC manage the grant scheme effectively
- employees and contractors of NHMRC to research, assess, monitor and analyse schemes and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for relevant purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in reports and consultations
- NHMRC approved Administering Institutions' Research Administration Offices
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, and
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

In addition, NHMRC will provide certain limited personal information of the Chief Investigator/s included in an application to Administering Institutions for the purpose of certification of eligibility requirements.

NHMRC will publicly disclose the names and titles of all CIs for all grants awarded from all NHMRC schemes and all MRFF initiatives administered by NHMRC on both the NHMRC website and GrantConnect. Each CIs ORCID iD (where available) will be published on the NHMRC website.

12.5. Freedom of Information

NHMRC as a Commonwealth agency is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and is committed to meeting the Australian Government's transparency and accountability requirements. Freedom of Information laws facilitate the general public's access to documents held by national government agencies, including application and funding documentation relating to NHMRC researchers. This right of access is limited where documents, or parts of documents, are exempt under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Researchers are to familiarise themselves with [NHMRC's Freedom of Information procedures](#) before submitting an application.

13. Glossary

Term	Definition
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent	Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent follows the advice given on the AIATSIS website (https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/you-start/proof-aboriginality). This states that government agencies and communities usually accept 3 'working criteria' as confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage, namely: • being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent • identifying as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, and • being accepted as such by the community in which you live, or formerly lived.
assessment criteria	The specified principles or standards against which applications will be judged. These criteria are used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive granting opportunity, to determine applicant rankings.
Chief Investigator (CI)	As defined in the NHMRC Funding Agreement.
Chief investigator A (CIA)	As defined in the NHMRC Funding Agreement.
<i>Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024</i> (CGRPs)	The CGRPs establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration.
date of effect	This will depend on the particular grant. It can be the date on which the schedule to a grant agreement is executed or the grant is announced, whichever is later.

Term	Definition
eligibility criteria	The principles, standards or rules that a grant applicant must meet to qualify for consideration of a grant.
final year	The final 12 calendar months of a grant.
Funding Agreement	For NHMRC MREA grants, the grant agreement is the NHMRC Funding Agreement and the Schedule to the Funding Agreement.
grant	As defined in the NHMRC Funding Agreement.
grant activity	Defined as 'Research Activity' in the NHMRC Funding Agreement.
grant opportunity guidelines	All the documents published on GrantConnect under the grant opportunity. Also referred to as guidelines in this document.
grant opportunity	Refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	A group of one or more grant opportunities under a single entity Portfolio Budget Statement Program. This is referred to as a scheme in this document.
GrantConnect	GrantConnect is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs. It is available at www.grants.gov.au Non-corporate Commonwealth entities (such as NHMRC) must publish grant opportunities on GrantConnect to meet the grant publishing requirements under the CGRPs. Where information is published in more than one location, and there are inconsistencies, GrantConnect is the authoritative, auditable information source.
grantee	An individual/organisation that has been selected to receive a grant. For NHMRC's purposes, grants are awarded to the Administering Institution for the benefit of the grant recipients (however described).
Medical Research Endowment Account (MREA)	A 'Special Account' established under section 49 of the NHMRC Act, through which Government appropriated funds are used to pay NHMRC grants.

Term	Definition
Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)	The MRFF was established in 2015 by the <i>Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015</i> (MRFF Act). Refer to the Department of Health and Aged Care website: https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/medical-research-future-fund
NHMRC's granting system	NHMRC's electronic, secure system that allows research administrators, applicants, assessors, grant holders and NHMRC staff to manage all aspects of the granting lifecycle.
Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) Program	Described within the entity's PBS, PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs (schemes). A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program (scheme) associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
Probity Event	As defined in the NHMRC Funding Agreement.
Schedule	As defined in the NHMRC Funding Agreement.
value with money	Value with money in this document refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations. When administering a grant opportunity, an official (including peer reviewers) should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to: • the quality of the project proposal and activities • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives • that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved, and • the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

Appendix A List of institutes that received IRIISS funding in 2025

- Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute
- Burnet Institute
- Cabrini Health
- Centenary Institute
- Centre for Eye Research Australia Limited
- Children's Medical Research Institute
- Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health
- Heart Research Institute
- Institute for Breathing and Sleep
- Melanoma Institute Australia
- Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- National Ageing Research Institute
- South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute Limited
- St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research
- The Bionics Institute of Australia
- The Council of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research
- The George Institute for Global Health
- The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research