



Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Ref No: MC26-005513

Dr Shane Huntington OAM
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Dear Dr Huntington

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 March 2026 to the Minister for Health and Ageing and the Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Hon Mark Butler MP, on behalf of the Australian Society for Medical Research, regarding the Medical Research Future Fund. The Minister has asked me to reply.

The Australian Government is committed to health and medical research and is investing in Australian research and its translation into practice. The Government supports health and medical research with \$650 million annually from the MRFF and around \$1 billion provided each year through the National Health and Medical Research Council's Medical Research Endowment Account.

The Government increased the MRFF investment by \$200 million in the 2024-25 Budget to \$6.5 billion over 10 years. This is articulated in the MRFF 3rd 10-year Investment Plan.

Under the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015*, the maximum amount available for MRFF grants is determined by the Future Fund Board through the annual Maximum Annual Distribution Amount (MADA). In making this determination, the Board must consider the following principles:

- preservation of the nominal value of credits to the MRFF over the long term
- moderation of volatility in annual distributions across financial years, were possible.

The MADA has varied significantly in recent years. In 2021-22 and 2022-23, the Government provided supplementary funding to address shortfalls in the MADA relative to commitments under the MRFF ten-year plan. The MRFF 3rd ten-year Investment Plan provides a stable funding framework for the sector, despite market volatility.

The Australian Medical Research Advisory Board (AMRAB) is responsible for developing the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy (Strategy) and related Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities (Priorities). These documents are developed following extensive community and sector consultation. The government is required to consider the current Priorities when making decisions on MRFF disbursements.

The current Strategy and Priorities are due to expire in late 2026. The new AMRAB will be commencing consultation shortly with the sector. We welcome your inputs once consultation begins.

Thank you for writing on this matter.



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Medical Research
Future Fund 
A decade of investment, a lifetime of impact
20 March 2026