

A blue-tinted photograph of a scientist wearing safety glasses and looking through a microscope. The image is used as a background for the top half of the page.

NFMRI

National Foundation
for Medical Research
and Innovation

Impact giving
Advancing medical innovations

“Philanthropy has the freedom to think different, do different, & make a difference.”

Medical innovation needs collaborators. It currently takes too long, costs too much and vital collaborations are not formed.

Whilst Australian researchers rank highly on international measures of research quality our ability to translate research into medical innovations and form collaborations ranks far below its potential.

Opportunities to test and develop new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and devices can be advanced with philanthropic support.

Partnering with philanthropists, NFMRI supports efficiencies, advances innovations and facilitates collaborations.



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Impact giving

Purposeful Philanthropy makes a significant difference to the achievement of social outcomes.

Driving cultural change, scientific outcomes and the advancement of innovative opportunities is the essence of impact giving.

To make a difference, NFMRI helps philanthropists do something different.

In Australia, medical research and innovation is mostly supported by the NHMRC. However the NHMRC cannot fund all components of the research and innovation pathways.

Funding and knowledge gaps exist impeding the ability of researchers to form industry collaborations and attract investment.

Philanthropic investment in medical research can 'go where others fear to tread'. Investment that can significantly move a field of research or innovation forward, increasing the likelihood of success and the encouragement of others to follow.

By collaboration, philanthropists can assist researchers to: accelerate progress, ask the 'killer questions' and close dead ends. With their focus confirmed, innovations are de-risked allowing more effective partnerships and investments.

NFMRI focuses on identifying and bridging gaps in research and innovation pathways.

To advance innovations and maximise impact researchers need the skills and capabilities of other researchers across a broad range of disciplines. They also need access to resources, networks and people with specialised experience in medical innovation, translation, and commercialisation.

NFMRI's programs support research in three portfolios along the innovation pathway.

These portfolios are aligned with the different needs of advancing innovations. By leveraging current funding and supporting both knowledge and funding gaps philanthropists catalyse and accelerate early innovations maximising their potential to deliver community benefits.

By working together, NFMRI, philanthropists, Private Ancillary Funds (PAFs), research institutions, government, and other trusts and foundations can assist us to maximise the returns from our portfolios.

Advancing innovations

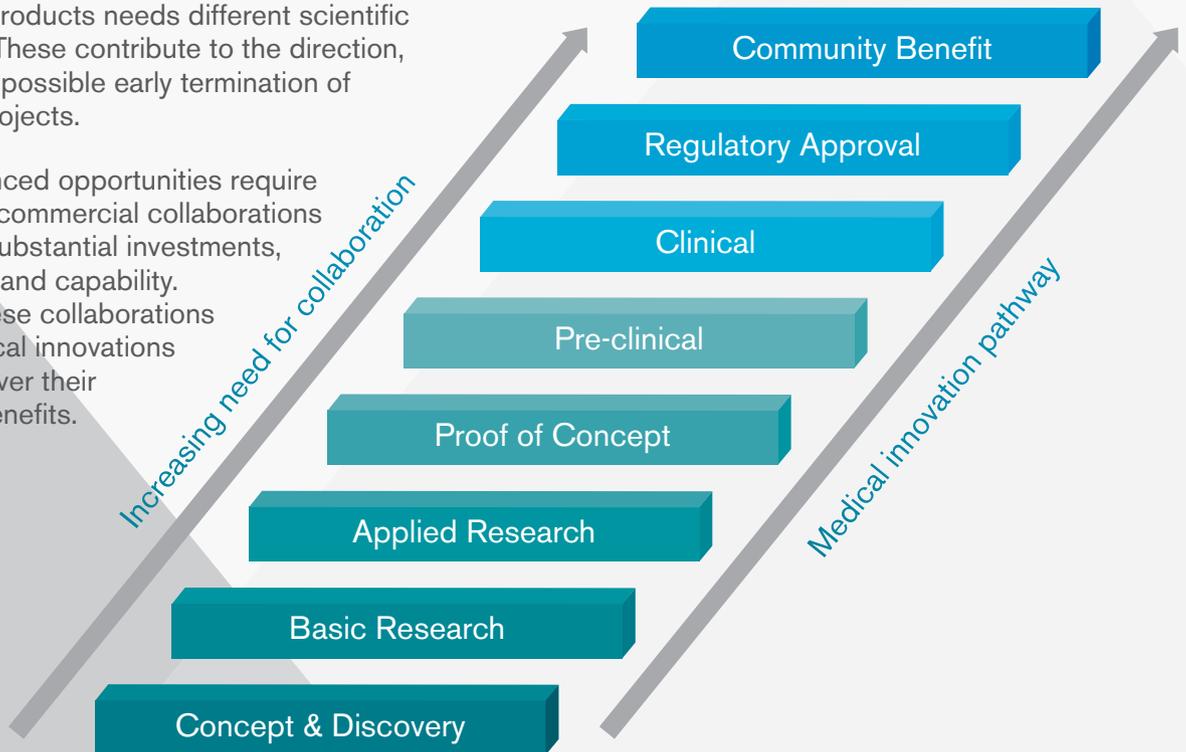
Translating medical discoveries into meaningful benefits involves progression along innovation pathways.

However, progression can often only be achieved with collaboration.

Collaborations in the development of new vaccines, diagnostics, devices, drugs or biological products needs different scientific skills sets. These contribute to the direction, success or possible early termination of research projects.

More advanced opportunities require industry or commercial collaborations that bring substantial investments, knowledge and capability. Without these collaborations many medical innovations will not deliver their potential benefits.

Being able to navigate the complexity of the pathway can be difficult. NFRMI helps philanthropists find their way.

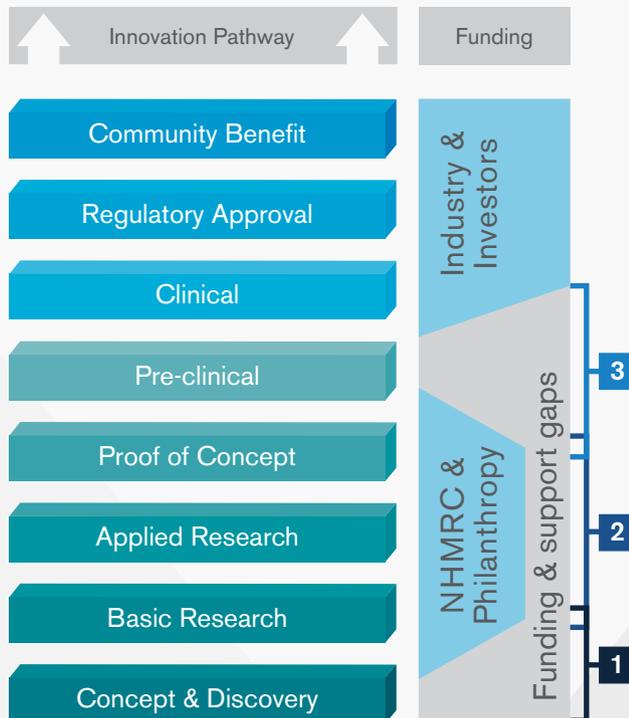


Making a difference

Historically, funding of medical research in Australia has been determined by outputs – research papers, citations, validated by peer review.

Whilst these factors are important; the advancement of innovation, the formation of collaborations and the ability to deliver impact are the outcomes, NFMRI 's funding delivers.

To maximise our impact NFMRI focuses on advancing innovation. By applying resources, networks and knowledge NFMRI helps philanthropy make a difference and bridge the gaps along the innovation pathway.



- 1** Original innovation and discovery not competitive for NHMRC grants. Young researchers, early discoveries and new paradigms that need support to become competitive and stand on their own two feet
- 2** Support for strategic collaborative research activities focussed on advancing research and validating directions. Providing access to the additional research skills not available through currently available funding
- 3** Often referred to as the “valley of death” this is the area where research is required to attract and compete for potential investors and collaborators.

Funding mechanisms often do not support or encourage contract research activities necessary to answer critical research questions.

Measuring impact

Philanthropists looking for impact should consider the benefits of partnering with an organisation that has a clear focus and skill set around the impact they wish to achieve.

Many funders of medical research only consider impact after a research project is completed and hope their contribution has been effective. Some don't look for impact at all, others rely on measures of output such as peer reviewed publications and their citation rates.

To be successful in maximising the benefits from supporting medical research philanthropists have an opportunity to be more strategic with their giving.

The challenge in medical research is to find and apply appropriate measures across an extraordinarily broad sector where different disciplines, conditions and diseases have potential for multiple interventions, prevention strategies or cures.

By focusing on the innovation pathway and providing support where gaps exist philanthropy can target impact points with pre-identified goals, measures and reporting structures.

Resources, knowledge and networks all play a critical role in maximising the opportunities for success.

Key milestones and benchmarks include:

- Early validation of new concepts, discoveries and intellectual property that are the foundation for innovation.
- Leveraging funding with others including the NHMRC to support further research, build capability, capacity and advance innovation.
- Asking the “killer questions” that influence research directions, maximise the use of resources and support or fail early proof of concept for an innovation.
- Building and supporting a robust innovation portfolio and strategy in a timely manner to attract industry collaborators and investors.

Impact giving guide

There are many ways NFMRI helps philanthropists support medical research.

Making informed decisions about how your support can best meet your objectives can require a little homework. Whilst there is no single pathway to making effective giving choices you should start by carefully assessing your own priorities, motivations, preferences and expectations.

The process to advance innovations such as new diagnostics, vaccines and drugs is complex and full of possibility. Whilst many researchers may strive to reach the same clinical endpoints, the pathways and strategies can vary widely.

It is important however that hypotheses are tested and concepts failed or advanced as quickly as possible, saving resources and setting new directions where appropriate.

Where opportunities exist, the establishment of research collaborations is critical to advance the science across the 'valley of death' where innovations fail to proceed by facilitating the formation of product development partnerships.

1. Is there a specific disease I wish to support?
2. Do I want to support identified funding gaps in translational research?
3. Am I interested in prevention, diagnosis or treatment?
4. Do I wish to support research focused on;
 - Finding new discoveries,
 - Validating and advancing early innovations, or
 - Bridging the 'Valley of Death' and partnerships?
5. How do I wish to engage and what communication do I want to have.
6. Who can I partner with, or support to facilitate my philanthropic objectives.

Impact giving matrix

Working with organisations that have experience with not only research but innovation and collaborations and who understand how to leverage their skills and networks can maximise the impact from your support.

To maximise impact giving, we consider what other forms of support researchers need and what access they have. Is it only financial support that is required, and if not, where is the support coming from?

Our focus is shown in **blue**. We welcome opportunities to discuss how we can assist individuals, families, corporations, trusts and foundations make informed giving choices.

Your options & preferences

Field	Disease focus	Basic science	Institution
Research Area	Biomedical	Clinical Medicine	Health Services
Support for	Infrastructure	People	Projects
Project grants	Top-up	Near-miss	Funding gaps
Research Focus	Knowledge & publication	Discovery validation	Advance innovation
Human application	Prevention	Diagnosis	Treatment
Innovation pathway	Original discovery	Proof of concept	Industry uptake
End products	Vaccines & biologicals	Diagnostics & tools	New medicines

NFMRI supporting impact

NFMRI believes that it is more than 'mere' funding that is needed to advance discoveries and innovation.

That view is shared by many, and some of the challenges and opportunities have been highlighted in two recent reports;

Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research – Better Health through Research (McKeon Review)

Collaborations between the Public and Private Sectors: The role of Intellectual Property (ACIP review)

NFMRI takes a uniquely proactive approach by partnering with our grant recipients to provide support along the innovation pathway.

It is a prerequisite that we only fund research of the highest quality. When reviewing applications and research projects NFMRI looks for more than good science. We also assess the ability and willingness of the researcher and the institution to collaborate, plan and manage research along the innovation pathway.

NFMRI also considers the need and size of any potential impact, the potential for the research and innovation to make a significant difference and whether the opportunity may become attractive to a potential partner who can make a product accessible to the community.

To do this we harness skill sets from a variety of scientific, business development, commercial, industry and financial sources.

Working with our researchers and their institutions, the NFMRI utilises the skills of our staff, Research Advisory Committee, Board and our networks to assist with communication strategies, understanding industry's expectations, and the establishment of networks and collaborations.

About NFMRI support

The National Foundation For Medical Research and Innovation is a not for profit organisation that is entirely independent. It is not affiliated with any University, Hospital, Government or State body. The Foundation provides financial support to research projects whilst conserving and building its capital base.

The National Foundation For Medical Research and Innovation was incorporated on 3 November 1977, originally as the Sydney Hospital Foundation for Research.

The Foundation has DGR and TCC status.

In 2013, the Foundation undertook a strategic review of its activities and funding in the Australian medical research sector.

This review identified opportunities for the Foundation to increase its impact by refocussing and supporting research to advance medical innovations and form collaborations.

As part of the review the Foundation also decided to

increase its support nationally and to change its name to the National Foundation for Medical Research & Innovation.

Our Mission

“To advance innovations in medical research related to the nature, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and incidence of disease and other health problems that have a significant impact on the health of humans”

The Foundation is looking to increase its impact by partnering with other Trusts and Foundations, Private Ancillary Funds (PAFs) and corporate donors. Of course,

we are also happy to receive donations and bequests.

Through our activities utilising our expertise and experience in research and innovation the Foundation is looking to become the partner of choice and a national ambassador for medical research innovation.

With best practice governance systems and continual improvement processes in place, supported by an enthusiastic and highly qualified Board, Research Advisory Committee and management the Foundation is well positioned to stay at the forefront of impact giving.

We have developed portfolios focused on impact to support medical innovation.

NFMRI research portfolios

Research Impact & Investment (Grant) Portfolios

Research Asset Portfolio

Portfolio 1

Original innovation & discovery

Portfolio 2

Collaborative innovation & advancement

Portfolio 3

Innovation uptake & transformation

Portfolio 4

Enabling Tools and technologies

Grants are available for projects and studies that would otherwise not be undertaken.

Faster innovation

Research Focus

- Original and novel research investigating early innovative concepts and pathways.
- “Blue sky”
- In need of data to attract future competitive grants.

- Advancement and testing of innovations.
- Research conducted by collaborators.
- “Key knowledge”, “Key directions” and “Killer experiments”

- Prerequisite studies to attract potential collaborators and investors.
- De-risk innovations
- Advance through the “Valley of Death”
- Commercialisation

- Provide access to research tools to support the discovery and validation processes.
- E.g. Chemical library to identify new drug candidates
- Use of material transfer agreements

Measures & impact

- Ground breaking research & knowledge.
- Build capability and capacity
- Leverage funding
- Employment
- Invention disclosures
- Intellectual Property
- Impact on ERA

- Advancing innovation
- Intellectual property
- Leveraged funding
- Collaborations
- Stop/go and direction setting
- Developing proof of concept
- Invention disclosure
- Linkage grants

- Pass/fail– resource management
- IP advancement
- Marketing portfolio
- Collaborations
- Innovation uptake (industry)
- Investment
- Linkage grants

- Novel drug targets
- Novel diagnostics
- Novel drug candidates
- Intellectual property
- Leveraged funding
- Linkage grants
- Industry collaborations
- Commercialisation

Grant

< \$200,000 p.a.
Up to 3 years

< \$100,000
1–2 years

< \$150,000
Up to 1 year

Negotiable

The National Foundation For Medical Research and Innovation

Founded in 1977, the National Foundation For Medical Research and Innovation's primary objective is to support innovative areas of research to help benefit mankind through the prevention or eradication of diseases.

The Foundation seeks to partner with researchers and donors to identify, evaluate and support innovative quality research projects with identified impact objectives.

Our culture is one where we look to make a social investment in medical research. By partnering with researchers to provide support and knowledge we aim to maximise the social returns from our grants.



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