In August/September 2021, Associate Professor Lesley Russell published an in-depth investigation of the Medical Research Future Fund at Croakey.org in a series of articles. It raised critical questions for the Federal Government and other stakeholders, as listed below.

Question 1:
What is the reason for the discrepancy in the MRFF funds between the 2019-20 Budget statement and the Investment Plan?

Question 2:
What happens to the MRFF revenue that is not being spent on research?

Question 3:
Why were funds recorded as transferred from the HHF in 2020-21 when the fund closed down in 2015?

Question 4:
What areas in the health and Indigenous Affairs portfolios were the $20 billion in savings obtained from?

Question 5:
Why are communiques not available for all AMRAB meetings?

Question 6:
Does the MRFF pay the NHMRC, the Business Grants Hub and the Community Grants Hub for their role in administering the MRFF?

Question 7:
How is the Department measuring the impact of MRFF grants?
Question 8:
How is the Department engaging with grant recipients to undertake retrospective evaluations?

Question 9:
Why isn’t evaluation an integral part of all funded research and translation and not an after-the-fact add-on?

Question 10:
Why did the priority relating to a national institute for health services, public and preventive health not proceed?

Question 11:
Why are the reports to Parliament so delayed?

Question 12:
What is the reason for the discrepancy in funding figures between the report to Parliament and the Budget Papers?

Question 13:
Why has the roadmap for the Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission not been finalised?

Question 14:
What is the reason for the under-spend in the Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission?

Question 15:
Why do many of the projects funded under the Genomics Health Futures Mission not include the names of the Chief Investigator/s?

Question 16:
How many of the projects funded by the Indigenous Health Research Mission have an Indigenous person as Chief Investigator?
Question 17:
Does the Advisory Panel for the Million Minds Mental Health Mission include anyone with lived experience of mental health issues?

Question 18:
How are recipients of grants described as “Targeted – Patient Led” in the “Emerging Priorities and Consumer Driven Research” category selected and their funding levels determined? What role did ministerial discretion play in these decisions?

Question 19:
How many of the Chief Investigators of projects funded under the “Next Generation Clinical Researchers” are early stage researchers?

Question 20:
Why has primary health care research not attracted more funding?

Question 21:
Who made the decision to make coronavirus research a priority and when was this decision made?

Question 22:
Why is there no research funded on long COVID?

Question 23:
What was the Government’s involvement in the decision to fund research on hydroxychloroquine?

Question 24:
How will the performance of MTPConnect be measured?
We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the Country where we live, work and travel upon, and to the Elders, past, present and future.