

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 communiqués 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?

