

Medical Research Future Fund consultation to inform the third Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2020-2022

Vision 2020 Australia Submission

1. Full name	Vision 2020 The Right to Sight Australia
2. Submission type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organisation affiliated <input type="checkbox"/> Individual submission
3. Organisation type	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-government <input type="checkbox"/> Individual
4. Organisation sub-type	<input type="checkbox"/> Consumer <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Professional <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Health service (public) <input type="checkbox"/> Health service (private) <input type="checkbox"/> Industry (medical technology, biomedical or pharmaceutical) <input type="checkbox"/> NHMRC Advanced Health Research and Translation Centre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
5. Residential state or territory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New South Wales <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Australian Capital Territory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Queensland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Territory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Australia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Australia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tasmania <input type="checkbox"/> International
6. Do the current Priorities remain relevant in the contemporary	The existing priorities remain broadly relevant, although there needs to be a focus on research that supports health systems integration and improvement.

<p>environment for continuation for a further 12 months?</p>	<p>Furthermore, the priorities are missing any focus on health system integration. Given the critical importance of more systemic approaches to health system design and delivery, prioritisation should be given to funding health systems research that ‘joins up’ efforts across the existing priorities. In an area such as chronic disease or avoidable vision loss, for example, such research might bring together elements spanning primary care, digital health, consumer driven approaches and comparative effectiveness. Prioritising such work would provide a much-needed focus on systemic responses to health challenges.</p>
<p>7. Should any of the Priorities be emphasised or de-emphasised for the next 12 month period?</p>	<p>Yes, possibly.</p>
<p>If you answered YES, please indicate what specific priorities and why?</p>	<p>There are some areas that we believe should now be embedded as features of all funded research proposals and as such, may not require the same emphasis. For example, involvement of consumers and assessment of effectiveness should be core elements of all funded research, which may reduce the need for standalone prioritisation. Research around COVID-19 could be prioritised, as it is an unique and timely opportunity.</p>
<p>8. Are there any unaddressed gaps in knowledge, capacity and effort across the healthcare continuum and research pipeline that would warrant changes to the Priorities?</p>	<p>Yes. Identified gaps include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other sensory contributions to healthy ageing. The current priorities as they relate to ageing primarily appear to focus on dementia, but for a large number of Australians, better identification, management and treatment of other sensory conditions, particularly vision loss, is critical to their quality of life - keeping them healthy, well and independent for longer. • Research to ensure the learnings from the impacts of Covid-19 upon the health and research sector are captured, and the innovation and creative responses are understood and embedded in forward health provision and system design.
<p>If you identified a gap, please explain how it should be addressed in the 2020-2022 MRFF Priorities</p>	<p>Other sensory contributions to ageing – reword the descriptor of the “Ageing and Aged Care” priority to support research that promotes health, wellbeing and independence of older Australians, prevents the onset of common age-related conditions and enhances treatment and care for those conditions.</p>

<p>If you identified a second gap please explain how it needs to be addressed in the 2020-2022 MRFF Priorities</p>	<p>COVID-19 impacts and opportunities – amend the “Global Health and Health Security” descriptor to encompass research that examines innovative responses to health crises and how these can be embedded into future service delivery and crisis responses.</p>
<p>9. Is there an opportunity to consolidate the Priorities for the remaining twelve months of the Strategy?</p>	<p>As outlined above, prioritisation should be given to research proposals which cut across multiple priorities and contribute to enhanced system integration. Allocating funds to comparative and cross-priority research covers gaps, and is a proven testing ground for health system change and improvement.</p>
<p>10. Do you have any additional comments in regards to the Priorities for 2020-2022?</p>	
<p>11. Do you consent to components of your submission being made publicly available?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>