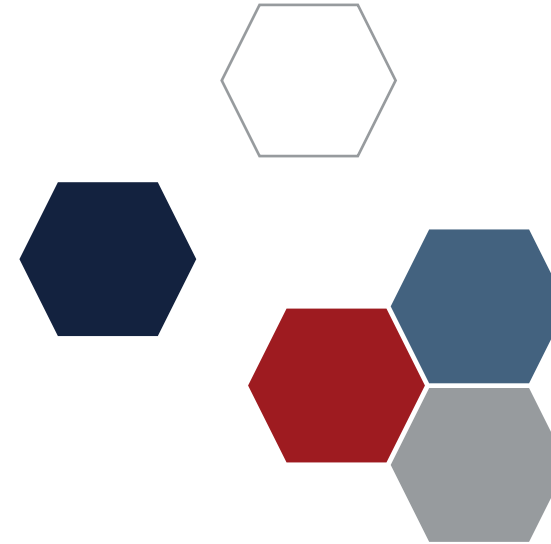




Australian Government
Department of Health



Medical Research

Future Fund

White Coats Foundation Webinar

13 July 2022

Helen Rickards

Director, Policy & Support, Health and Medical Research Office (HMRO)

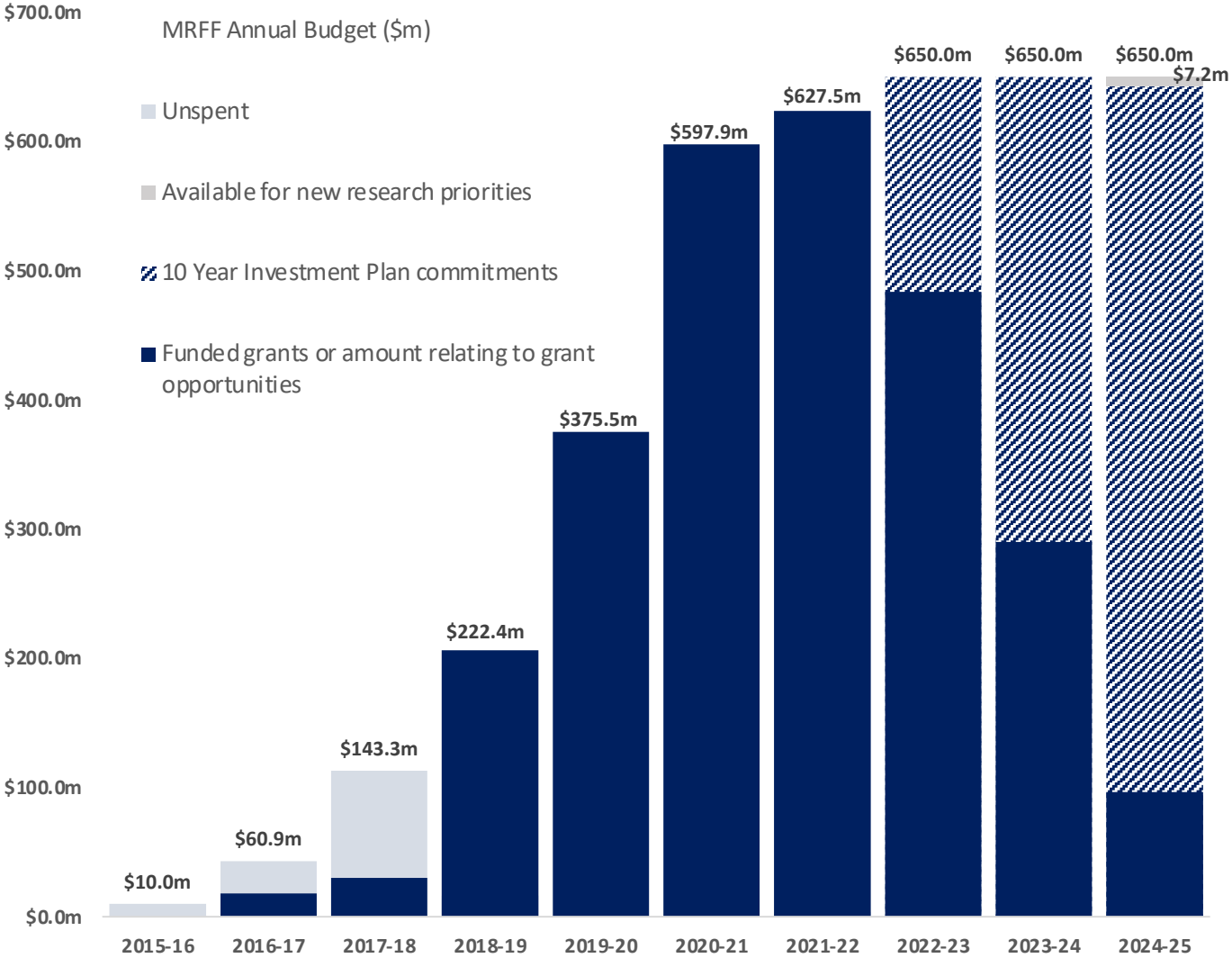
About the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)

- Two main, complementary Australian Government health and medical research funding streams:
 - **National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)**
 - **Investigator-led research**
 - Approx. \$850 million per year
 - **Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)**
 - **Priority-driven research** with a focus on research **translation**
 - Approx. \$650 million per year
 - Object is to ‘improve the health and wellbeing of Australians’
 - Funding is to support medical research and medical innovation via grants
 - Established in 2015

MRFF is young and disbursements are growing

\$2.1 billion across a total of 779 grants already funded

(as at 25 May 2022)

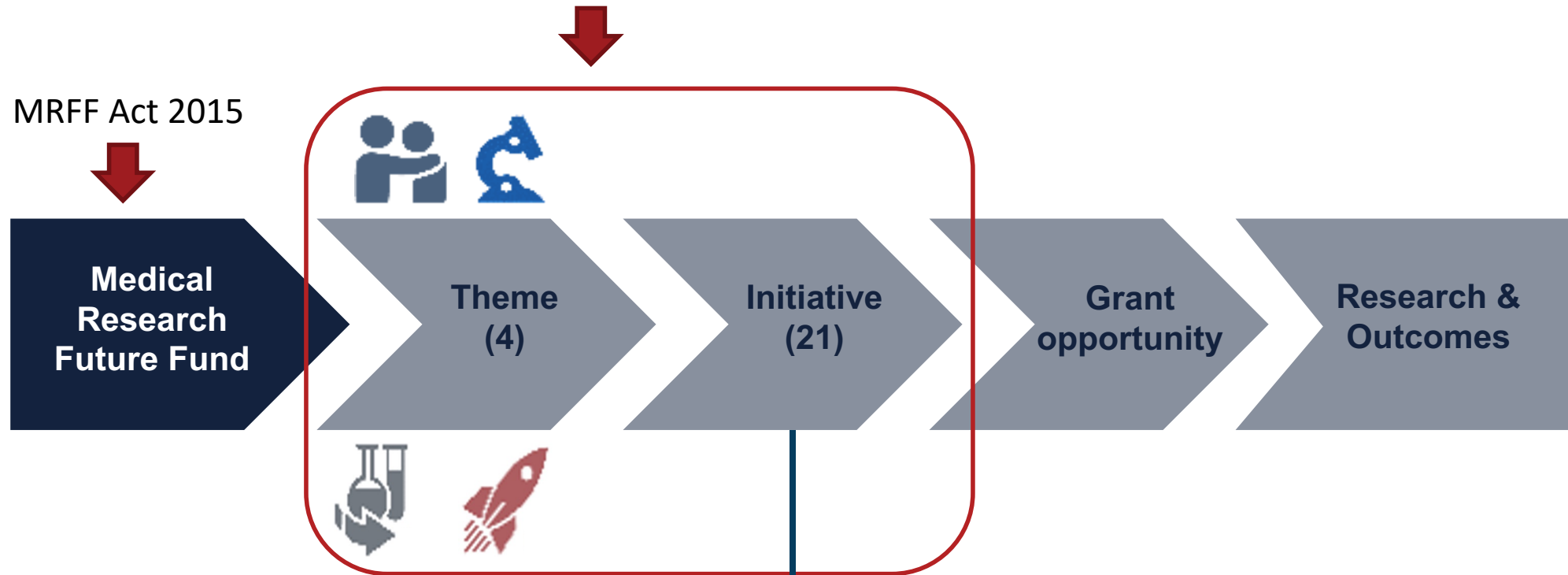


Budget and expenses as at 25 May 2022

MRFF: from the Fund to research

- Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy
- Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities
- MRFF 10-Year Investment Plan

- MRFF Act 2015



E.g.

- Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research (\$613.0 m)
- Preventive and Public Health Research (\$596.5 m)

2021 Consumer-Led Research Grant Opportunity

- Currently open
 - Applications close 20 July 2022
- \$10 million available
- Two funding streams (see Section 1.3 of guidelines)
 1. Improving health self-efficacy
 2. Citizen science methodology for co-creating health knowledge
- Does not include a definition of ‘consumer-led’
- Look beyond the title to the objectives and outcomes (section 1.3), eligibility criteria (section 3) and assessment criteria (section 5)

What is the MRFF already doing re consumer involvement?

- Consumer consultation in development of Strategy and Priorities, and Mission roadmaps
- AMRAB 2021-26 [Terms of Reference](#) – consultation on consumer involvement
- Roundtables – increased end-user engagement in grant opportunity design – e.g. MRFF Early to Mid Career Researchers Grant Opportunity, Medicinal Cannabis Clinical Trials Grant Opportunity, Brain Cancer Survivorship Grant Opportunity

- Grant Assessment Committees (GACs) - all have a consumer representative
- When scoring applications, assessed on how proposal *demonstrates broad and meaningful involvement of consumers*
- Impact is 40% of overall score

- Consumer engagement and co-design across the project life-cycle



- Targeted grant opportunities – e.g. 2021 Consumer-Led Research Grant Opportunity
- Grant Opportunity Guidelines – consider benefits of actively engaging consumers, how the project will engage with partners (incl. consumers), Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in health and medical research

- Consumers involved in evaluation advisory panels and consultations
- Performance indicators developed to assess the Measures of Success, including measuring the extent to which consumer engagement is involved from priority setting, the various grant stages, through to translation

MRFF Consumer Reference Panel (CRP)

2015-2021

Some practices & processes
in place to encourage
consumer engagement in
the MRFF

...but we want to do more...



2022-onwards

Work with the CRP to
strengthen consumer
involvement in the MRFF

Late 2021

Established the

MRFF Consumer Reference Panel

*“to provide advice to the CEO of HMRO on strategies
for strengthening consumer involvement in MRFF
implementation”*

Initial deliverables:

- Developing principles for consumer involvement in MRFF-funded research projects
- Reviewing and providing advice on MRFF processes, e.g. grant guidelines, assessment processes

HMRO contacts and how to keep connected



MRFF (HMRO)

E: mrff@health.gov.au



Nominate for an MRFF Grant Assessment Committee (GAC)

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/2021-22-medical-research-future-fund-mrff-grant-opportunities>



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