



Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund

Advisory Council roles and responsibilities

Background

The State Government established the Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund to provide a secure source of funding to drive health and medical research, innovation and commercialisation (research and innovation). Investment income from the FHRI Fund provides the funding stream for research and innovation activities.

Functions

The FHRI Fund Advisory Council (Advisory Council) is established under the *Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund Act 2012* (the Act). The object of the Act is to provide a secure source of funding to support research and innovation that improves the financial sustainability of the State's health system, the health and wellbeing of Western Australians and Western Australia's economic prosperity, and advances Western Australia as a leader in research and innovation. The Act specifies that the Advisory Council will provide advice to the responsible Minister (Minister) and the Department of Health (DoH) regarding matters related to the application of FHRI Fund investment income to support research and innovation relevant to the object of the Act.

The Advisory Council is also responsible for developing: the FHRI Fund Strategy, which provides high level vision and direction for the FHRI Fund; and the Priorities that are derived from the Strategy, and are essential to achieving the vision of the Strategy that is in place at the time. The DoH is responsible for developing Programs and Initiatives that contribute to achieving one or more Priority.

In addition, the Advisory Council oversees evaluations of the FHRI Fund, develops horizon scans to identify long-term trends, risks and opportunities, and leads the development of position and discussion papers on emerging issues and opportunities.

Composition

The Advisory Council comprises at least six voting members: a community representative; an expert in research; an expert in innovation; and at least three other persons with experience in areas such as business, law, philanthropy, and the not-for-profit sector. At least one of members will have experience in dealing with issues related to Aboriginal health and at least one of the members will have experience in regional health issues. One of the above members will be chosen by the Minister to be the Chair. There will also be two non-voting *ex officio* members: the Director General of the Department of Health, or nominee; and the Chief Executive Officer (or nominee) of another department deemed by the Minister to be relevant to the needs of the FHRI Fund.

The Minister determines the remuneration for eligible members of the Advisory Council, in line with advice provided by the Public Sector Commissioner.

Advisory Council time commitments

- The Advisory Council is expected to meet approximately three to four times per year. In between meetings, some out-of-session work will be required.

- Certain aspects of the Advisory Council's functions are based on a repeating cycle. In year four the Advisory Council will oversee an evaluation of the FHRI Fund and at regular intervals the Advisory Council will lead the development of the Strategy and Priorities for the FHRI Fund, all of which are major pieces of work. Therefore, it is expected that the activity of the Advisory Council will be substantially higher in evaluation years and when the Strategy and Priorities are being developed.
- Annual duties of the Advisory Council include:
 - Providing assurance to the Minister that Programs and Initiatives developed by the DoH are appropriate and funding recipient selection has been fair and transparent.
 - Seeking advice from Expert Committees (as required).
 - Developing horizon scans, position and discussion papers, and other strategic documents to support the success of the FHRI Fund and contribute to WA research and innovation endeavour.
 - Producing an annual report on the FHRI Fund.
- Meetings may be face-to-face or held remotely by technology (instantaneous communication).

Advisory Council member role statement (abridged)

Leadership

- Act impartially in the public interest.
- Demonstrate values and behaviours including professionalism, integrity and respect.
- Act in good faith and exercise due care when undertaking duties.
- Commit the necessary time and energy to Advisory Council matters.
- Inform the Advisory Council Chair in a timely manner of all potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest in accordance with the enabling legislation and Advisory Council policies.

Relationship management

- Work with the Advisory Council Chair to ensure effective relationships with the Minister, Director General and other key stakeholders and senior leaders, including other board chairs and board members.

Strategic governance

- Work with the Advisory Council Chair to understand and fulfil agreed roles, responsibilities and accountabilities.
- Work with the Advisory Council Chair to achieve agreed strategic directions and priorities, consistent with Advisory Council, research and innovation sectors and public sector objectives.
- Participate in all Advisory Council meetings, undertake decision-making and business in accordance with Advisory Council policies, as well as public sector policies and guidelines.

Advisory Council operational management

- Participate in performance evaluation processes and activities, as instructed by the Advisory Council Chair.
- Develop capability as instructed by the Advisory Council Chair, including through participation in an induction program and capacity building activities.
- On a continuing basis participate in professional development in accordance with Advisory Council policies and DoH requirements.

Additional Information and Resources

Further details regarding the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund are available on the FHRI Fund website. See selected links below:

- [Future Health Research and Innovation Fund](#)
 - [Future Health Research and Innovation Fund - FHRI Fund Act](#)
 - [Future Health Research and Innovation Fund - FHRI Fund Advisory Council](#)
 - [Future Health Research and Innovation Fund - Future Health Research and Innovation Fund governance model](#)
 - [Future Health Research and Innovation Fund - FHRI Fund Strategy and Priorities](#)
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