

FHRI Fund Communique #14

18 November 2025 Meeting

I am delighted to provide an update following the November 2025 meeting of the Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund Advisory Council. This marks my first meeting since recommencing as Chair, and I am excited to reconnect with the sector as we continue to implement the bold vision set out in the [FHRI Fund Strategy 2025–30](#).

Strategic investment

A significant milestone in implementing the new strategy was the launch of the [FHRI Fund Investment Plan](#). This plan provides a strategic two-year roadmap for allocating funding over the years ahead, ensuring resources are directed toward initiatives that deliver maximum impact across our three strategic themes: Connect and Collaborate, Accelerate and Translate, and Foundational Confidence. The Investment Plan is central to translating strategic direction into FHRI Fund Programs and Initiatives, ensuring a transparent approach that delivers value for the health and prosperity of Western Australians.

Launch of the Spotlight on RHD

The November 2025 FHRI Fund Open Day in Perth was a resounding success, marking the official launch of our flagship Spotlight program with Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) as the inaugural focus. Alongside Dr Shirley Bowen, Director General of WA Department of Health, I was co-MC for the event, which brought together leading voices in health and medical research. We were privileged to hear presentations from the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Medical Research, prominent researchers Professor Jonathan Carapetis and Professor Dan McAullay, and Mr Jeff Moffet, Chief Executive of the WA Country Health Service.

The Spotlight program exemplifies our commitment to targeted, high-impact research and innovation that addresses critical health challenges through strong partnerships and collaboration. For those who were unable to attend, a recording of the event is available on the [FHRI Fund website](#).

A focus on outcomes

A key focus for the Advisory Council is the development of a Measurement Framework, which will provide a transparent approach to tracking the new Strategy's performance, outcomes and impact. This framework is scheduled for public release in 2026, reinforcing the FHRI Fund's commitment to transparent and evidence-based decision making across all investment activities.

In parallel, work is underway to review and refresh the governance framework and key policies and procedures that underpin the operations of the FHRI Fund Scheme. This work will be guided by insights and advice from the FHRI Fund Expert Committees. The Advisory Council seeks to ensure that governance arrangements remain aligned with the new Strategy, responsive to sector needs, and fit for purpose into the future. Together, these initiatives will support a more connected, transparent and high-performing health and medical research and innovation ecosystem and drive lasting benefits for Western Australians.

Year in review

The Advisory Council has been leading the development of the FHRI Fund Annual Report 2024-25, which will be released soon. This report will provide an overview of the Fund's activities, achievements, outcomes and impact over the past year.

Looking ahead to 2026

As we close out 2025, I am energised by the momentum built and the opportunities that lie ahead. The new Strategy has set a clear and ambitious direction, and 2026 will be a year of action, turning strategic priorities into tangible outcomes that will strengthen Western Australia's health system, drive economic growth and improve health outcomes for all Western Australians.

I look forward to working alongside the Advisory Council, the Office of Medical Research and Innovation, the FHRI Fund Expert Committees and the broader sector as we continue to advance our State's position as a global leader in health and medical research and innovation. Together, we will ensure the FHRI Fund delivers secure, impactful funding that transforms lives and builds a healthier, more prosperous future for Western Australia.

Thank you for your ongoing support, partnership and dedication. I wish you all a safe and restful holiday season and look forward to reconnecting in the new year.

Kind regards

Mr John Van Der Wielen

FHRI Fund Advisory Council Chair

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