



**LUMINESCE**

Alliance

Innovation for Children's Health

Medical Research Future Fund  
Rapid Applied Research Translation Initiative Round 3  
Expression of Interest

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Guidelines

February 2021

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# About Luminesce Alliance



Luminesce Alliance is a paediatric research hub that galvanises and accelerates NSW led paediatric research, harnessing Partners' strengths to unlock future prevention, treatments and cures for childhood illnesses.

## Our Vision

Our Vision is to create Australia's most ground breaking, innovative and translational paediatric research hub that will change children's health around the world.

## Our Mission

Our Mission is to have a voice on a national and international platform so that our research is disseminated and implemented to directly improve the health of children.

## Our Purpose

Our Purpose is to empower our partners to work together in changing the global landscape in paediatric research.

## Luminesce Alliance works bedside to benchtop to bedside

As an alliance between clinical and research organisations, Luminesce Alliance enables clinicians to drive the research agenda - bedside to benchtop - and for researchers to support rapid clinical translation of their work - benchtop to bedside. Luminesce Alliance provides a working demonstration of translational research in paediatrics.

## Luminesce Alliance has critical mass

As an alliance we have access to Australia's largest and most ethnically diverse paediatric patient population, with the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network providing care to over 35% of the sickest children in Australia. This critical mass supports the clinical and scientific expertise for examining new models of care, their costs and benefits, and processes of effective integration into our healthcare system.

## Luminesce Alliance partners have interlocking and reinforcing specialisations

Luminesce Alliance partners cover a wide range of paediatric health issues, from cancer and rare diseases to neurosciences and mental health. They also share approaches to healthcare including significant expertise in "omics", disease modelling, clinical trials, psychosocial impacts; application of new technologies, and, increasingly, a focus on population health, health economics and health services implementation.

## Our Partners



## Background

The Commonwealth MRFF provides grants to support health and medical research and innovation that improve the health and wellbeing of Australians. The Rapid Applied Research Translation Initiative (the RART Initiative) forms part of the MRFF, and specifically invests in research that encourages academic researchers and health service providers to collaborate to improve health care delivery, services and systems sustainability.

A new RART funding round (Round 3) will open on 4 March 2021 and close on 6 May 2021. The grant guidelines are available [here](#).

The application submission guidelines are highly restrictive: eligible institutions must be incorporated and have an Australian Business Number (ABN); can only be a University, a Medical Research Institute, a corporate Commonwealth entity, or other corporation; and can only submit ONE application. In addition, any individual may be named as a Chief Investigator (CI) on only ONE application.

Two streams of funding are available based on the geographic location of the lead organisation:

- Stream 1 for organisations based in urban areas; and
- Stream 2 for organisations based in rural areas.

A total maximum of \$27.5 million per stream is available in Round 3. The maximum individual grant amount is \$10 million. The grant period is 5 years however funding will be paid over Years 1-3.

As Luminesce Alliance is a not for profit corporation and has an Australian Business Number (ABN) it fulfils the eligibility criteria to submit an application for this funding opportunity. This means that the Chief Investigator must be employed by one of the Luminesce Alliance partners namely:

- The Children's Cancer Institute
- The Children's Medical Research Institute
- The University of Sydney
- The University of New South Wales Sydney

These partners have agreed for Luminesce Alliance to manage an initial Expression of Interest (EoI) process for RART Round 3 on their behalf to help identify an application with the greatest potential for success.

All persons affiliated with the above Partner organisations who wish to submit a RART application via Luminesce Alliance will need to participate in this initial EoI process.

Luminesce Alliance is eligible for the \$11 million allocated to Stream 1: Organisations based in urban areas (any area according to the Monash Modified Model Locator), based on our geographic location as the lead organisation.

The University of Sydney, University of NSW and the MRIs within our partnership can each submit their own applications in addition to the Luminesce Alliance application. Sydney Children's Hospital Network is NOT deemed as an eligible institution for this RART opportunity, but is an important partner organisation with the University of Sydney, University of NSW and our two MRIs.

Luminesce Alliance will only consider applications for projects that focus on paediatrics and in particular precision medicine/health.

## Purpose

The purpose of the MRFF RART Initiative Round 3 is to provide grants to support Australian medical research and medical innovation projects to:

- address a clearly defined gap in the implementation of best practice health care and health interventions to improve health outcomes;
- use existing knowledge to develop, test and implement new approaches for the translation of research findings into health care and health interventions that have potential for broader applicability; and
- involve all stakeholders relevant to the research and its translation in its conceptualisation, design and implementation, including health care consumers and providers.

In addition, the proposed project must contribute to one or more of the following MRFF Measures of Success as described in the MRFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy [here](#):

- Increased focus of research on areas of unmet need
- More Australians access clinical trials
- New health technologies are embedded in health practice
- New health interventions are embedded in health practice
- Research community has greater capacity and capability to undertake translational research<sup>1</sup>
- Health professionals adopt best practices faster<sup>2</sup>
- Community engages with and adopts new technologies and treatments<sup>3</sup>
- Increased commercialisation of health research outcomes.

The RART initiative focuses on the direct translation of research into practice, not research that may have the potential to be translated into practice sometime in the future, for example, basic science or laboratory-based translational research, piloting of a clinical trial design or other projects that are T1-T2 translational research. The level of available funding also encourages large-scale projects involving multiple partners, so collaborations involving other states and territories should be considered.

## Expression of Interest

The Partner organisations of Luminesce Alliance invite employees who are interested in the MRFF RART Round 3 funding opportunity to submit an EoI application using the **Luminesce Alliance MRFF RART Round 3 EoI Application Form**.

Applications should be completed using Arial 10pt and single line spacing. The questions in the application form should not be altered. Applications must be signed by the Chief Investigator.

## Expression of Interest Applicants and Partners

Members of the research team must be listed on the EoI application form as Chief Investigators (CIs). CIs may include early and mid-career researchers and health professionals. A Chief Investigator (CI) must be nominated from one of the partner organisations of Luminesce Alliance who will take the lead role for the project.

Chief Investigators may include members of several expert groups in health and medical research, for example, universities, medical research institutes, hospitals, primary care networks, community based health services, and consumers and their representative groups.

The MRFF RART Guidelines also indicate that applicants are encouraged to seek strategic partnerships with organisations whose decisions and actions affect Australians' health, health policy and health care delivery.

Organisations which would normally not be able to directly access MRFF funding are "highly valued as partners".

Partnerships with the Local Health Districts within Luminesce Alliance Partners are especially important in this regard. Partner organisations may also include federal, state, territory and local government; the private health sector; non-government organisations and charities; community organisations; and professional groups.

## Use of funds

The MRFF RART Round 3 Grant [Guidelines](#) provide a list of eligible and ineligible expenses (refer to the Appendices A and B of the [Guidelines](#)).

Eligible expenses include employment of personnel; development/installation of research equipment (Note: total equipment budget cannot exceed \$80,000); and other direct research costs (e.g., staff training, financial auditing of project expenditure, insurances specifically required to cover the grant activity).

Ineligible expenses include communications costs (mobiles, telephone calls); capital works; general maintenance costs; conference attendance and associated travel (except in pre-approved circumstances where the research outputs of the activity are presented); travel or overseas costs that exceed 10% of total project costs (except where otherwise approved); and institutional overheads and administrative costs.

<sup>1</sup> these measures are recognised as a shorter-term focus of the RART Initiative while the others are longer-term aspirations

<sup>2</sup> these measures are recognised as a shorter-term focus of the RART Initiative while the others are longer-term aspirations

<sup>3</sup> these measures are recognised as a shorter-term focus of the RART Initiative while the others are longer-term aspirations

## Review Panel and Assessment Criteria for Expression of Interest Applications

Luminesce Alliance will convene a review panel for the EoI applications. The review panel members will be at the discretion of Luminesce Alliance and will include nominated representatives from the Luminesce Alliance Partners. It may also include independent representatives outside of the Alliance. Nominated representatives will be asked to declare any conflict of interest prior to any discussion of any application. This includes being a named investigator on the application. They will be excused from any deliberation of that application should they declare a conflict of interest.

- Individual review members will be asked to review and rank the applications based on a set of criteria as outlined below.
- The scores and review of the panel will be collated, and a final score will be tallied.
- The final determination will be based on the final score.
- Luminesce Alliance will liaise with the successful applicant about progressing to the full application process for the MRFF RART Round 3 application, which opens Thursday 4 March and closes Thursday 6 May.
- Unsuccessful applicants will not receive specific information about the ranking, content or quality of the application as assessed by the panel.

The EoI applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

### *Project Focus*

- The application will only be accepted if the project focus is on Paediatrics and in particular Paediatric Precision Medicine/Health.

### *Project impact (40%)*

- will the project address a priority area/unmet need identified by health services and/or patients/consumers?
- will the project support the rapid adoption of new treatments/technologies by health services, the community and/or other end-users?
- will this project make a direct difference to improving health care delivery, services and/or health systems sustainability?
- are there health service delivery partners engaged to support implementation of study findings into practice?
- will the new treatments/technologies have broader applicability?
- will the project contribute to other existing initiatives?
- how will the changes resulting from this project be sustained beyond the life of the grant?
- does this proposal represent value for money?

### *Project methodology (30%)*

- is there enough information about the project methodology?
- does it appear feasible for the proposed funding and time, and in the presence of COVID?
- is the proposed research translation plan likely to be successfully implemented?

### *Collaboration (30%)*

- is there an appropriate, multi-disciplinary team with relevant skills and experience?
- is there evidence of previous successful collaboration among team members for a project of this scale?

## Important Dates

Wednesday 10 February 5pm AEST	EoI applications open via the Luminesce Alliance website. <a href="http://www.luminesce.org.au">www.luminesce.org.au</a>
Wednesday 24 February 2021 5pm AEST	EoI applications close. Eligible and complete EoI applications must be submitted by 5pm AEST on the closing date. Late applications will not be accepted. Both Word and PDF version of the application are to be submitted
Tuesday 2 March	Outcomes of EoI applications notified to CIAs
Thursday 4 March	MRFF RART Round 3 opens (full application forms made available)
Thursday 6 May	Deadline for full application submission to MRFF

Enquiries can be directed to: [info@luminesce.org.au](mailto:info@luminesce.org.au)

Please use the Email Heading: **Expression of Interest Application: MRFF RART Initiatives**