



SUMMARY NOTE

iFHP Big Ideas Week Connect | 19 – 23 June 2023

‘Driving Innovation: the HCF Research Foundation’

Dr Chris Pettigrew, Head of HCF Research Foundation



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Foundation

This presentation provided insights into the HCF Research Foundation's mission, its grant schemes, and its focus on translating research into practical healthcare solutions.

The HCF Research Foundation, established in 2000, has invested over \$27 million in Australian health and medical research projects. It collaborates with research institutions, healthcare providers, and stakeholders to drive innovation and improve healthcare delivery.

The presentation highlighted the importance of collaboration between private health insurers and the research sector to improve health outcomes for members and the broader Australian community.

The foundation offers three grant schemes: Health Services Research Grants, Translational Research Grants, and Innovation Research Grants. Each scheme targets specific areas and aims to support evidence-based healthcare models and services.

Health Services Research Grants:

These grants support large-scale projects driven by applicants from research institutions. They focus on addressing areas of scale and significance in the Australian healthcare system, such as reducing clinical variation, evaluating new care models, and improving patient outcomes.

Translational Research Grants:

These grants prioritize the translation and implementation of evidence-backed healthcare practices into real-world settings. They engage healthcare providers in proposing and evaluating new practices, with co-funding and buy-in from the provider groups.

Innovation Research Grants:

HCF Research Foundation identifies specific opportunities or needs within the healthcare system and collaborates with researchers to address them. These grants focus on targeted research questions or evaluations, aiming to find solutions to pressing issues and facilitate commercialization of intellectual property.

HCF Research Foundation emphasizes the importance of integrating translation and implementation plans within research projects. Applicants are encouraged to outline how they will deliver and maximize the impact of their research outcomes, with ongoing reporting and post-completion follow-ups.

Throughout the presentation numerous examples were provided of specific research projects within each of the three research grant schemes. Details of those can be found in the accompanying PDF.

Through HCF Research Foundation, Private health insurers like HCF can assist researchers by providing access to valuable data sets, facilitating communication and dissemination of research findings, and supporting the translation of research into practice. Embedding translation thinking through all of HCF's processes has been key to unlocking practical applicability of the research results, demonstrating that collaboration between insurers and researchers can lead to mutual benefits and accelerate improved healthcare outcomes.

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For further information about the programmes at iFHP, and how you can join, please reach out to hello@ifhp.com.