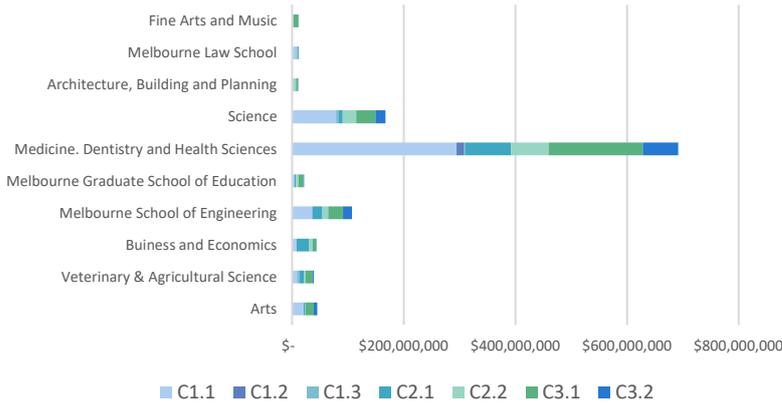




MDHS Leadership Conference – Research Briefing Paper

Funding summary

University of Melbourne 2018 research income (unaudited) by Academic Division

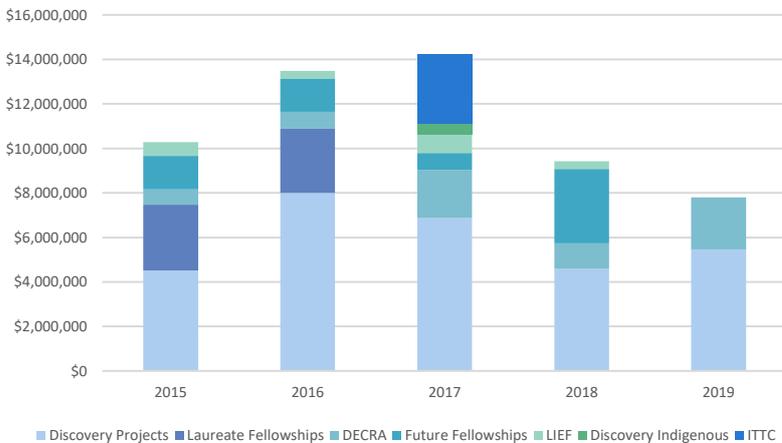


MDHS continues to be the research funding powerhouse of UoM. 2018 funding rounds saw some correction to earlier declining performance in NHMRC and ARC funding.

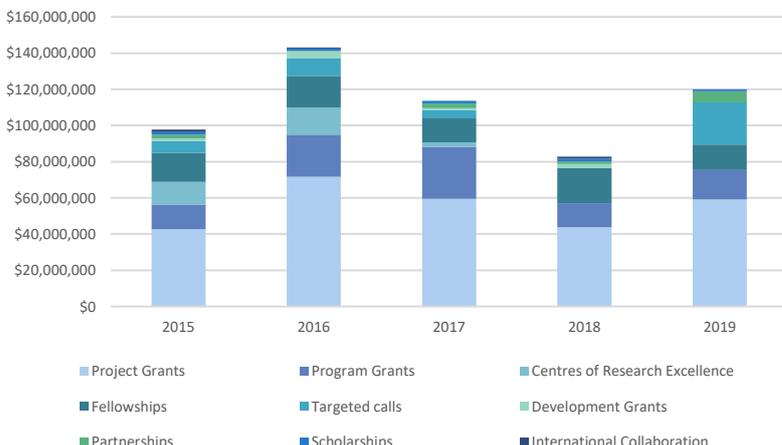
The new NHMRC funding schemes will almost certainly cause significant disruption with major impacts on some individual researcher/research teams.

MDHS Investigator Grant applications tracked approximately as expected (208 of 224 UoM applications vs 1857 nationally = 12.1%). Ideas grant NOIs are lower than expected in some Schools at this stage.

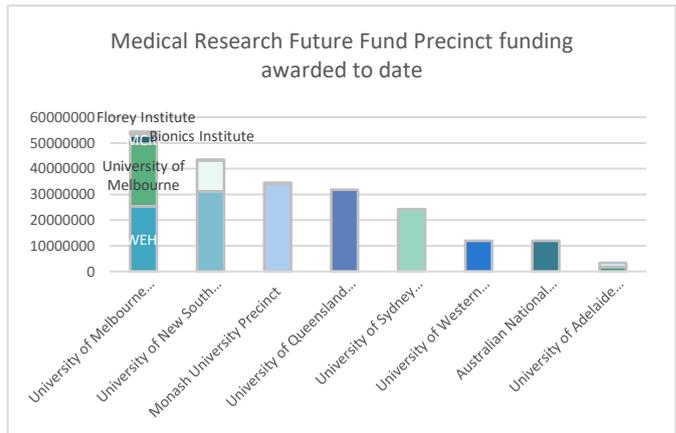
MDHS ARC funded research by scheme 2015-2019 YTD



MDHS NHMRC funded research by scheme 2015-2019



MRFF – funding to date as of February 2019



- UoM share of MRFF funding to date is below typical proportion of NHMRC funding. MRIs are generally doing better than may have been predicted.
- Many researchers are still struggling to envisage how they intersect with MRFF priorities and missions, and how to organise into multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional teams. However, UoM led 12 Frontiers bids (more than any other institution) and participated in 22 other bids led elsewhere.
- MRFF may transition substantially if there is a change of Federal Government, but substantial funding is already committed into the forward estimates into missions.

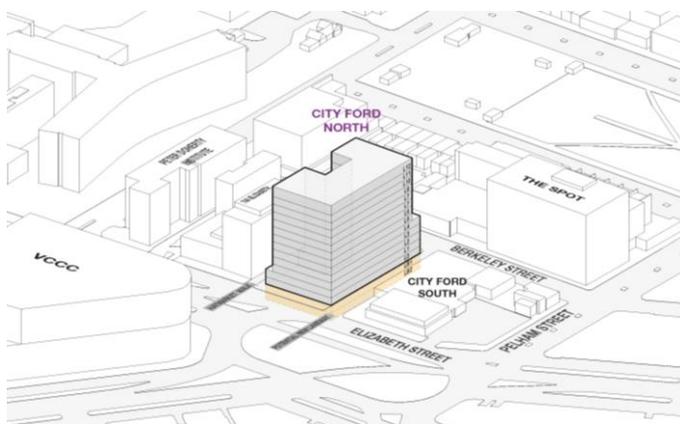
ARC ERA rankings

| ERA rank | Discipline |
|----------|---|
| 5 | Biological Sciences, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Genetics, Microbiology, Medical and Health Sciences, Medical Biochemistry and Metabolomics, Clinical Sciences, Human Movement and Sports Science, Immunology, Medical Microbiology, Neurosciences, Nursing, Oncology and Carcinogenesis, Paediatrics and Reproductive Medicine, Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Public Health and Health Services, Other Medical and Health Sciences, Psychology and Cognitive Sciences, Psychology |
| 4 | Physiology, Cardiorespiratory Medicine and Haematology, Nutrition and Dietetics, Ophthalmology and Optometry, Medical Physiology |

Detailed MDHS summary reports available at:

<https://staff.unimelb.edu.au/mdhs/research-development/research-performance-and-summary-data/excellence-in-research-for-australia/era-2018-outcome-reports-by-school>

The big picture



The North Ford Building – an opportunity to foster interdisciplinary translational health research

Meeting the challenge of delivering mission projects with nationally/globally significant impacts

- The Vice-Chancellor has challenged us to increase inter-disciplinary research and address globally significant problems, and to enhance the universities global reputation for impact.
- Many funding schemes (eg. MRFF) and even philanthropists are seeking mission-type projects that will involve multiple disciplines, extensive team work and long-term approaches to address major issues.
- To some extent the NHMRC is providing a counter-force as the new schemes design to spread funding has established potentially anti-collaborative incentives. For example, what are the incentives for an Investigator Grant holder to use funds towards a collaborative project led by another investigator? What are the incentives to join other people's Ideas Grants as a CI?
- Leading and prosecuting large programs of research bring challenges including:
 - Diminished prominence for individuals/academic recognition /tangles over leadership
 - Complex governance models often involving multiple institutions
 - Lack of seed funding to build momentum to meet major funding opportunities
 - Lack of resources/infrastructure to prosecute and manage projects

Questions for consideration in “The Big Picture session”

1. What criteria should inform the selection of Research Missions?
2. How should the Faculty provide support for Research Missions?
3. Do researchers involved in inter-disciplinary Research Missions need to be co-located?
4. What are the ramifications of increasing inter-disciplinary research for our discipline-based School/Departmental structures?
5. What are the ramifications of increasing inter-disciplinary and team-based research for individual researchers and their career development?
6. Does a focus on Research Missions put at risk fundamental discovery research?
7. How should we measure the success of Research Missions?