

# Fueling your research: how ECRs can secure grants

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**MSHC**

MELBOURNE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE



**MONASH**  
University

LONDON  
SCHOOL *of*  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE





# Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodian of the land that we gather, the Kaurna People, and pay our respect to the Elders, past and present.

We acknowledge the on-going cultural and spiritual connections to the land and waterways that have spanned for more than 60,000 years as the oldest continuing culture in the world.

# Purposes

- Overview of main funding schemes in Australia
  - Grants ECRs should be aware of
- Example of community and consumer engagement

# Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

- Director, largest public sexual health clinic in Australia
  - >56,000 consultations a year
- Free sexual health services
- Research centre
  - >133 publications a year
  - Seven full professors



[www.mshc.org.au](http://www.mshc.org.au)



 **MSHC**  
MELBOURNE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

[Clinics & services](#) [Sexual health](#) [Health professionals](#) [Education](#) [Research](#)

**Your experts in sexual health**

[Accessing our clinic](#) [Our services](#)

**Opening hours**  
Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm  
Closed Victorian public holidays  
**CURRENTLY OPEN**

**Phone**  
03 9341 6200

You can access other STI clinics closer to you.  
[Other clinics near you](#)

[STI testing & treatment](#) [Sexual health fact sheets](#) [Clinical treatment guidelines](#) [Other clinic services](#)



**SERVICES**

**Our partner GP clinics**

You can also visit one of our partner health services for STI testing and treatment. Some services have online booking available.



**EDUCATION**

**Clinical education for GPs**

We produce and curate a range of videos for GPs to help broaden their knowledge and skills in sexual health.



**RESEARCH**

**Current research studies**

Find out more about our current and completed research studies.

# My research track record

- \$24 M of funding (\$21 M as Chief-Investigator)
  - NHMRC ([Investigator, Partnership, CRE, eAsia, etc..](#))
  - WHO ([Request for proposals, commissioned](#))
  - International ([US NIH](#))
  - University-based ([Monash Warwick Alliance](#))
  - Industry ([Pharmaceutical companies](#))
  - Philanthropic ([John F Marriott for HIV Trust](#))



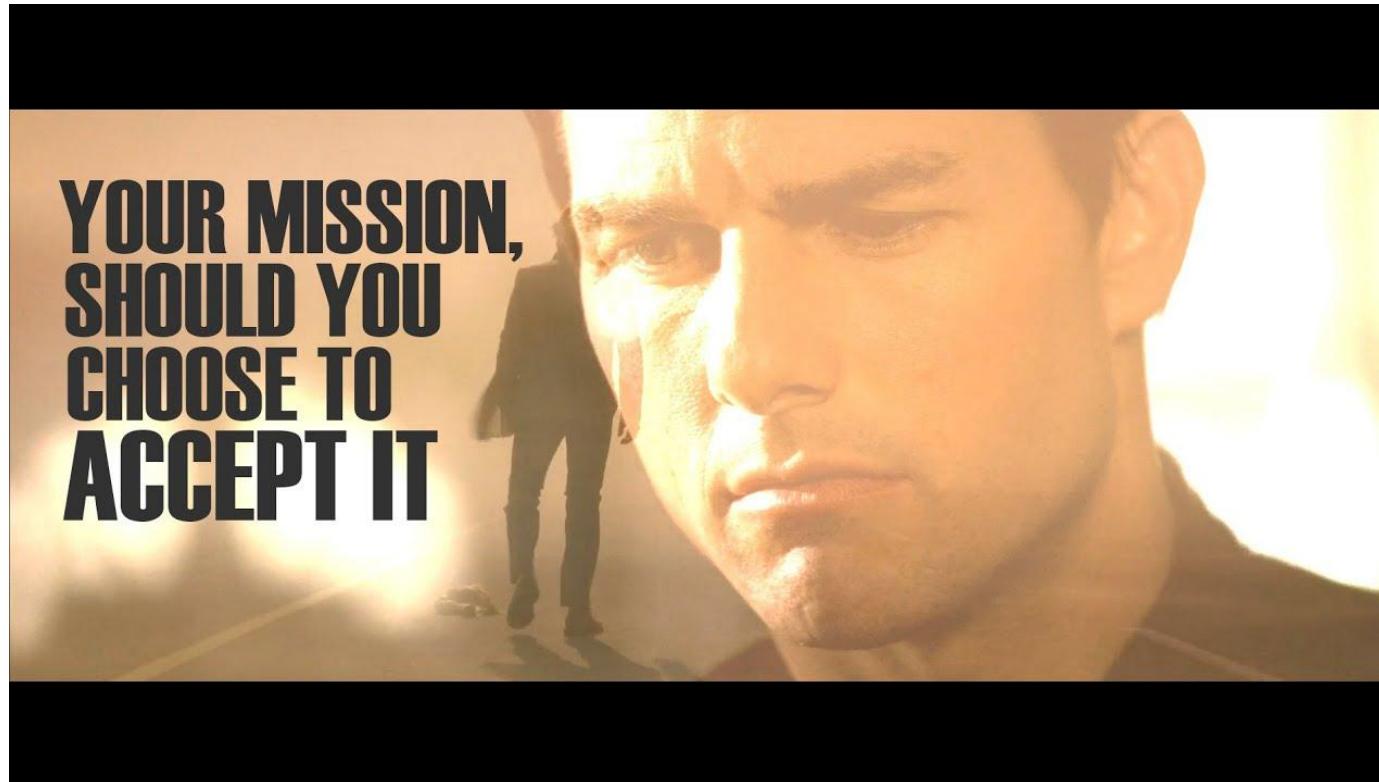
# Types of funding

- Hundreds of funding opportunities but only a small number relevant for you (ECRs)



# Your task

Identify a funding source you haven't explored before and go after it!



# Types of funding

- Main types
- Sectors
- Location
- Scale

# Main types

- Grants and fellowships
- Contract research
- Consultancy
- Tenders

# Main types

- Grants and fellowships
  - NHMRC / MRFF / ARC
  - Your own research vs. Priorities of funder
  - Grants = usually awarded to teams
    - Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies, Synergy, Centres of Research Excellence, Partnership, Development
  - Fellowships = usually to individual (+ salary)
    - Investigator, Ideas, Postgraduate scholarship (PhD/Masters)



# Funding schemes and calendar



This is a list of all our current and upcoming funding schemes with relevant dates. You can also search for upcoming, open and recently closed grant schemes using our [Find funding](#) tool.

## Funding calendar

Funding scheme	Applications open▼	Minimum date due	Applications close
<a href="#">Centres of Research Excellence</a>	01 Oct 2025	29 Oct 2025	19 Nov 2025 - 5:00pm
<a href="#">Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants</a>	10 Sep 2025	08 Oct 2025	05 Nov 2025 - 5:00pm
<a href="#">MRFF - 2025 Genomics Health Futures Grant Opportunity (GO7833)</a>	13 Aug 2025	21 Jan 2026	04 Feb 2026 - 5:00pm
<a href="#">MRFF - 2025 Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyles Grant Opportunity (GO7816)</a>	06 Aug 2025	19 Nov 2025	03 Dec 2025 - 5:00pm
<a href="#">Partnership Projects PRC3</a>	24 Jul 2025	12 Nov 2025	26 Nov 2025 - 5:00pm

I am looking for

Select an option

Select an option

Our Funding Schemes

Partnering with us

International Opportunities

Medical Research Future Fund

Targeted Calls for Research

- International opportunities
  - eAsia multicountry Grant
  - ECRs encouraged to be in country teams
- MRFF
  - Early-Mid Career Researchers Grant Opportunity
- Targeted Calls for Research
  - Anal cancer
  - (HIV prevention)
  - (Syphilis control)



# Main types

- Contract research
  - Organisation invites researcher (or team) to undertake specific project
  - Deliverables for the contracting organisation
- Consultancy
  - e.g. WHO global guidelines (8)
  - Developing training materials, literature/systematic reviews, reports
- Tenders
  - Organisation invites bids to undertake project or offer service
  - AusTender

# Sector

- Government (Federal or State)
- Internal (University)
- Industry
- Philanthropy



# Sector

- Government (Federal or State)
  - National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
  - Australian Research Council (ARC)
  - Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)
  - Government Departments
    - Dept of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions ([StudyWell](#))



Australian Government



GrantConnect

GO ID (Include the prefix 'GO')

Keyword

 ▼

## Search Results

Showing 1-3 of 3 records

Sort By

Close Date & Time - Ascending

Sort

Platform to support miscarriage resources for parents and families

GO ID: [GO7797](#)

Close Date & Time: 4-Sep-2025 2:00 pm (ACT Local Time)

Agency: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Primary Category: Reproductive Health

Description: This grant opportunity was announced as part of the 2024-25 Budget which allocated funds to support the Government's com...

Full Details

Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) Centres of Excellence (CoE)

GO ID: [GO7780](#)

Close Date & Time: 24-Sep-2025 2:00 pm (ACT Local Time)

Agency: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Primary Category: Health Promotion and Prevention Programs

Description: The 2025-26 Budget allocated funds to establish 8 LARC CoEs to provide LARC services to individuals and accredited LARC ...

Full Details

# Set up and manage your Notification Settings

You can edit your Notification Settings on GrantConnect by logging in using your email address and password. Once logged in, select the arrow on the right of your login details then press the 'Edit Profile' link.

After editing your profile, select the 'Save' button to confirm the changes made.



## Notification Hot Tips

- Enabling notifications within GrantConnect will ensure you receive notifications of new Grant Opportunities.
- Notification settings in GrantConnect are edited in your main Registered User profile.

# Sector

- Internal (University)
  - School, Faculty, internal teams or centrally from Research Portfolio.
  - Check newsletters
  - Monash-Warwick Alliance
- Industry
  - Gilead Sciences, ViiV, Roche, etc...
- Philanthropy
  - John F Marriott for HIV Trust ([PrEP STAT](#))
  - Glendonbrook Foundation (\$5 M for anal cancer research)

# Location

- Australia
- International

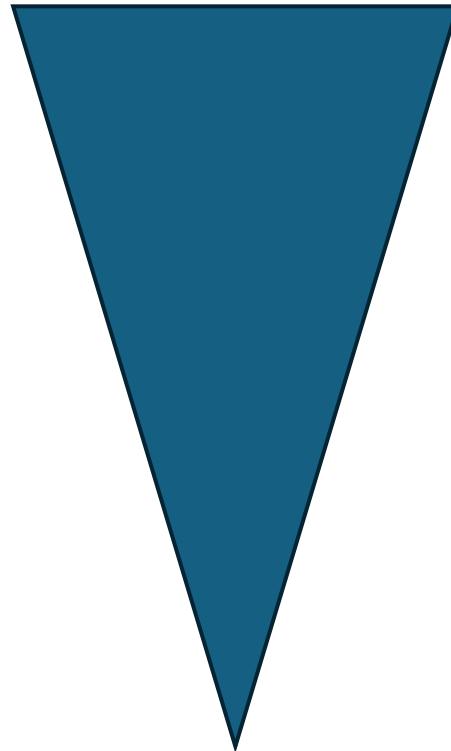
# Location

- Australia
  - As described above
  - Can also support international projects
- International
  - US NIH ([Nigeria HIVST / cervical cancer prevention](#))
  - UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
  - Wellcome Trust
  - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
  - Check eligibility (lead application or is part of sub-award/consultancy)

# Scale

- Seed
- Project
- Program
- Centre

Highly relevant for ECRs  
– actively pursue these!



Less relevant for ECRs  
but stay involved... (AI, co-applicant)

# Scale

- Seed
  - Kick-start new research idea in view of subsequent application for project funding
  - Small-scale preliminary work (PrEP STAT – PhD student as co-applicant – on CV!)
- Project
  - Single focus/objective e.g. ending HIV transmission

# Scale

- Program
  - Series of projects around a well-defined topic/issue
  - More typical of senior researchers **but plenty of opportunities for ECRs**
  - **E-Asia multi country grant**
- Centres
  - Series of exemplar projects, fund collaborations between teams and organisations
  - Centre of Research Excellence (**NEIS, STRIDE**)
    - **Focus on ECRs** – join ECR newsletter to funding rounds/supports for ECRs (travel/conference grants)

# PhD scholarships, ECR-focused grants

- NEIS CRE
  - Control of *Neisseria meningitidis* and *N. gonorrhoeae*
- STRIDE CRE
  - Economics of control of infectious diseases
- RAPID CRE
  - Molecular testing
- AMR Hub
  - Antimicrobial resistance

# Top tips for ECRs

- Funding for ECRs can come from a variety of places with different scales and for different intended purposes
- Check websites regularly (sign up for alerts where you can)
  - ECR newsletters
  - CRE ECR newsletters
- Prioritise time for grantsmanship

# Top tips for ECRs

- Regularly submit applications
  - Be ready for opportunities!
  - Have something in each “bucket”



# Community and consumer engagement

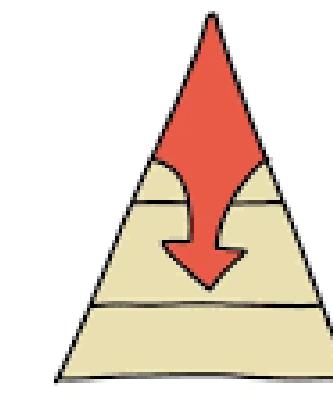
# My research focus

- HIV among marginalized populations
- Community/consumer engagement is at the heart of my research / services I provide via MSHC

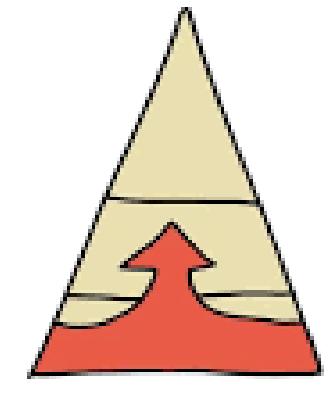


# Involve community from beginning

- Crowdsourcing / Designations / Discrete choice experiments
- Examples:
  - Ending HIV network (Victoria)
    - Community members / Researchers / CBOs / Clinicians
    - “StudyWell” website
    - PrEP STAT



top-down



bottom-up

Community, Consumers

# Starting with community

- Great ideas
  - Hot Peach Tea audio drama
  - PrEP STAT Love pack



# Intervention:

## The community-based audio drama— Hot Peach Tea

- A 3-day designathon at the Alfred Centre, Melbourne, Australia in April 2023
- 8 teams | 30 participants



# Intervention:

## The community-based audio drama— Hot Peach Tea



**BRAINSTORMING**  
with people from  
different backgrounds



**MENTORING**  
get to learn from experts



**NETWORKING**  
connect to people who has  
similar interest

# Intervention:

The community-based audio drama—  
Hot Peach Tea



Further developed by the winning team, researchers, community members and professional scriptwriters between July 2023 and March 2024

Refined through three focus groups

## Intervention:

The community-based audio drama—  
Hot Peach Tea

- Six podcast-style episodes in English.

Written by

- Asian-born MSM living in Australia
- Professional scriptwriters

Reviewed by

- community members
- research team

# Intervention:

The community-based audio drama—  
Hot Peach Tea



‘PrEP is for everyone, being on PrEP doesn’t mean saying goodbye to your culture’

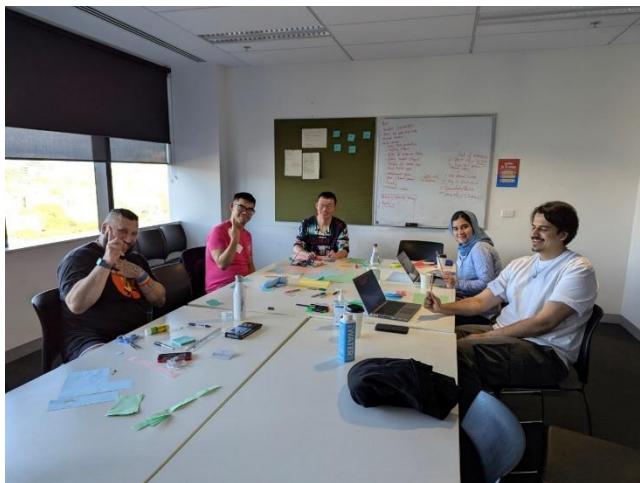
# Using Online Media to Increase the Awareness and Uptake of Preexposure Prophylaxis for HIV Among Asian-Born Men Who Have Sex With Men Living in Australia: An Open-Label Randomized Controlled Trial

Warittha Tieosapjaroen,<sup>1,2,✉</sup> Tiffany R. Phillips,<sup>1,2,✉</sup> Eric P.F. Chow,<sup>1,2,3,✉</sup> Christopher K. Fairley,<sup>1,2</sup> Satrio Nindyo Istiko,<sup>4,5,6</sup> Jason Wu,<sup>2,7</sup> James Tapa,<sup>1</sup> Limin Mao,<sup>8,✉</sup> Lei Zhang,<sup>1,2,✉</sup> David Wang,<sup>9</sup> Budiadi Sudarto,<sup>1,✉</sup> and Jason J. Ong<sup>1,2,10,✉</sup>



# PrEP STAT Love Pack

- Participants: overseas born MSM, graphic designers, researchers, clinicians
- 4 teams of 5 members

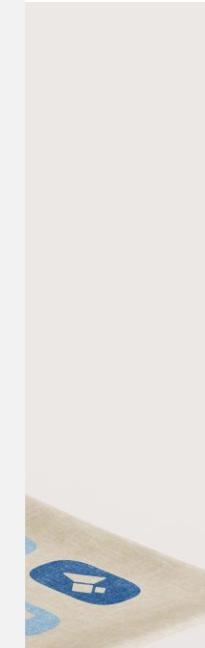


# PrEP STAT Pack: Love Kit

Love Yourself



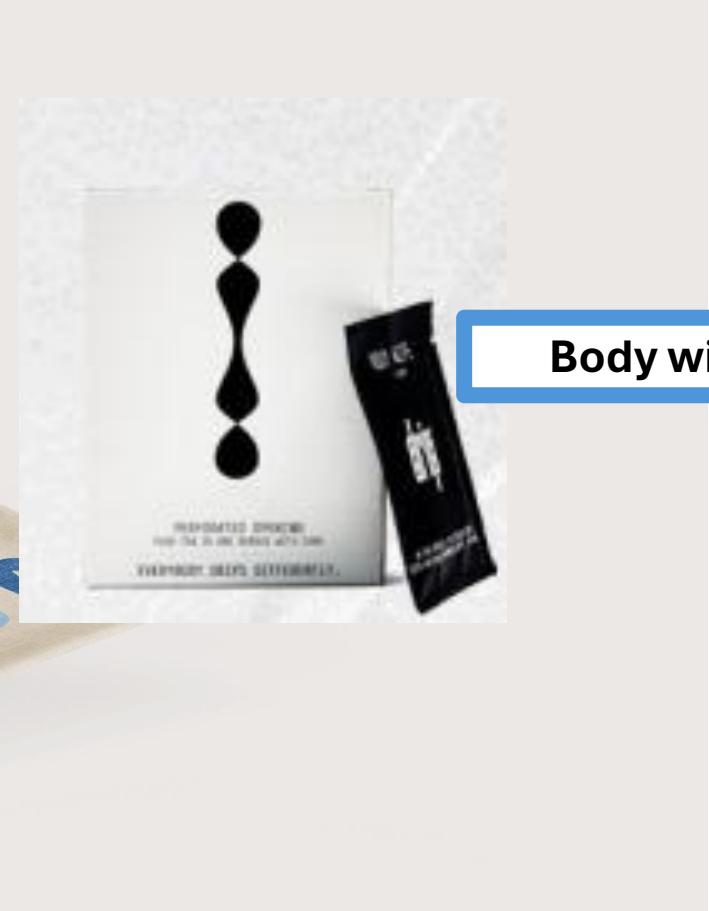
Feel Loved



Share Love

# INTERVENTION

Love Yourself

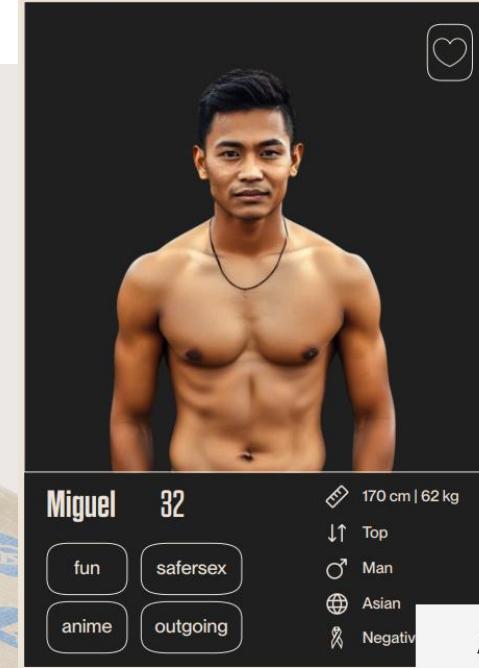


# INTERVENTION

Feel Loved



Love card to the  
pay-it-forward  
e-hub



Nudge message

# INTERVENTION

Share Love





# Conclusion

- Keep community engaged throughout
  - Generating ideas – *what do you need?*
  - Developing ideas – *how do you want it?*
  - Implementing ideas – *let's do it together!*





Thank you

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