



The Hon. Greg Hunt MP

Minister for Health

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service and Cabinet

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$3 MILLION TO BOOST THE NATIONAL COORDINATED CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

The Australian Government will provide a further \$3 million to support frontline health workers with training and information which will support the treatment of patients with coronavirus.

\$1 million in funding from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) will transform the treatment and management of patients with severe coronavirus, delivering better patient outcomes.

The CovED initiative involves using artificial intelligence to support frontline health workers using CT scans to quickly and more accurately diagnose the severity of coronavirus in patients who are having difficulty breathing.

This project will be delivered through a consortium led by DetectED-X (a University of Sydney start-up) and the coronavirus Image Biobank, with support from iCoreLab and a large consortium of University of Sydney and clinical experts.

The new web-based technology will allow clinicians to rapidly upgrade their skills in diagnosing and managing patients with severe coronavirus through CT scans.

\$2 million in funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) will be provided to the Australian Partnership for Preparedness Research on Infectious Disease Emergencies (APPRISE), to understand the prevalence, improve diagnostic tests and develop innovative tools that limit transmission of coronavirus.

This funding will help multidisciplinary teams of researchers across the country address critical areas of research need, and ensure maximum benefit for the Australian public including:

- Fast tracked clinical and public health studies that will inform the national health response to coronavirus.

- Rapidly develop responses to address coronavirus in key populations, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people in aged care.

The research will have a significant impact on the health outcomes of vulnerable Australians.

The funding announced today builds on investments of more than \$36 million by the Australian Government for fast tracked coronavirus research, as part of the \$2.4 billion COVID-19 National Health Plan announced by the Prime Minister on 11 March 2020.

For more information visit www.health.gov.au/mrff or <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>

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