

Govt launches \$15 M grant for development of innovative therapies for mental illness

17 March 2021 | News

To combat resistant illnesses such as PTSD, major depressive disorder, addiction disorders and eating disorders



The Australian government is launching a \$15 million competitive grant round to kick start Australian clinical trials exploring the use of potential breakthrough combination therapies for the treatment of debilitating mental illnesses.

There is now a strong and emerging body of international evidence that shows that substances such as ketamine, psilocybin, and 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), when used in a controlled environment and supported by psychological/psychiatric care, offer a promising new approach to effectively treating pernicious mental illnesses that are resistant to first-line treatments.

Several have been granted 'Breakthrough Therapy' status for treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and major depressive disorder by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The Government's \$15 million Innovative Therapies for Mental Illness Grant Opportunity under the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) will accelerate global efforts by supporting Australian-led research into the use of these approaches to combat resistant illnesses such as PTSD, major depressive disorder, addiction disorders and eating disorders that are impacting the lives of so many Australians.

Minister for Health and Aged Care, Greg Hunt, said the Government's MRFF is helping ensure that Australia's medical research sector remains at the forefront of global innovation.