

# GUIDELINES

## mRNA Victoria Activation Program (mAP)

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## 1 Program Summary

### 1.1 Overview

The mRNA Victoria Activation Program (mAP) (“the Program”) is being launched by mRNA Victoria, a business unit within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (mRNA Victoria) as part of the Victorian Government’s \$50 million investment to grow mRNA capability in Victoria. The program is designed to capitalise on Victoria’s comparative advantages in research, manufacturing and enabling technology to grow Victoria’s RNA ecosystem to be a global leader.

The Program is seeking to support strong ideas that will grow Victoria’s capability in RNA research and development and manufacturing to create a viable and self-sustaining end-to-end ecosystem for producing world-leading RNA-based medical products. The Program aims to grow a collaborative ecosystem that leverages cutting edge technology, ideas, and processes to develop solutions for future problems to be faced by Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and the world with the most efficient and optimised approach.

mRNA Victoria and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) will administer the Program, which will be delivered across two rounds, each consisting of an expression of interest stage (EOI Stage) and full due diligence assessment stage (Full Application Assessment Stage):

- Round One – will open 10 December 2021 and close 19 January 2022.
- Round Two – is anticipated to open in April 2022, see section 6.2 for indicative timeline.

Applicants who are successfully awarded funding in Round One will still be eligible to apply to Round Two, noting that funding will not be considered for proposals that seek to duplicate projects that have already received funding.

### 1.2 Program Objectives

The Program aims to support the development of novel products, processes or services that address an area of need for developing an RNA ecosystem that supports commercialisation and a strong pipeline of RNA therapeutic candidates.

The Program will support projects across the two streams described in Table 1.

Table 1: Stream descriptions

Stream	Description	Priority themes
<b>Accelerating Translation Stream</b>	Projects focused on building foundational capabilities that enable the acceleration of early-stage discoveries through to viable and effective products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Software tools (e.g. in silico product design, enhancing mRNA sequence design to optimise stability, translatability and immunogenicity, manufacturing simulations)</li> <li>• Next generation manufacturing of RNA (e.g. innovations in synthesis efficiency, quality/purity, mRNA stability, translation efficiency and immunogenicity, modular and continuous flow approaches, transportable manufacturing capabilities)</li> <li>• Safety testing (e.g. immunology)</li> <li>• Enhanced/alternative mRNA delivery (e.g. novel lipids, route of delivery and tissue targeting)</li> </ul>
<b>Support the Pipeline Stream</b>	Projects that progress development of novel, or enhance existing, RNA-based therapeutics, vaccines, or tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling dose reduction (self-amplifying or alternative processes)</li> <li>• RNA Pandemic preparedness (COVID)</li> <li>• Other RNA-based therapeutic candidates</li> </ul>

### 1.3 Program Outcomes

The Program will foster growth of a Victorian RNA ecosystem that is collaborative, globally renown for high quality therapeutic research and enabling technology and able to play a leading role in the Asia-Pacific region of pandemic preparedness and future pandemic prevention.

Stream specific outcomes:

- **Accelerating Translation Stream**

The Accelerating Translation Stream will advance Victoria's RNA discovery and manufacturing capability by developing enabling technology and processes that will:

- Improve cost efficiency of RNA production
- Accelerate or optimise early-stage discovery and development processes
- Improve manufacturing outputs (quality, yield, safety, etc)
- Provide new flexible manufacturing approaches to address the future needs of the Asia-Pacific region
- Address supply chain shortages
- Provide new delivery technology to improve dissemination of therapeutics and vaccines across the Asia-Pacific region

- **Support the Pipeline Stream**

The Support the Pipeline Stream will build Victoria's reputation as a global-leader in RNA medical products, will grow a diverse pipeline of candidates that will utilise Victoria's manufacturing capability and will contribute to improved health outcomes for Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and the world by delivering:

- Novel candidates to address future needs for fighting the COVID pandemic
- A range of RNA-based therapeutic candidates to provide a diverse pipeline to drive growth of a viable ecosystem
- New Australian IP to enable dose reduction
- Specific therapeutic candidates and approaches that will enable Victoria to become a leader in emerging diseases and future pandemic prevention relevant to the Asia-Pacific region.

Growing an emerging RNA ecosystem requires an investment in long-term capability and skills, so projects led by or collaborating with early to mid-career researchers will be highly regarded.

#### 1.4 Promoting Gender Equality

Under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* (VIC), DJPR has a duty to promote gender equality and this Program seeks to promote gender equality by encouraging the participation and inclusion of women in Applicant project teams.

This Program allocates a proportion of the EOI Submission Assessment Criteria weighting in favour of Applicants with project teams who include at least 50% members who identify as women or are led by a person who identifies as a woman as Chief Investigator (CI).

#### 1.5 Longer-term outcomes

Over the longer-term the intended outcomes of the Program are:

- Increased capability, knowledge, and expertise across the Victorian RNA ecosystem across both industry and academia
- Victoria's reputation as a world leader in RNA medical products research is bolstered
- Increased attractiveness of Victorian RNA medical products research to investors
- A world-leading manufacturing and enabling technology capability in Victoria that attracts international pharmaceutical companies
- Victoria plays a leading role in the Asia-Pacific region for emerging diseases and future pandemic preparedness
- A stronger RNA medical products research sector supports growth of the broader RNA and medical research ecosystem.

## 2 Funding

### 2.1 Project Funding

The Program encourages Applicants with bold ideas that will significantly contribute to growing the RNA ecosystem and requests that Applicants provide a realistic indication of the level of funding and time required to achieve these outcomes for their project.

### 2.2 Co-contributions

The Program doesn't require a co-contribution from Applicants, however in order to better leverage government funding and provide value for money, projects with an applicant co-contribution will be highly regarded.

### 3 Eligibility Criteria

#### 3.1 Eligible Applicants

Applicant organisations must meet the following criteria, as assessed by DJPR, to be eligible:

- Hold an active Australian Business Number (ABN);
- Be one of the following entity types;
  - a company incorporated pursuant to the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) and registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission; or
  - an incorporated association incorporated pursuant to the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (VIC) or equivalent legislation of another Australian jurisdiction;
  - an education body (including universities) established by statute; or
  - other incorporated entity approved by DJPR.

Applicants must attest that:

- the project activities will predominately be led from and conducted in Victoria; and
- they will participate in future program evaluation activities.

#### 3.2 Ineligible Applicants

The following are not eligible to apply for the Program:

- a Commonwealth department, agency or body;
- a State department, agency, entity or other body established under the *Public Administration Act 2004* (VIC) or equivalent legislation of another Australian jurisdiction;
- unincorporated associations;
- partnerships; or
- individuals/sole traders.

### 4 Collaborations

Collaborations are not mandatory for the Program but will be highly regarded.

Applicants with collaborative arrangements should identify at the EOI Stage how the organisations will work together to maximise research impact, innovation, and overall quality of research, and how this will lead to effective translation and/or commercialisation of research.

Overseas or inter-state based project partners will be accepted, as long as the majority of the project budget will be spent on project activities undertaken in Victoria and the attestation required at section 3.1 is completed.

If relevant, mRNA Victoria may seek to curate projects by partnering applicants with complimentary projects and skills, based on the applications received.

### 5 Project Eligibility

#### 5.1 General Project Eligibility

Projects should address a capability or therapeutic gap, or seek to improve existing processes to strive towards developing a world-leading collaborative RNA ecosystem in Victoria that has a strong

pipeline of therapeutic candidates able to be rapidly translated and commercialised into viable treatments to address the current and emerging health needs of the Asia-Pacific region.

- Projects submitted under the Accelerating Translation Stream should:
  - be focused on developing enabling capabilities that will have broad-based benefit to the RNA ecosystem through developing novel processes, services or technologies that will improve the manufacturing efficiency, quality, safety or delivery of RNA therapeutics and vaccines; and
  - ensure appropriate access arrangements are provided for other research and industry users to ensure broad-based benefits are delivered to grow the RNA ecosystem (i.e. through commercial or collaborative arrangements).
- Projects submitted under the Support the Pipeline Stream should be focused on developing the next generation of RNA-based medical products to grow Victoria's reputation as a global-leader in pharmaceutical research and development.
  - Medical products of interest could include (but are not limited to) vaccines, cancer therapeutics including cell therapies, treatments for rare-diseases and treatments for priority diseases in the Asia-Pacific region.
  - RNA-based modalities of interest could include (but are not limited to) mRNA, siRNA, saRNA, microRNA, CRISPR-Cas9 gRNA etc.

The Program will support projects across all stages of the research and development and commercialisation lifecycle including early-stage research, screening and prototyping, translation and clinical research and commercialisation.

Funding will not be considered for proposals that seek to duplicate existing services or capability.

Projects granted funding under the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund or the mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund will not be eligible projects under this Program.

In addition to the eligibility requirements, projects that include one or more of the following will be highly regarded:

- The lead proponent or one of the project collaborators is an early to mid-career researcher
- A specific focus on emerging diseases in the Asia-Pacific region or technology that will enable rapid response to emerging diseases and future pandemics in the Asia-Pacific region.

Projects selected for funding will be at the sole discretion of mRNA Victoria.

## 5.2 Eligible Project Expenses

Eligible expenditure items are:

- Staffing costs that relate directly to time spent undertaking the project activities
- Professional services such as project management, legal services, business planning and evaluation required for the project and are not listed as an ineligible expense in section 5.3
- Equipment and machinery required for the project activity outlined in the EOI Submission that is not listed as an ineligible expense in section 5.3.
- Consumables related to the project activity outlined in the EOI Submission
- Refurbishment or expansion of existing facilities and reasonable fitout costs where these costs are required to undertake the project

- Regulatory and Intellectual Property fees and charges associated with registering domestic or international patents or other intellectual property enforcement expenses
- Access costs to facilities and equipment, including lease or hire that are not part of usual operational expenditure
- Any other project related costs mRNA Victoria determines to be eligible.

### 5.3 Ineligible Activities/Expenses

Any form of support provided by this Program cannot be allocated to expenditure on:

- Usual operational expenditure, including staff costs for time spent on other projects, communications, travel, entertainment, vehicles, accommodation, and office computing equipment
- Routine replacement or minor upgrade of plant and equipment
- Printing, stationery, postage, and bank charges
- Basic and routine professional services including legal and accounting fees
- Any amount paid on account of goods and services tax
- Costs related to preparing this application, preparing any project reports and preparing any project variation requests
- Building routine websites, sales and promotional activities, marketing or communications campaigns
- Costs related to obtaining resources used on the project, including job advertising and recruiting, and contract negotiations
- Retrospective funding for activities that have already begun
- Any other expenditure as determined by mRNA Victoria in its sole and absolute discretion

At the EOI Stage, Applicants will need to provide an estimated project budget and funding request amount.

Applicants invited to progress to the Full Application Assessment Stage will be required to submit a complete application including a detailed project budget, detailing how funds provided by this Program will be spent. Only the funds provided by this Program need to meet the eligible expenditure criteria outlined in section 5.2.

Where the eligibility of an expense included in the project budget is ambiguous, mRNA Victoria may seek further information from an applicant.

### 5.4 Project Timeline

Projects supported by the Program must commence following the execution of a binding funding agreement by the Applicant and DJPR or otherwise within a timeframe specified by DJPR.

At the EOI Stage, Applicants will need to provide estimated start and end dates for the project.

Applicants that are invited to submit a full application as part of the Full Application Assessment Stage will be required to provide a full project timeline describing key project milestones.

## 6 Application process

### 6.1 How to apply

Applicants must undertake the following steps to apply:

1. Carefully read these Program Guidelines and ensure they meet eligibility requirements.
2. Submit an expression of interest by completing the expression of interest form provided online via mRNA Victoria's website (EOI Submission).
3. Await email confirmation of your EOI Submission. Please check spam/junk mail if confirmation email cannot be seen in your inbox.
4. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their EOI Submission. This will either be notification of an unsuccessful outcome, or an invitation to progress to the Full Application Assessment Stage and submit a full application to the Program for funding consideration (Application). The invitation to submit a full application email will include a link to the Applicant's Application form, prefilled with information from their EOI Submission.
5. Applicants receiving an invitation to progress and submit an Application will have four weeks from the date of the invitation to submit the Application.
6. Applicants whose projects are recommended for funding will be contacted by mRNA Victoria for negotiation of a binding funding agreement. Applicants whose projects are not recommended for funding will be notified by email.

## 6.2 Timeline

Applications must be submitted in the Business Victoria portal by 11:59pm on the closing date for the relevant round. Please note late Applications will not be accepted.

Round One will open for EOI Submissions on 10 December 2021 and will close on 19 January 2022.

Round Two is anticipated to open for EOI Submissions in April 2022 and will close approximately 4 weeks after the opening date.

To assist applicants, mRNA Victoria is targeting the following indicative timeline for assessment of applications:

<b>Assessment of EOI Submission and notification of outcomes</b>	6 weeks from closing date of relevant round
<b>Applications due (for applicants invited to apply only)</b>	4 weeks from receiving invitation to apply
<b>Applications assessed and applicants notified of outcomes</b>	6 weeks from submitting full application

The above indicative dates and time frames for Round One, Round Two and the timeline for assessment are subject to change at the sole discretion of DJPR. Applicants are not to rely on these indicative timelines and DJPR accepts no liability in relation to any consequences attributable to reliance on this timeline.

## 6.3 Assessment Process

This will be a competitive funding process. Applicants are required to submit an EOI Submission for their project and this project will then be assessed based on merit, value for money and its likely ability to contribute to the Program objectives as detailed in the assessment criteria below. mRNA Victoria is looking to support high quality projects that will contribute to mRNA Victoria's vision for a future world-leading RNA ecosystem in Victoria.

EOI Submissions that rate highly against the EOI Submission Assessment Criteria will be invited to progress to the Full Application Assessment Stage and submit a full application for their project.



Section 6.5 sets out the requirements for information included in Applications submitted at the Full Application Assessment Stage, to enable a full due diligence assessment of the project.

Where required, Applicants will also be subject to a risk assessment which verifies business details provided with the Australian Business Register, Australian Securities and Investment Commission, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissioner, Consumer Affairs Victoria and/or other applicable regulator.

#### 6.4 EOI Submission Assessment Criteria

This is a competitive program and successful EOI Submissions will be required to rate highly against the Program's EOI Submission Assessment Criteria compared to EOI Submissions from other eligible Applicants.

	Assessment Criteria	Description	Weighting
1	Describe the project and how the project aims and outcomes align with the Program objectives at section 1.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the expected outcomes of the project and how it will address the Program objectives and outcomes aligned to the stream for which you are applying.</li> <li>Identify project collaborations or potential opportunities for developing new collaborations.</li> <li>Highlight if relevant, any involvement of early to mid-career researchers in the project.</li> <li>Highlight any role your project or future project outcomes will contribute to establishing Victoria as a leader in Asia-Pacific infectious diseases and future pandemic prevention.</li> </ul>	30%
2	Describe the value of the expected project outcomes for Victoria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how the project will deliver an economic gain to Victoria by creating jobs, enhancing the competitiveness of the mRNA sector or by contributing to broader social or health outcomes.</li> <li>Where applicable, identify how the proposed project will leverage other funding sources (including in-kind contributions) to maximise the value to Victoria.</li> <li>Identify any education, training or knowledge sharing opportunities that the project will provide.</li> <li>Describe the potential next steps for the project output and the commercial potential of the project outputs.</li> </ul>	25%

3	Demonstrated capability of the project delivery team and feasibility of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe and evidence the experience of the project team to undertake the project and deliver it within the proposed timeframe.</li> <li>Describe the infrastructure, technology and Intellectual Property that your team are able to leverage to undertake the project.</li> <li>Describe any key dependencies that need to be met/available to ensure success of the project.</li> <li>Describe how Victorian Government support will support the project in terms of scale and timing.</li> <li>Demonstrate why Government support is necessary for stated outcomes being realised, including outlining other funding options that have been pursued.</li> </ul>	25%
4	Novelty of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly identify what makes your project novel or unique within the broader Victorian RNA ecosystem.</li> <li>Where applicable, describe how your project will complement, but not duplicate or replicate, existing work that you may be aware of.</li> </ul>	15%
5	Promotion of gender equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant demonstrates that at the time of project commencement the project team will consist of at least 50% members who identify as women.</li> </ul>	2.5%
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant's project is led by a Chief Investigator who identifies as a woman.</li> </ul>	2.5%

### 6.5 Full Application Assessment Stage

Applicants invited to progress to the Full Application Assessment Stage will be required to submit an Application that includes all project details (as set out in the table in this section 6.5) to enable a full due diligence assessment of the project. Information already provided during through the EOI Stage will also be taken into account, Applicants will not need to resubmit this information unless the details of the project have changed substantially since the EOI Submission.

Requirement	Details
<b>Project Plan</b>	<p>Project plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief project description and current status</li> <li>Project timeline and milestones</li> <li>Evidence of sufficient internal resources to allocate to the project and a strong project governance plan</li> <li>The role of any project partners in project execution</li> <li>Any project risks and mitigation strategies</li> <li>Detailed project budget</li> <li>Quotations, including Scopes of Services for any significant third-party service provider and/or supplier costs</li> <li>An IP plan detailed ownership of background IP, ownership and access to project IP, freedom to operate positions and any relevant potential patent positions</li> </ul>

<b>Evidence of Co-contribution Funds (if relevant)</b>	<p>If proposing to provide a co-contribution of funds to the project, applicants must provide evidence which demonstrates, to the satisfaction of mRNA Victoria, that the Applicant has sufficient funds available for the required co-contribution amount for the project. This may include evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written confirmation from the Applicant's board of directors or members/shareholders that the Applicant can undertake the project and meet the required co-contribution amount</li> <li>• An approved loan facility (including loan amount)</li> <li>• Sufficient cash in a bank (current bank statement)</li> <li>• Management accounts demonstrating satisfactory cash flow or liquid assets</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Records</b>	<p>Applicants must provide evidence which demonstrates, to the satisfaction of mRNA Victoria, that the Applicant is financially viable and able to deliver the project and its outcomes. This requires at a minimum, the provision of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audited Financial Reports from the last three years (including Profit &amp; Loss, Balance Sheet, Cash Flows, and notes to the accounts). If accounts are not audited, unaudited accounts from an Accountant will be accepted.</li> <li>• Up to date management or interim accounts for the current year, if the most recent Financial Report is more than six months old. Also, in the case of public listed corporations, a half yearly financial report.</li> </ul> <p>Applicants who were incorporated within the last three financial years are still eligible to apply and must provide as many financial records as relevant since the Applicant's date of incorporation.</p>
<b>Evidence of Collaborative Arrangement</b>	<p>Applicants with collaborative partners must provide evidence of the agreed collaborative arrangement for this research project. Applicants should state how the collaborative arrangement will enhance the quality of the research, and how it may enhance the translatability of the research into health and economic outcomes. The leading organisation should be clearly noted.</p>

## 6.6 Due Diligence Assessments

Where required, Applicants are subject to a risk assessment which verifies business details provided with the Australian Business Register, Australian Securities and Investment Commission, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissioner, Consumer Affairs Victoria and/or other applicable regulator.

Any of the following circumstances may be taken into consideration in any decision whether to award funding:

- Any adverse findings by a regulator regarding an Applicant;
- An Applicant is placed under external or voluntary administration.
- There is a petition to wind up or deregister the Applicant;
- The Applicant is or becomes deregistered or unregistered (including cancellation or lapse in registration).

mRNA Victoria will undertake a financial assessment of the Applicant to assess the ability of the Applicant to deliver the proposed project. Outcomes from the financial assessment may be taken into consideration in any decision to recommend and award funding for amounts over \$50,001.<sup>1</sup>

## 7 Conditions of Funding

### 7.1 Funding agreements

If successful, the applicant will be issued a letter of offer (Letter of Offer) inviting the Applicant to enter into a legally binding grant agreement with DJPR (Grant Agreement). The Grant Agreement details all funding obligations and conditions and will be prepared in accordance with DJPR's standard template grant agreement, of which an advance review copy will be circulated to all Applicants invited to the Full Application Assessment Stage.

Applicants will have 14 calendar days from the date of the Letter of Offer to accept the offer of funding in writing and 14 calendar days from receiving the Grant Agreement to execute the Grant Agreement with DJPR. The offer may be withdrawn if the Grant Agreement is not executed within the 14-day timeframe.

Projects to be funded by the Program must not commence until a Grant Agreement has been duly executed by DJPR and the successful Applicant.

Once the Grant Agreement has been executed, the successful applicant will be required to commence the project within the agreed timeframe. If a successful Applicant does not commence the project by the commencement date, DJPR has at its absolute discretion the option of terminating the agreement.

The Grant Agreement will outline required payment deliverable milestones the Applicant must meet. Progress reports and a final report will need to be submitted to mRNA Victoria as per the Grant Agreement.

### 7.2 Publicity/Acknowledgement

Successful Applicants must agree to cooperate with mRNA Victoria in the promotion of the Program. This may include involvement in media releases, case studies or promotional events and activities.

Successful Applicants may be required to attend a presentation ceremony and agree to be photographed for news articles or appear in videos regarding the Program.

Successful Applicants must not make any public announcement or issue any press release regarding the receipt of a grant without prior written approval from mRNA Victoria and DJPR.

mRNA Victoria may publicise the benefits accruing to the successful applicant and/or Victoria associated with the provision of the grant and Victoria's support for the Project. mRNA Victoria and DJPR may include the name of the successful applicant and/or grant amount in any publicity material and in DJPR's annual report.

mRNA Victoria may request successful applicant fact checks any text and seek approval to use any owned imagery associated with the activity prior to the publication of any such promotional materials.

Successful Applicants are required to acknowledge mRNA Victoria in any publications, public announcements, scientific meeting presentations or discussion forums, pertaining to research conducted with the assistance of funding. Signage and promotional materials must be consistent with

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<sup>1</sup> Exemptions for Financial Risk Assessments include: entities applying for a grant of up to and including \$50,000, and publicly funded universities and educational institutions.

the Guidelines for Victorian Government Advertising and Communications or as otherwise specified by mRNA Victoria and DJPR.

## 8 Compliance and Audit

### 8.1 Audit

Applicants may be subject to audit by the Victorian Government or its representatives and will be required to produce evidence of project expenses at the request of the Victorian Government for a period of four years after the grant has been approved.

### 8.2 False or misleading information

If any declarations or statements made or information provided by the applicant is found to be incomplete, inaccurate, false or misleading, the application may not be approved or any grant will be repayable on demand.

### 8.3 Verification

The applicant acknowledges that as part of the Program assessment process, evidence provided by Applicants will be subject to verification by mRNA Victoria and DJPR.

## 9 Reporting and Evaluation

As a condition of funding, successful Applicants will be required to deliver regular project reports throughout the lifecycle of the grant agreement.

Grant recipients will also be required to participate in any program monitoring and evaluation activities initiated by mRNA Victoria. This may include completing surveys throughout the program to measure progress to achieving outcomes, and for up to three years after program completion. Non-compliance could impact future applications to mRNA Victoria and DJPR programs.

Reporting is critical to mRNA Victoria in understanding program impact, supporting continuous improvement in program design and delivery, and delivering more effective grant programs to the people of Victoria.

## 10 Privacy and confidentiality

Information provided by the Applicant for the purpose of this application will be used by DJPR for the purposes of assessment of applications, program administration and program review.

In making an application, the Applicant consents to the provision of their information (including personal information) to State and Commonwealth Government departments and agencies and third-party assessors for the purpose of assessing applications. If there is an intention to include personal information about third parties in the application, please ensure they are aware of and consent to the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal information about the Applicant or a third party will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic) and other applicable laws.

Enquiries about access to personal information, or for other concerns regarding the privacy of personal information, can be emailed to DJPR's Privacy Unit by emailing [privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au). DJPR's privacy policy is also available by emailing the DJPR's Privacy Unit.

## 11 General conditions

### 11.1 Absolute discretion

Decisions on all matters pertaining to the award of funding under this Program are at the absolute discretion of mRNA Victoria, the relevant Minister or Cabinet. This includes approving a lesser amount than that applied for and amending funding conditions without notice.

### 11.2 Further information

mRNA Victoria reserves the right to request that Applicants provide further information should it be deemed necessary.

### 11.3 No right of appeal

A decision in relation to this Program is not subject to review or appeal of any kind. You will be notified if feedback on your application can be provided.

### 11.4 Disrepute

mRNA Victoria may at any time, remove an Applicant from the Program application and assessment process, if in mRNA Victoria's opinion association with the Applicant may bring mRNA Victoria, DJPR, a Minister or the State of Victoria into disrepute.

### 11.5 Amendments

mRNA Victoria reserves the right to amend these guidelines and the application terms at any time as it deems appropriate.

## 12 Tax advice

Tax implications for Applicants may differ depending on individual circumstances. mRNA Victoria recommends successful Applicants seek independent tax advice, or alternatively liaise with the Australian Tax Office (ATO) for advice that are specific to their individual circumstances. The ATO website also provides guidance in relation to specific grants payments which may be used for tax determination purposes.

## 13 GST

'Payments will be GST Inclusive'. If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a Recipient Created Tax Invoice. Grants to successful applicants not registered for GST will be made exclusive of GST.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

## 14 Further Resources

Further information regarding this Program can be found here: <https://djpr.vic.gov.au/medical-research/initiatives/mrna-victoria>

If you have any questions during the application period, please contact us or call the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15.

For email inquiries relating to this Program, contact [mrnavictoria@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:mrnavictoria@ecodev.vic.gov.au)