

Minister's Approval for Linkage Projects 2020 Round 3 for Funding Commencing in 2021 Schedule

Approved Organisation, Leader of Approved Research Program (Columns 1 and 2)	Approved Research Program (Column 3)	Estimated and Approved Expenditure (\$)			Indicative Funding (\$)		Total (\$)	Partner Organisation(s)
		2021-22 (Column 4)	2022-23 (Column 5)	2023-24 (Column 6)	2024-25* (Column 7)	2025-26* (Column 8)	(Column 9)	(Column 10)

Queensland

Queensland University of Technology

LP200301123	Making Australia resilient to airborne infection transmission	299,915.00	298,170.00	299,928.00	0.00	0.00	898,013.00	QUEENSLAND HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS, GEOSYNTEC CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL, INC, GONDWANA CHOIRS, INF ASSOCIATES, OFFICE OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, STANTEC AUSTRALIA PTY LTD, VA SCIENCES PTY LTD, WESTERN SYDNEY LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT, VISTA CONTROLS PTY LTD, ARTS QUEENSLAND
Morawska, Prof Lidia	The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that basic questions regarding how to minimise the risk of airborne infection transmission for any respiratory viruses remain unanswered, despite their frequency and huge social and economic costs. Therefore, this project aims to expand scientific knowledge and develop practical tools to improve the resilience of Australian indoor environments against airborne transmission of respiratory viruses. The outcomes of the project conducted by a multidisciplinary international team of collaborators will include: (i) quantitative knowledge on virus-laden aerosols from human expiration; and (ii) exposure and infection risk models and their application to typical indoor building and transport scenarios.							

National Interest Test Statement

The project will provide science-based solutions, tools and guidelines for engineering controls against airborne respiratory infection transmission, which will contribute to Australia's national interest in multiple ways, and in particular will result in: (i) a reduced health burden, because viral respiratory infections are a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in Australia; (ii) significant economic benefits (hundreds of millions of dollars), since the direct and indirect costs (days of work lost) from influenza alone in Australia exceeds \$100 million a year; (iii) reduced vulnerability, since without targeted research efforts, Australia will remain vulnerable to the spread of new emerging highly pathogenic viral infections, as well as to common viral infections; and (iv) generation of knowledge and findings that will be directly applicable to a broad range of potentially airborne human and zoonotic viruses. Ultimately, the research offers to increase economic prosperity and enhance human health and quality of life.

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