

Summary of NHMRC Policy for Targeted Call for Research

Introduction

An NHMRC Targeted Call for Research (TCR) is typically a one-time solicitation for grant applications addressing a defined research topic. A TCR specifies the scope and objectives of the research to be proposed, application requirements and procedures, and the review criteria to be applied in the evaluation of applications submitted in response to the TCR.

In alignment with the overarching goals of NHMRC's Strategic Plan, a TCR will stimulate or greatly advance research in a particular area of health and medical science that will benefit the health of Australians.

TCRs complement NHMRC's existing suite of funding schemes by providing a means for funding research in a way which is responsive, flexible and efficient. It should be noted that Urgent Calls for Research are a special type of TCR for which selection criteria and processes are already established.

Criteria for consideration of a TCR

The following matters are addressed in nominating a TCR topic:

1. The research will align with NHMRC Strategic Plan 2010-2012 and its four main objectives of:
 - a. To raise the standard of individual and public health throughout Australia;
 - b. To foster the development of consistent health standards;
 - c. To foster medical research training, and public health research and training;
 - d. To foster consideration of ethical issues relating to health.
2. The research cannot be met by other NHMRC funding schemes such as Project, Program, Partnership or Enabling grants. There is a need for NHMRC to take a leadership role in initiating the research and the project will be a driving force in bringing together researchers from multiple disciplines.
3. The research will address either:
 - a. A major issue relevant to improving health, through a single or small number of, substantial research project(s) using a multidisciplinary approach, (which could involve researchers from diverse sectors such as finance, policy development, government, research, clinical practice), or
 - b. An urgent matter for which research is urgently required. There may be scope within the project to collaborate internationally with health organisations, researchers and others.
4. The research will have special relevance to Australia, for example, because of the nature of the Australian health care system, or socioeconomic conditions, or special research capacity or opportunity.
5. Undertaking this research is likely to build upon Australia's health and medical research capacity in this area to ensure international leadership in cutting edge research.

Targeted Call for Research Priority Area Development and Assessment Process

