NHMRC RAO Seminar 2014
Research Administration
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Recent Changes

• Variations in blocks of 1 month
• All variations through RGMS (where grant is in RGMS). No start day lists
• No collection and forwarding of transfer funds. Relinquishing institution’s unused funds to be agreed and transferred directly to new institution
• One Commencement Date on Schedules
Upcoming changes

• Final reporting is changing. The first element is the CV this will allow all publications to be linked to the grant ID and the second element will be short summary of the research outcomes. This will be the form used for reports due 30 June 2015

• No progress, midterm or scholarship supervisor reports. All milestones for these reports will be removed

• Variation applications will be used to track progress

• Variations policy will be published, with guidance material and FAQ
Upcoming changes (continued)

• Generally a firmer position on variations, that is not changing the fundamentals that were peer reviewed

• Use the NHMRC web site to notify of changes to administrative arrangements.

• NHMRC will notify in Tracker with a link to the details about any changes to administrative processes. This will mean that AIs will not have unexpected changes.

• As a general rule a minimum of 3 months’ notice before implementation of changes
Proposed changes anticipated to be implemented at start of 2016

- Schedule will include a certification that AI will have Institutional Approvals (IAs) in place as and when required. This will replace the need to submit ethics approvals to NHMRC. AI may need to change internal processes to ensure that person with the RGMS license has the authority to sign off on the schedule and give this assurance.

- Online execution of schedules. AI may need to change internal processes to ensure that person with the RGMS license has the authority to sign off on the schedule as this commits the AI to the requirements of the Funding Agreement.
Possible changes to the Funding Agreement – additional consultation may be required

• AI or PI to have a written binding agreement with CIA (this is currently in the Administering Institutions Policy so is not a new requirement)

• Allow for additional payment to be made

• Use the website as primary source of information

• Broaden the definition of Probity Event- change to Notifiable Issue
Other matters

• When the employment arrangements of a Fellow or Scholar change, please notify NHMRC especially if the Fellow/Scholar is not based in Australia and should be or if they wish to seek approval to extend their overseas engagement

• RAOs to advise finance officers of any changes that will impact payments- this avoids the finance officers contacting NHMRC

• Institutions asked to remind researchers not to phone or email NHMRC. RAO is the first contact

• If grant is accepted it is expected that the Research Activity will be supported by the AI for the life of the grant

• When a grant transfers AIs the CIA/ fellow/scholar should confirm the transfer value of funds

• Delayed ethics approvals are ONLY approved where
  – The approval is not needed at the start of the grant activity
  – There is information that is essential for the ethics committee to have available in order to consider the ethics clearance. This is the only activity allowed in the delayed ethics period.