



Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council

Description of Types of Research Grants For funding Commencing In 2005

Revised December 2003

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Online ISBN 1864961201

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The strategic intent of the NHMRC is to work with others for the health of all Australians, by promoting informed debate on ethics and policy, providing knowledge based advice, fostering a high quality and internationally recognised research base, and applying research rigour to health issues.

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NHMRC Funding of Health and Medical Research

This document provides brief summary information on funding schemes offered by the National Health and Medical Research Council, for application in 2004. Funding will normally commence in 2005.

The timetable and procedures relating to the funding schemes offered is available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research/general/gaznotce.htm>

Background

The National Health and Medical Research Council is established under the *National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992*.

One of its functions is to advise the Minister for Health and Ageing on the allocation of Commonwealth funding for health and medical research.

This funding is appropriated by Parliament each year, primarily to the Medical Research Endowment Reserve (the Reserve), for the support of health and medical research across all areas of research. Benefactors who wish to support Australian Health and Medical Research also provide funds to the Reserve.

NHMRC funds research on the basis of scientific excellence through competitive peer review mechanisms. It encourages applications in research areas and disciplines from biomedical research to clinical, health services and public health research.

Applications for NHMRC funding are made through eligible institutions, which are registered as Administering Institutions. Applicants should take note of the eligibility criteria for funding schemes of interest. Applications for funding must be based on the relevant Funding Policy, Guidelines and Advice or Instructions to Applicants, and submitted in the prescribed format. These documents are available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/index.htm>

Further information may also be obtained from:

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Project Grants

Full details are available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/projects.htm>

A Project Grant is a funding agreement with an eligible Australian institution to enable an individual researcher or a group of researchers to undertake a scientific investigation.

The Project Grant Scheme is the NHMRC's main avenue of support for individuals and small teams of researchers undertaking biomedical, clinical, public health or health services research in Australian universities, medical schools, hospitals or other research institutions.

While a Project Grant specifies financial support for individual researchers working on a specified topic, the institution is responsible for administration of the award and accepts responsibility for the financial management of the grant. The institution is also responsible for providing basic infrastructure support to those involved in the research project.

A further research question may arise as a result of the successful completion of a Project Grant. This will require a new application for an NHMRC Project Grant and that application will be peer reviewed and considered with all other applications submitted in that application year.

On average 25% of applicants each year are successful in obtaining a grant through this scheme.

Advertisements inviting applications for Project Grant support appear in the press and by electronic notification to Australian research institutions in December each year. The closing date for receipt of applications is **27 February 2004**.

The types of Project Grants available are described below.

Standard Project Grants

Project Grants may be of one to five years' duration, but anything in excess of three years requires separate justification. If requesting in excess of \$300,000 in any one-year or a total budget in excess of \$750,000 separate justification must be provided.

NOTE: Applications for funding from the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) are no longer sought through the NHMRC Project Grant Funding Scheme.

New Investigator Grants

New Investigator Grants are aimed at providing an avenue for less experienced researchers to access NHMRC Project Grant funding.

Those eligible to apply for a New Investigator Grant include (but are not restricted to) holders of NHMRC Career Development Awards and those returning to the workforce or returning from overseas, who:

- are not named as a Chief Investigator on a previously supported NHMRC Project Grant; and
- have not received competitive research funding greater than \$40,000 from another source as a Chief Investigator or equivalent. (Excluding funding from the institution at which the researcher is previously or currently employed).

Applications requesting funding as a New Investigator must be justified.

Development Grants

Full details are available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research/develop.htm>

The NHMRC Development Grants Scheme aims to:

- Support the development of health or medical research that has commercial potential and which has the potential to benefit the Australian community; and
- Provide funding for research commercialisation at the early proof-of-concept stage.

The scheme endeavours to bridge the funding gap between the end of a high quality basic research program and the developments required to make the project commercially attractive to potential investors. Development Grants provide funding for research commercialisation at the early proof-of-concept stage, and while commercial partners, are encouraged, it is not a requirement that applicants have a commercial partner in place.

The scheme is not intended to be an alternative to the NHMRC Project Grant scheme, and is not meant to be an alternative to industry development schemes.

Development Grants are designed to support development work undertaken in a human health related field, for example, diagnostics, medical devices or pharmaceutical product development, biotechnology, bioinformatics and biomaterials.

Funding is normally awarded for a period of one year. Funding may be provided for a maximum period of three years, subject to satisfactory achievement against agreed milestones.

The grant request will usually not exceed \$200,000 per annum. Applicants are required to provide a detailed budget to justify their funding request.

The proposed research must demonstrate commercial potential, such as a new therapeutic or diagnostic product or technique, a working prototype of a piece of medical equipment, or a formulation of a chemical compound.

Applications must demonstrate a basic understanding of the process and steps required to move from research to outcomes that can be commercialised, including:

- the process and steps to a market, the nature of the market;
- the milestones and risks of the venture; and,
- an understanding of possible means of handling intellectual property connected with the project.

Applications open twice a year, Round 2 of 2003 closed in October 2003 and results will be announced in May 2004. Round 1 of 2004 will open 1 May 2004 and close 2 July 2004, with the results to be announced in December 2004.

Program Grants

Full details are available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/programs.htm>

NHMRC Program Grants provide support for **teams of researchers**, to pursue **broadly based collaborative research activity**. The support provided for successful applicants is for the research **team**, to support the team's broad research theme. The team will be expected to:

- contribute new knowledge at a leading international level in important areas of health and medical research;
- develop novel ideas and approaches;
- tackle problems for which longer term stable funding is essential;
- develop training and career development opportunities within the team; and
- facilitate collaborative use of specialised facilities or expertise.

Potential applicants are advised that there is a high level of competition for the Program Grant Funding, and successful applicant teams have a very high record of achievement in research, and a strong case to make regarding their team record. Applicants' attention is drawn to the criteria for award of the grant, which is achievement based. Applicants must demonstrate to the peer review panel that they are capable of conducting research at an internationally competitive level.

Fellowships

Full details are available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/fellow.htm>

Research Fellowships

The purpose of the NHMRC Research Fellowships Scheme is to provide opportunities for outstanding biomedical and health researchers with proven track records to undertake research that is both of major importance in its field and of significant benefit to Australian health and medical research. Research Fellowships offered by the NHMRC are prestigious awards and are, consequently, highly sought after and extremely competitive.

An NHMRC Research Fellowship is a full time research appointment that enables high calibre biomedical and health researchers with a proven track record in research to undertake research of significant benefit to the health of Australians. Opportunities exist in biomedical, clinical and population health research.

Successful NHMRC Research Fellows are excellent researchers who have made, and are continuing to make, a highly significant contribution to their field of research. They are able to demonstrate a sustained track record of significant output in peer-reviewed literature and a strong commitment to increased quality research output as judged against opportunity.

The aims of the Research Fellowship scheme are:

- To develop and support highly productive Australian biomedical and health research scientists so that they can continue to undertake research which is nationally and internationally competitive.
- To provide these researchers with a career structure in which renewal and promotion are based on stringent review of research achievements and performance, and potential for further success in the future.
- To foster an intellectual environment in which health and medical research supports the training of future medical researchers.
- To encourage the translation of NHMRC Fellows' research outcomes into health practice.
- To facilitate interaction between NHMRC Fellows' research and industry.

Practitioner Fellowships

This is a targeted award intended to assist experienced and productive clinical and public health researchers who wish to maintain both a research and a professional career. The scheme aims to support clinical (medical, paramedical, allied health) and public health professionals who have undertaken a successful research program and wish to continue at nationally or internationally competitive levels. Successful applicants will, for their non-research time, be employed by a health care authority to provide clinical care, or public health services or related policy activity.

The aims of the scheme are:

- to strengthen clinical health and public health practice and services by providing an opportunity for clinical and public health practitioners to combine an component of research with their professional career;
- to facilitate translation of research outcomes into practice;
- to contribute to evidence-based practice and policy development in Australian health systems.

The scheme is not designed to support applicants already well established as scientists who happen also to be clinicians or public health practitioners; such scientists are more appropriately supported by the Research Fellowships Scheme. Rather it is intended particularly for active clinicians and public health practitioners to undertake research that is linked to their practice or policy. The scheme may support practitioners in developing a career that included successful research; the Practitioner Fellowship is a five-year award, and successful Fellows may apply for a second five-year appointment or it may be more appropriate for them to seek appointment as a Research Fellow.

Applicants must plan to combine clinical/public health duties and research and be able to demonstrate that the research associated with the Practitioner Fellowship is designed to maximise application or transfer of outputs into policy or practice. Special consideration will be given to clinical researchers conducting research on human subjects in a clinical setting and public health practitioners conducting public health and/or health services research.

Burnet Award

These Awards are named after the late Sir Macfarlane Burnet, an eminent Australian medical scientist, 1960 Nobel Laureate for Medicine and Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute from 1944 to 1965.

The objective of the awards is to bring Australian health and medical researchers of very high calibre back to Australia to conduct research that is internationally competitive and to provide training and career development opportunities for members of the research team associated with the award.

The Burnet Award is available for all research approaches relevant to better health (ie biomedical, clinical, public health or health services research). Applicants must hold Australian citizenship and have spent several (at least seven) years overseas.

The recipient of a Burnet Award will be expected to contribute to national capacity building in health and medical science by, for example:

- building a new scientific team, or greatly enhancing an existing team, to an internationally competitive level through leadership, role modelling, recruitment and training;
- enhancing Australia's international networks in an area of health and medical science with the goal of increasing:
 - overall international networks and recognition of other scientists in Australia
 - opportunities for international funding
 - the rate of transmission of knowledge to Australia
- enhancing the reputation of Australia as a place of excellence in health and medical science.

Assessment of proposals for a Burnet Award will be based on record of achievement, especially the last 5 years. Applicants must demonstrate an outstanding level of achievement at international level.

The Burnet Award is of five years duration. Funds will be provided on a one-line basis to allow maximum flexibility. The Award will provide a one-line package of \$400,000 per annum. This package will apply for the full 5-year duration of the Award.

Funds may be used to for payment of salaries (this will include the recipient of the award and other research personnel employed to undertake the proposed research), maintenance, items of equipment and expenses associated with relocation to Australia. The recipient of the award will negotiate with the administering institution regarding use of funds (level of salaries, on-costs etc) within the overall total provided.

Funds provided for an NHMRC Burnet Award must not be used to cover infrastructure or any enterprise bargaining gap.

Trans-Tasman Joint Initiative Award

The NHMRC and Health Research Council of New Zealand have established a new award to foster the development of collaborative research initiatives between Australian and New Zealand health and medical researchers. This award, to be called the Trans-Tasman Joint Initiative Award, will provide \$10,000 in addition to the Research Fellowship Package to enable the recipient to establish research links with Health and Medical Researchers in New Zealand.

Research Fellowship applicants for Initial Appointment, Renewal and Renewal with Promotion will also have an opportunity to apply for this Award. It will be awarded to the most highly ranked applicant for a Research Fellowship commencing in 2004.

The recipient will be required to provide an annual report on the activities undertaken to enhance collaborations with New Zealand researchers.

Career Development Awards

Full details are available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/support.htm>

Career Development Awards provide support for Australian health and medical researchers in the context of the Research Committee's strategic goals. These awards will increase skills in research across the spectrum of health by expanding capacity for:

- biomedical research;
- clinical research in all areas of clinical practice;
- public health and health service delivery research;
- evidence based policy development in Australian health systems.

The Awards will also encourage the translation of research outcomes into health practice.

The scheme aims to further develop Australian health and medical researchers early in their career so that they can:

- conduct research that is internationally competitive;
- develop a capacity for original independent research;
- develop leadership skills in research.

These awards will enable investigators to establish themselves as independent, self-directed health and medical researchers early in their research career - either in a research program or as part of a research team.

An applicant must:

- be an Australian citizen or, if a graduate from overseas, hold permanent resident status;
- normally have between 3 and 9 years of postdoctoral experience or equivalent independent research experience.

This award is not intended as an initial research appointment.

It will be necessary to provide evidence that the appropriate environment and facilities are available for the proposed research and to support development of the applicant consistent with the aims of the scheme. The applicant must therefore identify the mentorship of senior investigator/s who will provide guidance in research and career development.

A support package totalling \$85,250 p.a. will be provided for all Career Development Awards.

For part-time awards the NHMRC will provide pro rata support (30 to 80%) - with the remainder to be provided by the applicant's clinical care and/or public health employer (eg. hospital, government department). Pro rata support will be based on an NHMRC Career Development Award Package and will be intended to fund the agreed amount of time to be allocated to research activities.

Continuation of NHMRC support will be dependent on continuation of support from another party for the remainder of the applicant's salary for the duration of the award. Such part-time applicants must, therefore, at the time of applying, hold, or have a written undertaking of the availability of, a part-time appropriate complementary salaried position for the duration of the award.

The level of the package, and any Support Enhancement Option provided will apply for the full 5-year duration of the award. No additional funds will be provided.

Consistent with the objective of further strengthening the capacity of these researchers to translate research outcomes into practice, a Support Enhancement Option (SEO) of \$10,000 per annum (pro-rated for part-time awards) will be available in addition to the base support package. This will be provided only to applicants who can demonstrate that they undertake activities that result in an interface of research with health practice or policy.

Applicants are encouraged to seek additional research funding from the NHMRC and other external funding bodies to support their research.

The suitability of all applicants for appointment will be assessed in terms of:

- demonstrated early career research success;
- potential for further career development in health and medical research;
- track record (relative to opportunity in terms of both seniority and field of research);
 - the quality of past achievements (especially in regard to academic record, awards and prizes);
 - the quality and impact of research publications and the extent of research funding;
- the quality of the research environment, including the extent of facilities and infrastructure that will be available to support the research/career development activities being undertaken;
- the opportunities outlined for career development for the applicant

In addition:

- Clinical Career Development Award applicants who intend to conduct research on human subjects in a clinical setting will be given special consideration.
- Population Health Career Development Award applicants will be assessed in terms of relevance to the strategic needs of Australian public health research.
- Partnership Career Development Award applicants will be assessed in terms of the match of their research to the strategic area of the Partner funding body.

R. Douglas Wright Biomedical Career Development Award

This award is directed to biomedical researchers who have 3 to 9 years of postdoctoral experience. This is a full-time award.

Clinical Career Development Award

This award is directed to clinical researchers who are either:

- undertaking clinical research; or
- wish to undertake research while maintaining an active role in the clinical environment related to that research.

Note that special consideration will be given to clinician researchers conducting research on human subjects in a clinical setting.

Apart from the full-time award, an opportunity therefore exists to pro rata the award (30-80%), provided that a full justification is provided. This will allow the recipient of the award to continue to provide clinical care. Such applicants must plan to combine clinical duties and research and be able to demonstrate an interface between two.

The clinical award is intended particularly for applicants at early stages of their research career, as a mechanism to facilitate the enhancement of future capacity in clinical research and the translation of research into clinical practice.

Population Health Career Development Award

This award is directed to public health and health service delivery researchers who are either:

- undertaking public health or health services research; or
- wish to undertake research while maintaining an active role in the delivery of public health services or the development of public health policy.

Apart from the full-time award an opportunity therefore exists to pro rata the award (30-80%), provided that a full justification is provided. This will allow the recipient of the award to continue to undertake practice in public health or policy development or health services activities. Such applicants must plan to combine these activities with research and be able to demonstrate an interface between two.

This award is intended particularly for researchers in early career as a mechanism to facilitate the enhancement of future research capacity in population health and the translation of research into health policy and/or practice.

Partnership Career Development Award

This may be offered in any of the above three categories. However, it is a specially targeted award developed in partnership with another health and medical research funding organisation. Both the NHMRC and another partner will provide funding for the award.

A call for applications for this category of Career Development Award will therefore be dependent on availability of funding from other health and medical research organisations.

The award will be for five years, and is not renewable.

Industry Fellowships

Full details are available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research/develop.htm>

The purpose of the Industry Fellowship is to foster closer interaction between Australian researchers and high technology industries.

These fellowships target academic researchers who will spend up to two years in industry and two years in a research institution. The main purpose is to provide successful applicants with an opportunity to expand their research horizons and gain experience in important facets of the commercial development of research findings, including project planning, business planning, and knowledge of business and industry dynamics. These fellowships are highly competitive and should be seen by researchers as a significant part of their career development. The industry component may be spent overseas but the final two years must be spent in Australia.

Applicants must hold a doctorate in a health related field of research, and able to be engaged on a full time basis during the industry placement of the tenure. Evidence of agreement with the industry sponsor to a placement for two years should be included with the application.

The package offered is \$87,000 per annum for each of the four years, which covers salary and on-costs, travel, allowances and direct research costs.

The fellowship is tenable only in institutions approved by NHMRC and the industry placement is to be approved by the Industry Committee of NHMRC. The research institution will administer the fellowship for the life of the award.

Training Fellowships

Full details are available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/support.htm>

Application forms are available from early May, and the closing date for receipt of all Training Fellowship applications is **2 July 2004**.

The NHMRC's Research Committee will not consider concurrent applications from the same candidate for different categories of Overseas Fellowship, or different categories of Australian Fellowship. Applicants may, however, apply for one Overseas and one Australia Fellowship concurrently.

Overseas Fellowships

Overseas Biomedical (C. J. Martin) Fellowships

The purpose of these Fellowships is to provide a vehicle for full-time training overseas and in Australia in basic research within the biomedical sciences to enable Fellows to work on research projects under nominated supervisors. Their aim is to encourage persons of outstanding ability to make medical research a career.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must hold a doctorate in a health related field of research or have submitted a thesis for such by December of the year of application. The Fellowship can commence on 1 January; however, the doctoral thesis must be passed by 30 June in the year of commencement. Applicants for the overseas fellowship should be actively engaged in such research in Australia, and at the time of applying, not have more than two years postdoctoral experience from the date that the doctoral thesis was passed.

Applicants must be Australian citizens, or be graduates from overseas with permanent Australian resident status, not under bond to any foreign government. Applicants should provide a specific study plan within the clearly defined area, and organise affiliation with an overseas investigator/institution to carry out the study. These Fellowships are normally awarded for a period of four years, of which the first two are spent overseas and two years in Australia.

Clinical (Neil Hamilton Fairley) Fellowships

The purpose of these Fellowships is to provide full-time training overseas and in Australia in the areas of clinical research including the social and behavioural sciences. In considering these applications Council will place emphasis on the applied value of the proposed research.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must hold a doctorate in a health related field of research or have submitted a thesis for such by December of the year of application. The Fellowship can commence on 1 January; however, the doctoral thesis must be passed by 30 June in the year of commencement. Applicants should have demonstrated an interest in, and ability to pursue, a career in research and be currently engaged in such activities in Australia. At the time of applying, applicants should not have more than two years postdoctoral experience from the date that the doctoral thesis was passed.

Applicants must be Australian citizens, or be graduates from overseas with permanent Australian resident status not under bond to any foreign government. Applicants should provide a specific study plan within the clearly defined area, and organise affiliation with an overseas investigator/

institution to carry out the study. These Fellowships are awarded for a period of four years, of which the first two are spent overseas and two years in Australia.

Public Health (Sidney Sax) Fellowship

This award is named after the late Dr Sidney Sax CBE, who was a pioneer in promoting community-based primary health care.

The purpose of the fellowship is to provide a vehicle for full-time training overseas and in Australia in public health research.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must hold a doctorate in a health related field of research or have submitted a thesis for such by December of the year of application. The Fellowship can commence on 1 January; however, the doctoral thesis must be passed by 30 June in the year of commencement. Applicants should be actively engaged in such research in Australia, and at the time of applying, not have more than two years postdoctoral experience from the date that the doctoral thesis was sent.

Applicants must be Australian citizens, or be graduates from overseas with permanent Australian resident status, not under bond to any foreign government. Applicants should provide a specific study plan within the clearly defined area, and organise affiliation with an overseas investigator/institution. These Fellowships are normally awarded for a period of four years, of which the first two are spent overseas and two years in Australia.

R. G. Menzies Fellowship

Applicants for any Overseas Fellowship may be considered for the one NHMRC/R. G. Menzies Fellowship awarded each year.

This Fellowship is offered under similar conditions as the other three Fellowships. The Menzies Foundation contributes \$50,000 towards the Fellowship and also provides a supplement directly to each Fellow. The intention is that this additional support be used in some fellowship-related activity, e.g. conference travel.

The Foundation is seeking applicants with leadership ability, capacity to contribute to the life of an overseas university and interests in the service of others.

INSERM Exchange Fellowships

This is a bilateral exchange scheme between the NHMRC and its French equivalent, INSERM. The Fellowships awarded to Australian applicants are for similar purposes and provide similar benefits to the other three Overseas Fellowships, with the condition that the overseas portion of the Fellowship be spent at an INSERM laboratory.

Australian Fellowships

Biomedical (Peter Doherty) Fellowships

The purpose of this Fellowship is to provide a vehicle for full-time training in basic research within the biomedical sciences in Australia to enable Fellows to work on research projects under nominated supervisors. The aim is to encourage persons of outstanding ability to make medical research a career.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must hold a doctorate in a health related field of research or have submitted a thesis for such by December of the year of application. The Fellowship can commence on 1 January; however, the doctoral thesis must be passed by 30 June in the year of commencement. Applicants should have demonstrated an interest in, and ability to pursue, a career in research and be currently engaged in such activities in Australia or overseas. At the time of application, applicants should not have more than two years' postdoctoral experience from the date that the doctoral thesis was passed.

At time of applying, applicants should not be receiving support under an NHMRC grant at Senior Research Officer level or above, or hold equivalent status.

For years 1 and 2, applicants should nominate an institution and research group other than that where the applicant's doctoral qualifications were obtained.

It is the intention of these fellowships to provide different training from that experienced during the PhD. Therefore, a change of institution, supervisor and research group is considered essential. Other than in exceptional circumstances a proposal in which the institution, supervisor and research group remain unchanged will be ruled ineligible or severely penalised.

Applicants must be Australian citizens, or be graduates from overseas with permanent Australian resident status, not under bond to any foreign government. Applicants should provide a specific study plan within the clearly defined area. These Fellowships are usually awarded for a maximum period of four years at an Australian institution subject to satisfactory annual reports from the supervisor.

Australian Clinical Research Fellowships

The purpose of the Australian Clinical Research Fellowships is to provide full-time training in the area of clinical research, including the social and behavioural sciences. These Fellowships are tenable only in Australia. In considering applications, the Council will place emphasis on the applied value of the proposed research.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must hold a doctorate in a health related field of research or have submitted a thesis for such by December of the year of application. The Fellowship can commence on 1 January; however, the doctoral thesis must be passed by 30 June in the year of commencement. Applicants should have demonstrated an interest in, and ability to pursue, a career in research and be currently engaged in such activities in Australia or overseas. At the time of application, applicants should not have more than two years postdoctoral experience from the date that the doctoral thesis was passed.

At time of applying, applicants should not be receiving support under an NHMRC grant at Senior Research Officer level or above, or hold equivalent status.

For years 1 and 2, applicants should nominate an institution and research group other than that where the applicant's doctoral qualifications were obtained.

It is the intention of these fellowships to provide different training from that experienced during the PhD. Therefore, a change of institution, supervisor and research group is considered essential. Other than in exceptional circumstances a proposal in which the institution, supervisor and research group remain unchanged will be ruled ineligible or severely penalised.

Applicants must be Australian citizens, or be graduates from overseas with permanent Australian resident status, not under bond to any foreign government.

These Fellowships are awarded annually for a maximum of four years support at an Australian institution provided that there are satisfactory annual reports from the supervisor.

Public Health Fellowships

The purpose of the Public Health Fellowships is to provide a vehicle for full-time training in public health research. These Fellowships are tenable only in Australia.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must hold a doctorate in a health related field of research or have submitted a thesis for such by December of the year of application. The Fellowship can commence on 1 January; however, the doctoral thesis must be passed by 30 June in the year of commencement. Applicants should have demonstrated an interest in, and ability to pursue, a career in research and be currently engaged in such activities in Australia or overseas. At the time of application, applicants should not have more than two years postdoctoral experience from the date that the doctoral thesis was passed.

At time of applying, applicants should not be receiving support under an NHMRC grant at Senior Research Officer level or above, or hold equivalent status.

For years 1 and 2, applicants should nominate an institution and research group other than that where the applicant's doctoral qualifications were obtained.

It is the intention of these fellowships to provide different training from that experienced during the PhD. Therefore, a change of institution, supervisor and research group is considered essential. Other than in exceptional circumstances a proposal in which the institution, supervisor and research group remain unchanged will be ruled ineligible or severely penalised.

Applicants must be Australian citizens, or be graduates from overseas with permanent Australian resident status, not under bond to any foreign government. These Fellowships are awarded annually for a maximum of four years support at an Australian institution provided that there are satisfactory annual reports from the supervisor.

Howard Florey Centenary Fellowships

These Fellowships were first offered in 1997 for support in 1998 to celebrate the Centenary of the birth of Sir Howard Florey, a distinguished Australian Nobel laureate. They were to be offered for the last time in 1999. They proved so successful that the Fellowship scheme will be continued.

The purpose of the fellowship is to provide a vehicle for Australian researchers working overseas to return to Australia and continue with a biomedical/health related research career.

To be eligible to apply, candidates must at the time of application hold a doctorate in a health related field of research, be actively engaged in such research overseas, either full or part time, be Australian citizens, or be graduates from overseas with permanent Australian resident status, not under bond to any foreign government, and must not have been a recipient of a CJ Martin, a Neil Hamilton Fairley or a Sidney Sax Fellowship. Applicants should provide a specific study plan within a clearly defined area of research, and have an agreement with Australian institution to carry out the study.

Applicants would usually have between two (2) to five (5) years postdoctoral experience. Potential applicants with less than 2 years postdoctoral experience at the time of application should apply for a Biomedical (Peter Doherty), Australian Clinical Research Fellowship or a Public Health Fellowship.

The Fellowships are full time and will be awarded for a period of two years. A Howard Florey Centenary Research Fellow must take up the Fellowship within 12 months of the Offer of award. The Fellowships are tenable only in institutions approved by the NHMRC, such as teaching hospitals, universities and research institutes. Fellowship stipends are TSP2, which is the equivalent to PSP4.

Health Professional Fellowship

The purpose of the Health Professional Fellowship (formerly known as the Australian Part Time Research Fellowship) is to provide part-time training to allow awardees to combine their professional career development with a research training fellowship within Australia. The aim is to encourage those who wish to follow a clinical, public and allied health, or hospital scientist career but who do not wish to fully relinquish their professional career in favour of a full-time research fellowship.

To be eligible to apply applicants must hold a doctorate or equivalent in a health related field of research (or have submitted a thesis by December of the year of application) and show that their professional career is relevant to the research proposal in their application. The emphasis is on research training and thus applications will be accepted from persons at any stage of their research career providing they can demonstrate the need for research training.

Applicants for these fellowships must work on the proposal for a minimum of 50% and a maximum of 70% of their time. The tenure of these fellowships is three years. Applicants must be Australian citizens or be graduates from overseas with a permanent Australian resident status, not under bond to any foreign government.

Australian Part Time Research Fellowship

The purpose of the Australian Part Time Research Fellowship is to provide part-time training in biomedical, clinical, public (including the social and behavioural sciences) and allied health research. These fellowships are tenable only in Australia and are to enable fellows to work on research projects with nominated advisers. Their aim is to enable persons of outstanding ability to undertake research on a part-time basis where they do not have other research, clinical or practitioner responsibilities.

To be eligible to apply applicants must hold a doctorate or equivalent in a health related field of research (or have submitted a thesis by December of the year of application) and show that their professional career is relevant to the research proposal in their application. The emphasis is on research training and thus applications will be accepted from persons at any stage of their research career providing they can demonstrate the need for research training.

Applicants for these fellowships must work on the proposal for 50% of their time. The tenure of these fellowships is four years. Applicants must be Australian citizens or be graduates from overseas with a permanent Australian resident status, not under bond to any foreign government.

General Practice Fellowship

This Fellowship is administered by the NHMRC and funded by the Department of Health and Ageing.

The purpose of the General Practice Fellowship is primarily to add to the development and strengthening of general practice research and workforce evaluation. In line with the Government's emphasis on developing rural and regional health infrastructure, the award is aimed at researchers willing to contribute to the knowledge base of rural primary health care.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must hold vocational recognition as a GP; have a recently completed (less than 2 years) PhD or have equivalent research experience in a relevant health discipline; have an agreed attachment for the duration of the fellowship to an academic institution with a successful record in rural health research; be engaged in appropriate research; be an Australian citizen or be a graduate from overseas with permanent Australian residency status and not under bond to any foreign government; not be currently supported at senior research officer level or above or hold equivalent status.

The fellowship will be awarded for a maximum of 4 years and may be divided between two different Australian institutions.

Clinical work may be undertaken in conjunction with a university-sponsored practice in order to maintain vocational recognition as a GP. Clinical hours should not exceed the minimum necessary for maintenance of vocational recognition.

Training Scholarships

Full details are available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/scholarships.htm>

Medical and Dental Postgraduate Scholarships

These Scholarships are awarded to provide full-time research experience to medical or dental graduates registered to practice in Australia. However, medical graduates can apply during their intern year and dental postgraduate research scholars may be awarded a scholarship prior to graduation. All candidates must enrol for a higher degree. The Scholarships will be held within Australia. Graduates from overseas who hold permanent resident status and are currently resident in Australia are eligible to apply.

The Scholarships are awarded initially for one year but, subject to satisfactory progress reports, they may be renewed for one or more years. The usual maximum period of the award is three years.

The closing date for applications is *6 August 2004*, for support commencing the following year. Application forms are available in early May.

Gustav Nossal Scholarship

The highest ranking applicant each year for a Medical and Dental Postgraduate Research Scholarship will be awarded the Gustav Nossal Medical and Dental Postgraduate Research scholarship.

This scholarship will be awarded under similar conditions to the basic Medical and Dental Postgraduate Research Scholarship except that the scholar will receive \$3,312 additional stipend and \$2,249 additional travel allowance.

Biomedical (Dora Lush) Postgraduate Scholarships

These Scholarships are designed to encourage science or health related honours graduates of outstanding ability to gain full-time medical research experience in Australia. All candidates must enrol for a higher degree. Those eligible to apply are Australian citizens who have already completed a science or health related honours degree or equivalent at the time of submission of application, or science or health related honours graduates and unregistered medical/dental graduates from overseas, who have permanent resident status and are currently residing in Australia. Third year combined MBBS/PhD students are eligible to apply for this scholarship and if successful will receive a scholarship for 2 years full-time and up to a further 1½ years part-time.

The Scholarships are awarded initially for one year but, subject to suitable progress reports being received, may be renewed for one or more years. Normally, the maximum period of the award will be three years.

Application forms are available from early May. The closing date is *6 August 2004*, for support commencing the following year.

Public Health Postgraduate Scholarships

Public Health Scholarships are for graduates to obtain formal training in public health research through an approved tertiary institution. The Scholarships are awarded initially for one year but,

subject to satisfactory progress reports, they may be renewed for one or more years. The usual maximum period of the award is three years.

Application forms are available from early May. The closing date is *6 August 2004*, for support commencing the following year.

Training Scholarships for Indigenous Health Research

These Scholarships will be awarded to provide funding for research in areas of particular relevance relating to the health and well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Scholarships will be held within Australia. Applicants must enrol for a diploma, certificate, an undergraduate degree, or a postgraduate degree (such as a PhD, or Masters) at a fully accredited institution that will enable the applicant to pursue research relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Although all applicants will be considered, it would be advantageous if applicants had prior experience in health care, health care delivery or health research in the area of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Application forms are available from early May. The closing date is *6 August 2004*, for support commencing the following year.

Primary Health Care Postgraduate Research Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage graduates to obtain formal training in primary health care related research.

The scholarship is primarily intended to contribute to the development and strengthening of the primary health care research and workforce evaluation. Consistent with the Government's emphasis on developing the rural and regional health infrastructure, these awards are aimed at researchers able and willing to contribute to the knowledge base of rural health care.

Applications will be considered in all relevant health related disciplines including general practice, social sciences and health economics. The scholarships are awarded initially for one year but subject to satisfactory progress reports, they may be renewed for one or more years.

Other than for the purpose of the scholarship all other requirements are identical to the Public Health Postgraduate Scholarship.

Application forms are available from early May. The closing date is *6 August 2004*, for support commencing the following year.

Travelling Award for Research Training

This award is available to current holders of Australian-based NHMRC Postdoctoral Fellowships and NHMRC Scholars. Ordinarily this award will be offered twice each year. Closing dates for are *28 February 2004* and *2 July 2004*.

The award will enable successful applicants to travel within Australia *or overseas* for a period of between 3 to 6 months. The applicant must have a defined research proposal or training goal and the visit will usually be confined to one institution. Successful applicants will be provided an allowance for the approved travel, but no further salary or stipend.

Other Grants and Awards

The NHMRC makes available research funding for priority research and matters of national importance. Calls for funding are sought separately from the bulk of applications and are made in response to identified research priorities. The NHMRC may advertise these additional grants and awards as new funding arrangements through its Research Committee or as priority research through the Strategic Research and Development Committee. On occasion both Committees will be involved in the call for expression of interest, peer review and eventual funding arrangements.

European Union Collaborative Research Grants

The NHMRC has a limited fund to assist Australian participation in projects selected for funding under the European Union Research Programme.

Where projects involving Australian researchers based in Australia are chosen for funding, the Australian researchers may be eligible for NHMRC support. The following issues will be taken into account when assessing eligible projects:

- the quality of the project;
- the relevance and value added to Australian research objectives; and
- the need for funding.

The NHMRC's Research Committee will make funding decisions after considering the recommendations of the European Union.

The responsibility for submitting proposals to the European Union under each Framework falls principally to the European partners. Australian researchers who are members of projects being submitted to the EU, in any round under the this Framework, must notify the NHMRC and forward a copy of the final application submitted to the European Union, to the NHMRC by the due date.

Enabling Grants

The scheme is designed to underpin the current NHMRC funding system by strengthening the research base in particular areas. It is intended to assist Australian researchers to continue high quality, world-class research by providing support for specific facilities and/or activities to enhance the national health and medical research effort.

The scheme supports excellent facilities and/or activities where there is a clearly demonstrated national need for the particular facilities and/or activities in order to underpin aspects of the national health and medical research effort. The facilities and/or activities must have the full support of the Administering Institution. Access to the facilities must be open to all Australian researchers, whether based at the Administering Institution or not, on a reasonable basis. Facilities and/or activities funded through Enabling Grants will remain the property of, and under the authority of, the Administering Institution supporting the application for funding. The ongoing financial viability of the facilities and/or activities will be the responsibility of the Administering Institution and the applicants.

Co-funding and partnerships should be sought by applicants where possible. Minimisation in the duplication of facilities and/or activities, and sufficient scale should be obtained, through

collaboration or merger where appropriate. The NHMRC reserves the right to broker arrangements to improve the feasibility and likely success of the facilities and/or activities to be funded.

Centres of Clinical Research Excellence

The intent of the Centres of Clinical Research Excellence program is to recognise and reward successful clinical researchers, and expand their ability to produce high quality research, provide high quality clinical research training and translate their research funding into improved health outcomes.

The CCRE program aims to:

- support clinical (human) research with potential to lead to improved health outcomes for the community;
- foster training of clinical researchers, particularly those with a capacity for independent research and future leadership roles; and
- ensure effective translation of research outcomes into clinical practice.

Currently, the NHMRC funds 10 CCRE, including a designated CCRE in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. In 2005 the NHMRC intends to fund an additional six CCRE at up to \$400,000 each per annum for five years.

Capacity Building Grants in Population Health Research

Full details are available on the internet at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/capacity.htm>

The Capacity Building Grants in Population Health Research are part of a wider strategy designed to develop population and health services research in Australia. Aimed at developing researchers within groups, who are undertaking excellent population health research, these grants provide flexible support primarily to provide salary support for team investigators.

Further information for all funding schemes are available on the internet at:
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/index.htm>

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