

AUSTRALIAN CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

The National Health and Medical Research Council annually awards grants for the advancement of medical research from funds made available by the Commonwealth Government. Applications are invited annually for the Australian Clinical Research Training fellowships.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the fellowships is to provide training in clinical research, including the social and behavioural sciences. These fellowships are only tenable in Australia and are to enable fellows to work on research projects with nominated advisors. Their aim is to encourage persons of outstanding ability to make clinical research a significant component of their career. Australian Clinical Research Training Fellowships are available to graduates in all health-related fields.

The objectives of the fellowships differ from those of the Council's Peter Doherty Fellowships, which are primarily for persons who are engaged in research in the biomedical sciences, and the Public Health Training (Australia) Fellowships which are designed to provide training in the area of public health.

At the discretion of the Training Awards Committee applications may be transferred to the Peter Doherty or Public Health Training (Australia) Fellowships.

Applicants may apply simultaneously for both an Australian Clinical Research Training Fellowship and a Neil Hamilton Fairley (overseas) Fellowship. Separate applications are required.

Applicants for this Fellowship may also apply concurrently, or if successful, at any time during the Fellowship, for an NHMRC Project Grant as a Chief Investigator. Such applicants should also consider, however, any Project Grant eligibility requirements.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply, candidates must at the time of application:

- (i) hold a doctorate in a health-related field 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.
- (ii) have demonstrated their interest in, and ability to pursue, a career in clinical research, be actively engaged in clinical research in Australia or overseas; at 30 June 2006, normally not have more than two (2) years full-time postdoctoral research experience from the date that the doctoral thesis was passed;
- (iv) be Australian citizens, or be graduates from overseas with permanent Australian residence status, and not be under bond to any foreign government. Applicants whose most recent degree was attained overseas should have these accredited by their institution.
- (v) for years 1 and 2, must move from the Department, and preferably the Institution, where the applicant's doctoral qualifications were obtained; any deviation

from this condition must be presented with full justification in the application.

- (vi) incorporate a clear indication of the training component proposed.

TENURE

The full time fellowships are normally awarded for a maximum of **four** years and may be divided between two different institutions.

An Australian Clinical Research Training fellow must take up the fellowship within 12 months of the Offer of Award.

Under certain circumstances fellows may earn additional income. See Schedule to the Deed of Agreement for details.

The fellowships are tenable only in institutions approved by the NHMRC, such as teaching hospitals, universities and research institutes.

APPLICATION

All applications should be submitted on the special forms that, together with details of the salary package and conditions associated with NHMRC grants and fellowship awards, are available from the NHMRC's web site or research administrative officers of universities, hospitals and other research institutions. General information is available on the Internet on NHMRC's home page:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>

The Deed of Agreement and Schedule are to be read by the applicant. Applications should be submitted through, and have the endorsement of, the research institution with which the fellowship will be associated.

Applications must be lodged with NHMRC electronically (see Instruction Booklet). In addition, the original single-sided A4 application and a double-sided copy must be submitted to NHMRC by the due date. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all referees reports are provided by the due date. Of particular importance is the statement from the proposed supervisor agreeing to host the Fellow, without which the application will be deemed ineligible.

Forms are provided for completion by:

- (i) Two referees, one of whom should be well acquainted with the applicant's work, to comment on the project and the applicant's ability to undertake the work proposed. The second is to be an independent referee. This referee is to have had no substantive professional or private contact with the applicant or to have had any previous or current collaboration with the applicant's recent or planned supervisors, but should be knowledgeable in the field of study. This referee should not be at the applicant's current institution.

- (ii) The initial Supervisor at the proposed Australian institution.
The proposed supervisor is to attach to their report a 2 page CV incorporating the following:
Personal details: name, title, current position
Education: degrees/qualifications, year, institution
Experience: postgraduate professional and research positions held in last 5 years.
Support: details of current and past (last 6 years) grants held.
Publications: List in chronological order the titles, all authors and complete citation of publications (of the supervisor) pertinent to the application.

Referees should either email their reports to NHMRC.Referee.CARSS@health.gov.au

SELECTION PROCEDURES

Australian Clinical Research Training Fellowships are awarded competitively on the basis of merit following detailed assessment. The Council may exercise discretion as to the number of fellowships to be offered in any one year, and may not recommend any, if such a course is warranted.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

A decision on awards will be made by November each year. Applicants will be advised as soon as possible thereafter.

ADMINISTRATION OF FELLOWSHIPS

Australian Clinical Research Training Fellowships shall normally be administered by the Australian Institution through which the applicant has applied and to which the NHMRC shall forward stipend payments, and allowances. Certification is required that the institution is willing to administer the grant.

SALARY PACKAGE, TRAVELLING EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES

Fellowship salary packages at the Training Support Package level 1 (currently at \$62,250) and if appropriate, clinical loadings will be paid. It is the successful applicants' responsibility to negotiate a salary in accordance with the institution's Workplace Agreement or salary guidelines.

Salary packages and allowances are payable to the Australian Institution nominated by the Fellow and approved by the Council. Such payments shall be made quarterly in the case of salary packages and at such periods as may be appropriate

and as determined by the Council in respect of other payments. Advances against anticipated and authorised expenses may be paid.

The Council may, at its discretion, for what is considered grave cause, suspend the tenure of the Fellowship for such time as is thought fit, or deprive a Fellow of his/her Fellowship and from that date the stipend or other payments shall cease.

The NHMRC will provide for the Australian Institution's employer's contribution to superannuation. This will include the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution (SGC) and contributory superannuation components. These amounts, along with other institutional on-costs are included in the TSP 1 salary package

Minimum airfares will be provided for Fellows and their dependants for the direct journey to the designated research centre within Australia. Travel expenses are payable to Fellows relocating from overseas.

The cost of any travel requirements in excess of those authorised by the Council under these rules shall be met by the Fellow. No allowance shall be payable in respect of the conveyance of luggage, goods or chattels not covered by the free allowance provided under normal passenger agreements.

An allowance of \$5,000 p.a. is payable for research support, including conference travel.

REPORTS ON FELLOWSHIP

A **mid-term report** on the research work undertaken during the first two years and details of the intended program for the following two years is required by the Secretary of Council on the anniversary date of commencement of the fellowship.

A **full report** is to be submitted within three months of completion of the fellowship. This report should cover all aspects of the work undertaken and should incorporate details of any new knowledge gained in the field of study.

A **brief final report** 12 months after completion of the fellowship, detailing current employment status and publications arising from the fellowship, is required.

Appropriate recognition for the assistance of Council should be included in publications resulting from work undertaken during the tenure of a fellowship, by stating that the author (or co-author) holds a National Health and Medical Research Council Australian Clinical Research Training Fellowship, and quoting the fellowship application I.D. number.

Please refer to full Deed of Agreement for Researcher Support and Schedule for Australian Clinical Research Fellowships for details of any areas not specifically detailed herein.

PLEASE NOTE: All applications must be sent to the NHMRC through the appropriate administrative officer of the Australian Institution concerned. To meet the deadline of 7 July 2006, applications must be submitted to that officer by