2014 Funding Outcomes by Gender – a summary of findings

The Women in Health Science Working Committee notes the latest data on NHMRC funding outcomes by gender. It is of particular concern to the committee that the rates of funding for women in both Early Career Fellowships and Career Development Fellowships are substantially lower than that for men. Also, project grant application numbers for female CIs and CIAs were lower. Funding rates were also lower for women overall and for new investigator grants. Given the importance of an individual's track record, this disparity is important, especially for early to mid-career researchers. It is possible that dropping success rates for Project Grants may further impact on the ability of women to be competitive in NHMRC project and fellowship schemes. It is our view that this makes a proper assessment of career disruption and assessment of relative to opportunity even more essential to ensure gender equity of funding opportunities for women and that other means of adequately addressing gender equity need to be explored.

Early Career Fellowships (ECF)

- There were more women applying for an ECF than men across all Broad Research Areas (BRA) (350 vs 208).
- Although the actual number awarded to women was greater compared to men, men had a higher funded rate (25.0% vs 20.9%).
- The trend of women of having a much lower funded rate compared to men for all overseas ECF categories (first observed in 2012) was only observed this year for the Sidney Sax (Public Health) Fellowship.
- More women applied for part-time ECFs compared to men with the majority of applicants (both men and women) in the Clinical Medicine and Science research area.

Career Development Fellowships (CDF)

- More women applied for a CDF compared to men overall (235 vs 196), a similar trend to that observed in 2013 (167 women vs 141 men). Funded rates were much higher for men compared to women in 2014 (17.3% vs 10.2%) – opposite to that observed in2013. This result was influenced by low funded rates for women in the biomedical and clinical CDF streams.
- This trend was observed for both CDF1 and CDF2 levels.

Practitioner Fellowships (PF) and Research Fellowships (RF)

- There were substantially more men than women applicants for PFs (41 vs 16) and RFs (171 vs 75).
- For PFs, women had higher funded rates at both the PF1 level (33.3% vs 16.7%) and the PF2 level (57.1% vs 45.5%).
- For RFs, men had a higher funded rate for SRFs (23.4% vs 17.5%) and SPRFs (67.7% vs 50%), whilst women had a slightly higher funded rate for PRFs (35.7% vs 33.3%).

- While women overall had a lower funded rate compared to men for RFs, they performed better than men in the Health Services Research area.

Project Grants (New Investigator)

- There were slightly more applications from women regardless of Chief Investigator (CI) status (164 vs 151) and when considering Chief Investigator A (CIAs) only (129 vs 113).
- Men had slightly higher funded rates than women for all CIs (13.9% vs 13.4%) and CIAs only (16.8% vs 15.5%).
- Women CIAs had a higher funded rate than men in the Basic Science area (22.4% v 18.6%).

Project Grants (Standard Project Grants)*

- There were substantially fewer women applicants for standard project grants when considering all CIs (4858 vs 8438) and CIAs only (1249 vs 2209).
- Overall, men as CIA had a higher funded rate compared to women CIAs (15.8% vs 13.1%). This was evidenced across all BRAs except for Health Services Research.

* Those CIs that did not supply a gender and/or whose gender couldn’t be identified were not included in this analysis.

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TABLE 1: 2014 NHMRC Funding Outcomes by Gender for each Scheme

2014		Women			Men		
		# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate (%)	# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate (%)
Early Career Fellowships	Australian Clinical	39	5	12.8%	18	2	11.1%
	Overseas Clinical (Neil Hamilton Fairley)	10	4	40.0%	7	1	14.3%
	Australian Biomedical (Peter Doherty)	115	25	21.7%	77	18	23.4%
	Overseas Biomedical (CJ Martin)	44	12	27.3%	39	10	25.6%
	Australian Public Health	75	13	17.3%	29	7	24.1%
	Overseas Public Health (Sidney Sax)	6	2	33.3%	6	3	50.0%
	Australian Research Training (part time)	12	2	16.7%	1	1	100.0%
	Health Professional Research (part time)	28	9	32.1%	21	5	23.8%
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research	12	1	8.3%	4	3	75.0%
	Primary Health Care						
	INSERM Exchange Fellowship	3		0.0%	2	1	50.0%
	Australia-China Exchange	6		0.0%	4	1	25.0%
	TOTAL	**350**	**73**	**20.9%**	**208**	**52**	**25.0%**
Career Development Fellowships	Biomedical	131	12	9.2%	126	21	16.7%
	Population Health	63	8	12.7%	35	4	11.4%
	Clinical	37	4	10.8%	31	7	22.6%
	Industry	4		0.0%	4	2	50.0%
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander						
	Part-time Employment						
	TOTAL	**235**	**24**	**10.2%**	**196**	**34**	**17.3%**
Research Fellowships	Basic Science	37	7	18.9%	105	28	26.7%
	Clinical Medicine and Science	17	5	29.4%	45	23	51.1%
	Health Services Research	3	1	33.3%	4	1	25.0%
	Public Health	18	4	22.2%	17	5	29.4%
	TOTAL	**75**	**17**	**22.7%**	**171**	**57**	**33.3%**
Practitioner Fellowships	Basic Science				1		0.0%
	Clinical Medicine and Science	12	6	50.0%	37	9	24.3%
	Health Services Research	1		0.0%	1	1	100.0%
	Public Health	3	1	33.3%	2		0.0%
	TOTAL	**16**	**7**	**43.8%**	**41**	**10**	**24.4%**

2014		Women			Men			Not Declared		
		# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate (%)	# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate (%)	# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate (%)
New Investigator Project Grants - All CIs	Basic Science	90	17	18.9%	84	14	16.7%			
	Clinical Medicine and Science	40	4	10.0%	52	6	11.5%			
	Health Services Research	6		0.0%	2		0.0%			
	Public Health	28	1	3.6%	13	1	7.7%			
	TOTAL	**164**	**22**	**13.4%**	**151**	**21**	**13.9%**			
New Investigator Project Grants - CIA only	Basic Science	76	17	22.4%	70	13	18.6%			
	Clinical Medicine and Science	33	3	9.1%	38	5	13.2%			
	Health Services Research	3		0.0%	1		0.0%			
	Public Health	17		0.0%	4	1	25.0%			
	TOTAL	**129**	**20**	**15.5%**	**113**	**19**	**16.8%**			
Standard Project Grants - All CIs	Basic Science	1590	216	13.6%	3873	637	16.4%	14	1	7.1%
	Clinical Medicine and Science	1791	220	12.3%	3173	479	15.1%	6	2	33.3%
	Health Services Research	484	38	7.9%	384	29	7.6%			
	Public Health	993	148	14.9%	1008	182	18.1%	5	3	60.0%
	TOTAL	**4858**	**622**	**12.8%**	**8438**	**1327**	**15.7%**	**25**	**6**	**24.0%**
Standard Project Grants - CIA only	Basic Science	568	76	13.4%	1275	222	17.4%			
	Clinical Medicine and Science	403	50	12.4%	720	101	14.0%			
	Health Services Research	92	10	10.9%	51	2	3.9%			
	Public Health	186	28	15.1%	163	25	15.3%			
	TOTAL	**1249**	**164**	**13.1%**	**2209**	**350**	**15.8%**			
European Union	*Data not available*									

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TABLE 2: 2014 Broad Research Area by Gender for ECFs and CDFs

WOMEN			
Early Career Fellowships			
Broad Research Area	# Applications	# Funded	Funded Rate
Basic Science	143	29	20.3%
Clinical Medicine and Science	95	22	23.2%
Health Services Research	24	4	16.7%
Public Health	88	18	20.5%
Total	**350**	**73**	**20.9%**
Career Development Fellowships			
Broad Research Area	# Applications	# Funded	Funded Rate
Basic Science	108	10	9.3%
Clinical Medicine and Science	63	5	7.9%
Health Services Research	13		0.0%
Public Health	51	9	17.6%
Total	**235**	**24**	**10.2%**

MEN			
Early Career Fellowships			
Broad Research Area	# Applications	# Funded	Funded Rate
Basic Science	106	26	24.5%
Clinical Medicine and Science	59	15	25.4%
Health Services Research	13	4	30.8%
Public Health	30	7	23.3%
Total	**208**	**52**	**25.0%**
Career Development Fellowships			
Broad Research Area	# Applications	# Funded	Funded Rate
Basic Science	118	20	16.9%
Clinical Medicine and Science	46	10	21.7%
Health Services Research	8		0.0%
Public Health	24	4	16.7%
Total	**196**	**34**	**17.3%**

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TABLE 3: 2014 Part Time Fellowship Outcomes by Gender

Scheme	BRA	Gender	#Part Time Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate OVERALL (%)	Funded Rate for all Fellowship Apps (%)
Early Career Fellowships	**Basic Science**	Women	1		**27.4%**	**22.4%**
		Men				
	Clinical Medicine and Science	Women	22	7		
		Men	18	6		
	Health Services Research	Women	6			
		Men	4			
	Public Health	Women	11	4		
		Men				
Career Development Fellowships	**Basic Science**	Women	2		**11.8%**	**13.5%**
		Men	2			
	Clinical Medicine and Science	Women	13	2		
		Men	9	1		
	Health Services Research	Women	2			
		Men	1			
	Public Health	Women	5	1		
		Men				

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TABLE 4: 2014 Gender Outcomes for Practitioner, Research and Career Development Fellows by Level

Gender Breakdown: Practitioner Fellows				
Level	**Gender**	**# of Apps**	**# Funded**	**Funded Rate (%)**
PF2	**Women**	7	4	57.1%
	Men	11	5	45.5%
PF1	**Women**	9	3	33.3%
	Men	30	5	16.7%
Total	**Women**	16	7	43.8%
	Men	41	10	24.4%
	Total	**57**	**17**	**29.8%**
Gender Breakdown: Research Fellows				
SPRF	**Women**	4	2	50.0%
	Men	31	21	67.7%
PRF	**Women**	14	5	35.7%
	Men	33	11	33.3%
SRF	**Women**	57	10	17.5%
	Men	107	25	23.4%
Total	**Women**	75	17	22.7%
	Men	171	57	33.3%
	Total	**246**	**74**	**30.1%**
Gender Breakdown: Career Development Fellows				
CDF2	**Women**	74	8	10.8%
	Men	101	15	14.9%
CDF1	**Women**	161	16	9.9%
	Men	95	19	20.0%
Total	**Women**	235	24	10.2%
	Men	196	34	17.3%
	Total	**431**	**58**	**13.5%**