



Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants Outcomes 2019: Factsheet



Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies (CTCS) Grants 2019 Outcomes Factsheet

New Grant Program

- NHMRC's new grant program commenced on 5 December 2018 with the opening of the Investigator Grant scheme. The other three new schemes, Ideas Grants, Synergy Grants and Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants, opened in March 2019. All outcomes of the first round of the four new schemes were announced by December 2019.
- The new grant program aims to:
 - encourage innovation and creativity in research
 - provide opportunities for talented researchers at all career stages to contribute to the improvement of human health, and
 - minimise the burden on researchers of application and peer review so that researchers can spend more time producing high quality research.
- NHMRC has established a framework for evaluating the new grant program and the outcomes from this first round of the four new schemes will be analysed holistically to determine whether the new grant program is meeting the stated objectives.
- Due to the nature of the capping and eligibility rules for some of the new schemes, it will take several years of transition before the full benefits of the new grant program are realised.

CTCS Grants

- The objective of the CTCS Grant scheme is to support high-quality clinical trials and cohort studies that address important gaps in knowledge, leading to relevant and implementable findings for the benefit of human health.
- The expected outcomes of the CTCS Grant scheme are improvements in health and well-being, health care practice or policy, as a result of:
 - high-quality clinical trials that provide reliable evidence of the effects of health-related interventions on health outcomes (or appropriate surrogates), and/or
 - high-quality cohort studies that provide reliable evidence on the relation of important risk factors and other exposures to health-related outcomes.
- Neither the application budget nor the number of applications that a CIA could submit was capped for the CTCS Grant scheme.
- The CTCS Grant scheme has a funding allocation from the Medical Research Endowment Account (MREA) of \$75 million (which includes \$5 million for structural priority funding).
- The total amount of funding requested by applicants to the CTCS Grant scheme was \$1.013 billion.

CTCS Grant Outcomes

- 31 applications from institutions across the country will be funded in this first round.

Total number of applications received	571
Total number of applications applying for NHMRC funding	570*
Number of grants awarded	31
Percentage of applications awarded	5.4%
Mean budget for awarded grants	\$2,404,324

*Excludes one application that did not request NHMRC funding. Includes one application that was withdrawn.

Outcomes by Trial or Study Type

- Applications were allocated to a Grant Review Panel (GRP) primarily based on the applicant's nominated peer review areas.
- The ratio of clinical trials to cohort studies was approximately 3:1 both for applications and for grants awarded.

Trial or Study Type*	Applications	Grants awarded	Funded rate	Proportion of grants awarded	Total Value
Clinical Trials	421	23	5.5%	74.2%	\$58,556,219
Cohort Studies	148	8	5.4%	25.8%	\$15,977,825
Withdrawn	1	0	0.0%	0.0%	\$0.00

*As determined by the allocated GRP.

Outcomes by Broad Research Area (BRA)

- NHMRC is committed to supporting a broad range of research from discovery science through to clinical research (including clinical trials), health services and public health research.
- Clinical Medicine and Science received the greatest allocation of CTCS funding, with Health Services and Public Health BRAs also funded.

Broad Research Area	Applications	Grants awarded	Funded rate	Proportion of grants awarded	Total Value
Basic Science	6	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Clinical Medicine and Science	375	21	5.6%	67.7%	\$55,407,021
Health Services	79	4	5.1%	12.9%	\$9,131,507
Public Health	110	6	5.5%	19.4%	\$9,995,516

Funded Rates by Gender

- Funded rates for female and male lead Chief Investigators (CIAs) were similar for the CTCS Grant scheme.
- Two applications with a female CIA were funded as a structural priority.

CIA Gender	Applications	Grants awarded	Funded Rate	Proportion of grants awarded
Female	258	15	5.8%	48.4%
Male	312	16	5.1%	51.6%
Not Stated	0	n/a	n/a	n/a

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research and Researchers

- NHMRC is committed to allocating at least five per cent of the MREA each year to research directed at improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Applications that address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health represent 12.9% of the awarded grants and 14.8% of the CTCS Grant MREA allocation.
- One application directed at improving health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was funded through structural priority funding.

Indigenous Identified/Indigenous focused	Applications	Grants awarded	Funded rate	Proportion of grants awarded
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focused research	17	4	23.5%	12.9%
Applications with one or more researchers of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent in their teams	20	4	20.0%	12.9%

Note: There is overlap between the rows above due to applications that address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health from researchers who are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

In conclusion

- The CTCS Grant scheme is one of NHMRC's new funding schemes.
- The first year of funding in this scheme has resulted in 31 applications being supported, with an overall funded rate of 5.4%.
- The CTCS Grant scheme is complemented by the Investigator Grant, Ideas Grant and Synergy Grant schemes.