



Australian Government
National Health and Medical Research Council

BUILDING
A HEALTHY
AUSTRALIA

Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants Outcomes 2020: Factsheet



NHMRC

Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies (CTCS) Grants 2020 Outcomes Factsheet

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),
 - high-quality cohort studies that provide reliable evidence on the relation of important risk factors and other exposures to health-related outcomes, and/or
 - high quality retrospective 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 approximately \$865 million.

CTCS Grant Outcomes

- 30 applications from institutions across the country will be funded.
- The ratio of clinical trials to cohort studies applications was approximately 2:1.
- The ratio of clinical trials to cohort studies grants was exactly 2:1.

Total number of applications received	436
Total number of applications applying for NHMRC funding	436
Number of grants awarded	30
Percentage of applications awarded	6.9%
Total amount awarded	\$74,223,141
Mean budget for awarded grants	\$2,474,105

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.

Trial or Study Type*	Applications	Grants awarded	Funded rate	Proportion of grants awarded	Total Value
Clinical Trials	299	20	6.7%	66.7%	\$49,711,915
Cohort Studies	137	10	7.3%	33.3%	\$24,511,226

*As determined by the peer review area selected by the applicants.

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	8	0	n/a	n/a	\$0
Clinical Medicine and Science	292	17	5.8%	56.7%	\$39,231,746
Health Services	68	2	2.9%	6.7%	\$4,878,160
Public Health	68	11	16.2%	36.7%	\$30,113,235

Funded Rates by Gender

- Funded rates for female lead Chief Investigators (CIAs) were significantly higher for the CTCS Grant scheme.

CIA Gender	Applications	Grants awarded	Funded Rate	Proportion of grants awarded
Female	186	18	9.7%	60
Male	246	12	4.9%	40
Not Stated or Not Provided	4	0	n/a	0

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 6.7% of the awarded grants and 9.6% 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	27	2	7.4%	6.7%
Applications with one or more researchers of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent in their teams	25	2	8.0%	6.7%

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 second year of funding in this scheme has resulted in 30 applications being supported, with an overall funded rate of 6.9%.
- The CTCS Grant scheme is complemented by the Investigator Grant, Ideas Grant and Synergy Grant schemes.