



Ideas Grants Outcomes 2019: Factsheet



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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.

Ideas Grants

- The objective of the Ideas Grant scheme is to support innovative research projects addressing a specific question(s).
- The expected outcomes of the Ideas Grant scheme are:
 - innovative and creative research
 - funding of researchers at all career stages, and
 - funding any area of health and medical research from discovery to implementation.
- The scheme provides particular opportunities for early and mid-career researchers.
- The scheme is not intended to support research where a clinical trial or cohort study is the primary objective.
- The amount of funding awarded for an Ideas Grant is based on assessment of the requested budget. Applications must clearly justify the requested duration and budget amount and how each element of the budget will support the proposed outcomes of the research.
- The Ideas Grant funding allocation is approximately 26% of the Medical Research Endowment Account (MREA).
- This year's Ideas Grants funding totals \$241.7 million.
- The total amount of funding requested by applicants to the scheme was \$2.2 billion.

Ideas Grant Outcomes

- 294 applications from institutions across the country will be funded in this first round.
- The teams represent diversity in career stages, research disciplines, disease focus and location where the research will be conducted.

Total number of applications received	2739
Total number of applications applying for NHMRC funding	2651*
Number of grants awarded	294**
Percentage of applications awarded	11.1%
Mean budget for awarded grants	\$822,258.82

*Excludes 88 applications that did not request NHMRC funding. Includes two applications that were withdrawn.

**Includes one application that is being funded by the Australian Communications and Media Authority for research on the health effects of Electromagnetic Energy.

Outcomes by Broad Research Area (BRA)

- NHMRC is committed to supporting a broad range of research from discovery science through to clinical research, health services and public health research.
- Basic Science received the greatest allocation of Ideas Grants funding, representing 75.2% of awarded grants.

Broad Research Area	Applications	Grants awarded	Funded rate	Proportion of grants awarded	Total value
Basic Science	1821	221*	12.1%	75.2%	\$173,947,106
Clinical Medicine and Science	566	45	8.0%	15.3%	\$40,231,653
Health Services	117	12	10.3%	4.1%	\$8,263,881
Public Health	147	16	10.9%	5.4%	\$19,301,455

*Includes one application that is being funded by the Australian Communications and Media Authority for research on the health effects of Electromagnetic Energy.

Funded Rates for CIAs by Gender

- Funded rates for female and male CIAs are equal at 11.1%.
- 22 of 123 funded applications with a female CIA are awarded as a structural priority.

CIA Gender	Applications	Grants awarded	Funded rate	Proportion of grants awarded
Female	1108	123	11.1%	41.8%
Male	1517	169	11.1%	57.5%
Not Stated	26	2	7.7%	0.7%

Funded rates for all CIs by Gender

- The funded rates for female and male CIs are close to equal.

CI Gender	Applications	Grants awarded	Funded rate
Female	3006	361	12.0%
Male	4501	523	11.6%
Intersex or Indeterminate	2	0	0.0%
Not Stated	297	35	11.8%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research and Researchers

- NHMRC is committed to allocating at least 5% of the MREA each year to research directed at improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- 20.7% of applications that address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health are awarded funding, representing 2.0% of the awarded grants.
- 21.4% of applications from researchers of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent are awarded funding, representing 3.1% of the awarded grants.

Indigenous Identified/Indigenous Focused	Applications	Grants awarded	Funded rate	Proportion of grants awarded
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focused research	29	6	20.7%	2.0%
Applications with one or more researchers of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent in their teams	42	9	21.4%	3.1%
Applications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research with researchers of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent in their teams	17	5	29.4%	1.7%

Note: There is overlap in these figures as applications that address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health also had researcher(s) of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent in their teams, as shown in the third row.

Outcomes for CIAs by Career Stage and Gender

- One-fifth of the awarded grants are led by early-career and mid-career CIAs (within ten years post-PhD).

Career Stage	Applicants	Grants awarded				Funded rate	Proportion of grants awarded
		Female	Male	Not Stated	TOTAL		
<10 years post-PhD	782	32	27	-	59	7.5%	20.0%
≥10 years post-PhD	1766	88	136	2	226	12.8%	76.9%
No PhD/unknown*	103	3	6	-	9	8.7%	3.1%

*No PhD listed in applicants' CV and Profile in RGMS

Outcomes for all CIs by Career Stage and Gender

- Almost one-quarter of CIs awarded grants are early-career and mid-career CIs (within ten years post-PhD).

Career Stage	Applicants	Grants awarded				Funded rate	Proportion of CIs awarded grants
		Female	Male	Not Stated	TOTAL		
<10 years post-PhD	2161	98	114	6	218	10.1%	23.7%
≥10 years post-PhD	4381	215	323	9	547	12.5%	59.5%
No PhD/unknown*	1264	48	86	20	154	12.2%	16.8%

*No PhD listed in applicants' CV and Profile in RGMS

In conclusion

- The Ideas Grant scheme is one of NHMRC's new flagship funding schemes.
- The first year of funding for this scheme has supported 294 applications with equal funded rates for female and male CIAs.
- The scheme will be run annually, creating additional opportunities for researchers at all career stages.
- The Ideas Grant scheme is complemented by the Investigator Grant, Synergy Grant and Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grant schemes.