



Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council

RAO Webinar
2-3pm Tuesday 7 September 2021

Sapphire Update

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Webinar Overview

- Purpose and agenda:
 - Updates on:
 - Sapphire Select and Post Award functionality
 - associated changes to award and post award processes
 - Demonstrations:
 - accessing outcomes; accepting/declining offers; RAO dashboards; completing at award milestones; deferring grant commencement
 - Support
 - Questions



Sapphire Project

- Background:
 - Sapphire - NHMRC's primary vehicle for grant administration.
 - Progressively being implemented to replace the Research Grant Management System (RGMS)
 - Existing Apply and Assess functionality in Sapphire since October 2019
 - Last major modules—Select and Post Award—being released this year.
 - Will enable end to end management of all Medical Research Endowment Account (MREA) and Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grants in Sapphire once fully deployed.



Sapphire Implementation

- Staged approach to allow early realisation of benefits, robust testing and time to adapt as modules are built.
- Major Sapphire deployments:
 - 2019 – Profile, Apply (pilot)
 - 2020 – Apply (full), Assign, Assess, Review
 - 2021 – Select (Sept) and Post Award (Sept-Dec)
- Launch dates scheduled to align with scheme timelines and to minimise disruption, where possible.



Select and Post Award Modules

- Functions:
 - Select – generation of outcome documents; notification to applicants
 - Post Award – acceptance/decline of offers, ‘at award’ milestones, grant variation requests, grant payments and reporting (scientific & financial)
- Benefits:
 - end to end grants management in Sapphire
 - simpler, more intuitive user interfaces, including new RAO dashboards
 - various improvements to post award processes



Anticipated Deployment Schedule

Module	Included functions	Anticipated launch dates
Select	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome document generation and notifications	September 2021 (now live)
Post Award - Release 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer acceptances/declines• At award milestones• Variations• Scientific reports	
Post Award - Release 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant payments	October 2021
Post Award - Release 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquittals and financial statements• Full migration to Sapphire Post Award functionality.	December 2021



Select & Post Award (Release 1) – Key Changes

Module	Included functions	What will change
Select	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome document generation and notifications	<p>CIA's will receive outcome notifications and documents in Sapphire for most schemes announcing outcomes post-launch.</p> <p>A small number of schemes will continue to notify outcomes via RGMS until the transition to Sapphire is complete in early 2022.</p>
Post Award - Release 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer acceptances/declines• 'At award' milestones• Variations• Scientific reports	<p>RAOs will be able to view outcomes and accept/decline offers in Sapphire for most schemes announcing outcomes post-launch. 'At award' milestones, variations and scientific reports for these schemes will also be managed in Sapphire.</p> <p>For existing grants and schemes that notify outcomes in RGMS post-launch, offers, 'at award' milestones, variations and reports (scientific and financial) will continue to be managed in RGMS until the transition to Sapphire is complete in early 2022.</p>



Select & Post Award (Release 1) – Outcomes

- Outcome notifications and documentation in Sapphire:
 - Most schemes announcing outcomes Sept-Dec; all schemes from 2022.
 - Initial schemes:
 - Investigator Grants 2021 – list of successful applications released under embargo on 26 August. Outcome documents and advice to unsuccessful applicants to follow shortly in Sapphire. RAOs to be given advance notice.
 - Exceptions: MRFF schemes until advised otherwise.



Select & Post Award (Release 1) – Grant Administration

- For schemes notifying outcomes via Sapphire:
 - Institutions will need account holders with specific roles in addition to the RAO role - ie Responsible Officer (RO), Finance Officer and Chief Finance Officer. Process to be advised shortly.
 - Grant offers will not be able to be accepted in Sapphire until the RAO and RO accounts have been requested and created.
 - Account holders need individual email addresses.
 - RAOs will accept/decline offers in Sapphire with the support of action lists.



Select & Post Award (Release 1) – Grant Administration

- All variations for grants accepted in Sapphire are to be requested in Sapphire.
- Variations for grants in RGMS will continue to be processed in RGMS until full deployment of Sapphire.
- Two new variation request types in Sapphire: (i) Change in FTE - Investigator; and (ii) Investigator - Suspend Grant - Partial or Full.
- Two existing variation types merged into one - Defer in progress and Extended Leave request.



Demonstrations

- Accessing outcomes
- Accepting/declining offers
- RAO dashboards
- Completing at award milestones
- Deferring grant commencement



Where to go for assistance

- Support for researchers and RAOs is available via the Sapphire portal, including:
 - › Video tutorials – initial videos now available, more to come
 - › Sapphire Help page - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) now available
 - › access to the Research Help Centre (help@nhmrc.gov.au)
- NHMRC will update the FAQs in response to enquiries.
- Follow Sapphire Twitter Account and subscribe to Tracker to keep informed.



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Thank you

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