NHMRC Investigator Grants Funding Scheme: Impact and Leadership

8 October 2019
**Investigator Grants 2019 Guidelines**

**Opening date:** 06 December 2018

**Closing date and time:** 17:00 AEDT on 06 February 2019

**Commonwealth policy entity:** National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

**Commonwealth Co-sponsoring entity:** Department of Health

**Enquiries:**

Applicants requiring further assistance should direct enquiries to their Administering Institution’s Research Administration Officer (or equivalent). If further clarification is required, Research Administration Officers (RAOs) can contact NHMRC’s Research Help Centre for further advice.

Phone: 1800 500 988 (+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers)

Email: help@nhmrc.gov.au

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding scheme policy will be compiled and then respond to via the scheme’s FAQ document on GrantsConnect. The final FAQ will be released on 31 January 2019.

All policy enquiries should be submitted by COS 29 January 2019.

NHMRC’s Research Help Centre will continue to provide technical assistance to both applicants and RAOs.

Note: The Research Help Centre aims to provide a reply to all requests for general assistance within two working days. This timeframe may be delayed during peak periods or for more detailed requests for assistance.

NHMRC will not respond to any technical enquiries submitted after 13:00 AEDT on 06 February 2019.

**Date guidelines released:** 06 December 2018

**Type of grant opportunity:** Targeted competitive
Grant Opportunity Documents - GO3005

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**GO ID:** GO3005

The files below make up the document set for this grant opportunity.

To open the files, click on the file name. Some web browsers require you to click the right mouse button. You will then see a list of options; choose either 'Save Target As' or 'Save Link As...'

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Assessment Criteria

- Knowledge Gain (Research Proposal) – 30%
- Track Record - 70%
  - Publications (last 10 years) – 35%
  - Research Impact – 20%
  - Leadership – 15%
Research Impact
Research Impact

- **Field One: Reach and significance of the research impact (7%)**
  - reach specify who was impacted (E.g. sectors, populations or sub-populations or sector/s) and where did the impact occur (E.g. region, countries, hospital networks).
  - significance, what was the extent of the impact (E.g. policy change, recognition of research across multiple countries etc).

- **Field Two: Research program’s contribution to the research impact (7%)**
  clear and causal connections between the research program and the research impact described in field one.

- **Field Three: Applicant’s contribution to the research program (6%)**
  your specific contribution to the research program, with corroborating evidence.
Types of Research Impact

- **Knowledge**
  New knowledge, demonstrating the benefits emerging from adoption, adaption or use of new knowledge to inform further research, and/or understanding of what is effective.

- **Health**
  Improvements in health through new therapeutics, diagnostics, disease prevention or changes in behaviour; or improvements in disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment, management of health problems, health policy, health systems, and quality of life.

- **Economic**
  Improvements in the nation’s economic performance through creation of new industries, jobs or valuable products, or reducing health care costs, improving efficiency in resource use, or improving the welfare/well-being of the population within current health system resources. An economic impact may also contribute to social or health impacts, including human capital gains and the value of life and health.

- **Social**
  Improvements in health of society, including well-being of the end user and the community. May include improved ability to access health care services, to participate socially (including empowerment and participation in decision making) and to quantify improvements in the health of society.
Change to Research Impact

Research Impact

- Indicate which of the following research impact types you would like considered in the assessment of your application (select one or more).

- Reach and significance of the research impact (maximum of 2000 characters including spaces and line breaks).

- Evidence of the impact described above (maximum of 1000 characters including spaces and line breaks).

- Research program's contribution to the research impact (maximum of 2000 characters including spaces and line breaks).

- Evidence of the research program's contribution to the impact described above (maximum of 1000 characters including spaces and line breaks).

- Applicant's contribution to the research program (maximum of 2000 characters including spaces and line breaks).

- Evidence of my contribution to the research program as described above (maximum of 1000 characters including spaces and line breaks).
How to approach Research Impact

- Choose your strongest impact, even if it does not directly align with the proposed Knowledge Gain.

- It is recommended to choose only one or two impacts, as you want to give a strong case which has clear and defined evidence.

- Impact MUST have occurred already, not future impact.

- Consult with senior colleagues and/or supervisor to discuss.
Characteristics of High Scoring Application

- Research impact was clearly described and evidenced
  - Used tangible examples to illustrate the change (impact) that occurred as a result of the research;
  - Clearly identified an impact beyond the initial research finding;
  - Included evidence that the impact had significant and far reaching benefits;
  - Clearly described and evidenced how the applicant’s research program contributed to the reach and significance of the impact; and
  - Clearly described and evidenced how the applicant contributed to the research program that led to the research impact.
Characteristics of Low Scoring Application

- Did not correctly address the impact criteria
  - Nominating initial research findings or publications as the research impact, without describing the change that resulted from the use, adaption or adoption of that knowledge
- Excessive repetition across the sub-criteria
- Poorly articulated or evidenced claims of significance, reach or contribution
Reach and significance

- describe the research impact and outline with corroborating evidence its reach and significance. In terms of reach specify:
  - who was impacted (E.g. sectors, populations or subpopulations or sector/s)
  - where did the impact occur (E.g. region, countries, hospital networks).

- In terms of significance, what was the extent of the impact (E.g. policy change, recognition of research across multiple countries etc).
Reach and significance: simplified example

First author publication in Annals of Internal Medicine that has 289 citations.

The publication had 289 citations, which shows reach. However, Web of Science/Scopus/Google Scholar analysis shows that those 289 citations came from 21 countries, 15 research areas and over 150 organisations. This analysis has shown reach and recognition across multiple countries and has shown influence beyond the specified field of research.

Furthermore, if you can continue the Google Scholar analysis to pinpoint evidence of where the publication research has been adopted, adapted or used by other researchers this strengthens the impact.
Research programs contribution

• requires an outline the corroborating evidence to how the research program contributed to the research impact. *It is important to note that providing a description of the research program will not be enough.*
  • This field requires clear and causal connections between the research program and the impact (described in field one).
  • approach you should give a brief overview in the opening paragraph.
  • The subsequent paragraph will chronicle the events (including dates) of what the research program did, what it discovered, and how this led or contributed to the impacts described in field one, using evidence.
  • *It is important that you don’t address your specific role in the research program here, as that will be detailed in field three.*
Research programs contribution: simplified example

The publication in the Annals of Internal Medicine is, itself, evidence of the research program’s findings or results. However, providing a narrative on the research and prior publications, experimental design etc which led to the publication is necessary to explain the research program’s contribution.
Applicant contribution

• In field three you should present, with corroborating evidence, your specific contribution to the research program.
• This section is all about you as the applicant. It is a chance for the assessors to see your contribution, relative to opportunity and relative to the field of research, to the research (field two) that led to the impact (field one).
Applicants contribution:  
simplified example

As you were first author on the publication in Annals of Internal Medicine this is evidence of your contribution to the research program and is therefore relevant to field three. Here you will also detail your contributions to the research such as prior publications, experimental design etc., development of concepts, leading the team, supervision of HDR students that did some of the work etc. It is important here to you could also demonstrate the proportion of your contribution to the research program (E.g. your output represented 30% of the program’s total outputs, and the citations for your first-author papers represented 43% of the program’s total citations) and/or where you led or initiated the research program (or sections of it) or were in some way instrumental in it.
Leadership
Approach

• Give strong examples (evidence). You can’t list everything

• Don’t just list items

• Tell a story

• Why are the items you are highlighting important? Impact

• What was YOUR role?

• Don’t duplicate items which have been listed elsewhere (EG research impact, top 5 publications)
Research Mentoring

Research mentoring (2000 characters)
“supervision, mentoring, training and/or career development of staff and/or students within and/or beyond their research group”

• Do you lead a team?
• PhD, MRes and Honours student and/or staff
  • How many?
  • Where are they now?
  • What have they accomplished? Their success is your success
• Awards for mentoring and/or supervision
• Mentorship and leadership outside your team or MQ
  • Franklin Women
  • International students
Research policy and professional leadership

Research policy and professional leadership (2000 characters)

“experience and contribution to the peer review of publications and grant applications, nationally and/or internationally”

“contribution to community engagement, public advocacy, government advisory boards or committees, professional societies at a local, national and/or international level”

• Show diversity
• Highlight what sets you apart from your peers
• What is the board or committee? What is your role? What has the board or committee achieved?
• Included dates (year range)
• Highlight both academic leadership
Institutional Leadership

Institutional leadership (2000 characters)
“non-research contribution(s) to department, centre, institute or organisation e.g. leadership or membership of committee”

- Remember to think institutional (EG outside your team and/or department and/or faculty)
- Does not need to be academic
  - Franklin Women
  - SAGE
  - International students
  - Community organisations
Research programs and team leadership (2000 characters)
“conception and direction of a research project or program”
“building and maintaining collaborative networks necessary to achieve research outcomes within and/or beyond institution.”

- Research income
- Collaborations
- Your role in the department/faculty
- Research which has led to the Program of Research you have pitched in your Knowledge Gain
- Breadth of research
Specific Assessment Criteria

- Leadership – 15%

Table 5. Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Category Descriptors</th>
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| 7     | Exceptional           | Relative to opportunity (including career stage) and to their field of research, the applicant demonstrates **exceptional** performance in:  
- supervision, mentoring, training and/or career development of staff and/or students within and/or beyond their research group  
- experience and contribution to the peer review of publications and grant applications, nationally and/or internationally  
- contribution to community engagement, public advocacy, government advisory boards or committees, professional societies at a local, national and/or international level  
- non-research contribution(s) to department, centre, institute or organisation e.g. leadership or membership of committee  
- conception and direction of a research project or program  
- building and maintaining collaborative networks necessary to achieve research outcomes within and/or beyond institution. |
Research Support

Advice Toolkit
Workshops
Faculty Contacts
Research Services Staff
Library Assistance
Online Successful Grants Library
Advice Toolkit

Version 3 available from:

https://truth.mq.edu.au/share/id/mqu4nymx

Updated on 2 October 2019.
Workshops

Additional workshops (Room 801, Level 8, 12 Wally’s Walk)

1. Knowledge Gain and Publications
   Mon 14 October, 10:30 – 11:30
# Faculty Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts</th>
<th>Macquarie Business School</th>
<th>Human Sciences</th>
<th>Medicine and Health Sciences</th>
<th>Science and Engineering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Reynolds</td>
<td>Lorne Cummings</td>
<td>Amanda Barnier</td>
<td>Roger Chung</td>
<td>David Coutts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Zwar</td>
<td>Agnieszka Baginska</td>
<td>Jo Tuck</td>
<td>Kyle Ratinac</td>
<td>Irina Zakoshanski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ArtsRO@mq.edu.au">ArtsRO@mq.edu.au</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mqbs-ro@mq.edu.au">mqbs-ro@mq.edu.au</a></td>
<td>human sciences <a href="mailto:research@mq.edu.au">research@mq.edu.au</a></td>
<td>fmhs.research <a href="mailto:support@mq.edu.au">support@mq.edu.au</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sci.research@mq.edu.au">sci.research@mq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>
Research Services Support

- **Research Services** (Level 3, 17 Wally’s Walk, East Entrance)
  Courtney Bendall
  Research Development Manager
  Ph: x4745
  E: courtney.Bendall@mq.edu.au

- **MQ Investigator Grants website**

- **Successful Grants Library**
# 2021 Investigator Grant Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty EOI Opens</td>
<td>30 July 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty EOI Closes</td>
<td>Mid-August (see Faculty for date)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Guidelines Released</td>
<td>No later than 2 October 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications Open</td>
<td>2 October 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>MQ Submission Date</td>
<td>30 October 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Submit complete application for strategic review</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MQ will submit applications to NHMRC</td>
<td>27 November 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commence Investigator Grant</td>
<td>1 January 2021</td>
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Thank you

END