

# Project Grant Application Information

A Project Grant is a funding agreement with an eligible Australian institution to enable an individual researcher or a group of researchers to undertake a scientific investigation.

The Project Grant Scheme is the NHMRC's main avenue of support for individuals and small teams of researchers undertaking biomedical, clinical, public health or health services research in Australian universities, medical schools, hospitals or other research institutions.

- Project Grants may be of one to five years' duration, but anything in excess of three years requires separate justification.
- First named Chief Investigator must be an Australian citizen/permanent resident and be based in Australia for the length of the grant.
- Chief Investigators are limited to a possible 6 NHMRC grants at any time
- New Investigator Grants – all CI's must not have been named on a previously successful NHMRC grant and have not received a competitive research grant of more than \$50,000 from another funding body (excluding the institution that employs the investigator)

## 1. Informed Filler

An NHMRC software program that collects administrative and statistical information on the project and investigators. Includes lay description; ethics information; role of investigators; budgets; grant track record; assessor/non-assessor requests; certification pages (depending on number of CI's this section can be in excess of 100 pages).

## 2. Synopsis (1 page)

## 3. Detailed Background and Research Plan (9 pages)

### Aims

- Write for a non-expert audience
- Write this section first and review this section last – make sure it matches the rest of the application
- Describe the specific aims of the project
- What do you intend to do?

### Background

- Write for non-expert audience
- What has already been done in this area?
- Demonstrate the importance of this project
- Show that you have done a thorough, critical literature review and have a good understanding of this area

- Identify gaps in current knowledge

#### Research Plan

- Write as needed for project – this section may need to be more technical
- How will you achieve your aims (approach, methods and techniques)
- Show that you know what needs to be done and know how to do it
- Include: conceptual framework; experimental design; limitations; anticipated difficulties; alternative approaches; timeline

#### Outcomes and Significance

- Write to the non-expert audience
- Why is it important and to whom?
- What is unique about your proposal?
- What knowledge gap will it fill?
- How will it lead to new conclusions of general value and/or practical significance?

#### Budget and Justification

- Develop your budget accurately (do not over or under request)
- Do not guess costs
- Justify every item
- Why is it essential in relation to the aims, methodology & Objectives of the project

#### **4. References** (2 pages)

#### **5. Track Records** (1 page per CI)

#### **6. Refereed Publications** (past 5 years x each CI)

#### **7. Recent NHMRC funding reports**

## **Assessor Comments and Advice from Previous Rounds**

### **Significance**

- Extract from Assessment - I am not entirely convinced that these data will allow extrapolation to the conclusion that .....
- Advice - Ensure integrity of data

### **Track Record**

- Extract from Assessment - I am not sure that the experiments in this project really address these fundamental issues
- Advice - Ensure the experiments will achieve the aim of the project

### **Budget**

- Extract from Assessment - Consumable costs seem excessive in some cases
- Advice - Many reviewers will focus on small budget items such as consumables – so be aware and ensure you justify adequately

### **Track Record**

- Extract from Assessment - The publication rate was relatively low
- Advice - If your publication rate is low make sure you can justifiably demonstrate why (in Track Record section)