University Of New South Wales
NHMRC Partnership Projects Scheme

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Overview

• Scheme aims and objectives
• Types of research projects suited to this scheme
• The partner’s role
• Special Initiative - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
• Changes to funding policy and peer review process in 2016
• Tips on applying
• Questions
Partnership Projects Scheme

• Aims to improve health services and programs in Australia by:
  – supporting the translation of research evidence into health policy and practice; and
  – promoting collaboration between researchers, service providers and policy makers.
Partnership Projects

- Translate research outcomes into policy/practice
- Evaluate current policy/practice to identify gaps in knowledge
- Address the delivery, organisation, funding and access to services and programs
- NHMRC accepts application submissions all year
Translational Research

- Study mechanisms of knowledge transfer and exchange which will lead to better health outcomes for Australians through improved health services
- Involves preventative programs, primary and community health care, hospitals, access to services, workforce, infrastructure and funding
- Utilise/apply existing evidence to develop advice
- Increase reach and knowledge of how to implement through partnerships
Evaluation Research

• Identifies opportunities to improve the performance of programs or services

• Evaluates new approaches to services and programs, their dissemination and uptake

• Monitors and reviews current policy and practice to gauge its impact and determine whether change is necessary
EXAMPLE 1

Surveillance and Treatment of Prisoners with hepatitis C

Professor Andrew Lloyd, University of New South Wales
Example 1

• Research objectives
  – Evaluate impact of a rapid scale-up of Direct Acting Antiviral treatment for HCV on the incidence and prevalence of HCV infection in the prison setting
  – Develop a translational framework for subsequent establishment of treatment-as-prevention programs in the prison sector across NSW and nationally
Example 1

• Partners
  – Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network
  – Corrective Services NSW
  – NSW Health
  – Hepatitis NSW
  – NSW Users and AIDS Association
  – Gilead Sciences Inc.
EXAMPLE 2

Uptake, sustainability and impact of scaling up point-of-care testing for sexually transmissible infections in remote and regional Aboriginal communities

(TTANGO2)

A/Professor Rebecca Guy, University of New South Wales
Example 2

• Research objectives
  – Upscale point-of-care diagnostic assay for sexually transmissible infections in rural and remote Aboriginal communities
  – Evaluate uptake, sustainability and impact
  – Better control of STIs, improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people, and inform national implementation strategy
Example 2

- Partners
  - Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
  - WA Department of Health
  - Ngaanyajarra Health Service
  - Cepheid
EXAMPLE 3

Transfusion Research: Improving Outcomes (TRIO)

Professor John P McNeil, Monash University
Example 3

• Outcomes
  – Development of national registries to monitor transfusion practices for certain conditions
  – Development of new tools to assist clinicians to monitor and improve transfusion practices
  – Allows monitoring of transfusion practices nationally and will influence future policy and practice
Example 3

• Partners
  – Australian Red Cross Blood Service
  – Victorian Government
EXAMPLE 4

Evaluating hand hygiene interventions and their ability to reduce healthcare associated infection

A/Professor Nicholas Graves, Queensland University of Technology
Example 4

• Outcomes

  – Evaluation of the success of the National Hand Hygiene Initiative across 50 hospitals

  – While the program was successful, the cost effectiveness varied greatly across states

  – Support policy makers to tailor hand hygiene campaigns to local conditions
Example 4

- Partners
  - Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
  - Hand Hygiene Australia
  - State and Territory Health Departments
PARTNERS
Partners

• Organisations whose decisions and actions affect Australians’ health, health policy and health care delivery

• Research should address an issue or problem that the policy/practice partner needs solved

• Pivotal to the research project and contribute at least 50% of the total cost
Partners

•Involved at all stages of the project
•Share governance of the project
•Implement research outcomes
•NHMRC Administering Institutions cannot be partners (although waivers may be granted)
•Applications that list Administering Institutions as partners may be ineligible
Examples of Partners

• Federal, state, territory or local government
  – Areas of health and health services, economic policy, urban planning, education, transport

• Private sector organisations
  – Employers, health insurance providers

• NGOs & charities

• Community organisations and consumer groups

• Health care providers
Special Initiative

- Funding provided by Department of Health
- Partnership projects in population and health services research aiming to promote health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians
- Offered from 2016 until resources exhausted
- Funding may be used to support a masters, PhD or post-doctoral study conducted as part of the research project
Special Initiative

• Five priority areas

  – Primary health care delivery

  – Health literacy and encouragement of healthy living across the life course

  – Child and family health

  – Youth health and wellbeing including promoting resilience

  – Chronic disease prevention, identification and management
CHANGES IN 2016
2016

• Special Initiative
• Partners must nominate a “Partner Investigator”
• Track record now includes “Partner Organisations” and “Partner Investigators”
• Category descriptors revised
TIPS ON APPLYING FOR GRANTS
Grantsmanship

• Understand the rules
• Make sure you have a thorough grasp of the four Assessment Criteria

1. Track record of the Chief Investigators, Partner Organisations, and Partner Investigators relative to opportunity (25%)
2. Scientific quality of the proposal and methodology (25%)
3. Relevance and likelihood to influence health and research policy and practice (25%)
4. Strength of partnership (25%)
Grantspersonship

• Review and understand the Category Descriptors
  – What does a 7 look like? Aim for this!

• Address NHMRC’s Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria (if applicable)

• Think like a panel member
  – Read Peer Review Guidelines, see resources on NHMRC website https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants-funding/peer-review/nhmrc-grant-review-panels-induction

• Make the most of opportunities to learn more
Grantspersonship

• Readability
  – Not all peer reviewers will be 100% familiar with your research techniques or field of study
  – Structure information to suit all reviewers
    • Easy to read
    • Use subheadings
    • A clear, well-written, properly organised application is more likely to be favoured
  – Make it interesting
  – Use partner letter templates
Grantspersonship

• Be realistic
  – Is your project suited to this scheme?
    • Is it translational or evaluation research?
    • What is the national or regional significance?
    • Is there a successful pilot (if appropriate)?
    • What is the likely impact on policy and practice?
    • Is there evidence of a partnership?
  – Don't propose more work than can be reasonably done during the proposed project period
  – Is there appropriate expertise within the team?
  – Is the budget reasonable and well-justified?
Grantspersonship

• Writing Tips
  – Be consistent with terms, references and writing style
  – Minimise use of acronyms
  – Be specific and informative
  – Use diagrams, figures and tables and include appropriate legends
  – Make sure the figures and labels are readable in the size they will appear in the application
  – Identify weak links in your application so the application you submit is solid, making a strong case for your project
  – If writing is not your forte, seek help!
Grantsmanship

• Proofreading and Final Edits
  – Allow sufficient time to proofread (yourself and colleagues)
  – If more than one investigator is contributing to the writing, try to have one overall editor
  – Have zero tolerance for typographical errors, mispelledings, grammatical mistakes or sloppy formatting
Partnership Projects Success Rate - overall

- Round 1 2009
- Round 2 2010
- Round 3 2011
- Round 4 First Call for 2012
- Round 5 Second Call for 2012
- Round 6 Third Call for 2012
- Round 7 First Call 2013
- Round 8 Second Call 2013
- Round 9 Third Call 2013
- Round 10 First Call 2014
- Round 11 Second Call 2014
- Round 12 PRC #1 for 2015
- Round 13 PRC #2 for 2015

% Success rate
NEED HELP?

NHMRC’s Research Help Centre

Email: help@nhmrc.gov.au
Phone: 1800 500 983
QUESTIONS?
Thank you!