RSO - NHMRC Program Grants Scheme Summary

Purpose: for teams of high quality researchers to pursue broad based, collaborative research addressing complex problems.

For: for integrated groups of researchers with well-established track records of high impact health and medical research. Chief Investigators (CIs) are expected to hold a PhD or equivalent professional qualification; be at either academic salary Level C or above, be an NHMRC Senior Research Fellow or above, or be employed be at (or above) a level equivalent to these; and have a strong record of achievement in competitive peer-reviewed research or industry-supported research.

Assessment Criteria:
1. Research Achievements (60%) made up of:
   • Publications and/or high quality Technical Reports – 35%
   • Grants – 5%
   • Invitations / Prizes / Awards – 5%
   • History of Research Translation – 15%
2. Research Strategy (20%)
3. Collaborative Gain (20%) made up of:
   • Integration of the Research Teams and Program
   • Team Skills
   • Resource management
   • Intellectual Exchange, Training and Mentoring

Each CI is scored individually for Research Achievements with the team score being the average of all CI’s individual scores for that criterion. There is a single score for the team for each of the two other criteria. In assessing criterion one, panel members will consider factors most relevant to an applicant’s field of research, the applicant’s achievements relative to their peers and their opportunity, and place greatest relevance on Research Achievements within the past five years. Applicants should also give close attention to the relevant Category Descriptors. Indigenous Health applications must also address the Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria.

Eligibility:
Applicant Team must comprise of between 3 to 10 CIs.

CIA must be employed by or be appointed to an academic position by the Administering Institution (AI). Where CIA is employed by more than one AI, then the grant must be administered by the AI with the more substantial employment contract.

All CIs:
• must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent resident of Australia or have an appropriate work visa (at the time of acceptance and for the grant duration)
• be Australian based for at least 80% of the funding period
• must have fulfilled obligations from previous NHMRC grants

Program Grant CIs:
• cannot hold another Program Grant as CI
• cannot apply for a new Program Grant in years one, two or three of their existing Program
• can apply for a new Program Grant in years four and five of their existing Program Grant only
• may hold one Project Grant concurrently with their Program Grant provided:
  o only one Program Grant CI is a CI on the Project Grant applied for/held and the Program Grant CI isn’t the sole CI on the Project Grant applied for/held.

Grant Duration: five years

Level of funding: funding is not based on the cost of the research or a formal budget request, rather each CI attracts a quantum of funding based on their individual score for Research Achievements. The budgets offered will usually equate to the sum of the quanta for all CIs on the application. Quanta (2015 rate) ranged from 299K for Level 1 to 534K for Level 4.

Funding for: postdoctoral researchers, research and technical assistants, higher degree candidates, other direct research costs, minor items of equipment. Note CIs salaries are not supported by this scheme.

Success rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of Apps</td>
<td>% Funded</td>
<td># of Apps</td>
<td>% Funded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
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