Purpose: to support the creation of new knowledge by funding the best investigator-initiated research project plan in any area relevant to human health.

For: single investigators or teams of up to 10 Chief Investigators (CIs) as well as New Investigators (NIs).

Assessment Criteria:
- Scientific Quality 50%
- Significance of the Expected Outcomes and/or Innovation of the Concept 25%
- Team Quality and Capability relevant to the application – relative to opportunity, taking into account career disruption where applicable 25%

Applicants should also consider the Category Descriptors, as these are used by the Grant Review Panel (GRP) members to score each application against each criterion. Indigenous Health applications must also address the Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria.

Eligibility:
CIA:
- 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
- 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 have fulfilled obligations from previous NHMRC grants
- the maximum number of applications a CI may submit is six, less the number of Project Grants that are scheduled to continue in the year following the year of the application, e.g. if a CI holds four Project Grants, one of which will finish at the end of the year of application, the CI may submit up to three applications.
- Program Grant applicants and grant holders
  - Full Time Program Grant CIs are not permitted to hold or apply for more than one Project Grant.
  - There can only be one Program Grant holder named as a CI on any project grant application.
  - Program Grant CIs cannot be the only (sole) CI named on any existing Project Grant or a Project Grant application.
  - A researcher can be a part-time CI on one or two Program Grants.
  - Part-Time Program Grant CIs who hold one Program Grant are permitted to hold up to two Project Grants but not as a sole CI.
  - Part-Time Program Grant CIs who hold two Program Grants are not permitted to hold or apply for any Project Grants.

All NIs, at the time of application submission:
- have less than 10 years from the date of the letter advising them that their doctoral thesis was passed, unless career disruptions exist;
- not have been a named CI (or equivalent) on a funded NHMRC Project Grant and/or an ARC Discovery Grant; and
- not have been a named CI (or equivalent) on a funded research grant from any other agency listed on the Australian Competitive Grants Register or an equivalent international funding agency totaling $250K AUD or more. Note that the $250K limit is not cumulative and that applicants may still have held a salary-only award (scholarship or fellowship).

Grant Duration: up to five years

Funding limit: no limit specified

Funding for: Salaries (but not for overseas based CIs), Other Direct Research Costs, Equipment ($80K limit)

Success rates:

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<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<td>New Investigator Grant</td>
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