



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Research Innovation & Enterprise: NHMRC Partnership Projects Workshop

19th July 2023

Research Grants, Contracts & Finance – Health & Medical Grants Team



Acknowledgement of Country

I begin today by acknowledging that I am hosting this session from the lands of the Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin nation and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.

I would also like to extend this respect to Elders from other communities where people are joining us from today.





Session Overview

- Dr Patricia Ridgway (Senior Research Scientist and Director of Research Collaboration at NHMRC).
 - *Overview and objectives of the scheme, key characteristics of high and low scoring applications, key considerations in terms of the scheme.*
- Dr Wade Moore (Manager, Health and Medical Grants Team RIC).
 - *Guidance on application process and key considerations for applicants to improve the quality of their application*
- Prof Mark Stevenson FAHMS (Professor of Urban Transport and Public Health and Co-Director, Transport Health and Urban Design Research Lab)
 - *Successful Partnership Project awardee 2022 – Project titled: Delivering a population-based intervention to reduce young driver crashes. Guidance on their strategic considerations and what was helpful to them in putting their application together.*
- Q & A





Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council

The University of Melbourne
19 July 2023

NHMRC Partnership Project scheme

Dr Patricia Ridgway
Director, Research Collaboration
NHMRC



NHMRC

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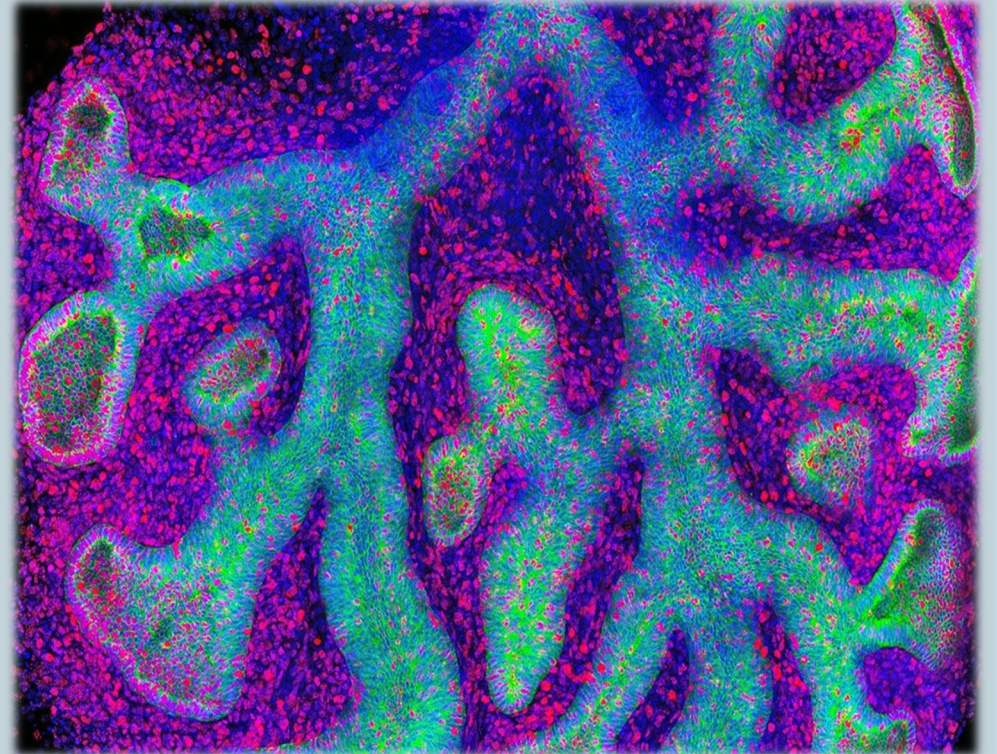
Overview

Overview of the Partnership Project scheme

Considerations for applicants

Characteristics of a strong application

The University of Melbourne and the Partnership Project scheme



*Science to Art (2017) submission "The roots of life"
Ms Casey Ah-Cann | WEHI*

Partnership Project scheme - overview

NHMRC Grant Program

	Investigator Grants	Synergy Grants	Ideas Grants	Strategic and leveraging grants
Purpose	To support the research program of outstanding investigators at all career stages	To support outstanding multi-disciplinary teams to work together to answer major questions that cannot be answered by a single investigator	To support focussed innovative research projects addressing a specific question	To support research that addresses identified national needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Centres of Research Excellence - Partnership Projects - Development Grants - Targeted Calls for Research - International schemes - Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants
Duration	5 years	5 years	Up to 5 years	Varies with scheme (Partnership Projects 1-5 years)
Funding	Research support package (RSP) plus optional salary support	Grant of a set budget (\$5 million)	Based on the requested budget for research support	Dependent on individual scheme
Proportion of total NHMRC funding	About 40%	About 5%	About 25%	About 30% (Partnership Projects 3.4%)

Source: [Overview | NHMRC](#)

The Partnership Project scheme

Provides funding and support to create new opportunities for researchers, policy makers and health service providers to work together to define research questions, undertake research, interpret the findings and implement the findings into policy and practice.



Source: iStock image of group of people meeting with coffee

Scheme Objectives

- meet the need for a more effective integration of research evidence into health policy and service delivery
- create partnerships among policy makers, managers, service providers and researchers
- provide support to answer often complex and difficult questions that policy makers, managers and service providers face when making decisions and implementing policies that affect Australians' health and health care
- be highly responsive to the priorities of government, the community and health professionals
- enable applicants to apply for funding at any time during the year to allow researchers and Partner Organisations to develop timely collaborations.

Intended outcomes

Translation into policy and practice

- studies of mechanisms of knowledge transfer and exchange which will lead to improved Australian health outcomes through improved health services
- research involving preventative programs, primary and community health care, hospitals, access to services, workforce, infrastructure and funding
- application of existing evidence to develop advice
- increase reach and knowledge of how to implement through partnerships.

Evaluating current policy and practice and identifying gaps in knowledge

- identifying opportunities to improve the performance of programs or services
- the evaluation of new approaches to services and programs, their dissemination and uptake
- monitoring and review of current policy and practice to gauge its impact and determine whether change is necessary.

Key differences between the Partnership Project scheme and other NHMRC schemes

- Partnership Projects has on average three Peer Review Cycles annually.
- Applications must be joint submissions from an Administering Institution and one or more Partner Organisations.
- Partner Organisations must make a combined total contribution of at least the same value as is sought from NHMRC.

Key differences – continued..

- Funding committed by the Partner Organisation must be declared and confirmed in a letter of support.
- The inclusion of at least one Partner Investigator from each Partner Organisation is mandatory.
- Partner Investigators can also be Chief Investigators at the discretion of the CIA.

Funding (2019-2021)

Year	Peer review cycle (PRC)	Number of applications funded	NHMRC MREA (\$ million)	Partner contribution (\$ million)
2021	PRC3	12	14.2	25.0
	PRC2	5	5.6	16.3
	PRC1	5	5.6	8.3
2020	PRC2	16	20.4	28.6
	PRC1	10	11.3	15.7
2019	PRC3	22	20.4	30.4
	PRC2	6	4.8	6.2
	PRC1	6	5.7	7.1

Considerations for applicants



Source: iStock image: A group of people sitting at a table with laptops

General advice for applicants

- Remember the purpose of NHMRC funding
- Obtain user accounts for [GrantConnect](#) and [Sapphire](#)
- Subscribe to the NHMRC newsletter, [Tracker](#) - to stay up to date
- Read the Grant Guidelines
- Meet internal and NHMRC deadlines
- Seek advice from your RAO, mentors and colleagues
- Refer to the guidelines for key changes to the grant opportunity
- Participate in peer review



Partnership Project funding available

- The maximum amount of funding that can be requested from NHMRC for a Partnership Project grant is \$1.5 million.
- Funding will be provided from the NHMRC Medical Research Endowment Account (MREA), which is underpinned by section 51 of the NHMRC Act.
- Annual MREA allocation for the Partnership Project scheme is currently \$31.6 million.
- Salary support is not offered for CIs or AIs through this scheme. These salaries could be sought from a Partner Organisation(s) or Participating Institutions.
- A Partnership Project grant can be requested for between 1 and 5 years.

Timing of 2023 Partnership Projects grant opportunity

Process	<u>PRC1</u>	<u>PRC2</u>
Applications Open	11 January 2023	27 July 2023
NHMRC Approved Administering Institutions waiver due	12 July 2023	1 November 2023
Minimum data due	26 July 2023 (5pm ACT local time)	15 November 2023 (5pm ACT local time)
Applications close	9 August 2023 (5pm ACT local time)	29 November 2023 (5pm ACT local time)
Anticipated Peer Review Meetings	21-22 November 2023	19-20 March 2024

Three peer review cycles are anticipated in 2024. NHMRC will advise of dates when they approved by the Minister.

Eligibility

- Up to 10 Chief Investigators (CIs)
- Up to 10 Associate Investigators (AIs)
- CIA must be based in Australia for at least 80% of the funding period.
- The inclusion of at least one named Partner Investigator from each of the Partner Organisations is mandatory.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research

To qualify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research, at least 20% of the research effort and/or capacity-building must relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria:

- Community engagement
- Benefit
- Sustainability and transferability
- Building capability

Partner Organisations

Who can be a partner organisation?

Organisations that are capable of implementing policy and service delivery and would normally not be able to access funding through most NHMRC funding mechanisms are highly valued as partners. They include organisations such as:

- those working in federal, state, territory or local government – in the health portfolio or in other areas affecting health, such as economic policy, urban planning, education or transport
- those working in the private sector such as employers, private health insurance providers or private hospitals
- non-government organisations and charities
- community organisations such as consumer groups
- healthcare providers
- professional groups.

Who cannot be a partner organisation?

- Research Translation Centres (RTCs) and Partnership Centres cannot be a Partner Organisation. However, one of their service delivery agencies may be named Partner Organisation.
- Administering Institutions

Partner Administering Institution waiver process

- Who can apply for an Administering Institution waiver?
 - an NHMRC Approved Administering Institution which is primarily involved in delivering health policy and/or health services and which seeks to be named as a partner on one or more Partnership Project applications (not by the organisation which intends to administer the application).
- Requests for waivers need to be made through the Research Administration Office of the Administering Institution that is applying for the waiver.
- A request for waiver form can be downloaded on the NHMRC webpage [Partnership Projects | NHMRC](#) and emailed to help@nhmrc.gov.au

Partner contribution guidelines

Partner Organisation contributions can be either cash or in-kind. The Partner Organisation(s) named on the application must provide at least 50% of the research costs.

- The onus is on the NHMRC-approved Administering Institution to establish the merit and value of the in-kind contributions.
- Cash and/or in-kind contributions will only be recognised if they are essential for the project.

Further information about Partner contributions is in the Partner Contribution Guidelines at Appendix D of the 2023 Partnership Project guidelines.

Partner contributions

What can be claimed as a cash contribution?

- The salary costs of new staff employed and dedicated to work on the research.
- Funds provided as salary support to the Administering Institution.
- Funds to pay for proposed travel.
- Funds to purchase new equipment.
- Cash to fund direct research costs for the project.

What can be claimed as in-kind contributions?

- Salaries or proportions of salaries of established staff who will be released to work on the research.
- Use of existing equipment owned by the Partner Organisation for the project.
- Use of facilities and materials owned by the Partner Organisation in conducting the research.

Characteristics of a strong application



Source: iStock image – a group of people sitting around a table

Advice on writing a strong application

- read and follow the grant opportunity guidelines
- learn about funded grants and their partners on the [Partnership Projects Webpage](#)
- address the Assessment Criteria – think like a peer reviewer
- Appendix C of the guidelines – ‘Characteristics of a strong application’ includes:
 - be of a high scientific quality
 - demonstrate that strong relations between researchers and Partner Organisations exist or will be developed
 - address issues of national or regional significance (rather than local-only significance)
 - demonstrate broad and meaningful involvement of consumers, community and/or research end-users throughout the research.

For more information visit the [NHMRC Webpage](#) and [GrantConnect](#).

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the Assessment Criteria, including how well they address the desired outcomes of the grant opportunity.

Assessment Criteria	Criterion Weight
Track Records of the Chief Investigators, Partner Organisations and Partner Investigators, Relative to Opportunity	25%
Scientific Quality of the Proposal and Methodology	25%
Relevance and Likelihood to Influence Health Policy and Practice	25%
Strength of Partnership	25%

Strength of the Partnership – Criterion 4

Assessment will focus on the extent to which the application demonstrates the capacity to develop or sustain a strong partnership. Factors such as the following will be considered:

- evidence of co-development of the proposal
- the financial and/or in-kind commitment of the partner(s)
- previous evidence of effective working relationships with Partner Organisations
- the proposed governance or partnership arrangements
- the roles of staff in the partner agency or agencies in the research process.

Further information on Partnerships can be found in Appendix E. Sections 6.9 and 6.10 of the 2023 Partnership Projects guidelines.

Descriptors for a top score

Score	Track records of the Chief Investigators, Partner Organisations and Partner Investigators, relative to opportunity (25%)	Scientific quality of the proposal and methodology (25%)	Relevance and likelihood to influence health policy and practice (25%)	Strength of the partnership (25%)
7 Exceptional	<p>The CI team members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have an exceptional record of achievement in research translation and impact demonstrate extensive experience and success in collaborative research, evaluation and implementation of evidence into health policy, health practice and/or service delivery demonstrate extensive experience working in partnership with health service providers or health policy agencies have been stellar, in terms of publications, and other recognition have strong national and international reputations hold leadership positions in highly regarded scientific or professional societies have track records that are highly relevant to the proposed research <p>The Partner Organisation(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is highly relevant to the proposed research demonstrates extensive experience and success in drafting health policy or delivering a health program or health service has a very strong national or state/territory-wide reputation has clear expectations that strongly align with the goals of the CI team is highly likely to integrate outcomes into a health system or clinical practice, with evidence of becoming self-sustaining is ideally placed to engage support from stakeholders including end-users and the wider community, and facilitate high uptake at all levels. <p>PI(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates extensive experience and success in drafting health policy or delivering a health program or health service demonstrates previous strong successful relationships with researchers. 	<p>The Research proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comprehensively and convincingly addresses the objectives of the scheme has objectives that are well-defined, highly coherent and strongly developed builds on knowledge gained through previous research is a near flawless design is without question highly feasible introduces major advances in concept of translational research includes rigorous translational research design consistently uses best practice in implementation science methods including: the use of theoretical frameworks, justifiable, robust measures for monitoring and evaluation; best practice models for changing practice and behaviour modification; rigorous engagement plans and identified champions; policy change and influencing mechanisms; and long-term sustainability strategies demonstrates broad and meaningful involvement of consumers, community, and/or research end-users throughout the research. 	<p>The proposed outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> will deliver against the intended outcomes of the scheme address one (or more) highly-prioritised health issue(s) of significance nationally or across one or more state/territory will translate into health outcomes in the knowledge-base, policy and/or practice of clinical medicine, public health or changes in health policy will be the subject of invited plenary presentations at national meetings will almost certainly result in highly influential publications will most likely become highly integrated into a health system or clinical practice, with evidence of becoming self-sustaining will have a very high likelihood of becoming a highly effective, generalisable model at a national level or across at least one state / territory that will prove to be beneficial to the health system will receive high-profile coverage from media and the public in general will generate new researcher capability, mentoring and career development. 	<p>The proposed partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates that a strong relationship between the researchers and Partner Organisation(s) already exists or will be developed demonstrates existing shared governance and decision making capability. can be used as an exemplar for what successful partnerships could achieve in terms of creating leaders, leverage, networking and delivering policy and practice developments in health contributes to a high degree of team integration and cohesiveness shows high probability of exceptional collaborative gains in terms of skills and benefits to health in localised areas and Australia is clearly evident from the conceptual stages of the proposal to the final application, as the partners are highly integrated into the proposal. would see the partners intimately involved at all stages of the proposed research is shown by shared policy/practice goals and significant cash and in-kind resource contributions illustrates capacity building, networking and infrastructure building activities that will extend beyond the life of the project.

Example of project and involvement of Partner Organisations – 2022 (PRC1)

NAVICARE: Implementing, scaling up and sustaining a co-designed care navigation model to improve mental health service access in regional Australia.

One in five Australians experience mental ill health each year. In regional Australia, mental health services are harder to access than in urban areas. We developed a new model of care with regional communities to address this. A local person assists people in navigating how to access the best mental health care, which has been shown to be beneficial. This project will evaluate the new model of care in multiple regional sites in Queensland and potential scaling up across Australia



Pictured: Wesley Research Institute CEO Andrew Barron; QUT researchers Dr Zephania Tyack and Bridget Abell.

NHMRC Awarded: \$727,470.00

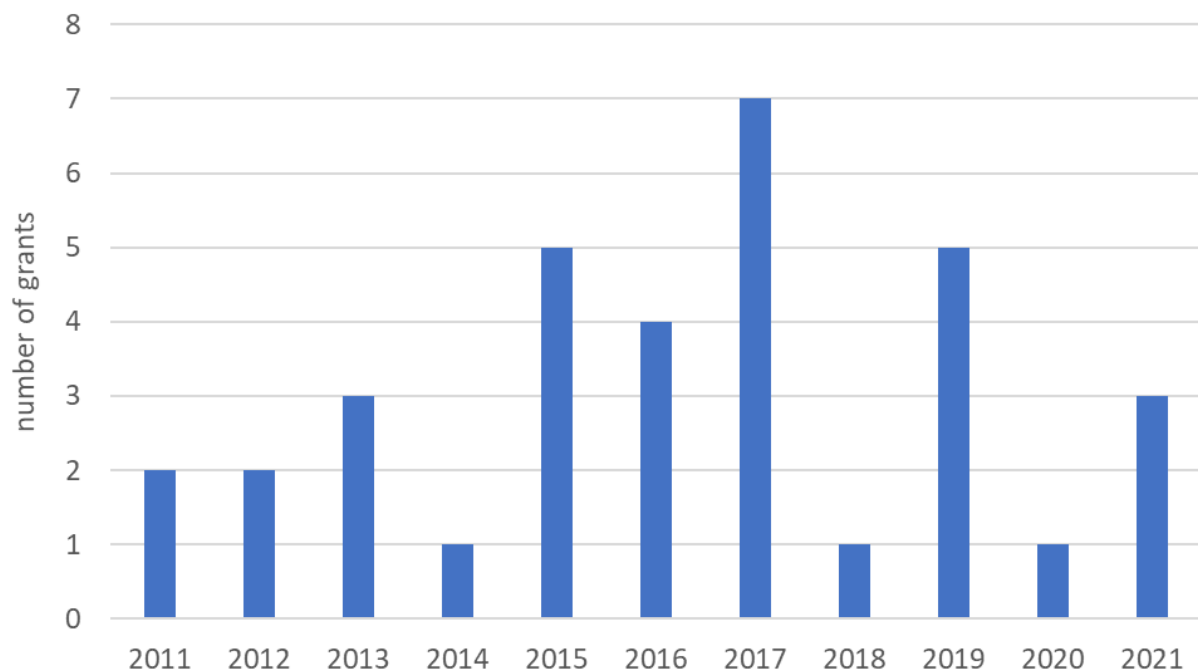
Administering Institution: Queensland University of Technology

Matched from Funding Partners: Wesley Medical Institute, Beyond Blue, Isaac Regional Council, Greater Whitsundays Communities.

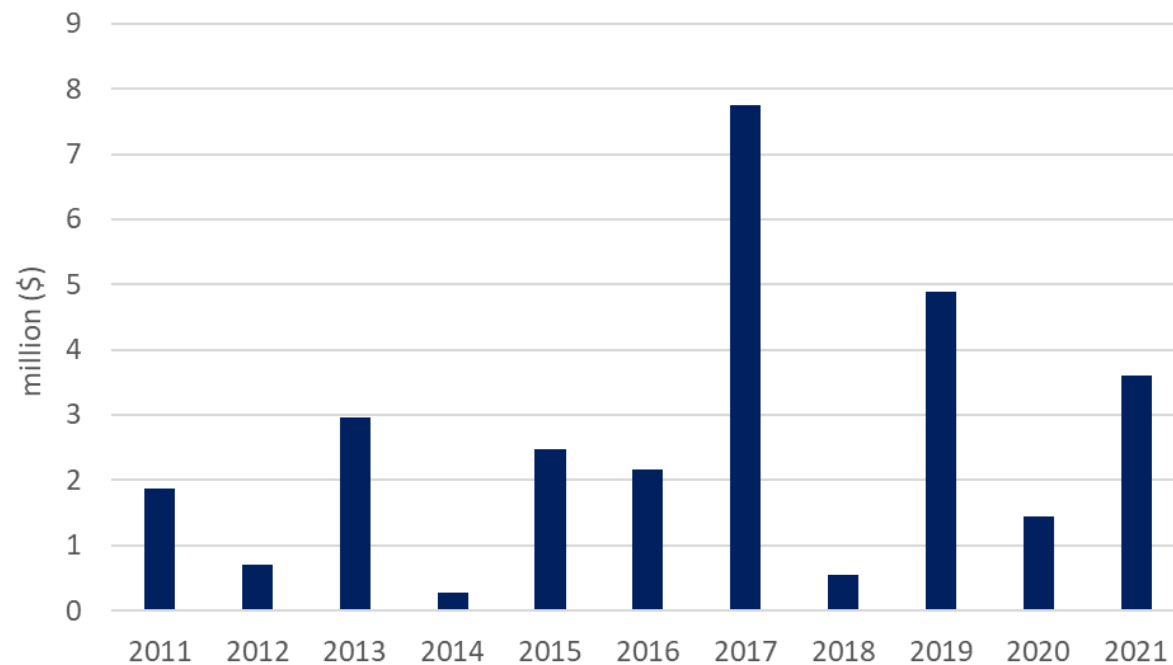
The University of Melbourne and the Partnership Project scheme

The University of Melbourne

Number of Partnership Project grants awarded to University of Melbourne 2011 - 2021



Total Partnership Projects funding awarded to University of Melbourne 2011-2021



Compared to all Administering Institutions, The University of Melbourne was awarded the second highest number of Partnership Project grants between 2011 - 2021, and the third highest cumulative funding from the scheme during the same period (\$28.6 million).

The University of Melbourne

Partner Organisations on Partnership Project grants - 2021

- In 2021 Partnership Project grants involved a total of 164 partners, including 15 partners from the University of Melbourne grants (9%).
- In 2021, the average number of partners on Partnership Project grants was 7.5.
- The average number of partners on The University of Melbourne grants was 5.



Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council

Thank you

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Presentation Overview

Successful Application Data

Overview of Peer Review Process

Key Changes For This Round

Overview of Scheme Assessment Criteria & Examples of Reviewer Comments

Guide To Completing your Application

- Minimum Data
- Profile & CV
- Grant Proposal
- Budget
- Partner Contributions
- Partner Letter of Support

Research Innovation and Commercialisation Processes and Resources

- Critical Dates
- Application Process
- What does RIC offer in Application Review?
- How to apply
- Resources





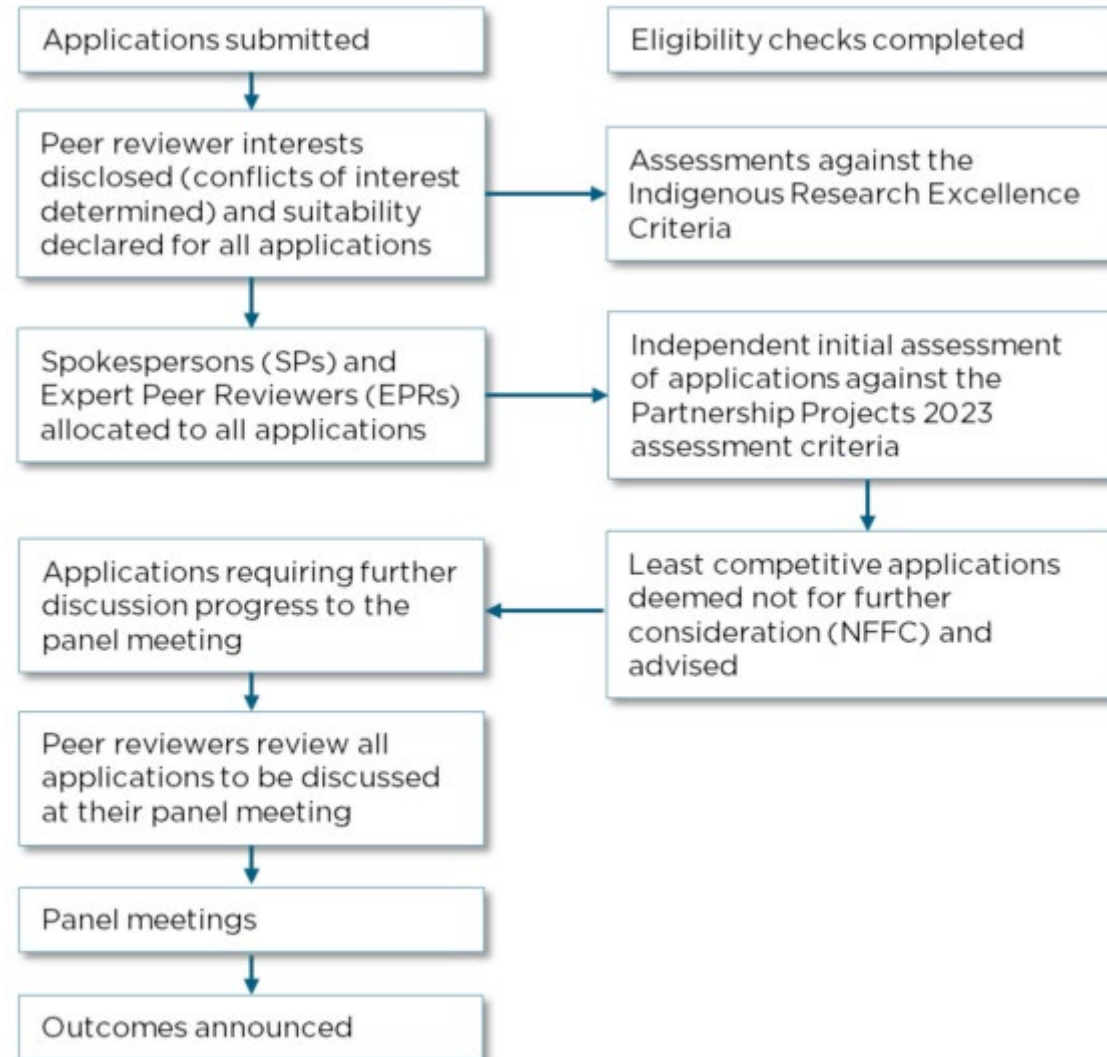
NHMRC Partnership Project – Past Round National Data

	2018 (2 nd & 3 rd call 2017 & 1 st call 2018)	2019 (2 nd & 3 rd call 2018 & 1 st call 2019)	2020 (2 nd & 3 rd call 2019)	2021* (1 st & 2 nd call 2020 & 1 st call 2021)	2022 (2 nd & 3 rd call 2021 & 1 st call 2022)	2023** (2 nd call 2022)
Total number of applications received	63	64	55	93	77	16
Number of grants awarded	28	35	28	31	24	6
% of applications awarded	44.4%	54.7%	50.9%	33.3%	31.2%	37.5%
Total amount awarded	\$24,285,909	\$33,058,095	\$25,192,297	\$37,316,594	\$28,019,795	\$7,976,438
Mean budget for awarded grants	\$867,353.89	\$944,517.01	\$899,724.88	\$1,203,761.09	\$1,167,491.45	\$1,329,406.40

*Funding awarded includes \$1.5 million funds contributed to the MREA, as described in a Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Health, for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and Obesity Prevention Research Special Initiative.

**Results for 3rd call 2022 have been released under embargo

Partnership Projects Peer Review Process



Key Changes For This Round

- ‘Top 10 Publications’ (Appendix E section 6.6) has been added. Applicants are asked to list their top 10 publications from the last 10 years, taking into account career disruptions. **Applicants’ full publication list from the last five years will no longer be provided to peer reviewers for assessment.**
- ‘Grant Proposal’ requirements (Appendix E section 6.8) have been updated (removal of top 5 publications from CI Track Record of Translation section).
- The Partnership Projects 2023 grant opportunity will have two Peer Review Cycles (instead of three).





NHMRC Partnership Project Assessment Criteria - Scientific Quality of the Proposal and Methodology (25%)

The Research proposal:

- comprehensively and convincingly **addresses the objectives of the scheme**
- has **objectives that are well defined, highly coherent and strongly developed**
- **builds on knowledge gained through previous research**
- is a **near flawless design**
- is without question **highly feasible**
- introduces **major advances in concept of translational research**
- includes **rigorous translational research design**
- consistently **uses best practice in implementation science methods** including: the use of theoretical frameworks, justifiable, robust measures for monitoring and evaluation; best practice models for changing practice and behaviour modification; rigorous engagement plans and identified champions; policy change and influencing mechanisms; and long-term sustainability strategies
- demonstrates broad and **meaningful involvement of consumers, community, and/or research end-users** throughout the research.



Scientific Quality - Reviewer Comments

Positive Reviewer Comments

- ...**proposal addresses the objectives of the scheme** and has clear aims and an appropriate hybrid implementation sciences design.
- **Proposal includes several aspects of best practice implementation science methods.** These include a research design using implementation science frameworks, measures, monitoring and evaluation; models of change practice and behaviour modification; engagement plans and champions; policy change and influence; and long-term sustainability strategies.
- **Excellent consumer involvement** in key aspects of the research.

Constructive Reviewer Comments

- The project **would have been strengthened by completing some of the developmental work prior to application.**
- The application would have been improved by **providing a more detailed description of the research methodologies used...the lack of detail in this section made it difficult to assess the merit** of the application.
- ...not clear how many individual service sites will be.
- **Alignment with specific Partnership scheme objectives not articulated.**



NHMRC Partnership Project Assessment Criteria - Relevance and likelihood to influence health policy and practice (25%)

The proposed outcomes:

- will **deliver against the intended outcomes of the scheme**
- **address one (or more) highly prioritised health issue(s) of significance** nationally or across one or more state/territory
- will **translate into health outcomes** in the knowledgebase, policy and/or practice of clinical medicine, public health or changes in health policy
- will be the **subject of invited plenary presentations at national meetings**
- will almost certainly **result in highly influential publications**
- will **most likely become highly integrated into a health system or clinical practice**, with evidence of becoming selfsustaining
- will have **a very high likelihood of becoming a highly effective, generalisable model** at a national level or across at least one state / territory that will prove to be beneficial to the health system
- will receive **high-profile coverage from media and the public** in general
- will **generate new researcher capability, mentoring and career development.**



Relevance and likelihood to influence health policy and practice - Reviewer Comments

Positive Reviewer Comments

- ...will deliver outcomes which are relevant to the intended outcomes of the scheme. It addresses a health issue of considerable significance locally, nationally and globally.
- The current project is timely, as it will provide an opportunity to examine the realworld adoption and utilization...
- ...scale of this project will provide an opportunity for the researchers to identify findings that will be influential to treatment.
- The findings are likely to become a highly effective, generalizable model that will prove to be beneficial to the localized health arenas.
- The support of the industry partners both highlight the relevance of this program of research, but also provide support for longer term dissemination of the work.
- National and jurisdiction policy leaders are partner organisations thus will enable the translation of any findings into (sic) policy.

Constructive Reviewer Comments

- ...application would have been strengthened by more clearly describing how the intervention could be disseminated post intervention...
- Difficult to discern how this will improve patient care in Australia, or how it aligns with Partnership scheme objectives, given the research and outcomes don't apply to this country. The project will not deliver against any of the intended outcomes of the scheme



NHMRC Partnership Project Assessment Criteria - Track Records of the Chief Investigators, Partner Organisations and Partner Investigators (25%)

Chief Investigators

- have an exceptional record of achievement in research translation and impact
- demonstrate extensive experience and success in collaborative research, evaluation and implementation of evidence into health policy, health practice and/or service delivery
- demonstrate extensive experience working in partnership with health service providers or health policy agencies
- have been stellar, in terms of publications, and other recognition
- have strong national and international reputations
- hold leadership positions in highly regarded scientific or professional societies
- have track records that are highly relevant to the proposed research

The Partner Organisation(s):

- is highly relevant to the proposed research
- demonstrates extensive experience and success in drafting health policy or delivering a health program or health service
- has a very strong national or state/territory-wide reputation
- has clear expectations that strongly align with the goals of the CI team
- is highly likely to integrate outcomes into a health system or clinical practice, with evidence of becoming self-sustaining
- is ideally placed to engage support from stakeholders including end-users and the wider community, and facilitate high uptake at all levels.

Partner Investigator(s):

- demonstrates extensive experience and success in drafting health policy or delivering a health program or health service
- demonstrates previous strong successful relationships with researchers



Track Records of the Chief Investigators, Partner Organisations and Partner Investigators – Reviewer Comments

Positive Reviewer Comments

- ...chief investigators have an **exceptional record of achievement** in clinical research and its translation...
- extensive experience and success in collaborative research, evaluation and implementation of evidence into service delivery
- ...stellar, in terms of publications, and other recognition and hold leadership positions in highly regarded scientific and professional societies
- Partner Investigators have previous **strong and successful relationships** with researchers.
- ...5 **partner organisations are highly engaged in the project** and compliment the purpose of the application well.
- The panel spoke enthusiastically about an **early career researcher leading the project. CIA is well mentored/supported by the team.**
- **research team has demonstrated experience in engaging support from their community partners that are endusers.**
- The team was **well complemented by industry partners who include organisations that lead ... activities and peak bodies in the ... industry who are AIs.**

Constructive Reviewer Comments

- **Mentoring and contribution of ECMRs not explicated** (there seem to be none included) on the team one-pager, although they are tangentially mentioned on one page in the Research Proposal section of the GP.
- **Metrics on individual pubs not particularly informative** eg. What is the FWCI of each paper?



NHMRC Partnership Project Assessment Criteria – Strength of the Partnership (25%)

The proposed partnership:

- demonstrates that a **strong relationship between the researchers and Partner Organisation(s)** already exists or will be developed
- demonstrates **existing shared governance and decision making capability.**
- **can be used as an exemplar for what successful partnerships could achieve** in terms of creating leaders, leverage, networking and delivering policy and practice developments in health
- contributes to a **high degree of team integration and cohesiveness**
- shows high probability of **exceptional collaborative gains in terms of skills and benefits to health** in localised areas and Australia
- is clearly evident from the conceptual stages of the proposal to the final application, as the **partners are highly integrated into the proposal.**
- would see the **partners intimately involved at all stages of the proposed research**
- is shown by **shared policy/practice goals** and **significant cash and in-kind resource contributions**
- illustrates **capacity building, networking and infrastructure building activities** that will extend **beyond the life of the project.**



Strength of the Partnership – Reviewer Comments

Positive Reviewer Comments

- The proposal shows **strong existing relationships, shared governance and decision-making capability, co-development of the project plan by a collaborative process** between the researchers and their decision making partners and **appropriate cash and inkind resource contributions**. It **clearly illustrates how the systems established will contribute to a high probability of being sustainable**.
- the research team and the partners have longstanding collaboration relationships. These partnerships have been highly successful and impactful. The **partners have clearly contributed to the development of the application / broader research agenda**. In collaboration with the partners, the overall **team appear well placed to complete the study**.

Constructive Reviewer Comments

- It is stated that the partnership organisation is in urgent need of the evidence-based model to be implemented across its 100+ services. **This urgent need however is not reflected as such in the marginal funding contribution by the partner**.
- Although the included partner is of significant importance, **it is surprising that the CIs did not include multiple partners**, given the aims and opportunity of a partnership grant.
- **proposal misses opportunities (or doesn't explain them clearly) in terms of shared governance, decision making and partnerships**. Links between most researchers and their parent organisations are strong, as are the links between most of the investigators - however there **is little evidence of links that are fostered within or between organisations as a result of the work**.
- Given the intricacy of the proposed project and the **inexperience of CIA there are concerns about feasibility and sustainability ... seems very ambitious and may not be sustainable**. A project of this size and density will require sound project management.



Completing your Application – Minimum Data

Minimum Data (| on Sapphire) due – **5pm Wed 26 July 2023**. Failure to meet this deadline will result in the application not proceeding.

- Administering Institution (University of Melbourne)
- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Research (yes/no)
- Project Synopsis
- Privacy agreement
- Research Classification (all fields)
- Chief Investigator A (complete CIA Name and Role) – **you must have a registered Sapphire account. Do this at least 1 week in advance!**

Applications that fail to satisfy this requirement will not be accepted. Applicants must complete the required fields with correct information.

Placeholder text such as “text”, “synopsis” or “xx” etc. is not acceptable as minimum data.



Completing your Application – Profile & CV

Refer to section 5 of Appendix E for full details

[If anyone in your research team doesn't have a Sapphire account, register your/CI/AI Sapphire accounts ASAP!](#)

Mandatory Sections of 'My Profile' indicated by red asterisk in Sapphire (*) – CIs cannot be added to the research team unless they have completed all mandatory sections:

- About My Profile
- Personal information
- Academic Information
- Peer Review Information (this will not determine the peer reviewers selected for your application)
- Unavailability Calendar
- Contributions to NHMRC

Specific Requirements for the Partnership Projects 2023 grant opportunity – the following sections will be imported from applicant profiles into the submitted application:

- My Grants
- Other Funding
- Career Disruptions within the last **10 years**
- Relative to Opportunity within the last **10 years**
- Community Engagements
- Workload
- Publications (for internal NHMRC purposes and will not be taken into account by peer reviewers)

Completing your Application - Sapphire

Application Details	✓
Participating Institutions	✓
Research Classification	✗
Research Team	
Top 10 Publications	
Ethics	
Grant Proposal	
Partner Organisation(s)	
Partner Details	
Third Party Research Facilities	
Direct Research Costs	

→ List the Participating Institution and department where the proposed research will be conducted

→ used along with other minimum data fields to assist with the allocation of your application to the most relevant peer reviewers for your application

→ maximum of 10 Chief Investigators (CIs) and 10 Associate Investigators (AIs)

→ nominate up to 10 of your best publications from the past 10 years (taking into account any career disruptions) immediately prior to the scheme close date (23-Aug-2013)

→ If yes, you will need to obtain ethics approvals and supply evidence in the event your application is funded

→ Partner details are provided here, these should match the information that is provided within the Partner Letter of Support.

→ If yes, Letters from research facilities confirming their collaboration must be submitted with the application.

→ Salary, Other Research Costs and Equipment – refer to NHMRC *Direct Research Costs Guidelines*



Completing your Application – Grant Proposal

GRANT PROPOSAL – PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS 2023

Application ID: [insert text here]

CIA Surname: [insert text here]

A. Introduction (*maximum one A4 page*)

B. Research Proposal (*maximum eight A4 pages*)

C. Team Quality and Capability Relevant to this Proposal (*maximum one A4 page*)

D. CI Track Record of Translation (*maximum two A4 pages per CI*)

E. Track Record of Translation into Policy/Practice (*maximum one A4 page per CI*)

F. Associate Investigator (AI) Contribution (*maximum ¼ A4 page per AI*)

G. References (*maximum two A4 pages*)

Use the template! Available for download via Grant Connect

Detailed guidance on completing these sections available in Appendix E of the scheme guidelines

The screenshot shows the GrantConnect website interface. At the top left is the Australian Government logo with a 'Save' button. To its right is the GrantConnect logo. On the far right, there is an 'Info & Links' dropdown menu and 'Login' or 'New User Registration' options. Below the header is a navigation bar with 'Forecast Opportunities', 'Grant Opportunities', 'Grant Awards', and 'Information Reports' dropdown menus, and a search icon. The main content area shows 'Future Opportunities' and 'Current Grant Opportunity View - GO5974'. A yellow box highlights 'NHMRC Partnership Projects 2023'. To the right, it shows 'GO ID: GO5974' and 'Agency: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)'.



Completing your Application - Budget

For detailed information on what can and cannot be requested as part of your budget, as well as how to complete your budget, read:

What the grant money can be used for (pp.13-15 of the guidelines)

NHMRC Direct research cost guidelines (download from [NHMRC site](#))

Personnel and Salary Support packages (available from [NHMRC site](#))

Appendix E: 6.11 Third Party Research Facilities and **6.12 Direct Research Costs** (pp. 66-68 of the guidelines)

Funds must be spent on costs directly incurred in the grant activity described in the proposal:

- Salaries
- Other Research Costs (ORCs)
- Equipment (require a quote)
- Third Party Facilities

Fully justify every element of your budget!

- Describe the purpose and link each item (salary or ORCs) to aims & experiments
- Salaries: justify role requirements, skills/experience, time fraction, how role will interact with team
- ORCs: provide detailed breakdowns of costs. Justify the amounts – how did you reach these totals?
- Be careful to ensure that any budget justifications are clear to avoid confusing a reviewer into thinking that costs to be covered by the NHMRC are also covered by the Partner/s

Budget in Sapphire should only address budget requested from the NHMRC, partner contributions are addressed in Partner section of Sapphire and Partner Letters of Support



Completing your Application – Partner Contributions

- Partner Organisation contributions can be either cash or in-kind.
- The Partner Organisation(s) named on the application must provide at least 50% of the research costs. NHMRC will only fund an amount equal to that of the Partner Organisation contributions
- RIC are available to provide application specific advice on allowable contributions

Cash Contributions

<u>Category</u>	<u>Accepted</u> <i>Funding may be matched by NHMRC</i>	<u>Not Accepted</u> <i>Funding will <u>not</u> be matched by NHMRC</i>
Payments for new staff	Payment from the Partner Organisation to employ new staff to work directly on the project.	Payments from partners that are not functioning as a Partner Organisation for the purpose of the application.
Salary support (non CI/AI) to Administering Institutions	Funds provided as salary support to the Administering Institution by Partner Organisations.	Funds from partners that are not functioning as a Partner Organisation for the purpose of the application.
Payments for research costs	Payment from the Partner Organisation to fund the direct costs of the research and equipment. These payments must be essential for the project.	Payments for research and equipment that is not required for the project.
Partner Investigators	Payments from Partner Organisations concerning Partner Investigators.	Payments from Partner Organisations concerning Chief Investigators / Associate Investigators.

In-Kind Contributions

<u>Category</u>	<u>Accepted</u> <i>Funding may be matched by NHMRC</i>	<u>Not Accepted</u> <i>Funding will <u>not</u> be matched by NHMRC</i>
Partner Investigators	Salary costs concerning Partner Investigators named as CIs and AIs.	
Access to databases not in the public domain	Internal costs of access.	Costs of collecting the database.
Analytical and other services	Internal rates.	Commercial rates.
Equipment / materials	Contributed – Used -fair market value. Contributed – New -selling price to most favoured customer, if stock item. Cost of manufacture if one of a kind. Unit cost of production for commercial products.	List price or discounted list price. Development costs.
Patents and Licences	Licences acquired from third parties for use by the research team in the project.	Patents. Licensing acquired from the university.
Salaries (non-Chief Investigators/Associate Investigators)	Typical salary costs (including on-costs) at internal rates for established staff to work on the project.	External charge-out or consultant rates. Costs relating to administrative support where overheads have been included in salary costs.
Contributed software	Copying costs. Licensing costs. Documentation costs. Cost of training and support software.	Development costs.
Travel	Travel costs associated with field work. Travel costs to meet with Partner Organisation(s).	
Use of facilities	Internal rates.	Commercial rates.



Completing your Application – Partner Letters of Support

Partner letter must contain information as detailed in the Guide to Partner Letter

- Application number and title
- Brief introduction of Partner and previous partner collaborations
- Research question or problems that the policy/practice partner(s) need answered or solved
- Anticipated outcomes of the project and relevance for partner agency
- Partner Investigator(s) – name and brief background
- Proposed governance or partnership arrangements - Describe the proposed governance or partnership arrangements
- Type of contribution – cash / in-kind
- Include summary table of total contributions and breakdown over the project timelines
- Annual report – include URL
- Registered ABN
- Consent for NHMRC to identify partners in successful applications in media releases, on the NHMRC website and in future NHMRC Partnership Projects documentation
- Signature – must be authorised to expend the partner’s money and resources

Guide to Partner Letter of Support provided as a resource by the NHMRC, available for download from Grant Connect

Guide to Partner Letter of Support
(maximum 5 A4 pages, one letter per Partner Organisation)

This guide has been developed to assist applicants and partners to ensure they provide all information required in partner support letters.

Partner Name and Letterhead

Date:

[Include Application number and Application title]

[Brief introduction of Partner]

Please include:

- information about the Partner Organisation
- previous Partner collaborations
- Partner Organisation’s capacity to use the findings to influence policy decision making and health system performance and a record of achievement in effecting such changes
- experience and success in drafting health policy or delivering a health program or health service.

[Research question or problems that the policy/practice partner(s) need answered or solved]

..

[Anticipated outcomes of the project and relevance for partner agency]

..

[Partner Investigator(s)]

(If the Partner Investigator is a named CI or AI on the application, indicate this in the part of the application form where the PI name is entered (Additional Roles: CI, AI, Neither). In addition, indicate this dual role where the applicant is added to the Research Team i.e. either Relevant background and expertise (CIs and AIs) or Position (applies for AIs only).)

Name, contact details and brief background.

Please list their:

- relevant experience and authority to support the partnership
- evidence of leadership in the relevant field
- experience of translating research findings into policy and/or practice



What does RIC offer in Application Review?

What we do as part of our review process

Review all sections in Sapphire and Grant Proposal PDF

Check eligibility

- Can you apply for this grant? If not, what do you need to do to be eligible?

Check compliance

- Have all the fields been completed? Have any sections been missed?
- Have the application rules and requirements been adhered to?
- Does evidence meet NHMRC requirements?

Identify how the application can be improved to best address the Assessment Criteria

- How can the responses be better structured?
- How can the responses and relevance to Assessment Criteria be made clearer?
- What elements of the Assessment Criteria have not been strongly or clearly addressed?
- What other aspects could use refinement?

What we don't do

Review scientific content: talk to colleagues in your lab, your department and your faculty!

Proofreading: we will highlight if there are major typos that affect understanding, but full spelling & grammar checking and restructuring of sentences or sections will be left to applicants



How to apply – step by step and key dates

1. Submit an [NOI](#) to RIC – **ASAP** (even if not 100% sure you are applying)
2. Complete/update Sapphire Profile and CV
 - **If you or your research team (including CIs & AIs) do not have a Sapphire account, register for an account ASAP**
3. Review key guideline documents
4. **Complete Minimum Data due 5pm Wed 26 July 2023 (Round 1) and 5pm Wed 15 November 2023 (Round 2)**
5. Complete draft application in Sapphire and prepare your grant proposal PDF.
6. **Email application to RIC for review due 10am Mon 24 July 2023 (Round 1) and 10am Mon 13 November 2023 (Round 2)**
7. Finalise the application
8. **Certify the application in Sapphire due 10am Mon 21 August 2023 (Round 1) and 10am Mon 27 November 2023 (Round 2)**
9. **Email UOM Authority to Submit form to RIC**
10. RIC to submit the application to NHMRC



Resources

RIC Partnership Projects Grant scheme webpage

<https://sites.research.unimelb.edu.au/research-funding/nhmrc/partnership-projects>

NHMRC Partnership Projects Grant scheme webpage

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/partnership-projects>

Grant Connect Webpage for scheme guidelines – GO5974 (Requires Login)

<https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=c9dff24d-97df-418f-86c7-02a03be16bf8>

UoM Grants Library

<https://staff.unimelb.edu.au/research/grants/successful-applications-library>



Health & Medical Grants Pre-Award Team



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Please contact us if you have any questions about the Partnership Projects scheme or any other domestic Health & Medical Research applications



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MELBOURNE

Prof Mark Stevenson FAHMS

Professor of Urban Transport and Public Health

Co-Director, Transport Health and Urban Design Research Lab





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Q & A





Thank You