

NHMRC Ideas Grant Information Session - Budgets

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NHMRC Ideas Grant Scheme

- Project-based grant scheme of 1-5 years
- Overview info session was conducted yesterday
 - Recording/slides will be uploaded to the RIC Ideas Grants page by Monday
- Today: Ideas Grants budgets
 - Recording/slides will be uploaded to the RIC Ideas Grants page by Monday
- 11:30am-12:00pm Mondays and Fridays until Fri 28th April: One-on-One Drop-In Information Sessions
 - Can drop in and ask us questions more specific to your application
- 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.11-12 of the guidelines)
 - NHMRC Direct research cost guidelines (download from NHMRC site)
 - Personnel and Salary Support packages (available from <u>NHMRC site</u>)
 - Appendix E: 6.8 Budget Proposal Third Party Research Facilities and 6.9 Direct Research Costs (pp. 79-81 of the guidelines)

NHMRC Direct Research Costs (DRC) principles

- Funding provided by NHMRC for a Research Activity may be spent on a cost incurred for that Research Activity that satisfies all of the following requirements:
 - The cost must be integral to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the Research Activity as set out in the Application for Funding for that Research Activity, as approved by NHMRC.
 - The cost must be directly related to the grant proposal as set out in the Application for Funding for that Research Activity, as approved by NHMRC.
 - The cost must not be for facility, administrative or other indirect costs that would be provided by an institution in the normal course of undertaking and supporting health and medical research (e.g. those costs often incurred for common or joint objectives, utilities and services, regulatory and research compliance and administration of research services).

Ideas Grants Budget Overview

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

- Salaries
- Other Research Costs
- Equipment
- Third Party Facilities

Salaries

Read **5. What the grant money can be used for** (pp.11-12 of the guidelines) and **NHMRC Direct research cost (DRC) guidelines** (download from NHMRC site)

Ideas grant salaries are not normally intended for CIs

- If sought for Cls, costs must be directly associated with achieving the research outcomes.
- Cls drawing salary must be based in Australia for at least 80% of funding period
- Overseas Cls cannot draw salary, but salary support is available for research support staff based overseas for the completion of the proposal
- Must be based on NHMRC Personnel Support Packages (PSPs)
 - Where there is a gap between PSP rate and institution salary rate, need to discuss with Administering Institution how to cover the gap between the PSP and the researcher's part or total salary
- The level of PSP applied for must align with the roles and responsibilities of the required position, not the expertise of the person appointed to the position.
- Each CI can receive up to 100% salary across all NHMRC grants held
 - If exceeding 100% salary across grant applications, should <u>explicitly</u> explain in the applications how excess salary will be managed e.g. used for salary of additional post-doc, used for alternative DRCs
- Als cannot draw salary



Salaries – Personnel Support Packages

Table 1: Personnel Support Packages for funding commencing 2024

Package	\$ Per annum
PSP1 - Technical support - non-graduate personnel Note A PSP1 at 50% may be claimed for postgraduate students supported on NHMRC research grants	60,018
PSP2 - Junior graduate research assistant; or junior graduate nurse, midwife or allied health professional; or junior data manager/ data analyst	74,943
PSP3 - Experienced graduate research assistant/ junior postdoctoral research officer; or experienced graduate nurse, midwife or allied health professional; or experienced data manager/ analyst	82,408
PSP4 - Experienced postdoctoral researcher (that is, a researcher who may be considered as a named investigator on the research application and/or approaching the Investigator Grant Emerging Leadership 2 level or equivalent), or clinician without specialist qualifications	97,334
PSP5 - Senior experienced postdoctoral researcher (that is, a researcher who would normally be considered as a named investigator on the research application and is more than 10yrs post-doctoral and/or would be expected to have applied for or held an NHMRC CDF, Investigator Grant Emerging Leadership 2 or equivalent)	104,797

Note

An annual indexation may be applied to the Personnel Support Packages.



Other Research Costs

Read NHMRC Direct research cost (DRC) guidelines (download from NHMRC site)

- CIA can request funding to support specific grant activities to be undertaken overseas if they clearly demonstrate that:
 - the overseas grant activity is critical to the successful completion of the project
 - the equipment/resources required for the grant activity are not available in Australia
- Costs must:
 - Be integral to achieving objectives of Research Activity as set out in grant proposal
 - Be directly related to the grant proposal
 - NOT be for facility, administrative, or other indirect costs

Other Research Costs – Proposed budget

Eligible costs

- Costs directly related to proposal
- Costs integral to objectives
- Travel costs directly related to research activity e.g. field work, research collaborations, use of overseas facilities
- Specialised computing requirements essential for specific research activity e.g. computer dedicated to data collection from mass spectrometer
- Supplies, postage, telephones required specifically for research activity e.g. required for significant data collection through mail survey, supplies for workshop participants

Ineligible costs

- Conference costs*
- Publication and open access costs*
- Travel costs not directly related to research activity, airline membership, health/travel insurance
- Entertainment, meals, hospitality
- Land, buildings, fixtures
- Computers for general use (e.g. communicating, writing, undertaking simple analyses)
- Supplies, postage, telephones considered routine for such items provided by Admin Institutions

^{*}May be permitted once grant awarded



Equipment

- Equipment costing <\$10,000 can be included as an ORC
- Equipment can be requested as part of an Ideas Grant application provided:
 - The cost of the equipment does not exceed \$80,000
 - The equipment is unique to the project
 - The equipment is essential for the project
- The following are also required if requesting funding for Equipment:
 - Applicant must provide a written quotation to RIC prior to submission, to be available on NHMRC request
 - Administering Institution meets all service and repair costs
- Applicants must clearly outline the total value of all items of equipment for each year, why the equipment is required for the proposed research and why the equipment cannot be provided by the institution

Third Party Facilities

- If receiving services from research facilities to undertake research, applicants need to provide a letter of support from the facility confirming collaboration, as part of the application
- Such facilities include, but are not limited to:
 - biospecimens and associated data from biobanks or pathology services
 - non-human primate colonies
 - the Australian Twin Registry
 - Cell Bank Australia
 - Trans-Tasman Radio Oncology Group
 - Other organisations that provide clinical trials services.

Other Key Info

- Indexation will be applied by NHMRC over the lifetime of the successful grant and should not be included as part of the application
 - Costs across all years of the grant should be derived from current costs
- Budget does not contribute to the application score
 - Cost appropriately underestimating your budget will not improve your chances of success and may reduce your score if the peer reviewer believes the stated budget will impact the feasibility of the project
- Budgets may be reduced if elements of the budget are deemed ineligible or not required for the completion of the project
 - Provide full justification for every budget item
- Applicants also applying for Cancer Australia/Cancer Council NSW should take note of maximum budget limits allowable by these Funding Organisations
 - Application will involve providing an adjusted budget and updated aims
 - Cancer Australia Standard Project Grants (Category A) must not exceed \$200,000/year for 1-3 year projects
 - Cancer Australia Early Career Researcher Project Grants (Category B/C) must not exceed \$100,000/year for
 1-2 year projects
 - Cancer Council NSW Project Grants must not exceed \$150,000/year for 2-3 years.

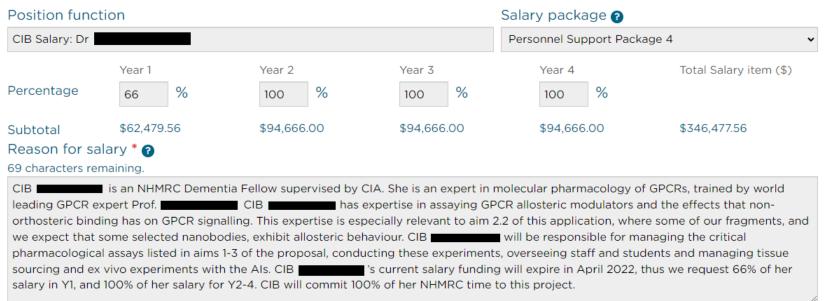


How to complete your budget in Sapphire



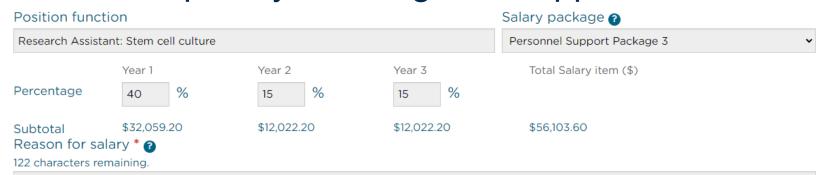
How to complete your budget in Sapphire - Salaries

- Describe position function
 - NHMRC terms for PSP descriptions e.g. Junior graduate research assistant (PSP2), Experienced postdoctoral researcher (PSP4)
 - Describe role e.g. relate to specific experiments/expertise or specific aims
- Select appropriate PSP and time fraction for the requirements of the project
- Provide full justification for each role
 - Role requirements
 - Skill/experience level
 - Time fraction
 - Align role with research aims
 - Indicate how each requested role will interact with the research team e.g. who will supervise, which lab will the work in
 - Justify changes across project (e.g. Reduction of time fraction in later years)





How to complete your budget in Sapphire - Salaries



A part time senior research assistant is required to assist with iPSC stem cell cultures. This position is required for all iPSC thawing, ongoing maintenance and quality control. Human pluripotent stem cell maintenance and culture requires skills not available with a junior research assistant, hence a mid-level research assistant is required to ensure timely progression of the work. This position is required to maintain and culture the 16 iPSC lines used in this project which are required for the differentiation to human neurons. The majority of the iPSC stem cell cultures will be required in year 1. In years 2 and 3, maintenance is required for backup of additional cells as required. Hence we are requesting 0.4FTE in first year and 0.1 FTE in second and third years. We have already identified an individual to fulfill this role to ensure the project starts smoothly.

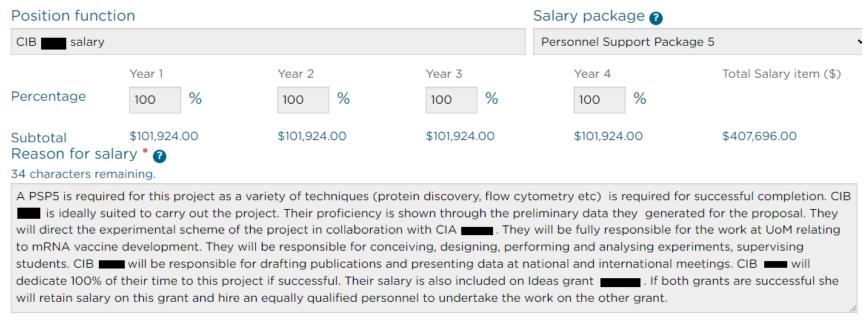
Position function				Salary package 👩			
Postgraduate student			Personnel Support Package 1				
Percentage	Year 1 %	Year 2 %	Year 3 %	Year 4 %	Total Salary item (\$)		
Subtotal Reason for sala 247 characters rem		\$29,186.50	\$29,186.50	\$29,186.50	\$87,559.50		

A part-time personnel support package (PSP1) is requested in order to recruit a PhD student to participate in the final 3 years of the 4 year research project. Given the ambitious nature of this project, there is sufficient scope for the PhD student to lead an independent research project focussed on metabolic regulation of dendritic cell activation and antigen presentation. The PhD student will be co-supervised by CI and the junior postdoctoral researcher. The PhD student will acquire multidisciplinary skills including expertise in biochemistry, molecular biology and cell biology techniques. The student will be involved in data analysis and presentations and will generate data that contributes to manuscripts for publication.



How to complete your budget in Sapphire - Salaries

Salary >100% across multiple grant applications



Suggested wording: CIB salary is also requested in Ideas Grant XXXXXX. If both grants are successful CIB will retain salary from this grant for the duration of this Ideas Grant and will appoint an appropriately qualified senior research fellow at PSP5 with skills in XXXXXX for the entire duration of the other Ideas Grant to work with CIB to fulfil critical day to day tasks of the CI to ensure that the aims of the project are fully realised, while the CIB continues to monitor and have oversight over the day to day management of the project.



How to complete your budget in Sapphire - ORCs

- Provide item details and costs for each year
- Provide full justification for each item
 - Align with proposed aims either cross-reference the explanation to specific aims/hypotheses or include the relevant aim in each item name
 - Provide a breakdown of costs (e.g. costs per item, cost per hour) and calculations so that you can properly explain the totals for each year
 - If estimating an overall cost with no breakdown, how did you reach the estimate? Was it based on previous experience with the type of experiment described?
 - If requesting different amounts in each year, provide an explanation
 - Assume no indexation
 - Justify changes across project (e.g. Reduction of time fraction in later years)

Item name	Year 1 (\$)	Year 2 (\$)	Year 3 (\$)	Year 4 (\$)	Year 5 (\$)	Total for item (\$)
Transgenic mouse breeding & maintenance	\$3,601	\$5,824	\$5,824	\$5,824	\$1,750	\$22,823

Justification *

262 characters remaining.

Rederivation and establishment of TrkB floxed line at UTAS = \$1851 (Year 1)

Maintenance of 2 transgenic lines (PdgfraCreERT::TaumGFP and PdgfraCreERT::TaumGFP::TrkBfl/fl) for 3.5 years @ \$5824 / year (inc. 4 boxes per line @\$14/week/box).

Item name	Year 1 (\$)	Year 2 (\$)	Year 3 (\$)	Year 4 (\$)	Total for item (\$)
CRISPR/Cas9 screen	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$128,000

Justification *

193 characters remaining.

Costs for 200 gene knockouts per yr (800 total): DNA primers (7 per gene, \$115/gene, \$23K/yr), Phusion and Taq Polymerase (\$3,700), electroporation cuvettes (\$1.2K), DNA purification kits (\$1K), Puromycin/Blasticidin selection drugs (\$2K), dNTPs, DNA ladders and other consumables (\$1k); total \$32,000 p.a.



How to complete your budget in Sapphire - ORCs

 Item name
 Year 1 (\$)
 Year 2 (\$)
 Year 3 (\$)
 Year 4 (\$)
 Total for item (\$)

 Molecular biology consumables
 \$25,500
 \$17,500
 \$17,500
 \$78,000

Justification *

26 characters remaining.

Molecular biology needed for all aims. Costs include: Gene synthesis (\$10000 in Y1 because of inactive state fusion constructs in aim 1; \$2000 Y2-4); PCR and mutagenesis kits (\$2000pa); restriction enzymes (\$1000pa); ligase/kinase/phosphatase enzymes (\$1000pa); Oligonucleotides (\$1500pa: ~\$25 per oligonucleotide @ 60pa); DNA purification kits (\$3000pa); bacterial culture materials \$500pa; DNA sequencing (\$6500pa: 500 reactions @\$13 each). \$25,500 in Y1, \$17,500 in Y2-4.

 Item name
 Year 1 (\$)
 Year 2 (\$)
 Year 3 (\$)
 Year 4 (\$)
 Total for item (\$)

 Cell culture
 \$19,936
 \$19,936
 \$19,936
 \$19,936
 \$79,744

Justification *

6 characters remaining.

Essential for testing receptor constructs (aim 1), compounds (aim 2) and nanobodies (aim 3). Costs include: media and supplements (\$3000pa); transfection reagents (\$1000pa); mycoplasma testing (\$500pa); flasks and plates (\$1500pa); chemicals/gloves/tips (\$500pa); lentivirus production (\$1000pa); FACS for stable cell and nanobody library selections (\$7130: 31x2h sorts pa @\$115 ph); analytical cytometry (\$3780: 42x2h pa @\$45 ph); cell line storage and maintenance (\$500pa). \$18,910pa in Y1-4.

 Item name
 Year 1 (\$)
 Year 2 (\$)
 Year 3 (\$)
 Year 4 (\$)
 Total for item (\$)

 Cellular assays
 \$19,200
 \$19,200
 \$19,200
 \$19,200
 \$76,800

Justification *

40 characters remaining.

Essential for all aims testing cpds and Nbs. Costs include: Cisbio IPone HTRF assays (\$5000pa: 4xkits at \$1250 each); Calcium mobility assays (\$1000pa); BRET based G protein & β-arrestin recruitment assays (\$1000pa); pCRE reporter assays (\$500pa); QAPB fluorescent binding assays (\$1000pa); 3H-prazosin binding assays (\$1200pa); Alphascreen ERK activity assays (\$5000pa); assay microplates (\$2500pa); maintenance of plate readers (\$2000pa). \$19,200pa in Y1-4.



How to complete your budget in Sapphire - ORCs

Item name	Year 1 (\$)	Year 2 (\$)	Year 3 (\$)	Total for item (\$)	
Aims 2 and 3: Real time PCR	\$13,400	\$13,400	\$13,400	\$40,200	
Justification *					
356 characters remaining.					
Probes (\$400 x 8 genes x 5 viruses = \$16,000), primers	(\$10/primer x 2/gene	x 8 genes x 5 viruses	= \$800), RT kits (\$78	0/kit x 10 pa = \$7800 pa)	
Item name	Year 1 (\$)	Year 2 (\$)	Year 3 (\$)	Total for item (\$)	
All Aims: reverse genetics, transfection	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$6,000	
Justification * 447 characters remaining.					
FuGENE6 transfection reagent (5x1mL, \$2000) per ann	um			li.	
Item name	Year 1 (\$)	Year 2 (\$)	Year 3 (\$)	Total for item (\$)	
All Aims: Virus identity confirmation	\$14,400	\$0	\$0	\$14,400	
Justification *					
9 characters remaining.					
To confirm the genomic sequence of reverse engineered vi (\$1000/250 preps), Omniscript (\$1500/200 reactions), RN dNTPs (\$300), Big Dye (\$500/100 reactions), Sequence of buffers (\$200), DNA Ligase (\$250). Total \$13150, purchase	ase OUT (\$200), Phus onfirmation (\$10/sampl	ion mastermix (5x1mL)) (\$500/pkt x3), Taq D	NA polymerase (\$200),	
				\$29,897	
Aim 1: SHAPE-MaP reagents	\$0	\$29,897	\$0	φ23,037	
Justification *					
45 characters remaining.					
Reagents (including but not limited to qPCR, SuperScript I Yield RNA Synthesis kit, RNA Clean and Concentrator kit, N library preparation, high-throughput sequencing and data \$29897 (year 2)	Nextera XT DNA Librar	y Prep kit, Agilent DNA	A 1000 kit) to perform	SHAPE-MaP analysis,	



How to complete your budget in Sapphire - Equipment

Remember to provide RIC with a quote for the equipment!

Item name	Year 1 (\$)	Year 2 (\$)	Year 3 (\$)	Total for item (\$)
CO2 Incubator (excl GST)	\$10,590	\$0	\$ 0	\$10,590
Justification *				_
6 characters remaining.				
A dedicated CO2 Incubator with high-temp disinfection, and fast recovery time NPC generation and continuous production of human neurons for the planned Current incubators in the CIs labs are insufficient to take on the cell culture loss.	d experiments re	equired large nur	mber of cultures	at any one time.

completion a CO2 incubator dedicated solely to this project is requested.

How to complete your budget in Sapphire - Facilities

- You will need to upload a letter of support from Research Facility as part of your application
 - Required services for grant can be provided
 - Amounts requested in budget must be accurate

Item name	Year 1 (\$)	Year 2 (\$)	Year 3 (\$)	Year 4 (\$)	Total for item (\$)
Metabolomics	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$120,000
Justification *					
146 characters remaining.					
Annual cost for access to Bio21 Institute Met resolution LC-IDX Orbitrap-MS, 1000 hr @\$7	75 hr), GC-MS 13C-tracer	experiments (Agi	lent GC-MS, 400 h		

Common issues

Salary

- Salary justification overly focused on experience/background, rather than on the role and requirements of the position
- FTE fraction not justified
- Reasons for changes in FTE across the years not explained
- Salaries for non-Cls should be justified based on the role requirements and should not reference a specific named individual
- Wrong PSP selected and poorly justified (e.g. PSP4 requested for junior post-doc)

ORCs

- Relevance/relationship to aims/objectives not explained
- Cost breakdown/estimate not explained
- Reasons for changes in amount across the years not explained
- Salaries requested in ORCs
- Equipment over \$10,000 requested in ORCs
- Ineligible costs requested: conference costs, publication and open access costs, travel costs not directly related to research activities, computers for general lab use, administrative costs, indirect costs



Resources

RIC Ideas Grants Webpage

https://sites.research.unimelb.edu.au/research-funding/nhmrc/ideas-grants

NHMRC Ideas Grants Webpage
 https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/ideas-grants

• Download DRC guidelines https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/manage-your-funding/funding-agreement

• Details of personnel support packages https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/manage-your-funding/personnel-and-salary-support-packages

• NHMRC web eligibility tool https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/investigator-ideas-and-synergy-eligibility-tool

- Grant Connect Webpage for NHMRC Document download GO6133 (Requires Login) https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=F2EF7C9E-F7EA-4CDB-AEA4-D2D2779A2B14
- UoM Successful Grants Library
 https://staff.unimelb.edu.au/research/grants/successful-applications-library

Contact us:

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RESEARCH, INNOVATION & COMMERCIALISATION

Question Time