



Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Showcase,
Adelaide

27 February 2020

Research **IMPACT** at NHMRC



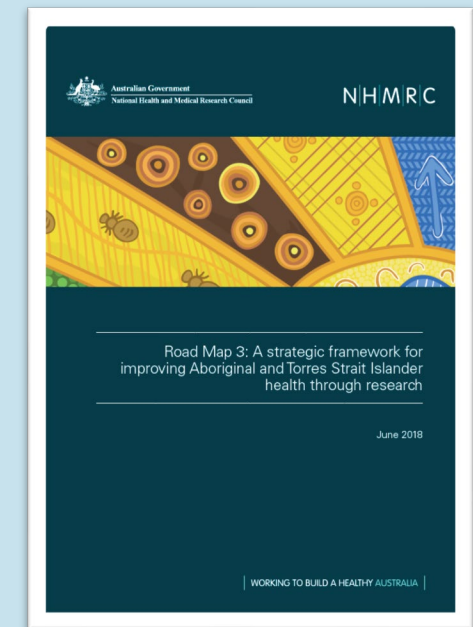
N H M R C

BUILDING
A HEALTHY
AUSTRALIA



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

- A strategic framework for improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health through research
 - Community consultation
- The three priority areas:
 1. Strengthen the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
 2. Engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and
 3. Support research in high priority areas.
- NHMRC has committed to produce annual report cards on progress



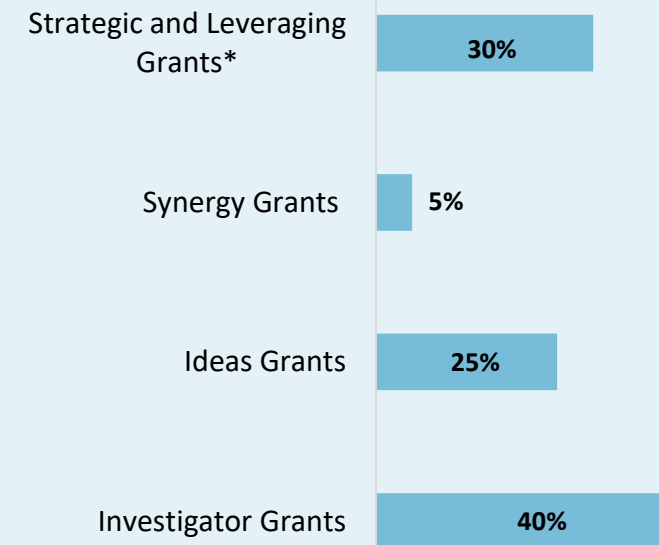
Road Map and annual report cards are available on the NHMRC website.



NHMRC's grant program

- Implemented in 2019 after structural review
 - Extensive consultations to inform changes
- Comprised of four funding streams (three individual schemes and a grouping of schemes)
- Objectives:
 - Encourage innovation and creativity across all fields of health and medical research
 - Provide opportunities for talented researchers at all career stages and across all disciplines
 - Minimise burden on researchers, freeing up time for research

Annual MREA allocation



* Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants, Centres of Research Excellence, Development Grants, Partnership Centres and Projects, Targeted Calls for Research, international collaborative schemes



<u>Grant Type</u>	<u>Investigator Grants</u>	<u>Synergy Grants</u>	<u>Ideas Grants</u>	<u>Strategic and Leveraging Grants</u>
Duration	5 years	5 years	Up to 5 years	Varies with scheme
Number of Chief Investigators	1	4 – 10	Up to 10	Varies with scheme
Funding	Salary and Research Support Package	\$5 million	Requested budget	Varies with scheme
Main Assessment Criterion	70% on Track Record, including impact	40% on Track Record, including impact	35% on research quality	Varies with scheme

2018 peer review consultation report available here:

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/new-grant-program/peer-review>



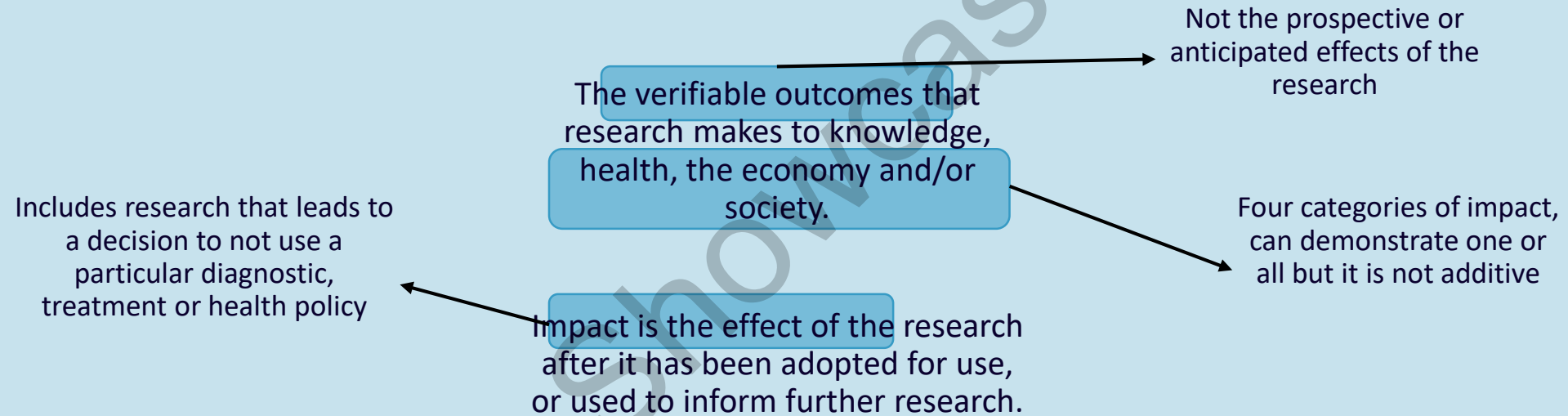
How is research impact assessed at NHMRC

- A component of the new Track Record framework
 - Implemented in Investigator Grants and Synergy Grants
 - Included with publications and leadership assessments
- Track record assessment places greater emphasis on research output and impact
- Takes into account relative to opportunity considerations

<u>Track Record</u>	<u>Investigator Weightings</u>	<u>Synergy Weightings</u>
Research Impact	20%	15%
Publications	35%	20%
Leadership	15%	5%
TOTAL	70%	40%



How NHMRC defines research impact



Grant guidelines with further detail and definitions available on GrantConnect.



Knowledge

New knowledge, demonstrating the benefits emerging from adoption, adaption or use of new knowledge to inform further research, and/or understanding of what is effective.



Health

Improvements in health through new therapeutics, diagnostics, disease prevention or changes in behaviour; or improvements in disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment, management of health problems, health policy, health systems, and quality of life.



Economical

Improvements in the nation's economic performance through creation of new industries, jobs or valuable products, or reducing health care costs, improving efficiency in resource use, or improving the welfare/well-being of the population within current health system resources. An economic impact may also contribute to social or health impacts, including human capital gains and the value of life and health.



Social

Improvements in the health of society, including the well-being of the end user and the community. This may include improved ability to access health care services, to participate socially (including empowerment and participation in decision making) and to quantify improvements in the health of society.



How to demonstrate research impact

- Through a single research program
 - A cohesive body of research by the applicant, not limited to an individual case study (as used in a clinical context) or a single publication
- Program can be recent or in the past, no time limit
- Use only one research program for which you have verifiable outcomes to demonstrate:
 1. the reach and significance of the program
 2. the program's contribution to the impact, and
 3. your contribution to the program.



What is verifiable evidence?

- Evidence that supports the claims of impact
 - Not all evidence may be on the public record
- Peer reviewers are asked to verify all evidence provided by applicants
 - No evidence will be given a score of “1” (*the applicant has not supplied robust verifiable evidence*)
 - Peer reviewers should not seek evidence to support the research impact claims when none is provided
- Quality not quantity is assessed

Table 1: Types of Research Impact and Examples of Evidence of Research Impact

Type of impact	Description of research impact	Examples of evidence (not exhaustive)
Knowledge impact	New knowledge, demonstrating the benefits emerging from adoption, adaptation or use of new knowledge to inform further research, and/or understanding of what is effective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• recognition of research publications (e.g. citation metrics, particularly field weighted)• data sharing• contribution to registries or biobanks• prizes and conference presentations• uptake of research tools and techniques• evidence of uptake of the research by other disciplines
Health impact	Improvements in health through new therapeutics, diagnostics, disease prevention or changes in behaviour, or improvements in disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment, management of health problems, health policy, health systems, and quality of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• policy or program adopted• a clinical guideline adopted• international or national practice standards adopted• improved service effectiveness• Phase I, Phase II and Phase III clinical trials underway or completed• improved productivity due to research innovations (e.g. reduced illness, injury)• Quality-Adjusted Life Years, Disability-Adjusted Life Years, Potential Years of Life Lost, Patient Reported Outcome Measure and other relevant indicators• relative stay index for multi-day stay patients, hospital standardised mortality ratio, cost per weighted separation and total case weighted separation• reports (including community and government)
Economic impact	Improvements in the nation's economic performance through creation of new industries, jobs or valuable products, or reducing health care costs, improving efficiency in resource use, or improving the welfare/well-being of the population within current health system resources. An economic impact may also contribute to social or health impacts, including human capital	<p>Health Care System Savings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• relative stay index for multi-day stay patients, hospital standardised mortality ratio, cost per weighted separation and total case weighted separation• reduction in Medicare Benefits Schedule/Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme costs• improved productivity due to research innovations (e.g. reduced illness, injury)

Further details are available in the scheme's Peer Review Guidelines on the NHMRC website.



Feedback from 2019 peer reviewers

Features of **high scoring** impact statements:

- tangible examples that illustrated the change (impact) that occurred as a result of the research
- clearly identified an impact beyond the initial research finding
- clearly evidenced the impact with significant and far reaching benefits
- clearly described and evidenced how the applicant's research program contributed to the reach and significance of the impact
- clearly described and evidenced how the applicant contributed to the research program that led to the research impact

In the application form

2000 characters for description

1000 characters for evidence

Summary of key characteristics of 2019 Investigator Grant applications is available on GrantConnect.



Feedback from 2019 peer reviewers

Features of **low scoring** impact statements:

- did not correctly address the impact criteria
- nominated initial research findings or publications as the research impact without describing the change that resulted from the use, adaption or adoption of that knowledge
- were excessively repetitive across the sub-criteria
- poorly articulated or evidenced claims of significance, reach or contribution

In the application form

2000 characters for description

1000 characters for evidence

Summary of key characteristics of 2019 Investigator Grant applications is available on GrantConnect.



Study of research impact

- NHMRC undertook a six-month project (June-December 2019)
- Explored the contribution of the research impact to the assessment of applications to 2019 Investigator Grants
- Aiming create an evidence base to inform ongoing refinement of the assessment of research impact:
 - by identifying characteristics of research impact statements to inform the application process for future rounds
 - by supporting improvements to guidance for applicants and peer reviewers
 - informing the need for, and content of, any future peer reviewer training



NHMRC impact case studies

- NHMRC produces impact case studies to demonstrate its contribution to raising the standard of individual and public health throughout Australia.
- Each case study is developed in partnership with one or more Australian research organisations and other bodies.

NOTE: these are not intended to be used as templates for the development of case studies in grant applications.

Title	Partner	Date published
Picato gel	QIMR Berghofer	16 December 2018
Aridol and Bronchitol	The University of Sydney	16 December 2018
The TRIUMPH study	The George Institute for Global Health	28 March 2019
Pharmaxis	Pharmaxis Ltd	8 April 2019
SMARThealth	The George Institute for Global Health	18 July 2019
Neurodegenerative disease and metals	The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health	27 November 2019
Severe Asthma: Mepolizumab	Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI)	28 November 2019
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	The Telethon Kids Institute and The Sydney University	25 February 2020

Impact case studies are available here:

www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/impact-case-studies



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Thank you

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