

# Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand



Facilitating communication among researchers and between researchers and policymakers, to promote education and training and to build capacity in health services research in Australia and New Zealand

[www.hsraanz.org](http://www.hsraanz.org)



**HEALTH  
SERVICES  
RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATION  
AU.NZ**

# What are the secrets to a successful health research grant application?



**7<sup>th</sup>**

Health Services &  
Policy Research

**Conference**

*Adelaide, 5 - 7 December, 2011*

**Opportunities for health services  
research: to inform, improve, and inspire  
5 – 7 December 2011**

**For more information go to**  
[www.healthservicesconference.com.au](http://www.healthservicesconference.com.au)

# What will happen today?

- **9:30-9:45** Introduction
- **9:40:10:10** NHMRC Expert
  - » Clive Morris
- **10:00-11:00** Grant Review Panel Experts
  - » Helen Christensen, Paul Dugdale and Davina French
- **11:00 – 11:30** Morning Tea
- **11:30-11:50** Successful Applicant
  - » Emily Banks
- **11:40 -12:30** Q&A Session
  - » but ask questions along the way!

# NHMRC Grants 2011

Funding initiative	Applications open	Applications close
Centres of Research Excellence	28 Oct 2011	30 Jan 2012
Project Grants	7 Dec 2011	14 Mar 2012
Program Grants	5 Mar 2012	6 Jun 2012
Development Grants	10 Apr 2012	11 Jul 2012
Partnership Projects	TBA	TBA
Research and Practitioner Fellowships	12 Dec 2011	9 Feb 2012
Career Development Fellowships	16 Jan 2012	28 Mar 2012
TRIP Fellowships	24 Jan 2012	4 Apr 2012
Early Career Fellowships	1 Mar 2012	3 May 2012
Postgraduate Scholarships	7 May 2012	12 Jul 2012

# ARC Schemes:

## Discovery

Australian Laureate Fellowships

Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development

Discovery Projects

Future Fellowships

Super Science Fellowships

## Linkage

Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities

Linkage Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects

Linkage Projects

## Centres

ARC Centres of Excellence

ARC Special Research Centres

Co-funded Centres of Excellence

# Other schemes/funding bodies

## Example from UTS website:

Some of the best ways to find research funding are:

- Subscribe to [ResearchNet](#) - the communication service used within UTS to provide important information to the UTS Research Community
- Apply under the National Competitive Grants Program: [ARC and NHMRC Grants Programs](#) or to [lead or participate in an externally funded research centre](#)
- [Non-competitive research](#) sponsored by a partner
- Use the [grants calendar](#) to identify upcoming grant opportunities
- **Look into [internal grant schemes](#)**
- Develop [international partnerships](#)
- **Look into [external funding agencies](#)**
- Use [funding opportunities databases](#)

# For more information:

- <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/calendar/index.htm>
- <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/projects/index.htm>
- <http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/default.htm>
- University Research Office

# From application to funding: NHMRC Project Grant example

- **Timetable**
  - Grants open – December
  - Submission – February (internal grant deadline)
  - Grant Review Panels – August
  - Outcomes – November
- **Components of a grant – what needs to be included in the submission?**
  - RGMS
- **What happens beyond submission?**
  - Grant review panels
  - Reviewers
  - Assessment reports
    - Primary spokesperson
    - Other reviewers
  - Applicant response
  - Grant Review Panel meeting
    - Introduction and COI
    - Primary spokesperson role
    - Discussion
    - Voting (scoring)
    - Ranking
- **Outcome and GRP Report**

# Secret to a successful grant: the elephant in the room

Procurement of research grants a costly, time-consuming lottery

The Australian September 28, 2011

*by JULIE HARE*

ONE in three research applications is just as likely to be successfully chosen for funding by a random lottery as it is by peer review, new research has found.

“Randomness is implicitly understood by most researchers, that you have to be good and lucky to get a grant. But to quantify it is our novel contribution,” said **Nicholas Graves**, a professor of health economics at Queensland University of Technology.

He said one-third of applications stand out as excellent, one-third are easily dismissed as below par and the remaining third are almost totally random in whether they get selected or not. “The fairest thing to do would be to allocate one-third of grants randomly.”

# What should we take from this as researchers?

- Well, at least it wasn't that your grant was rubbish....
- But, the lottery is probably not entirely random
- Persistence pays off, but....
- Persistence with some add-ons is likely to pay off faster
- So, what are the secrets to a slightly faster route to success.....?