

# Unpacking the Grant Review Process

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Who is doing the review?

It's not the NHMRC (or ARC, CA etc)

It's your peers

# What do reviewers think?



## Read and participate

- **Peer review guidelines**
- **Category descriptors**
- **Be a reviewer**
- **Test the field with your peers**

**INVESTIGATOR  
GRANTS**

To support the research program of outstanding investigators at all career stages

- **Criteria: Track Record (70%) and Knowledge Gain (30%)**
  - new Track Record assessment framework: publications, impact, leadership
  - Knowledge Gain: research significance and quality
- **Streamline process to reduce peer review burden on research sector**
  - panel only, no interviews, discussion by exception
  - shorter process allows separation of open/close dates from Ideas Grants
- **Improve confidence in the review process**
  - five assessors per application

## Framework for track record assessment in 2019

<b>1. Publications (35%)</b>				<b>3. Leadership (15%)</b>	
10 year list (taking Career Disruption into account)				Research programs and team leadership	
Five best publications				Institutional leadership	
<b>2. Research Impact (20%)</b>				Research policy and professional leadership	
Knowledge	Health	Economic	Social	Research mentoring	

- Shift focus away from inputs (e.g. grants received) towards outcomes
- Future trial of bibliometric indicators

## Framework for track record assessment: Impact

Research impact to be presented as a case study

### 2. Research Impact indicators

Knowledge	Health	Economic	Social
Evidence of scientific reach and influence	Engagement Participation in clinical research Policy leadership Clinical guidelines Standards Development of product/intervention	Healthcare cost savings IP development Industry collaboration Start-up company Product to market Employment	End-user/public engagement Community health benefit Wellbeing of end-user and community Reducing inequalities

IDEAS  
GRANTS

To support focussed innovative research projects addressing a specific question

- Criteria: Research Quality (35%), Innovation and Creativity (25%)  
Significance (20%), Feasibility (20%)
- Streamline process to reduce peer review burden on research sector
  - panel only, no external assessments or rebuttals, discussion by exception
  - shorter process allows separation of open/close dates from Investigator Grants
- Improve confidence in the process
  - four assessors per application

**STRATEGIC AND  
LEVERAGING GRANTS**

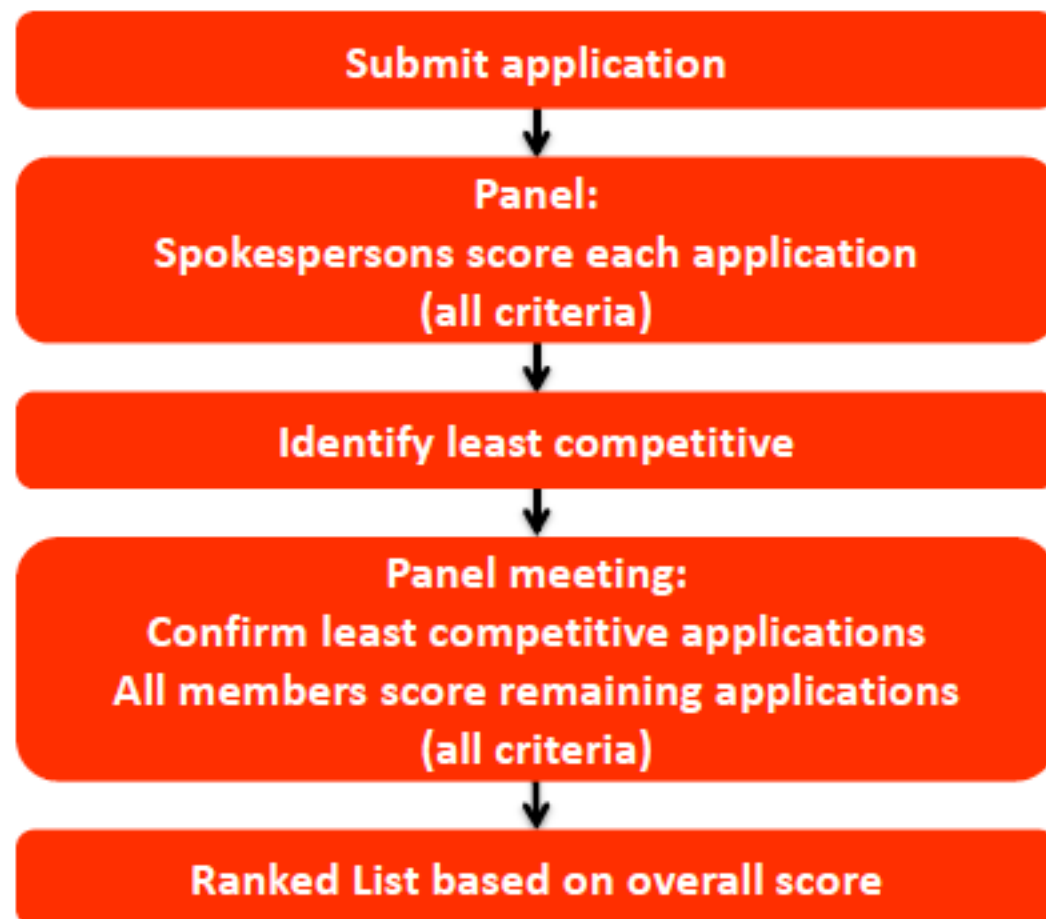
To support research that addresses identified national needs

**Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies scheme**

- Not capped relative to other three schemes
- Criteria: Significance (40%), Research Quality (40%), Team Quality and Capability (20%)
- Category descriptors designed for clinical trials and cohort studies
- Peer review process based on recent MRFF clinical trials schemes



## Peer Review for Clinical Trials Grants (2019)



# What do reviewers want?

- Clarity
- Simplicity
- Clear sense of purpose
- No obvious mistakes
- No houses of cards based on Aim 1 working

# Some good ways to help you present the best grant

- Get non-related field people to read your grant
  - If possible (mandatory for CA) have consumer input
- Blank Space is a friend
  - Dense grants annoy reviewers
- Be really clear about the true knowledge gain likely