

Investigator Grants

Improvements gained through application-centric peer review

KEY INFORMATION



NHMRC's peer reviewers include current and previous grant awardees, previous years' reviewers and self-nominated researchers.



Using research classification data at close of round, reviewers are pre-matched to applications to limit reviewer burden.



Reviewers declare their suitability and conflicts of interest against a list of up to 245 applications matched to their area of expertise.



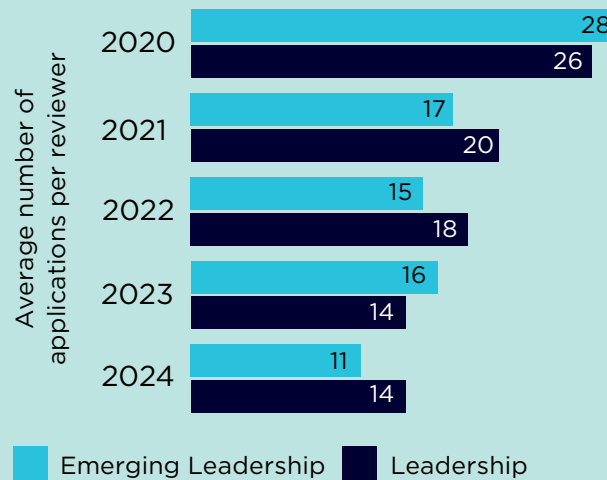
Removal of panels allows ultimate flexibility to allocate applications to reviewers who have the most appropriate area of expertise.



In 2024, 8269 independent assessments were made on 1665 applications (1 application withdrew). Just under 97% received 5 assessments and the remaining applications received 4 assessments.

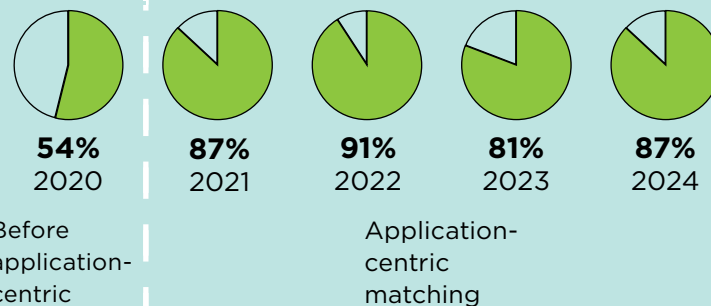
REDUCED ASSESSMENT BURDEN

Since the implementation of application-centric peer review in 2021, there has been a consistent year-over-year reduction in the average number of applications each reviewer is allocated.



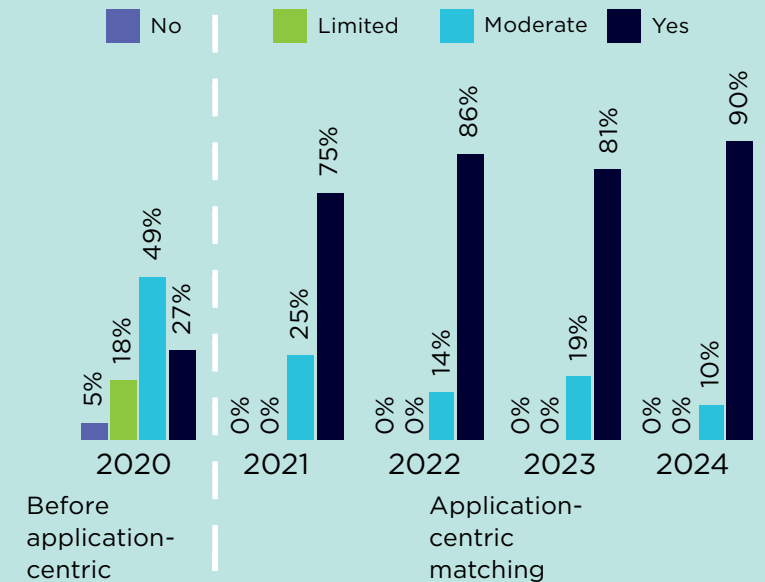
FEEDBACK FROM PEER REVIEW SURVEYS

"In general, the applications assigned to me matched my area of expertise." (**Strongly Agree/Agree**)



OPTIMISED SUITABILITY OF REVIEWERS

Application-centric peer review maximises the matching of applications to highly suitable reviewers. Since the 2021 implementation of application-centric, no applications have been allocated to reviewers with 'No' or 'Limited' suitability.



BENEFITS

- 1 Reduced peer reviewer workload
- 2 Increased use of the most suitable peer reviewers
- 3 Improved peer reviewer satisfaction of matching expertise to applications