

**Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the National Health and Medical Research Council for National Health and Medical Research Council – funded researchers hosted by the European Research Council grantees in Europe**

In line with Article 4 of the "Agreement relating to scientific and technical cooperation between the European Community and Australia", signed in Canberra on 23 February 1994, and entered into force on 25 July 1994, as amended in 1999, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement", an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)-funded researchers is hereby established between the European Commission and NHMRC (hereinafter referred to as the "Sides").

By the European Commission side, this Implementing Arrangement is intended to be administratively managed by the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA), which is the dedicated implementation structure of the European Research Council (ERC). ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence.

By the NHMRC side, NHMRC is responsible for administering the Implementing Arrangement. NHMRC is Australia's leading government national investor in health and medical research.

The Sides understand that the collaboration under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to operate only within the limits of its respective authorities, policies, legal frameworks and any other requirements.

This Implementing Arrangement is not intended to create rights and obligations under international or domestic law and it has no financial implications.

## **1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES**

The Sides intend to provide opportunities for NHMRC-funded researchers to pursue research collaborations with European researchers already supported through the EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants<sup>1</sup>.

It is expected that collaborations would occur in similar areas of scientific pursuit.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/funding-schemes>

## **2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES**

This Implementing Arrangement is intended to enable NHMRC-funded researchers to carry out research visits with the ERC supported European teams. The collaboration is intended to enable researchers to participate through a single and long-term (e.g. up to 12 months) visit or multiple short-term visits (e.g. for joint experiments). Research visits are expected to begin at least 12 months prior to the termination date of relevant NHMRC grants. Multiple short-term visits should aggregate to a jointly determined minimum (e.g. three months).

## **3. PROCEDURE OF COOPERATION**

The following set of operational steps is intended to be used:

- (a) The ERC would solicit expressions of interest from Principal Investigators (PIs) holding ERC grants in hosting NHMRC-funded researchers to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods.
- (b) The ERC would send to NHMRC a listing of the interested PIs/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects and other information as mutually decided between NHMRC and the ERC to facilitate the collaborations between the researchers.
- (c) NHMRC would inform NHMRC-funded researchers of the collaborative opportunities available describing the goals of the ERC programme and the collaborative opportunities as defined by the European researchers. NHMRC-funded researchers would be invited to communicate directly with the ERC-supported teams to negotiate the terms and conditions of the collaboration with ERC-supported European teams.

## **4. TECHNICAL WORKING MEETINGS**

The Sides intend to have regular technical working meetings with the participation of two representatives from each Side. As necessary, each Side may designate additional representatives to the meetings. The technical working meetings should be co-chaired by a representative of NHMRC and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of the ERCEA. Best practices consistent with the needs of the respective Sides in order to collaborate under this Implementing Arrangement are expected to be discussed during the technical working meetings and be stated in the meeting minutes.

During the technical working meetings, the Sides should review the activities under this Implementing Arrangement and decide if any adjustment would be necessary on a periodic basis. These meetings are expected to take place at least once per year, and they should be held virtually or alternately in the NHMRC office or at the ERCEA headquarters.

## **5. FUNDING**

Activities under this Implementing Arrangement are intended to be subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to the applicable laws and regulations, policies and programmes of each Side.

### **(1) The NHMRC**

NHMRC-funded researchers can continue to receive NHMRC funding according to the terms and conditions of their grant/s. However, in accordance with the rules that apply to NHMRC grants they will be required to obtain approval from their respective institution before commencing a collaborative agreement with their European counterparts.

### **(2) The ERC**

Visiting NHMRC-funded researchers may be incorporated into the research teams of the ERC-funded Principal Investigators (at the Host Institution of the ERC projects) for the duration of the visit, so that any relevant expenses can be claimed under the ERC grants, supporting the team and the activity as noted below. Sufficient flexibility exists for the ERC grant to support the visiting researcher with no separate direct funding arrangement between the visiting researcher and the ERC being required. The ERC grant agreement provides that only the costs eligible within its terms can be reimbursed and the maximum amount of the ERC grant may not be increased for this purpose. The NHMRC-funded researcher should be solely in charge of seeking and obtaining any payments or reimbursements under this section, without the involvement of NHMRC. Eligible cost categories include:

(i) For researchers receiving a grant from NHMRC, subsistence costs on a per diem basis, or any other applicable modality of the Host institution, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable on the Host Institution, which may take into account the level of experience of the individual visiting career researchers.

Alternatively and only if the salary of the NHMRC-funded researcher is suspended during the period of the visit, salary, stipend or other compensation of the visiting researcher, including any applicable social/health coverage expenses, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable on the Host Institution. In this case no additional subsistence costs should be offered.

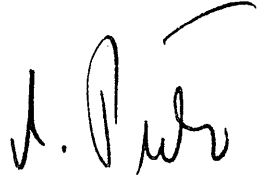
(ii) Any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of the researcher that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

## **6. DURATION**

Cooperation under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to commence from signature by both Sides. It may be discontinued by either Side at any time.

Signed at Canberra, on 22 October 2018, in duplicate in the English language.

**For the European Commission**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Pulch', with a long horizontal stroke above the letters.

Dr Michael Pulch

Ambassador of the European Union to  
Australia

**For the National Health and Medical  
Research Council**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Kelso.', written in a cursive style.

Professor Anne Kelso AO

Chief Executive Officer