

2015 Funding Outcomes by Gender – a summary of findings

The Women in Health Science Working Committee have reviewed the latest NHMRC funding outcomes by gender. Key points to note include a reversal of funding rates for women receiving a Career Development Fellowship compared to 2014, i.e. women were more successful in 2015; similarly to 2014, Project Grant application numbers for women CIs and CIAs were lower resulting in lower funding rates for women overall and for new investigator grants.

Given the importance of an individual's track record, this disparity is important, especially for early to mid-career researchers. It is possible that dropping success rates for Project Grants may further impact on the ability of women to be competitive in NHMRC project and fellowship schemes. It is the view of the Committee that this makes a proper assessment of career disruption and assessment of relative to opportunity even more essential to ensure gender equity of funding opportunities for women and that other means of adequately addressing gender equity need to be explored.

Early Career Fellowships (ECF)

- There were more women applying for an ECF than men across all Broad Research Areas (BRA) (337 vs 182).
- Although the actual number awarded to women was greater compared to men, men had a higher funded rate (23.6% vs 20.2%).
- More women applied for part-time ECFs compared to men with the majority of applicants (both men and women) in the Clinical Medicine and Science research area.
- These trends are almost identical to those in 2014.

Career Development Fellowships (CDF)

- Slightly more women applied for a CDF compared to men overall (239 vs 222), a similar trend to that observed in 2014 (235 women vs 196 men).
- Funded rates were slightly higher for women compared to men (12.6% vs 11.3%) – similar to that observed in 2013 but opposite to that in 2014 where the funded rates for men were much higher compared to women (17.3% vs 10.2%).
- This trend was observed for both CDF1 and CDF2 levels.

Practitioner Fellowships (PF) and Research Fellowships (RF)

- There were substantially more men than women applicants for PFs (34 vs 17) and RFs (186 vs 104).
- For PFs, women had lower funded rates at both the PF1 level (9.1% vs 30.4%) and the PF2 level (33.3% vs 45.5%) – the opposite to that in 2014.
- For RFs, women had a higher funded rate for SRFs (20.6% vs 13.3%) and PRFs (40.0% vs 21.2%), whilst men had a higher funded rate for SPRFs (58.6% vs 27.3%) – the opposite to that in 2014.

- Overall, women had a higher funded rate compared to men for RFs, and this was very evident in the Public Health area (41.4% vs 13.6%).

Project Grants (New Investigator)

- There were more applications from men regardless of Chief Investigator (CI) status (164 vs 140) and when considering CIA only (123 vs 107).
- Men had higher funded rates than women for all CIs (19.5% vs 10.0%) and CIAs only (18.7% vs 9.3%) across all broad research areas (BRAs) – this is in stark contrast to 2014.

Project Grants (Standard Project Grants)*

- There were substantially fewer women applicants for standard project grants when considering all CIs (5136 vs 9075) and CIAs only (1262 vs 2266).
- Overall, men as CIA had a higher funded rate compared to women CIAs (14.8% vs 11.7%). This was evidenced across all BRAs except for Public Health.

* Those CIs that did not supply a gender and/or whose gender couldn't be identified were not included in this analysis.



TABLE 1: 2015 NHMRC Funding Outcomes by Gender for each Scheme

2015		Women			Men		
		# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate	# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate
Early Career Fellowships	Australian Clinical	44	6	13.6%	25	5	20.0%
	Overseas Clinical (Neil Hamilton Fairley)	4	2	50.0%	6	3	50.0%
	Australian Biomedical (Peter Doherty)	96	21	21.9%	66	15	22.7%
	Overseas Biomedical (CJ Martin)	44	12	27.3%	25	9	36.0%
	Australian Public Health	89	16	18.0%	26	6	23.1%
	Overseas Public Health (Sidney Sax)	4	2	50.0%	5	1	20.0%
	Health Professional Research (Part Time)	42	9	21.4%	14	4	28.6%
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research	11	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%
	INSERM Exchange Fellowship	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
	Australia-China Exchange	2	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%
	TOTAL	337	68	20.2%	182	43	23.6%
Career Development Fellowships	Biomedical	128	18	14.1%	155	13	8.4%
	Population Health	55	7	12.7%	29	4	13.8%
	Clinical CDF	49	2	4.1%	32	7	21.9%
	Industry CDF	5	1	20.0%	6	1	16.7%
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander CDF	2	2	100.0%	0	0	0.0%
	TOTAL	239	30	12.6%	222	25	11.3%
Research Fellowships	Basic Science	45	10	22.2%	121	27	22.3%
	Clinical Medicine and Science	23	5	21.7%	40	12	30.0%
	Health Services Research	7	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%
	Public Health	29	12	41.4%	22	3	13.6%
		TOTAL	104	27	26.0%	186	42
Practitioner Fellowship	Basic Science	0	0	0.0%	5	1	20.0%
	Clinical Medicine and Science	14	3	21.4%	27	10	37.0%
	Health Services Research	2	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
	Public Health	1	0	0.0%	2	1	50.0%
		TOTAL	17	3	17.6%	34	12

2015		Women			Men		
		# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate	# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate
Project Grants - New Investigator Grant - All CIs	Basic Science	69	11	15.9%	98	20	20.4%
	Clinical Medicine and Science	33	1	3.0%	40	6	15.0%
	Health Services Research	11	0	0.0%	8	2	25.0%
	Public Health	27	2	7.4%	18	4	22.2%
	TOTAL	140	14	10.0%	164	32	19.5%
Project Grants - New Investigator Grant - CIA	Basic Science	59	8	13.6%	80	15	18.8%
	Clinical Medicine and Science	26	1	3.8%	29	5	17.2%
	Health Services Research	8	0	0.0%	4	1	25.0%
	Public Health	14	1	7.1%	10	2	20.0%
	TOTAL	107	10	9.3%	123	23	18.7%
Project Grants - Standard Project Grant - All CIs	Basic Science	1785	217	12.2%	4152	618	14.9%
	Clinical Medicine and Science	1902	256	13.5%	3499	516	14.7%
	Health Services Research	431	32	7.4%	371	32	8.6%
	Public Health	1018	149	14.6%	1053	164	15.6%
	TOTAL	5136	654	12.7%	9075	1330	14.7%
Project Grants - Standard Project Grant - CIA	Basic Science	606	75	12.4%	1301	196	15.1%
	Clinical Medicine and Science	402	42	10.4%	737	112	15.2%
	Health Services Research	71	5	7.0%	60	5	8.3%
	Public Health	183	26	14.2%	168	22	13.1%
	TOTAL	1262	148	11.7%	2266	335	14.8%



TABLE 2: 2015 BRA Data by Scheme by CIA Gender

WOMEN			
Early Career Fellowships			
Broad Research Area	# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate
Basic Science	120	23	19.2%
Clinical Medicine and Science	100	22	22.0%
Health Services Research	32	5	15.6%
Public Health	85	18	21.2%
Total	337	68	20.2%
Career Development Fellowships			
Broad Research Area	# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate
Basic Science	104	17	16.3%
Clinical Medicine and Science	67	4	6.0%
Health Services Research	18	0	0.0%
Public Health	50	9	18.0%
Total	239	30	12.6%

MEN			
Early Career Fellowships			
Broad Research Area	# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate
Basic Science	89	19	21.3%
Clinical Medicine and Science	52	16	30.8%
Health Services Research	11	2	18.2%
Public Health	30	6	20.0%
Total	182	43	23.6%
Career Development Fellowships			
Broad Research Area	# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate
Basic Science	138	14	10.1%
Clinical Medicine and Science	55	6	10.9%
Health Services Research	4	0	0.0%
Public Health	25	5	20.0%
Total	222	25	11.3%



TABLE 4: 2015 Gender Outcomes for Practitioner, Research and Career Development Fellows by Level

Gender Breakdown: Practitioner Fellowship				
Level	Gender	# Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate
Practitioner Fellowship Level 1	Women	11	1	9.1%
	Men	23	7	30.4%
Practitioner Fellowship Level 2	Women	6	2	33.3%
	Men	11	5	45.5%
Total	Women	17	3	17.6%
	Men	34	12	35.3%
	Total	51	15	29.4%
Gender Breakdown: Research Fellowship				
Senior Principal Research Fellowship (SPRF)	Women	11	4	27.3%
	Men	29	18	58.6%
Principal Research Fellowship (PRF)	Women	25	10	40.0%
	Men	52	11	21.2%
Senior Research Fellowship (SRF)	Women	68	14	20.6%
	Men	105	14	13.3%
Total	Women	104	27	26.0%
	Men	186	42	22.6%
	Total	290	69	23.8%
Gender Breakdown: Career Development Fellowships				
CDF Level 1	Women	151	18	11.9%
	Men	110	12	10.9%
CDF Level 2	Women	88	12	13.6%
	Men	112	13	11.6%
Total	Women	239	30	12.6%
	Men	222	25	11.3%
	Total	461	55	11.9%



TABLE 3: 2015 Part Time Fellowship Outcomes by Gender

Scheme	BRA	Gender	# Part Time Apps	# Funded	Funded Rate OVERALL (%)	Funded Rate for all Fellowship Apps (%)
Early Career Fellowships	Basic Science	Women	1	0	23.2%	21.4%
		Men	0	0		
	Clinical Medicine and Science	Women	27	7		
		Men	10	3		
	Health Services Research	Women	9	0		
		Men	2	0		
	Public Health	Women	5	2		
Men		2	1			
Career Development Fellowships	Basic Science	Women	4	0	5.7%	11.9%
		Men	0	0		
	Clinical Medicine and Science	Women	10	0		
		Men	8	1		
	Health Services Research	Women	4	0		
		Men	0	0		
	Public Health	Women	7	0		
Men		2	1			
Research Fellowships	Basic Science	Women	0	0	0.0%	23.8%
		Men	0	0		
	Clinical Medicine and Science	Women	1	0		
		Men	0	0		
	Health Services Research	Women	0	0		
		Men	0	0		
	Public Health	Women	0	0		
Men		0	0			