



Policy on Recognition of Supporting Partners

2019

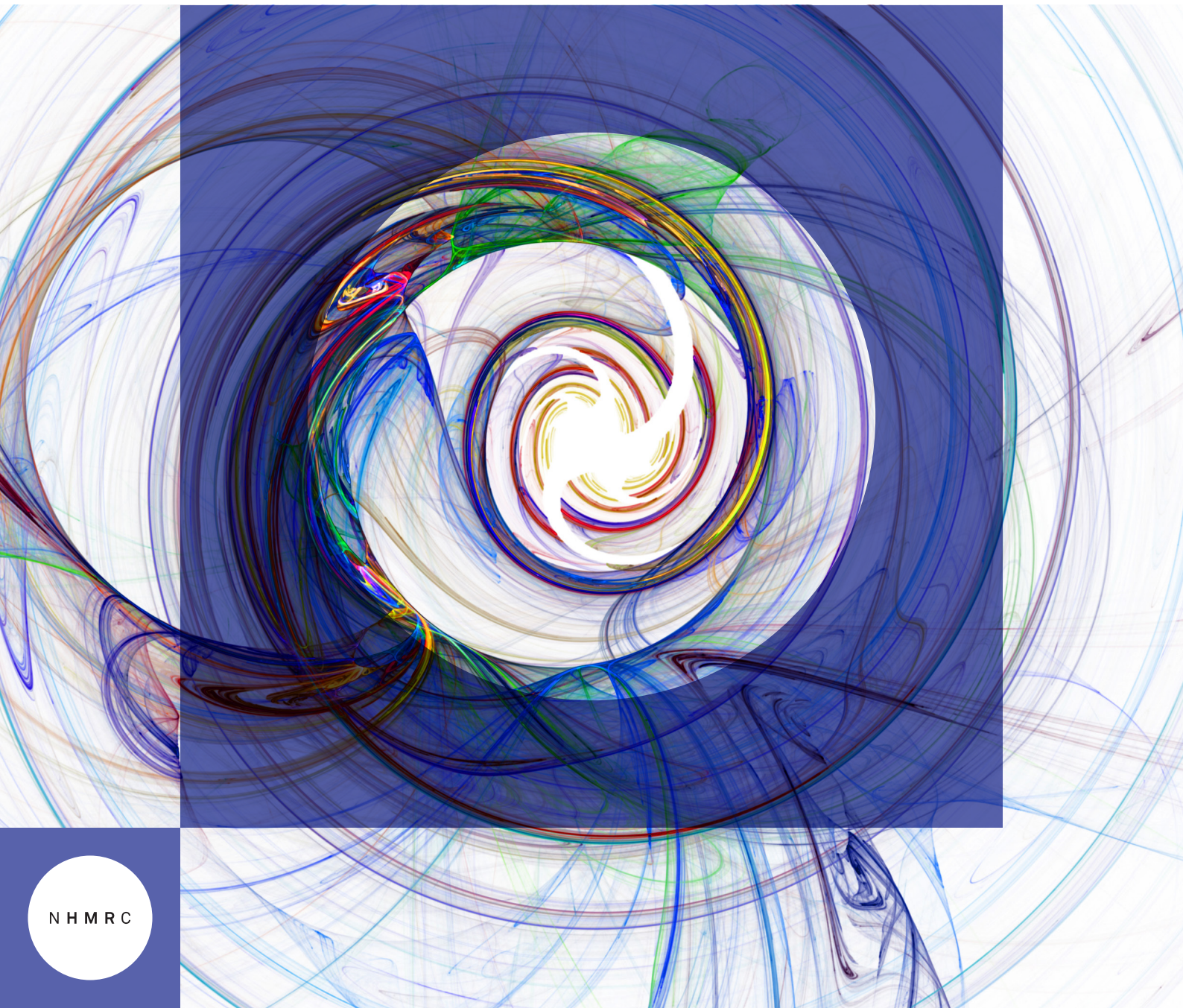




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Our Role

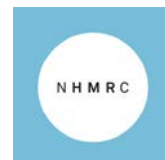
NHMRC is a statutory agency within the Australian Government Health portfolio, and operates in accordance with the *National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992* (NHMRC Act).

NHMRC's purposes are to fund high-quality health and medical research and build research capability, support the translation of health and medical research into better health outcomes and promote the highest standards of ethics and integrity in health and medical research.

To fulfil its mission of building a healthy Australia and to deliver against its strategic priorities the NHMRC Corporate Plan 2019-2020 states that NHMRC will:

“Support collaborative approaches to health and medical research, domestically and internationally, including connecting, supporting and encouraging links with researchers in non-health related disciplines, and consider ways to strengthen relationships across the system including with non-government organisations, philanthropic organisations and other government agencies”¹.

¹ [Corporate Plan 2019-2020 National Health and Medical Research Council](#)



Purpose of this policy

NHMRC recognises the value of partnerships and that support from individuals, industry, other government agencies and the wider public and private sectors is crucial to delivering improvements in individual and population health.

The purpose of this policy is to acknowledge the role of Partners who work with NHMRC in supporting health and medical research.

The policy sets out a strategy for recognising current and potential NHMRC Partners who support health and medical research.

This policy does **not** cover:

- active engagement to encourage philanthropy (managed by the *Research Quality and Priorities Branch*)
- the current process for management of NHMRC's international collaborative research grant schemes
 - NHMRC's policy on international engagement including an *International Engagement Strategy 2016-19* is available on the [website](#)
- publication of names of individuals on expert advisory committees, which may depend on the individual committee's terms of reference.

Background

During the internal Office of NHMRC consultation process for this Project, the Research Foundations Branch advised of discussions with current Partners for funding support in 2019. A key theme expressed in the process of renegotiation of Partner arrangements was lack of attribution.

Partners advise that NHMRC's international reputation sets researchers on a better career path and enables them to leverage additional funding. Consequently, not being able to co-brand with NHMRC may restrict a researcher's career progression.

NHMRC has been requested by its Partners to acknowledge top up/gap funding in its reporting and allow co-branding of fundable but not funded grants subsequently funded by Partners.

NHMRC recognition of Partners

NHMRC recognises support from Partners across funding schemes in different ways – sometimes at the pre-award stage while at other times at the post-award stage of peer review. Recognition of Partners is not consistent across NHMRC schemes.

The current types of recognition and an example of each are listed below.

1. Scheme-specific grant guidelines
 - Example: The Department of Health is recognised in the Partnership Projects Guidelines as providing funding for a Special Initiative, the Partnership Projects on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Obesity Prevention Research.
2. Grant Schedule
 - Example: Funding support provided by the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) for the Next Generation Clinical Researchers is identified in the Grant Schedule.
3. Co-funders manage their own communications, but consult with NHMRC first.
 - Example: *Beyondblue* funded a Centre of Research Excellence in Health Services Research in 2018 which used this approach, as outlined in its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NHMRC.
4. In alignment with an MOU Partners may use NHMRC's peer review and manage contact with applicants and publicity without NHMRC's involvement. In some cases NHMRC may link to a Partner website.



- Example: Cancer Australia uses NHMRC's peer review processes as part of its assessment, but manages its own publicity.

Partner recognition of NHMRC

Where highly competitive applicants not funded by NHMRC are funded by a Partner, co-branding may be appropriate to identify NHMRC's role in peer review and funding by the Partner.

Partner recognition of NHMRC is of two types:

1. Recognition of NHMRC's peer review process
2. Recognition of NHMRC's co-funding contribution.

Co-branding may have implications for eligibility to apply for and hold other NHMRC grants.

Policy on Recognition of Supporting Partners

1. The term 'recognition' will be defined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established between NHMRC and the Partner, and agreed by both parties. This definition could also include:
 - a) The various mechanisms through which NHMRC could recognise the Partner:
 - During the pre-award peer review process, in the scheme-specific Guidelines and the online application form.
 - At the post-award process, in the letter of award and the Grant Schedule.
 - b) The impact of recognition on eligibility to apply for and/or hold other NHMRC grants should be agreed by both parties in the MOU.
2. The Partner will provide input on their area of research support for publication by NHMRC.
3. Information on Partner co-funding will be included in the grant guidelines and outcomes reported on GrantConnect for reasons of transparency and public accountability.
4. Recognition of Partners supporting NHMRC in health and medical research, as defined in the MoU, could be through:
 - a) Outcome letters sent to awardees
 - b) Grant Schedules
 - c) Communications and Publications
 - d) *Results of NHMRC Grant Application Rounds* on the website and GrantConnect
 - e) Reporting by both parties through NHMRC and Partner organisation Annual Reports.
5. NHMRC or Partner contributions should be recognised in the following scenarios
(Table 1):
 - a) NHMRC co-funds a grant with a Partner
 - b) NHMRC provides peer review as a service to the Partner
 - c) NHMRC provides a ranked list of 'fundable' but unfunded applications
 - d) NHMRC provides a ranked list of applications deemed 'not fundable'
 - e) Partner provides 'in kind' contributions.

When should NHMRC or Partner contributions be recognised?

Table 1

Scenarios	NHMRC Funding	Partner Funding	NHMRC Peer Review	NHMRC Recognition of Partner	Partner Recognition of NHMRC
NHMRC co-funds a grant with a Partner (Partner contribution in cash and/or in kind)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NHMRC provides peer review as a service to the Partner	✗	✓	✓	✓ #	✓ +
NHMRC provides a ranked list of 'fundable' but unfunded applications	✗	✓	✓	✓ #	✓ +
NHMRC provides a ranked list of applications deemed 'not fundable'.	✗	✓	✓	✓ #	✗

Note:

✓ Scenario includes process

✗ Scenario does not include process

+ Partner's recognition of NHMRC's peer review process

NHMRC only recognises the Partner at the time of application to enable applicants to consent to provision of their application details to the Partner.

