



Australian Government
National Health and Medical Research Council

NH|MRC

Rural and remote health care research funding at NHMRC – opportunities and barriers

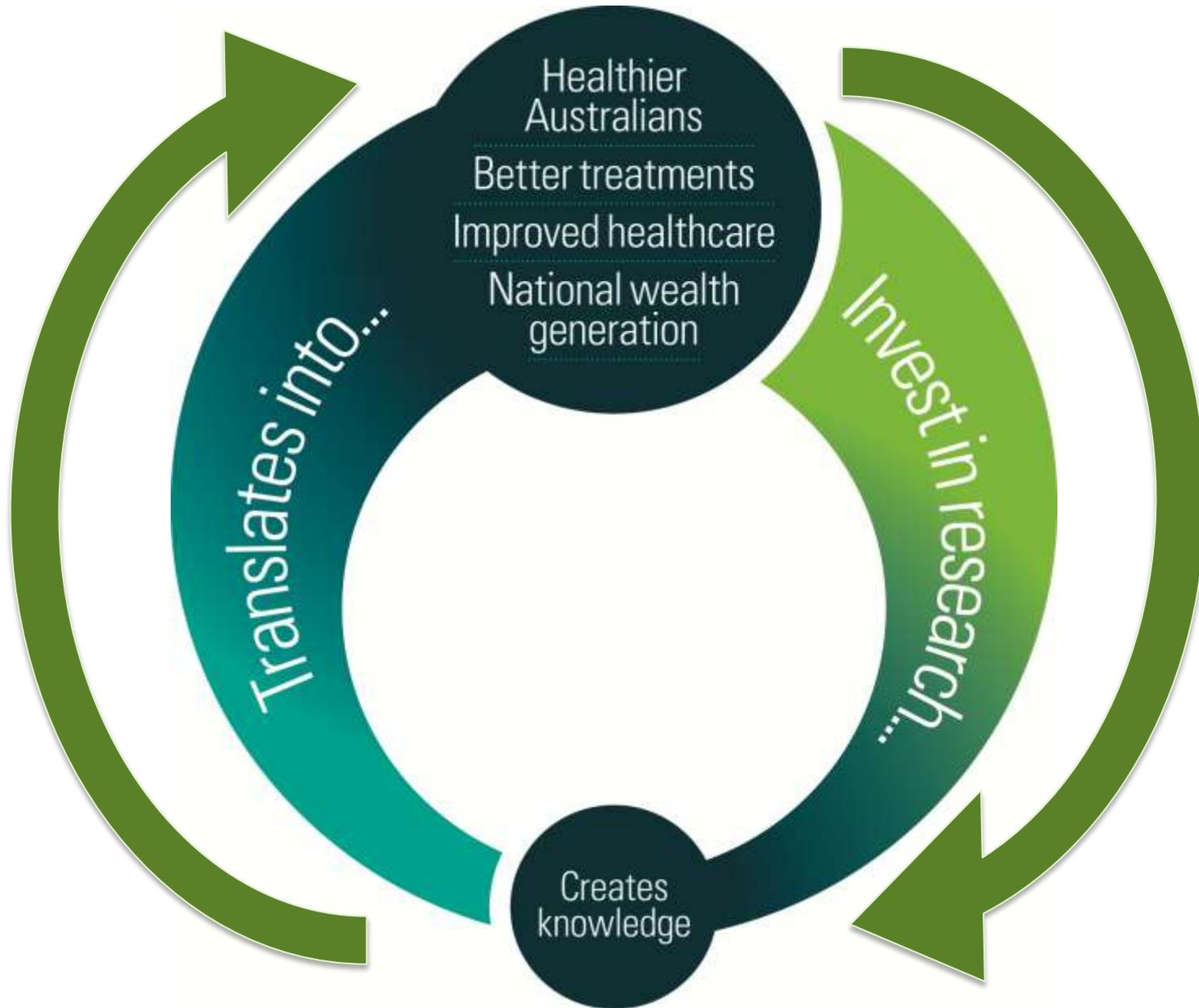
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WORKING TO BUILD A HEALTHY AUSTRALIA

Presentation Outline

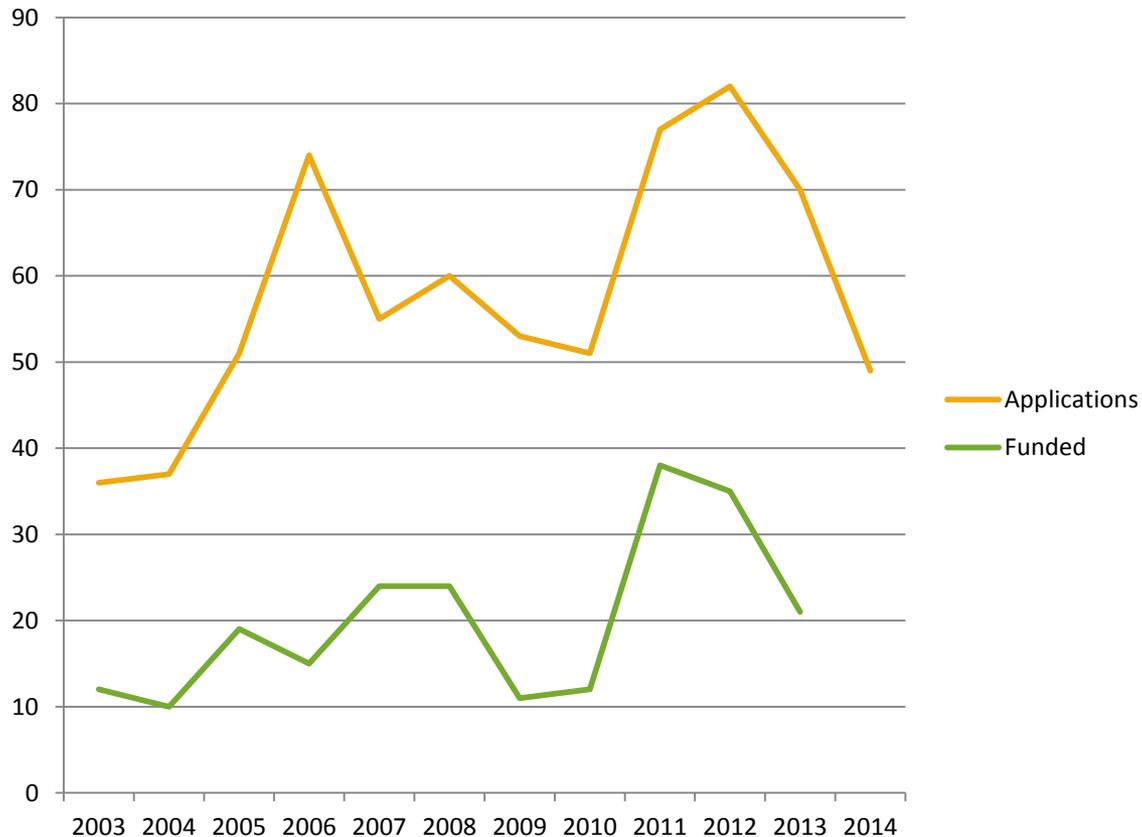
- NHMRC strategies
- NHMRC funding of rural and remote health care research
- Opportunities



How are research applications assessed?

Scheme	Create knowledge	Build capability	Accelerate translation
Project Grants	✓✓✓	✓	✓
Program Grants	✓✓✓	✓	✓
Targeted Calls for Research	✓✓		✓✓
Partnership Projects	✓	✓	✓✓✓
Development Grants	✓	✓	✓✓✓
Fellowships (RF, CDF, ECF)	✓	✓✓✓	✓
Practitioner Fellowships	✓	✓✓	✓✓
Translation of Research Into Practice (TRiP) Fellowships	✓	✓✓✓	✓
Centres of Research Excellence	✓	✓✓	✓✓

NHMRC funding of rural and remote healthcare-related research – application numbers across all schemes



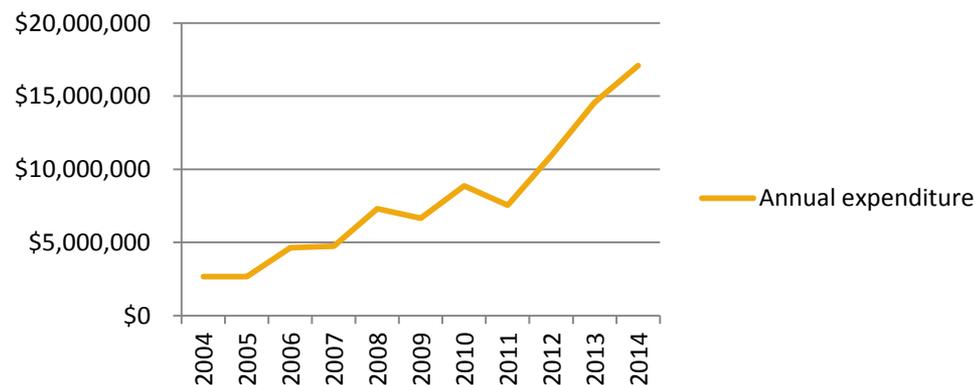
Average success rate: 31.8%

Female CIA: 34%

Male CIA: 30%

NHMRC funding of rural and remote healthcare-related research – funded grants from 2003 to 2012

Annual expenditure



Scheme examples	Funded
Project Grants	39
Partnership Projects	8
TRIPs Fellowships	2
Centres of Research Excellence	3

2014 – 88 grants; \$17.08M

Project grants – examples

Forensic approach for reservoir identification for serious *S. aureus* infections in Top End dialysis clients

Remote

Reducing harms associated with heavy cannabis use in Cape York

Remote

Development of a composite index of need for regional maternity services: The Australian Regional Birthing Index (ARBI)

Rural

Preventing weight gain in young to mid-aged women living in rural communities; a cluster randomised controlled trial

Rural

Living in a rural community: A longitudinal study of the course and outcome of mental health and wellbeing.

Rural

Adolescent Rural Cohort Study Hormones, Health, Education, Environments and Relationships

Rural

Hearing in a farming environment

Rural

Climate Change and Rural Communities

Rural

Centres of Research Excellence grants- examples

The Centre for Research Excellence in Medical Workforce Dynamics will grow new capacity in health services research, with high potential for policy impact, providing much needed evidence on the factors that influence doctors' decisions

General

The CRE to Reduce Inequality in Heart Disease, is a national collaboration of researchers from a range of health disciplines that aim to address inequality by developing sustainable and cost-effective health care services.

General

The CRE in Tele-health will advance knowledge and research capacity in tele-health to increase the availability of healthcare to all Australians. -focus on health service settings where access is currently challenging: small rural hospitals; residential aged care facilities; people's homes (particularly for disabled and older people); and Indigenous communities.

Some focus
on rural and
Indigenous
health

Develop and trialling a 'best prospects' package of cancer interventions targeting the community, medical and other health practitioners and patients with cancer

Rural and remote

Using evidence from earlier research into rural and regional ageing and work with aged care providers and programs to broaden their focus to one that supports older Australians to remain active

Rural and remote

Develop and evaluate a transportable model of early intervention to improve access and outcomes for rural children with early-onset mental health and their families; partner is Royal Far West

Rural

Evaluate, in six communities, whether an evidenced based method of rural community participation from the UK translates to assist healthcare planning by Medicare Locals – oral health

Rural

Study the success of remote communities and health clinics in increasing testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections through a quality improvement program

Remote

Trialling an intervention of intensive chronic care management delivered by Indigenous health workers to Indigenous adults with diabetes in 12 rural communities in north Queensland.

Indigenous health

Optimising the diagnosis and management of diabetes in pregnancy in the Northern Territory

Indigenous health

Evaluating annual testing of Chlamydia infections

General

TRiPs Fellowships

Improving the quality of Nephrology Care in Rural Australia (INCRA):
Implementation of key guidelines into clinical practice in rural or remote nephrology practices.

Rural and
remote

To reduce the burden that chronic lower back pain places on Aboriginal people and communities by developing culturally appropriate information to build the skills of Aboriginal sufferers to self-manage pain, and to train health practitioners to deliver high quality care.

Indigenous
health

Partnership projects

Create opportunities for researchers and partner organisations to form alliances to define and undertake research, interpret its findings and promote the use of those findings to influence the design and evaluation of health and health care policy and practice.

Partner organisations

Royal Far West

Loddon Mallee Murray Medicare
Local

Royal Flying Doctor Service
Queensland

Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria

Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern
Territories

Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation
Awabakal Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd

Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation

Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney

Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia
Incorporated

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community
Health Service, QLD

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service

Opportunities

- NHMRC aims to fund the best research possible, to maximise the benefit to Australia of the major investment in health and medical research
 - ‘The best’ assessed in terms of scientific merit, significance and record of achievement, relative to opportunity
- Mostly investigator-initiated research applications
- Applications are becoming more multi-disciplinary with increased national and international collaboration
- Competitive, expert peer-reviewed assessment
 - Ensure quality checks before submission
 - Submit more applications over a variety of schemes eg partnership projects, TRiP Fellowships



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