Insight into successful grant writing for National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

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The NHMRC provides funding for all areas of research relevant to human health and medical research. www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/types/index.htm provides a comprehensive list of the NHMRC's funding types:

- **Infrastructure Support**
  Grants include funding for enabling facilities, equipment and infrastructure.

- **Research Support**
  Grants include project grants, program grants and strategic awards including special call outs.

- **People Support**
  Grants include training awards, fellowships, scholarships, career development awards.
Look like a successful researcher

- Build a strong track record
  - Number of publications (productivity)
  - Quality of publications (citation impact)
  - ‘standing’ of the journals (journal impact)
Get a project that will supply what’s needed now

- Build a strong research proposal
  - Timing
  - Establish the question and significance
  - Write, get commentary, rewrite – get it simple, concise and clear.
  - Project complexity
  - Allow lots of time for the project to evolve
Get a research team that can deliver

- Build a strong collaboration
  - Look for mentor support
  - Network, network, network…
  - Look for appropriate partners
  - Develop a qualified research team
  - Establish an appropriate range of skills
  - Consider multi-centred data collection including international connections
Direct the review process

- NHMRC has many review panels. Take care where you send it
  - Research fields, courses & disciplines (RFDC)
  - Keywords
Keep perspective

- ‘If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again!’
  - But not without feedback, review and further development
  - Don’t be discouraged – the success rate is small and the competition fierce
  - Be prepared to change focus or keep building