Information to Consider Before Submitting an ARC or NHMRC EOI

EOI Assessment

ARC and NHMRC EOs will be assessed by your College's EOI Panel, which will be chaired by your College Research Directors. Other panel members will include the Research Institute and Centre Directors (or nominees).

The EOs, which include the track records of all the CIs and an overview of the proposal, will be assessed according to the relevant funding rules of the intended external grant scheme.

Near Miss applicants will also need to upload their assessors' reports and rejoinders/rebuttals and provide a summary of what they have achieved to date with the funds provided by the Office for Research to work on the research project.

The relevant College Research Director will notify the EOI applicants who can proceed to full application.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor - Research and Research Training (PVC (R&RT)) will send a notification email to the EOI applicants who were assessed as not ready to submit in the relevant coming round. The PVC (R&RT) email will outline the key reason(s) for the Panel's decision.

1. TRACK RECORD

The investigator's track record is an extremely important selection criterion, worth 20 - 40% of the overall assessment depending on the ARC/NHMRC scheme.

Investigators need to demonstrate that their research track record (relative to opportunity) and capacity to undertake the proposed research is excellent. Track record includes publications, grants and awards.

Your Track Record

- Without a strong track record, there is little point in applying as a CI on a Discovery Project Grant or a NHMRC Project Grant
- A Linkage Project Application requires (at least) reasonable track records for all the CIs. PIs are given special consideration depending on the nature of their work, and if their publications are commercial in confidence.
- DECRAs are highly competitive and you must have an outstanding track record as an ECR
- For any ARC/NHMRC application, you must have at least 3-4 refereed journal papers per annum (this will vary among disciplines) and remember some applicants will have many more than this
- External grant successes are looked upon very favourably
- Also remember
  - Quality of journal counts
  - Well cited papers count
• Conference papers do not count for much and can only be included if the full published paper is peer reviewed, presented at a conference, workshop or seminar of national or international significance and published in full in the proceedings.

Consider carefully whether you are better building your publication and grant track record rather than investing time in an EOI with a low probability of success.

**Your Team’s Track Record (except Fellowships)**

- To maximise success probability, limit participation to people with sound track records.
- ALL participants are included in the assessment, including all CIs and PIs.
- One poor track record will bring down the overall track record of the team – although a Linkage Project PI will be given special consideration depending on their line of work.
- The team must demonstrate that they have worked, co-supervised students, or published together as this is closely looked at by the Assessors.
- The team must have the right combination of expertise and skills to successfully undertake the project.
- For Linkage Projects, the team must clearly demonstrate that they have worked with the Partner Organisation on previous projects or have evidence of an emerging partnership.

Relative to opportunity:

- Track records are considered relative to opportunity.
- Note is taken of career interruptions e.g. maternity leave, parental care leave, illness, etc.

**2. THE INTENDED PROJECT**

It must be innovative and of community benefit. Innovation can be regarded as seeking previously undiscovered phenomena, structures or relationships and/or applying existing techniques in new ways.

Can you clearly demonstrate and articulate how your proposed research is novel and how it contributes to the field of knowledge?

Can you provide a:

- Clear description of the problem/issue, its significance, and the way ahead?
- Precisely defined design or methodology with a specific timetable for the stated milestones?

Is your research well placed in the national and international context? What is the current status in the field and how will your project extend the field of knowledge?

Can you demonstrate that you are aware of the recent work of others and show how your proposal relates to this work?

Do you have relevant preliminary data? The NHMRC expects applications to have preliminary data to support the key hypotheses, thus minimising the risk of unexpected outcomes.
3. FINAL QUESTIONS

Are you ready to apply?

If your track record does not adhere to the points above and/or you cannot answer all of the above questions relating to the Proposal, you are not ready to apply to the ARC or NHMRC.

In this situation, do not submit an EOI, please contact your College Research Facilitation & Development Manager to discuss other possible funding opportunities for your project.