

## NHMRC CTC Innovation in Trials Program 2022 GUIDELINES

### OVERVIEW

In 2022, we will provide the equivalent of \$200,000 in largely in-kind support for four new research projects within the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (CTC). The program will enable teams of investigators of various levels of experience and different expertise, across the breadth of the CTC and the University of Sydney to **break new ground and undertake essential, preliminary work to support a competitive grant submission at the end of the funding period.**

Applications are now invited for funding to commence in early 2023; CTC staff with proposals for research concepts relevant to CTC activities that meet all eligibility criteria and satisfactorily address the stated selection criteria are encouraged to apply.

The following awards will be available to commence in early 2023.

TYPE OF AWARD	FUNDS AND PURPOSE
NHMRC CTC Innovation in Trials Program	Four Awards of up to \$50,000 each for projects to be completed by February 2024.

This essential component of our research strategy aims to support the development of new concepts and projects that:

1. Will lead to future larger programs of work e.g. leverage funding from external sources, lead to immediate changes in practice; and/or
2. Will build capacity e.g. supporting early and mid-career researchers or under-represented research areas and disciplines.

In addition to these key aims, the program also seeks to prioritise projects that:

- Support and promote collaboration, within and across University of Sydney networks; and
- Are of high-quality research, significance, feasibility and/or innovation.

**These aims and priorities will inform the selection criteria, review and scoring process used by the Innovation in Trials Review Panel and Management Committee in their decision-making and as such, applicants are encouraged to consider and address these issues clearly in their applications.**

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications must meet all of the following eligibility criteria in order to be considered for funding.

### Investigators:

- a) An appropriate lead Chief Investigator (CIA) must be identified for each application.
- b) Investigator teams that include a mentor/mentee are encouraged, in which CIA is an early/mid-career investigator (<7 years from award of PhD) and a senior CI is included who will specifically take on the role of mentor to CIA.
- c) The CIA or the mentoring CI should have an existing appointment at the NHMRC CTC.
- d) There is an emphasis on supporting early-career researchers with demonstrated potential.

### CTC Engagement and Support:

- e) It is expected that the NHMRC CTC will be identified as the primary partner in the research project, both during the grant period and after.
- f) Most or all of the funding will be provided as in-kind support by the CTC although some direct research costs of up to \$5,000 can be proposed.

### Location of and Approvals for Research:

- g) The proposed project must be based at or led from the University of Sydney NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre although elements of the project can be undertaken elsewhere within NSW (e.g. data collection).
- h) Ethics and/or governance and/or institutional approvals must be obtained as required in accordance with local practice and relevant guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicant/funding recipient to ensure that all necessary approvals are in place.

### Use of Funds:

- i) Innovation in Trials Funding **is intended to support new research projects** that have the potential to lead to successfully funded external research initiatives with significantly leveraged research funds. Applications for activities that have funding from other sources and/or are directly related to programs of work funded from other sources are not eligible. Applicants need to disclose any relevant current funding sources for the project and clearly justify how additional funding from the NHMRC CTC is required. Applications for activities with a pending funding application are eligible but this must be disclosed in the application.
- j) The CTC will work with successful applicants to assign appropriate support and finalise the budget within the constraints of the awarded funding.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The final recommendation for funding will be decided by a Panel made up of the CTC Director, the CTC Deputy Director and 3 to 5 members drawn from FMH or the University. Panel members will recuse themselves from assessment of applications on which they are a CI or have a similar high conflict of interest.

**The following specific selection criteria will be used as part of the review and selection process:**

1. **Research quality** including research design, feasibility and scientific rationale;
2. **Potential to lead to successful applications for funding for future larger programs;**
3. **Potential significance and/or innovation of planned larger program** including potential to impact future research, practice, and policy; and
4. **Quality of mentoring arrangements**, planned opportunities for mentee activities, which may include but are not limited to authorship, positions as investigators on grant applications, chairing/presenting at meetings and conferences, support with Fellowship applications, etc.

## APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be assessed by the panel and the overall balance of projects and applicants will be considered. CIAs can only submit one application in each funding round.

Applicants will need to submit an application [ONLINE](#) (see sample in Appendix 1).

Eligible and complete applications received no later than 5pm, Friday 30 September 2022 will be reviewed by the Innovation in Trials Review Panel with recommendations made to the CTC Management Committee.

## DEADLINES

<b>Thursday, 26 August 2022</b>	<b>Applications open online</b> Applications must be completed <a href="#">ONLINE</a> . If you encounter any problems with the online application form, please contact <a href="#">Merilyn Heuschkel</a> .
<b>11 am-12 noon, 9 September 2022</b>	<b>Information session <a href="#">via Zoom</a>.</b> This will provide an overview of the program and guidance as to the types of new research projects that might be suitable for funding.
<b>5pm AEST Friday, 30 September 2022</b>	<b>Applications close</b> Eligible and complete applications must be submitted online by the closing date.
<b>November 2022</b>	<b>Successful applicants notified for funding to commence February 2023.</b>

Announcements about funding awarded will be made to all CTC Staff after successful and unsuccessful applicants have been notified of the outcome. Successful projects will be expected to acknowledge the contribution of funding from CTC and provide regular updates and progress reports.

## ENQUIRIES

Enquiries can be directed to [Merilyn Heuschkel](#).

## Appendix 1 – Sample NHMRC CTC Innovation in Trials Program 2022 application form

This is a sample funding application. Applicants will need to submit an application [ONLINE](#).

### PART 1 – SUMMARY

#### Project title

#### Lay project summary

*No more than 100 words*

#### Chief Investigator

*Full name*

#### Postdoctoral experience

*Please indicate the number of years since completing your PhD, relative to opportunity.*

- 0-2
- 3-7
- 8-12
- 12+

### PART 2 - RESEARCH PLAN

#### Project details

Please summarise the research design, aims, objectives, methodology, feasibility and scientific rationale.

*No more than 500 words*

#### Future funding potential

Please outline the potential of the project to lead to successful applications for funding for larger programs.

*No more than 500 words*

#### Future research

Please outline the potential significance and/or innovation of a planned larger program including potential to impact future research, practice, and policy.

*No more than 500 words*

### Investigator team

Please provide a brief description of the skills of the investigator team and how they will work together.

*No more than 500 words*

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### Mentor/mentee names

Names of the early/mid-career investigator and mentoring academic.

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### Mentor/mentee activities

Please outline the mentoring activities and planned opportunities for the mentee.

*This may include but are not limited to authorship, positions as investigators on grant applications, chairing/presenting at meetings and conferences, support with Fellowship applications, etc.*

*No more than 500 words*

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## PART 3 – INVESTIGATORS

### Chief Investigator (CIA)

<b>CHIEF INVESTIGATOR A</b>	
Title	
Full Name	
Email Address	
Position	
CTC Research Division (if applicable)	

### Additional Chief Investigators (CIB - CID)

<b>CHIEF INVESTIGATOR B</b>	
Title	
Full Name	
Email Address	
Position	
CTC Research Division (if applicable)	

<b>CHIEF INVESTIGATOR C</b>	
Title	
Full Name	
Email Address	
Position	
CTC Research Division (if applicable)	

<b>CHIEF INVESTIGATOR D</b>	
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Full Name</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	
<b>Position</b>	
<b>CTC Research Division (if applicable)</b>	

## PART 4 – BUDGET

### Financial overview

Most or all of the funding from the CTC Innovation in Trials Program will be provided as in-kind support by the CTC although some direct research costs of up to \$5,000 can be proposed. Applicants are not expected to provide a budget. The CTC will work with successful applicants to assign appropriate support within the constraints of the awarded funding.

### Direct research costs

Please outline any expected direct research costs for the project over a 12 month period, up to \$5,000.

<b>DIRECT COSTS (if applicable)</b>	
<i>Budget item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$</b>

### Current funding or support available

Please indicate any secured funding or in-kind support (beyond the current application), and any current or intended applications for the project.

<b>IN-KIND SUPPORT (beyond current application)</b>	
<i>Budget item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF IN-KIND SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$</b>

<b>SECURED FUNDS</b>	
<i>Budget item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>TOTAL SECURED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$</b>

<b>PENDING/INTENDED APPLICATIONS</b>	
<i>Budget item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>TOTAL OF PENDING/SECURED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$</b>

## PART 5 – TRACK RECORD OF CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

Please upload your CV outlining your qualifications, skills and track record.

## PART 6 – CERTIFICATION BY CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

I, the Chief Investigator, certify that:

1. The details provided in the application form are true and correct;
2. The eligibility criteria set out in the accompanying guidelines have been met; and
3. All investigators named have read this application in full and have given their consent to be included.

Name	Date

## ENQUIRIES

Enquiries can be directed to Marilyn Heuschkel ([merilyn.heuschkel@sydney.edu.au](mailto:merilyn.heuschkel@sydney.edu.au)).