National Health and Medical Research Council
grant.implementation@nhmrc.gov.au

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NHMRC Peer Review Consultation

The Public Health Association of Australia, as the leading national peak body for public health representation and advocacy, seeks to drive better health outcomes through increased knowledge, better access and equity, evidence informed policy and effective population-based practice in public health.

The NHMRC research grant program has a vital role in facilitating funding for research to benefit and further public health.

PHAA supports the aims of the new grant program, and believes that creativity and innovation in research, as well as opportunities for researchers at all career stages, are essential to increasing the evidence base for public health. Clearly, minimising the burden of applications to allow researchers to better focus research through real opportunities to receive grants for public health research will assist greatly.

With prevention receiving less than 2% of the national health budget over the past 7 years,¹ research into preventive health must be prioritised to build the evidence base if we are to come anywhere near the 5% funding achieved in other countries. PHAA believes it is essential that the changes made to the grant program facilitate this.

PHAA supports the submission from the Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia.

PHAA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the review of the NHMRC Peer Review process. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information or have any queries in relation to this submission.

Michael Moore AM BA, Dip Ed, MPH,
Chief Executive Officer
Public Health Association of Australia