**Score Weighting**

***Innovator Grants and Betty and John Laidlaw MND Research Prize;***

To reflect our strong focus on funding only the best and most innovative research, scores for each category will be weighted as following when calculating a final overall score;

* Research Quality - 40%
* Innovation and creativity - 30%
* Significance - 20%
* Capability - 10%

***Postdoctoral Fellowships and PhD Scholarship Top-ups***

To reflect our strong focus on supporting the most promising up and coming researchers, scores for each category will be weighted as following when calculating a final overall score;

* Research Quality - 20%
* Innovation and creativity - 20%
* Significance - 20%
* Capability - 40%

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| **CATEGORY**  | **Research Quality** | **Innovation & Creativity** | **Significance** | **Capability**  |
| 7 Exceptional  | The project aims and proposed research plan: * are supported by an extremely well justified hypothesis/rationale;
* are focused, well-defined, extremely coherent and have a flawless study design and approach;
* would be extremely competitive with the best, similar research proposals internationally;
* have extremely well identified and managed scientific and technical risks.
 | For the MND research field, the planned research demonstrates extremely innovative project aims, which will result in an extremely substantial shift in the current paradigm, and/or lead to an extremely substantial breakthrough or impact in MND.  | The planned research, relative to the MND research field: * will address an issue of critical importance to advance MND research;
* will result in extremely significant outcomes in the science, knowledge, or practice in MND;
* will lead to extremely significant research outputs (intellectual property, publications, products, services, policy change, improved care delivery etc.).
* has an extremely well-articulated path to how the research will impact the MND field.
 | The CIA demonstrates a very strong capability to lead the team in achieving the project aims. The CI applicant team overall: * has exceptional capability to execute the project and deliver outcomes;
* has access to exceptional technical resources, infrastructure, equipment and facilities and if required, has access to additional support personnel (Associate Investigators) necessary for the project;
* has an extremely appropriate balance of integrated expertise, experience and training that specifically targets all aspects of the proposed research, in terms of both depth and breadth.
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| **CATEGORY**  | **Research Quality**  | **Innovation & Creativity**  | **Significance** | **Capability** |
| 6 Outstanding  | The project aims and proposed research plan: * are supported by a very well justified hypothesis/rationale;
* are focused, well-defined, very highly coherent and have an outstanding study design and approach with a minor weakness;
* would be very highly competitive with the best, similar research proposals internationally;
* have very well identified and managed scientific and technical risks with only a few minor weaknesses.
 | Relative to the MND research field, the planned research demonstrates very highly innovative project aims, which will result in a very substantial shift in the current paradigm, and/or lead to a very substantial breakthrough or impact in MND.  | The planned research, relative to the MND research field: * will address an issue that is of very high importance to advance MND research;
* will result in very highly significant outcomes in the science, knowledge or practice in MND;
* will lead to very highly significant research outputs (intellectual property, publications, products, services, policy change, improved care delivery etc.);
* has a very well-articulated path to how the research will impact the MND field.
 | The CIA demonstrates a strong capability to lead the team in achieving the project aims. The CI applicant team overall: * has outstanding capability to execute the project and deliver outcomes;
* has access to outstanding technical resources, infrastructure, equipment and facilities and if required, has access to additional support personnel (Associate Investigators) necessary for the project;
* has a very highly appropriate balance of integrated expertise, experience and training that is targeted towards all aspects of the proposed research, in terms of both depth and breadth.
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| **CATEGORY**  | **Research Quality**  | **Innovation & Creativity**  | **Significance** | **Capability** |
| 5 Excellent  | The project aims and proposed research plan: * are supported by a well justified hypothesis/rationale;
* are focused, well-defined, highly coherent and have an excellent study design and approach with a few minor weaknesses;
* would be competitive with the best, similar research proposals internationally;
* have well identified and managed scientific and technical risks with a few minor concerns.
 | Relative to the MND research field, the planned research demonstrates highly innovative project aims, which will result in a substantial shift in the current paradigm, and/or lead to a substantial breakthrough or impact in MND.  | The planned research, relative to the MND research field: * will address an issue of considerable importance to advance MND research;
* will result in highly significant outcomes in the science, knowledge or practice in MND;
* will lead to highly significant research outputs (intellectual property, publications, products, services, policy change, improved care delivery etc.);
* has a well-articulated path to how the research will impact the MND field.
 | The CIA demonstrates good capability to lead the team in achieving the project aims. The CI applicant team overall: * has excellent capability to execute the project and deliver outcomes;
* has access to excellent technical resources, infrastructure, equipment and facilities and if required, has access to additional support personnel (Associate Investigators) necessary for the project;
* has a highly appropriate balance of integrated expertise, experience and training necessary for all aspects of the proposed research, both in terms of both depth and breadth.
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| **CATEGORY**  | **Research Quality**  | **Innovation & Creativity**  | **Significance** | **Capability** |
| 4 Very good  | The project aims and proposed research plan: * are supported by a well justified hypothesis/rationale;
* are focused, well-developed, coherent and have a very good study design and approach with several minor concerns;
* would be likely to be competitive with high quality, similar research proposals internationally;
* have identified and managed scientific and technical risks, with several minor concerns.
 | Relative to the MND research field, the planned research demonstrates innovative project aims, which will result in a moderate shift in the current paradigm, and/or lead to a moderate breakthrough or impact in MND. | The planned research, relative to the MND research field: * will address an issue of importance to MND advance research;
* will result in significant outcomes in the science, knowledge or practice in MND;
* will lead to significant research outputs (intellectual property, publications, products, services, policy change, improved care delivery etc.);
* has an articulated path to how the research will impact the MND field.
 | The CIA demonstrates capability to lead the team in achieving the project aims. The CI applicant team overall: * has very good capability to execute the project and deliver outcomes;
* has access to very good technical resources, infrastructure, equipment and facilities and if required, has access to additional support personnel (Associate Investigators) necessary for the project;
* has an appropriate balance of integrated expertise, experience and training necessary for all aspects of the proposed research, in terms of both depth and breadth.
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| **CATEGORY**  | **Research Quality**  | **Innovation & Creativity**  | **Significance** | **Capability** |
| 3 Good  | The project aims and proposed research plan: * are supported by a sound hypothesis/rationale;
* are logical, generally clear in the study design and approach with more than a few minor concerns;
* would be somewhat competitive with high quality, similar research proposals internationally;
* have identified and managed scientific and technical risks, with some major concerns.
 | Relative to the MND research field, the planned research demonstrates some innovative project aims, which will likely result in some shift in the current paradigm, and/or lead to some breakthrough or impact in MND.  | The planned research, relative to the MND research field: * will address an issue of some importance to advance MND research;
* will result in moderately significant outcomes in the science, knowledge or practice in MND;
* will lead to moderately significant research outputs (intellectual property, publications, products, services, policy change, improved care delivery etc.);
* has an moderately-articulated path to how the research will impact the MND field.
 | The CIA demonstrates some capability to lead the team in achieving the project aims. The CI applicant team overall: * has good capability to execute the project and deliver outcomes;
* has access to good technical resources, infrastructure, equipment and facilities and if required, has access to additional support personnel (Associate Investigators) necessary for the project;
* has expertise, experience and training that is essential, integrated and balanced for most aspects of the proposed research, in terms of both depth and breadth, with some major concerns.
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| **CATEGORY**  | **Research Quality**  | **Innovation & Creativity**  | **Significance** | **Capability** |
| 2 Satisfactory  | The project aims and proposed research plan: * are supported by a satisfactory hypothesis/rationale;
* are satisfactory in the study design and approach, but may lack clarity in some aspects and may contain some major weaknesses;
* would be marginally competitive with high quality, similar research proposals internationally;
* have identified and managed scientific and technical risks, but there are several major concerns.
 | Relative to the MND research field, the planned research demonstrates somewhat innovative project aims, which will result in a minor shift in the current paradigm, and/or lead to a minor breakthrough or impact in MND.  | The planned research, relative to the MND research field: * will address an issue of marginal importance to advance MND research;
* may result in outcomes in the science, knowledge or practice in MND;
* may lead to research outputs (intellectual property, publications, products, services, policy change, improved care delivery etc.);
* has considered a path to how the research will impact the MND field.
 | The CIA demonstrates some capability to lead the team in achieving the project aims. The CI applicant team overall: * has some capability to execute the project and deliver outcomes;
* has access to some of the necessary technical resources, infrastructure, equipment and facilities and if required, may have access to additional support personnel (Associate Investigators) relevant to the project, and raises some notable concerns;
* has some but not all of the expertise, experience and training essential to the proposed research in terms of depth and breadth, and raises several major concerns.
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| **CATEGORY**  | **Research Quality**  | **Innovation & Creativity**  | **Significance** | **Capability** |
| 1 Marginal to Poor  | The project aims and proposed research plan: * are underpinned by a weak hypothesis/rationale;
* have significant flaws in the study design and approach and may contain several major weaknesses;
* are unlikely to be competitive with similar research proposals internationally;
* have not satisfactorily identified and managed scientific and technical risks.
 | Relative to the MND research field, the planned research does not demonstrate innovative project aims, and is unlikely to cause a shift in the current paradigm, or lead to a breakthrough or impact MND.  | The planned research, relative to the MND research field * will address an issue of some concern to advance MND;
* unlikely to result in outcomes in the science, knowledge or practice in MND;
* unlikely to lead to research outputs (intellectual property, publications, products, services, policy change, improved care delivery etc.);
* has not considered a path to how the research will impact the MND field.
 | The CIA does not demonstrate capability to lead the team in achieving the project aims. The CI applicant team overall: * does not demonstrate capability to execute the project and deliver outcomes;
* does not have access to the necessary technical resources, infrastructure, equipment and facilities and if required, has access to additional support personnel (Associate Investigators) relevant to the project, and raises several major concerns;
* does not have access to expertise, experience and training essential to the proposed research in terms of depth and breadth.
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