**Application Criteria for Fellowship Applications**

The overarching goal of the Nick Collins Fellowship is to assist the successful applicant to undertake research, policy development or a significant project that furthers knowledge of and improvement within the HiTH domain. The intention is that outcomes from investigators funded by the fellowship will have a positive effect on and benefit to the HITH community of practice.

All applications received for the Dr. Nicholas Collins Fellowship from the Hospital in the Home (HITH) Society of Australasia will be peer reviewed by a panel of experts against the following criteria. These criteria have been adapted from Appendix E of the NHMRC publication “Investigator Grants 2021 Peer Review Guidelines.”

The modified assessment criteria are:

* Research Impact (40%)
* Leadership (20%)
* Knowledge Gain (40%)

## Research Impact

NHMRC defines the impact of research as the verifiable outcomes that research makes to knowledge, health, the economy and/or society. Impact is the effect of the research after it has been adopted, adapted for use, or used to inform further research.

Research impact is the verifiable outcomes from research and not the prospective or anticipated effects of the research. For example, a prospective publication linked to the applicant’s research program is not demonstrated or corroborated impact.

Impact will be assessed across four domains – Knowledge Impact, Health Impact, Economic Impact and Social Impact. Applications can address any or all these criteria as the project dictates. The goal will be to provide or inform a translational framework that can be applied to improve and innovate the HiTH model in any jurisdiction.

## Leadership

Peer reviewers will review applicant outputs over the past 5 years (taking into account career disruptions and career level) across each of the four Leadership elements:

* Research Mentoring
* Research Policy and Professional Leadership
* Institutional Leadership
* Research Programs and Team Leadership.

## Knowledge Gain

NHMRC defines ‘Knowledge Gain’ as the quality of the proposed research and significance of the knowledge gained. It incorporates theoretical concepts, hypothesis, research design, robustness and the extent to which the research findings will contribute to the research area and health outcomes (by advancing knowledge, practice or policy).

For the assessment of ‘Knowledge Gain’ peer reviewers will consider:

* the clarity and justification of the research hypotheses/rationale
* the strengths and weaknesses of the scientific framework, study design, methods and analyses
* whether the proposal tackles a major question addressing an issue of critical importance to advance the research or health area (not prevalence or magnitude of issue)
* the access to the technical resources, infrastructure, equipment and facilities, and if required, access to additional expertise necessary to achieve the proposed outcomes
* access to the technical resources required to achieve project outcomes
* the potential for significant and transformative changes/outcomes in the scientific knowledge, practice or policy underpinning human health issues
* the potential research outputs including: intellectual property, publications, policy advice, products, services, teaching aids, consulting, contract research, spin-offs, licensing etc.

## Fellowship Application Review Process

Members on the independent HITH Society of Australasia Advisory Committee will score each application according to the criteria with the total sum then averaged by the number of members reviewing the applications. This is in order to accommodate any member excluded due to a conflict of interest. The averaged total will then be used to rank each application.

Applicants will be notified of the final decision by mail.