



Procedure for Appointment of Reviewers

Clinician Research Fellowship Applications and Raine Priming Grant Applications (2021 Application Round)

The appointment of reviewers is now a well-established procedure that has proven to be transparent and equitable. It is a rigorous process where each application is reviewed independently by at least two top national or international researchers who are experts in the field of the application.

Overview

An overview of the procedure adopted for appointment of reviewers is outlined below with separate details provided for Clinician Research Fellowships (pg.3) and Raine Priming Grants (pg.4).

- 1) A Medline search is carried out:
 - (a) to review the published literature in the field;
 - (b) to identify researchers who are working directly in the relevant discipline and have a substantial record of scientific papers;
 - (c) to ensure reviewers (nominated or otherwise) are independent - both of each other and of the applicant (ie, they have not participated in collaborative research nor co-authored publications, and there is no evidence of a link to co-investigator(s) or associated researchers within the last six years;
 - (d) to ensure that a researcher identified as “do not approach” by the applicant is not invited to review.
- 2) Other scientific databases are consulted; most notably *The Web of Science*, *Scopus*, *Google Scholar* and *PubMed*, to further identify discipline-specific experts and to build up a more comprehensive picture of the individual research profiles of potential reviewers.
- 3) The list of references relevant to the research field, as provided by in the application form, is also taken into consideration when selecting potential reviewers.
- 4) Nominated reviewers may be used if they have no conflict of interest and have expert knowledge in the field of the application.
- 5) In the event that expert knowledge is required to further identify high-ranking international scientists:
 - (a) Advisory Panel members are available for consultation; and/or
 - (b) enquiries are directed to leading international scientists known to have a long publishing record in the relevant discipline.



- 6) Prior to establishing contact with prospective assessors, their Institution's webpage is checked to confirm:
 - (a) the current status of the proposed assessor; and
 - (b) the details of their research program and publication list.

An approach is not made to a specialist researcher where it is evident that they work for a pharmaceutical company.

- 7) Each project is assigned to two reviewers; however, some situations call for the appointment of a third assessor. These include:
 - (a) a comparatively narrow field of research where more than two potential reviewers are approached and accept;
 - (b) a recommendation to seek the opinion of another researcher with specific expertise;
 - (c) widely divergent reviewer opinions (where time permits).

Reviewers are informed of the Raine Foundation's non-disclosure policy, which was introduced to protect confidential information, particularly relating to intellectual property and potential commercial material. Reviewers who agree to review an application accept on this basis.

Appointment of Reviewers in 2021 Application Round

Reviewers who accepted to assess an application for a Clinician Research Fellowship or a Raine Priming Grant were each sent full details of the selection procedure in a position paper entitled: *Guide for Reviewers*, which included a copy of the Guidelines and Conditions governing Clinician Research Fellowships or Raine Priming Grants, as appropriate. In the case of Priming Grants, reviewers were informed that the inclusion of Associate Investigators on an application was appropriate where special expertise or clinical guidance was required, although it was further noted that the involvement of Associate Investigators would be minimal. Reviewers of both programs also received a scoring guide based on the assessment criteria.

Reviewers were asked to notify the Raine Management Office if, on reflection, they found that the project was not within their area of expertise, or if they subsequently recognised that they were involved directly or indirectly with the applicant or co-investigator(s)/mentor through any scientific collaboration or personal connection. Reviewers were assured that Reviewer Reports were afforded a high level of confidentiality. It was further explained that the reviewer reports were released anonymously to applicants who were invited to submit a rebuttal. The reports were also released anonymously to the local Advisory Committee. In order to ensure anonymity of reviewers, all document metadata relating to the author was removed.



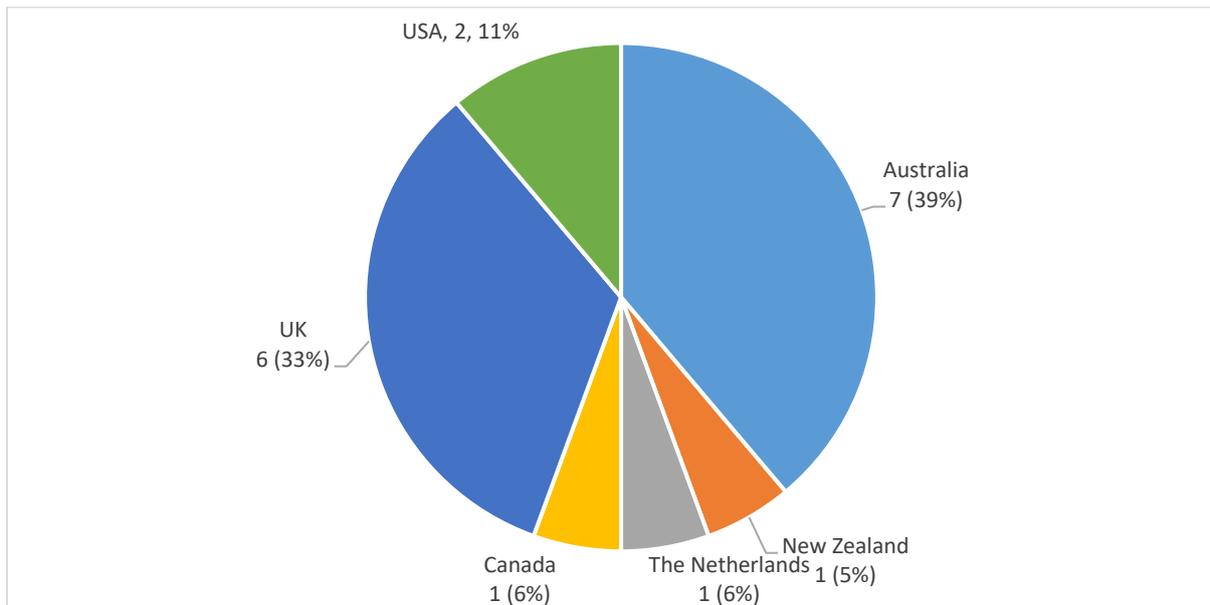
Clinician Research Fellowship Applications (2021)

A total of 21 applications were received for a Clinician Research Fellowship to commence in 2022 and all met eligibility requirements. After a lengthy and comprehensive review of each individual application, the Advisory Committee reached the decision that 15 applications were unsuitable for external review on the basis that they were not sufficiently competitive in the current cohort. A total of six applications were shortlisted for external review. All applicants were advised of the outcome of the preliminary screening process.

In total, 87 national and international scientists were identified using the procedure described above. Of these, 18 accepted and were allocated an application to review. 39% were national reviewers and 61% were international reviewers, predominantly from the UK. All reviewers were distinguished researchers in their field of health and medical research.

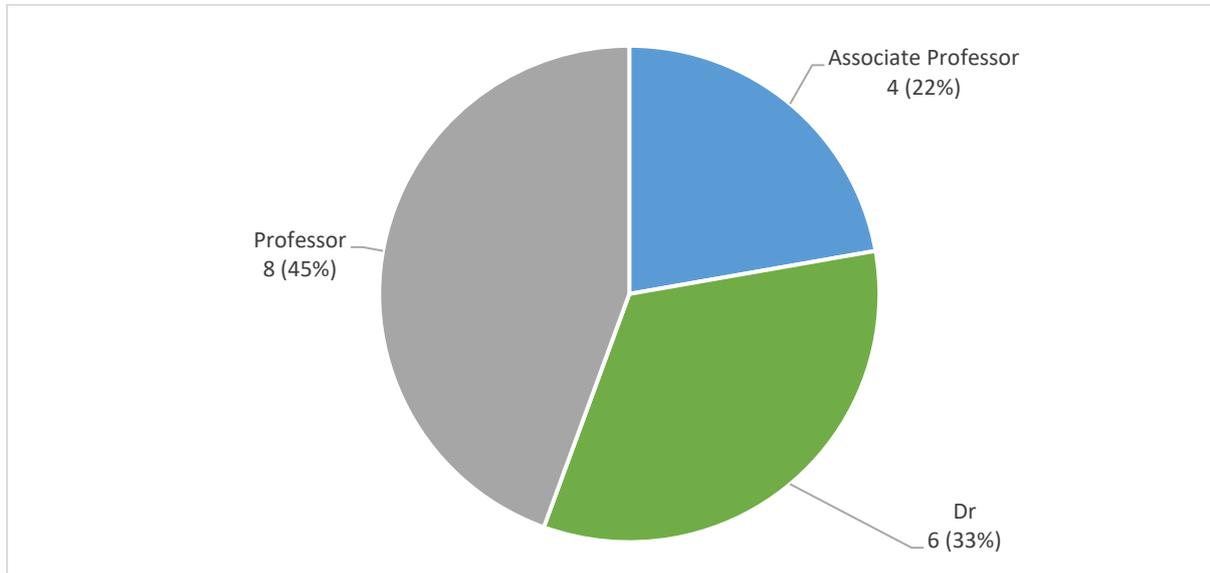
Of the six applications, one was assigned two independent reviewers, four were assigned a third reviewer and one was assigned four reviewers. One review was not received. There were no Western Australia based reviewers appointed. Particular care was taken to honour the request of applicants who nominated a researcher/group that they would prefer were not approached.

Country of Origin





Status of Reviewers



Raine Priming Grants (2021 Application Round)

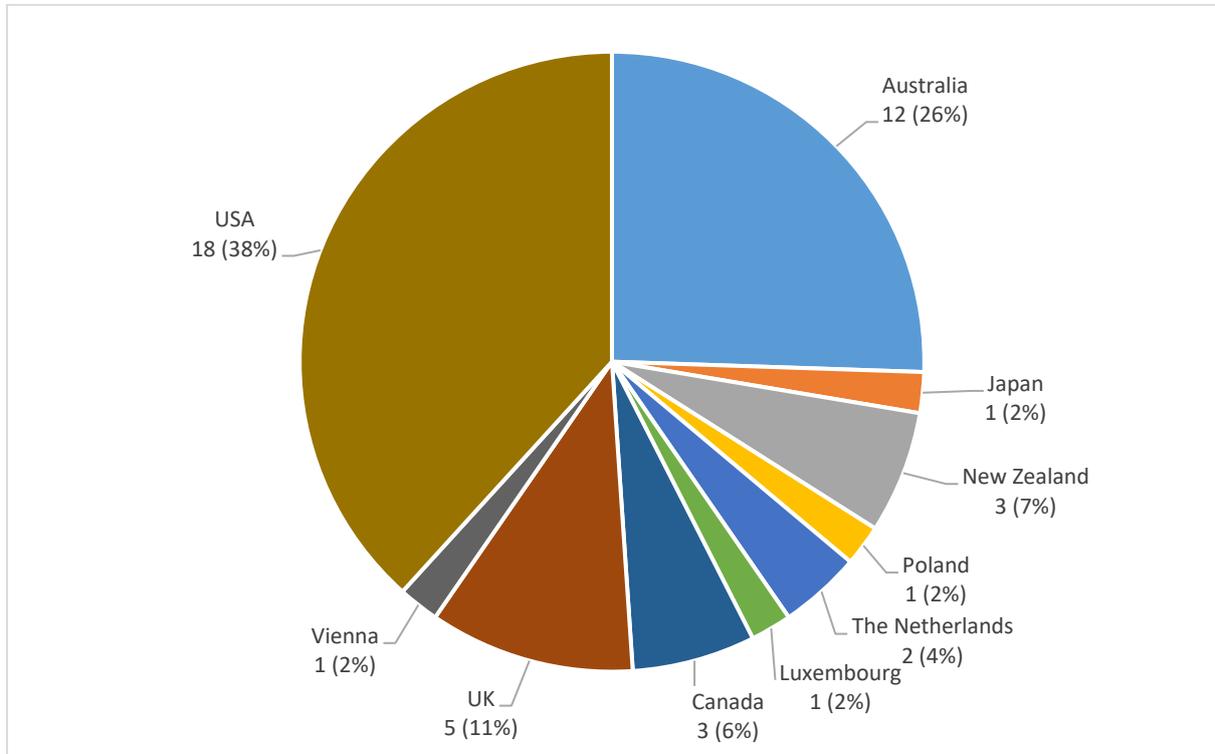
A total of 56 applications were received for a Raine Priming Grant to commence in 2022 and all met eligibility requirements. The Advisory Committee identified 41 applications where it was considered the application was 'premature' and/or uncompetitive in the current cohort. These applicants were advised accordingly. A total of 15 applications were shortlisted for external review.

In total, 181 national and international scientists were identified using the procedure described above. Of these, 47 accepted and were allocated an application to review. 26% were national reviewers and 74% were international reviewers, predominantly from the USA. All reviewers were distinguished researchers in their field of health and medical research.

Of the 15 applications, three were assigned two independent reviewers, seven were assigned three independent reviewer and five were assigned four reviewers. One review was not received. There were no Western Australia based reviewers appointed. Particular care was taken to honour the request of candidates who nominated a researcher/group that they would prefer were not approached.



Country of Origin



Status of Reviewers

