

### Category 1- Australian Competitive Research and Data Income Classification

Since July 2018, the Department of Education and Training has implemented a self-assessment system for universities to determine which of their Research & Experimental income can be classified as Category 1 – Australian Competitive Grant Income for the 2019 Higher Education Research Data Collection.

To be categorised as Category 1- Australian Competitive Research and Data Income, we must fulfil certain criteria:

1. Selection by a qualified panel

*All scheme applications are assessed and rated by a panel with the collective expertise and experience to effectively assess applications against all selection criteria for that scheme*

All MS Australia applications are formally reviewed by a minimum two external peers in the field of study. Once the peer reviewing process is complete, every application is assessed by our Research Management Council; a panel of distinguished experts from a variety of MS-related fields.

2. Well defined mechanism for competition

*The project or scheme has publicly available selection criteria against which all applications are assessed. The scheme has publicly available rules stating how assessments are conducted including provisions to manage conflicts of interest which are binding on the selection panel.*

All MS Australia applications are open competitive grant rounds and the selection criteria for each round are published on our website, on the grant application portal and have been communicated to all researchers via our mass email updates. Peer reviewer are selected after checking for (and requesting their confirmation) of no conflicts of interest and the RMC panel operate a robust model of conflict of interest declarations with any members of the RMC panel who are conflicted on a particular application leaving the room and not voting on that application.

**In accordance with the criteria and examples outlined above, all of MS Australia's grants are classified as Category-1 Australian Competitive Research and Data Income.**

Further information on Category 1 classification can be found at <https://www.education.gov.au/self-assessed-australian-competitive-grant-income>