

## **MS Australia 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 Higher Education Research Data Collection.

To be categorised as Category 1 - Australian Competitive Research and Data Income, we must fulfil specific criteria, outlined in the *Higher Education Research Data Collection Specifications for the collection of 2020 data*, found at <https://www.education.gov.au/research-block-grants/resources/higher-education-research-data-collection-specifications-collection-2020-data>

These are addressed below.

### **1. Are the funds provided on a nationally competitive basis?**

Yes, every application is rated and assessed against all applications for that grant type.

### **2. Are the funds for research?**

Yes, all funds are directed towards research as specified in the *MS Australia's Funding Agreement* signed by grant awardees.

### **3. Is the scheme nationally advertised and available to all Australian universities/higher education providers (HEPs)?**

Yes, all of our funding opportunities are advertised on our website, grant portal, and by national mass email\* to the MS research community.

\*Please contact [grants@msaustralia.org.au](mailto:grants@msaustralia.org.au) to be added to the national mass emailing list.

### **4. Does the scheme have a well-defined mechanism for:**

#### **• Competition?**

Yes. We have publicly available selection criteria against which all funding applications are assessed. Our funding process includes publicly available rules stating how assessments are conducted including provisions to manage conflicts of interest which are binding on the selection panel. (See MS Australia Funding Process: <https://www.msaustralia.org.au/annual-funding-opportunities/grant-review-process>)

#### **• Selection by a qualified panel?**

Yes. Following external independent review (2-3 national and international experts in the field for all grants), the grants are assessed and scored by our Research Management Council (RMC), who are expert senior researchers within the fields of MS, neuroimmunology and related fields (including clinician-researchers across a range of specialties, including neurologists, immunopathologists, physiotherapists, psychologists) and representation of people living with MS. The RMC makes the final funding recommendation.

**5. Are the funds provided through direct payment to the HEP?**

Yes

**In accordance with the criteria 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/research-block-grants/self-assessed-australian-competitive-grant-income>