

NHMRC commitments for research relevant to rare and less common cancers

Table 1: NHMRC commitments for research relevant to rare cancers¹ 2018 to 2022 by cancer type²

Rare cancers	Application Year ³					Total
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Acute Lymphocytic Leukaemia ⁴	1,250,033	1,231,162	-	-	-	2,481,195
Acute Myeloid Leukaemia	2,080,090	6,358,695	7,149,692	2,581,949	4,741,843	22,912,268
Anal ⁵	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bile Duct	-	510,337	644,241	-	-	1,154,578
Bone and Soft Tissue	-	-	1,814,215	3,427,015	2,980,633	8,221,863
Cervical	1,809,244	60,198	2,125,000	12,234,749	2,500,000	18,729,191
Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia ⁶	-	-	-	2,241,612	-	2,241,612
Eye	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gallbladder	-	-	644,241	-	-	644,241
Hodgkin Lymphoma	-	-	-	1,041,337	-	1,041,337
Hypopharyngeal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kaposi sarcoma	-	-	-	-	2,878,395	2,878,395
Larynx	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lip	-	-	-	-	-	-
Major salivary glands	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mesothelioma	1,365,209	-	5,167,999	1,500,000	4,587,906	12,621,114

¹ As defined by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in the '[Cancer in Australia 2021](#)' publication, 'Rare cancers' are those with age-standardised incidence rates less than 6 cases diagnosed per 100,000 persons. Refer to '[Data tables, chapter 9 – rare and less common cancers](#)' for incidence rates.

² All figures are the total value of all grants awarded each application year at the time of award. All figures are exclusive of GST.

³ 'Application Year' is defined as the calendar year in which the grant opportunity closed and may be different to the year in which the grant was announced or the year that the grant commences. Usually, funding will commence in the year after the application year.

⁴ Also known as Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia

⁵ No new grants relevant to anal cancer were awarded during this reporting period. Cancer types that had no grants awarded have not been removed for transparency and completeness against the AIHW list of rare cancer types.

⁶ Also known as Chronic Myelogenous Leukaemia

Rare cancers	Application Year ³					Total
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Mouth	-	-	855,992	588,593	655,150	2,099,735
Myelodysplastic syndromes ⁷	588,874	577,282	1,913,403	1,200,569	-	4,280,129
Nasal cavity, middle ear and sinus	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neuroendocrine ⁸	-	639,750	-	-	-	639,750
Non-melanoma skin	-	597,623	-	7,635,002	-	8,232,625
Oesophageal	1,527,368	1,241,860	-	2,117,350	1,073,391	5,959,968
Ovarian	3,236,015	2,852,433	5,623,849	10,461,068	2,328,472	24,501,836
Penile	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peritoneal	1,399,877	-	-	-	-	1,399,877
Placental	-	-	-	-	-	-
Testicular	-	1,997,304	-	791,930	-	2,789,234
Throat ⁹	327,192	2,678,912	-	3,871,031	-	6,877,135
Tongue	-	2,678,912	-	-	-	2,678,912
Vaginal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vulva	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total rare cancers¹⁰	13,583,902	18,168,274	25,294,390	48,491,636	18,867,395	124,405,596

⁷ Also known as myelodysplasia

⁸ Neuroendocrine cancer is not specifically listed by AIHW as a 'rare cancer' although it may fall under the category of 'other endocrine glands' (ICD-10 codes C74-C75) which are defined by AIHW as rare cancers. For the purpose of this submission, neuroendocrine cancer has been included as a rare cancer.

⁹ Throat cancer includes Oropharynx/Oropharyngeal cancers and Nasopharynx/Nasopharyngeal cancers.

¹⁰ Some grants can be attributed to more than one cancer type, and therefore the sum of the columns may not match the total due to this double counting. The total does not contain any duplicate amounts.

Table 2: NHMRC commitments for research relevant to less common cancers¹¹ 2018 to 2022 by cancer type¹²

Less common cancers	Application Year ¹³					Total
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Bladder	1,587,164	-	2,738,220	-	2,468,555	6,793,939
Brain	3,028,541	9,101,462	8,258,729	9,916,909	13,801,627	44,107,267
Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia	785,385	729,770	-	6,569,234	-	8,084,389
Liver	6,262,610	4,987,498	2,113,320	4,304,419	1,660,534	19,328,381
Multiple Myeloma	2,329,088	3,047,500	-	6,506,796	1,500,000	13,383,383
Stomach	2,699,792	67,660	621,644	650,740	1,501,797	5,541,633
Uterine	663,167	1,504,485	2,508,156	739,425	-	5,415,233
Total less common cancers^{14, 15}	17,355,746	19,438,375	16,240,069	28,687,522	20,932,513	102,654,225

¹¹ As defined by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in the '[Cancer in Australia 2021](#)' publication, 'Less-Common cancers' are those with age-standardised incidence rates of between 6 and 12 cases diagnosed per 100,000 persons. Refer to '[Data tables, chapter 9 – rare and less common cancers](#)' for the incidence rates of these cancer types.

¹² All figures are the total value of all grants awarded each application year at the time of award. All figures are exclusive of GST.

¹³ 'Application Year' is defined as the calendar year in which the grant opportunity closed and may be different to the year in which the grant was announced or the year that the grant commences. Usually, funding will commence in the year after the application year.

¹⁴ Some grants can be attributed to more than one cancer type and therefore the sum of the columns may not match the total due to this double counting. The total does not contain any duplicate amounts.

¹⁵ Some research grants attributed to 'rare cancers' may have also been attributed to one or more 'less common cancers'. In this case, the full value of those grants has been included in the totals for both tables 1 and 2. Refer to table 3 for a distinct total for 'rare and/or less common cancers', shaded in green.

Table 3: NHMRC commitments for research relevant to rare and/or less-common cancers compared to research for all cancers and commitments for all health and medical research 2018 to 2022

		Application Year					Total
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Rare cancers	Total amount committed	13,583,902	18,168,274	25,294,390	48,491,636	18,867,395	124,405,596
	Percentage of total commitments	1.7%	2.0%	2.9%	5.0%	2.1%	2.8%
	Number of new grants awarded	19	23	17	33	12	104
Less common cancers	Total amount committed	17,355,746	19,438,375	16,240,069	28,687,522	20,932,513	102,654,225
	Percentage of total commitments	2.2%	2.2%	1.9%	3.0%	2.4%	2.3%
	Number of new grants awarded	23	19	12	19	16	89
Rare and/or less common cancers ¹⁶	Total amount committed	30,276,481	36,461,746	41,534,459	73,617,141	39,799,907	221,689,734
	Percentage of all cancer research	21.3%	22.2%	25.9%	35.7%	21.9%	25.9%
	Percentage of total commitments	3.8%	4.1%	4.8%	7.6%	4.5%	5.0%
	Number of new grants awarded	40	39	29	50	28	186
All cancer research ¹⁷	Total amount committed	142,143,310	163,906,921	160,115,265	206,411,467	181,891,706	854,468,669
	Percentage of total commitments	18.0%	18.4%	18.5%	21.3%	20.7%	19.4%
	Number of new grants awarded	201	158	129	148	129	765
Total NHMRC commitments ¹⁸	Total amount committed	790,258,873	893,129,103	865,800,360	968,284,508	879,967,439	4,397,440,284
	Number of new grants awarded	1069	840	769	777	703	4,158

¹⁶ Some research grants may have been attributed to both 'rare cancers' and 'less common cancers'. Any duplicate amounts have been removed from this total.

¹⁷ Includes commitments for rare and/or less common cancers

¹⁸ Total NHMRC commitments by application year across all schemes and diseases, including all cancer and rare/less common cancers. Figures are as at time of award.

Notes:

- Allocation of NHMRC funding to cancer types is based on a largely automated review of each individual grant against a range of investigator provided data classifications including fields of research, keywords, grant titles and media summaries. This process can result in grants being attributed to more than one cancer type. Where this occurs NHMRC does not apportion between multiple types the full value of the grant is attributed to each cancer type.
- All figures represent the total value of grants awarded per application year for the full duration of the grants. The value of each grant is 'as at time of award' and excludes any post award variations such as indexation. NHMRC grants are between one and five years in duration.
- All figures are exclusive of GST.
- For the list of 'rare cancer types' and 'less common cancer types' used in this submission refer to the AIHW website here:
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/4ec2ff7b-c81f-41a0-97dc-50345cd53502/aihw-can-144-data-tables-Ch-9-Rare-cancers.xlsx.aspx>