

Reasons for unsuccessful NHMRC Grants (2006)

The number in brackets refers to how many applicants received the comment in their report.

Significance and Innovation

- Ensure all relevant literature is cited (they know!) and that literature is cited correctly (5x)
- Does your project add new information to current knowledge (x3)
- What is the practical benefit/significance of your study?- emphasise/ clearly state it (x6)
- Detail how your study is unique/innovative.(x2)
- Clear development of hypotheses (x3)
- Show preliminary data if you have it! (x6)
- Unjustifiable/questionable project (x1)

Track Record relative to Opportunity

- Level of publications not adequate (x3)
- Do you have relevant experience in the research required for the project, is this evident by your publication record
- Do you have the skills/expertise required to carry out this project. (x5)

Scientific Quality (including Approach and Feasibility)

- Adequate description of the methodology used in the proposed project (x15)
- Justify everything- number of people surveyed, analysis method, types of groups/sample selection (x8)
- Have you used the appropriate controls? (x3)
- Explain your method of analysis and “power” of investigation.(x6)
- Use a graphic timeline to show how the project will progress.
- Are you using the correct approach to answer your question (x10)
- Appropriate study design (x1)
- Is the study feasible? (x4)

Budget

- Justify direct research costs (x2)
- Justify personnel (x3)
- Inappropriate budget (x3)

Other Comments

- Clearly define the role of each CI (x2)
- Are there ethical issues to be addressed by your study?(x1)

