**NHMRC 2017 Development Grants Category Descriptors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Scientific Assessors ONLY</th>
<th>Commercialisation Assessors ONLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **7 Outstanding by International Standards** | The research plan:  
- is well-defined, highly coherent and strongly developed  
- will successfully achieve proof-of-concept  
- is a near flawless design  
- is without question highly feasible and thus almost certain to be successfully completed  
- is consistent with the objectives of the Development Grants scheme.  

The scientific research team:  
- has, overall, an outstanding record of research achievements in the field of the proposed research  
- brings together all of the expertise needed for success.  

Relative to opportunity, the applicant team:  
- has proven successful national and international involvement in commercialisation of research including for example, granted patents, industry consultation, licensing of IP, has had direct involvement in industry placements and/or involvement with establishing spin off companies  
- has a record of commercial achievements which is outstanding by international standards  
- is highly likely to achieve a very significant commercial outcome.  

The commercial proposal:  
- is linked to a human health issue where the size and/or impact for the potential market is extremely large  
- provides a clear description of a highly feasible commercial/development pathway should the product, process or technology prove successful  
- will be conducted in an environment with excellent commercial/development support structures such as a commercialisation office or equivalent, which will increase the likelihood of arriving at a commercial outcome within a foreseeable timeframe  
- clearly outlines how the proposed research meets the scheme objectives.  

The product, process or technology:  
- is unique or provides an internationally competitive edge  
- is linked to a very strong IP position.  

**Funding the project:**  
- would significantly increase the probability of successful commercialisation, usually by adding substantial value to the concept and/or supporting a critical proof of concept and/or creation of a commercialisable prototype that will enrich the Australian life sciences industry sector and bring economic benefit to Australia. |
| **6 Excellent** | The research plan:  
- is clearly defined, coherent and well developed  
- is very well designed  
- is feasible and highly likely to be successfully completed  
- will successfully achieve proof-of-concept  
- is consistent with the objectives of the Development Grants scheme.  

The scientific research team:  
- the scientific team leader has an excellent record of research achievements, as do, on average, the other team members in the field of the proposed research  
- brings together all of the expertise needed for success.  

Relative to opportunity, the research team:  
- has significant experience in national and international commercialisation of research including approved patents, industry consultation, licensing of IP, and has had direct involvement with industry  
- has a record of commercial achievements which is of a high international standard  
- is very likely to achieve a significant commercial outcome.  

The commercial proposal:  
- is linked to a human health issue where the size and/or impact for the potential market is very large  
- provides a clear description of a feasible commercial/development pathway should the product, process or technology prove to be successful  
- will be conducted in an environment with strong institutional commercial advice and development support structures, including an institutional commercialisation office or equivalent which will support the likelihood of arriving at a commercial outcome within a foreseeable timeframe  
- clearly outlines how the proposed research meets all the scheme objectives.  

The product, process or technology:  
- is internationally competitive and likely to be attractive to a commercial partner  
- could be linked to a strong IP position.  

**Funding the project:**  
- would increase the probability of successful commercialisation, usually by adding substantial value to the concept and/or supporting a critical proof of concept and/or creation of a commercialisable prototype that will bring economic benefit to Australia. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Scientific Merit of the Proposal: (Fitness for purpose of the science and quality of the scientific research team) 40%</th>
<th>Record of Commercial Achievements (relative to opportunity) 20%</th>
<th>Commercial Potential 40%</th>
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</table>
| **5 Very Good** | The research plan:  
- is generally clear in its scientific plan and is logical  
- raises only a few minor concerns with respect to the study design  
- will likely be successfully completed and achieve proof-of-concept  
- is consistent with the objectives of the Development Grants scheme.  
The scientific research team:  
- members on average, have good record of research achievements in the field of the proposed research  
- possesses most of the expertise needed for success.  
Relative to opportunity, the research team:  
- has been involved in national commercialisation of research including approved patents, industry consultation, licensing of intellectual property, and has had involvement in industry  
- has a record of commercial achievements which is of a high or growing national standard  
- has the ability to promote a strong commercial outcome.  
The commercial proposal:  
- is linked to a human health issue where the size and/or impact for the potential market is large  
- provides an outline of a feasible commercial development pathway should the product, process or technology prove to be successful  
- will be conducted in an environment with good access to institutional commercial development advice and support structures which will mostly likely support the likelihood of arriving at a commercial outcome within a foreseeable timeframe  
- adequately outlines how the proposed research meets the scheme objectives.  
The product, process or technology:  
- has significant commercial potential nationally and potentially, internationally  
- could be linked to a strong or strongly developing IP position.  
Funding the project:  
- would most likely bring economic benefit to Australia. |
| **4 Good** | The research plan:  
- is good in terms of its objectives  
- contains several areas of weakness in the experimental design and feasibility  
- raises several concerns about successful completion  
- may successfully achieve proof-of-concept  
- is consistent with the objectives of the Development Grants scheme.  
The scientific research team:  
- members on average, have good record of research achievements in the field of the proposed research  
- possesses much of the expertise needed for success.  
Relative to opportunity, the research team:  
- has a solid record of national research commercialisation achievement including approved patents, industry consultation and licensing of IP  
- has a record of commercial achievements which is of a good national standard  
- has some potential to promote a viable commercial outcome.  
The commercial proposal:  
- is linked to a human health issue where the size and/or impact for the potential market is moderate.  
- provides an outline of a commercialisation pathway which could be better developed and raised only a few minor concerns.  
- will be conducted in an environment with access to commercial development advice and support structures, which could support the likelihood of arriving at a commercial outcome within a foreseeable timeframe  
- outlines how the proposed research meets the scheme objectives.  
The product, process or technology:  
- has some commercial potential nationally, but is very limited at an international level.  
- could be linked to a developing IP position.  
Funding the project:  
- may bring economic benefit to Australia. |
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Commercial Potential 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Marginal</td>
<td>The research plan:</td>
<td>The commercial proposal:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• is clearly described, but may not be successful</td>
<td>• is linked to a human health issue where the size and/or impact for the potential market is limited</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• contains several study design problems or flaws that will limit the successful completion of the study</td>
<td>• provides a description of a pathway to commercialisation that raises several concerns</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• will not significantly advance current knowledge in the field</td>
<td>• will be conducted in an environment with limited access to institutional commercial development advice and support structures, which is unlikely to support the likelihood of arriving at a commercial outcome within a foreseeable timeframe.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• is not likely to achieve proof-of-concept</td>
<td>• may not meet the scheme objectives.</td>
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<td>• may not be consistent with the objectives of the Development Grants scheme.</td>
<td>The product, process or technology:</td>
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<td>The scientific research team:</td>
<td>• has limited commercial potential</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• has no expertise in most areas required for project success.</td>
<td>• could be linked to a weak IP position.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>The research plan:</td>
<td>Funding the project:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• has poorly described or under-developed objectives</td>
<td>• will not bring economic benefit to Australia.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• contains multiple major study design problems or flaws that will limit or prohibit the successful completion of the study</td>
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<td>• will not likely achieve proof of concept</td>
<td>• does not contain a clear description of a pathway to commercialisation</td>
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<td>• may not be consistent with the objectives of the Development Grants scheme.</td>
<td>• will not be conducted in an environment supportive of commercial development</td>
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<td>• does not have any significant record of commercial achievements</td>
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<td>• has a very little potential to promote a viable commercial outcome.</td>
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### Scientific Assessors ONLY

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| 1 Poor   | The research plan:  
- has poorly described or under developed objectives  
- contains multiple major study design problems or flaws that will limit or prohibit the successful completion of the study  
- will not advance current knowledge in the field  
- will not achieve proof of concept  
- may not be consistent with the objectives of the Development Grants scheme.  

The scientific research team:  
- has no expertise in most areas required for project success.  

Relative to opportunity, the research team:  
- has no record of research commercialisation achievements including approved patents, industry consultation, licensing of IP  
- does not have any significant record of commercial achievements  
- has no ability to promote a viable commercial outcome.  

The commercial proposal:  
- is linked to a human health issue where the size and/or impact for the potential market is too small for probable commercial viability  
- does not contain a clear description of a pathway to commercialisation  
- will not be conducted in an environment supportive of commercial development  
- does not meet the scheme objectives.  

The product, process or technology:  
- has no commercial potential  
- has a non-viable IP position.  

Funding the project:  
- would not increase the interest of commercial partners  
- will not bring economic benefit to Australia. |

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