

9 July 2020

National Health and Medical Research Council
Level 1
16 Marcus Clarke Street
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email

Dear NHMRC Partnerships Grant Panel

**PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (APP2002415)
THE CHANGE PROGRAM - A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO OBESITY MANAGEMENT IN GENERAL
PRACTICES SERVING SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES: A CLUSTER RANDOMISED TRIAL
WITH EMBEDDED IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION**

Dietitians Association of Australia is the peak body for dietetic and nutrition professionals, representing more than 7,000 members around Australia and overseas. We're committed to supporting our members, advocating for our profession and building healthier communities. Dietitians Association of Australia and its members both research and deliver evidence-based information on food and nutrition locally, nationally and internationally.

By establishing partnerships, Dietitians Association of Australia is able to strengthen our influence in building healthier communities through nutrition. Dietitians Association of Australia's vision is to be the leading voice in nutrition and dietetics, particularly around important issues that impact the health of Australians. These issues include obesity, mental health, National Disability Insurance Scheme and a new National Nutrition Policy. Dietitians Association of Australia advocates across the nutrition spectrum, working with all stakeholders including government, food industry, public health representatives, media and others.

Dietitians Association of Australia provided healthy weight recipes for use in The Change Program. In the feasibility trial, patients requested that simple to follow recipes be included in their program materials. Dr Sturgiss and Prof Douglas approached Dietitians Association of Australia for permission to use the recipes from our Healthy Weight Week initiative. We were happy to start this collaboration at that stage. We use this foundation to formulate the update for the current project.

DA recognises A/Prof Lauren Ball as Australia's leading dietitian researcher in primary care with an exceptional reputation for advancing the dietetic profession to realise their opportunity for impact in this space. We support CIBall's involvement in the research and her advocacy for dietitians to be engaged with the work of general practitioners for all health care, most relevant in this project are weight management and chronic co-morbidities. Dr Ball is an AdvAPD is a proactive leader who integrates high-level nutrition and dietetic skills to generate new knowledge and influence the health of their community. AdvAPDs have the ability to be innovative, inspiring, influential and make an impact. APDs are awarded the recognition of AdvAPD upon demonstration of a range of high-level skills in their professional work. The AdvAPD credential provides evidence that the APD is working at an advanced level. The credential must be reapplied for every 5 years, demonstrating ongoing practice at this level.

Dietitians Association of Australia wishes to better understand the role of dietitians in the multi-disciplinary management of obesity and related conditions in primary care settings. We are particularly interested to know how GPs can be better supported to provide evidence based nutritional information to their patients, and, how GPs can be encouraged to identify and refer patients with obesity who may benefit from professional nutritional counselling to accredited practising dietitians.

Dietitians Association of Australia will use the findings of this research to advocate for the integration of evidence based nutrition information in primary care.

Partner Investigator

Name Associate Professor Judy Bauer
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A/Professor Judy Bauer has a strong commitment to the dietetics profession and is the Translational Research Leader for the Dietitians Association of Australia. Judy is a Board Director of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia and has served two terms as a Director of the Dietitians Association of Australia. From 2010-2016 she was the Director of the Centre for Dietetics Research at the University of Queensland, served as the foundation Chair of the Nutrition Group of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia. Judy has been a member of the Editorial Board and Supplement Editor of Nutrition & Dietetics and an Editorial Board Member for Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics. From 2009-2013 she was a member of the Australian Dietetics Council, which advises on nutrition and dietetics curricula and competencies and reviews programs in Australia and has continued to be an invited reviewer for dietetic programs.

A/Professor Judy Bauer's research interests include evidence based practice, translational research, nutrition intervention particularly for malnutrition and cancer. A focus has been in measuring outcomes of dietetic intervention, development of appropriate tools in clinical practice and role of fish oil in cachexia and inflammation. Her research has included development and validation of nutrition screening and assessment tools, innovative dietetic intervention programs in oncology, evidence based practice guidelines for the nutritional management of cachexia, radiation therapy and wiki based head and neck cancer. She is regularly invited to speak on the topic of evidence-based practice, translational research, nutrition screening and assessment, and oncology nutrition interventions.

Dietitians Association of Australia will be represented on the project's National Advisory Team and will advise on knowledge translation and exchange, national dissemination and policy relevance. DAA will also provide review and updated recipes as necessary for inclusion in The Change Program as was requested by patients in the feasibility trial.

Type of contribution

Cash: \$0
In-kind: \$149,250
Total: \$149,250

Summary table of total contributions and breakdown over project timeline

Type	Support	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cash					
In-kind	Salaries	\$26,150	\$16,700	\$16,700	\$16,700
In-kind	Recipe development/review	\$60,000			
In-kind	Travel	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1,500
In-kind	Marketing and communications	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
In-kind	Equipment / materials	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Annual Total		\$89,150	\$19,700	\$19,700	\$20,200
Project Total		\$149,250			

Details of contributions

Our in-kind contributions are represented by:

Salaries:

- Chair/Deputy Chair of Practice Based Evidence in Nutrition Advisory Committee to contribute to project governance including meeting attendance at 5 days per annum over 4 years (\$150 per hour) - \$24,000
- Project officer to act as liaison for the project (at 0.1 FTE over 4 years) and provide administrative support for review of program materials (additional 0.1 FTE in Year 1) (\$80,000 base with 15% on-costs, 9.5% superannuation, 3% indexation) - \$20,800

Recipe development/review:

- Practice Based Evidence in Nutrition Advisory Committee to (1) review and adapt program materials for endorsement and (2) update and provide license for the use of DA approved 7-day meal plan in patient workbook - \$60,000 in Year 1

Travel

- Chair/Deputy Chair and Project officer to attend project governance meetings as needed - \$500 per annum
- Project officer to attend translation event in Year 4, including flights, accommodation - \$1000

Marketing and communications:

- To assist with awareness raising and knowledge translation/exchange activities to Dietitians Association of Australia membership (via website, newsletter, social media and mailing list) - \$2,000 per annum.

Equipment/materials:

- To include stationery, photocopying and printing of resources as needed - \$500 per annum

Annual Report

Our most recent annual report can be accessed at: <https://dietitiansaustralia.org.au/about-daa/annual-report/>

Registered ABN

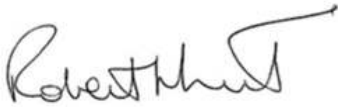
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Consent

We provide consent for NHMRC to identify partners in successful applications in media releases, on the NHMRC website and in future NHMRC Partnership Projects documentation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hunt
Chief Executive Officer