

Tips for Successful Grant Writing



SYDNEY MEDICAL SCHOOL

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OVERVIEW

- Formulating your project or research question
- Choosing a potential funding source
- Framing your project for optimal success
- Developing your application
- Realistic budgeting
- Writing your application
- Reality check



FORMULATING THE RESEARCH QUESTION

How DOOOO you turn a thought bubble into a research question?



Think and read about it:

- Ask yourself what it is you want to do and why?
- Talk to others about it
- Find out what has been done in this area previously?
- Identify what is the need or knowledge gap your concept addresses?





FORMULATING THE RESEARCH QUESTION

Must be clear and concise and researchable eg:

“Is telephone counselling an effective method of delivering self care education to adults with type 1 diabetes?”

Who might be interested in your project?

- Develop a list of annually recurring grants relevant to your interests and get to know:
 - their focus, priorities and conditions?
 - what sort of magnitude are they (\$\$ and timelines)?
 - what kind of projects have they funded previously?
 - would your project fit their criteria?
 - when are the opening and closing dates?

Who might be interested in funding your project?

- Diabetes Australia (DART Grants)
- State based diabetes organisations
- Pharmaceutical companies / other industries
- Health Departments (Commonwealth and State)
- Government agencies NHMRC, ARC, AusAID
- Philanthropic organisations

ANYONE ELSE?

And if they're not interested - think laterally

- Ask around
- Team up with someone
 - Medicare Local
 - Diabetes Centre or other diabetes colleagues
 - Nursing, nutrition, podiatry, psychology departments
 - University researchers
- Try Research Australia's database and similar software
- Talk to people with a track record



What is framing?



MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



DIABETES IS A GLOBAL HEALTH DISASTER WITH CRITICAL CONNECTIONS

DIABETES AND OTHER NCDs

Diabetes is one of the four priority NCDs identified by WHO, along with cardiovascular disease, cancer and chronic respiratory disease. Diabetes shares common risk factors with other NCDs: Physical inactivity, inappropriate nutrition, and obesity contribute to diabetes and cardiovascular disease, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases. Preventing diabetes also helps prevent other NCDs. Diabetes is an important cause of cardiovascular disease: Cardiovascular disease is the leading complication and cause of death among people with diabetes.

DIABETES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Diabetes shares common risks and solutions with climate change: Well-designed towns and cities with good public transport and food systems that encourage physical activity and healthy foods can simultaneously reduce risks for diabetes and carbon emissions.

DIABETES AND MENTAL HEALTH

Diabetes can cause or exacerbate mental health problems. Mental health problems and their treatments can increase the risk of diabetes. In people with diabetes, depression can lead to poor self-care and compromises quality of life.

DIABETES AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

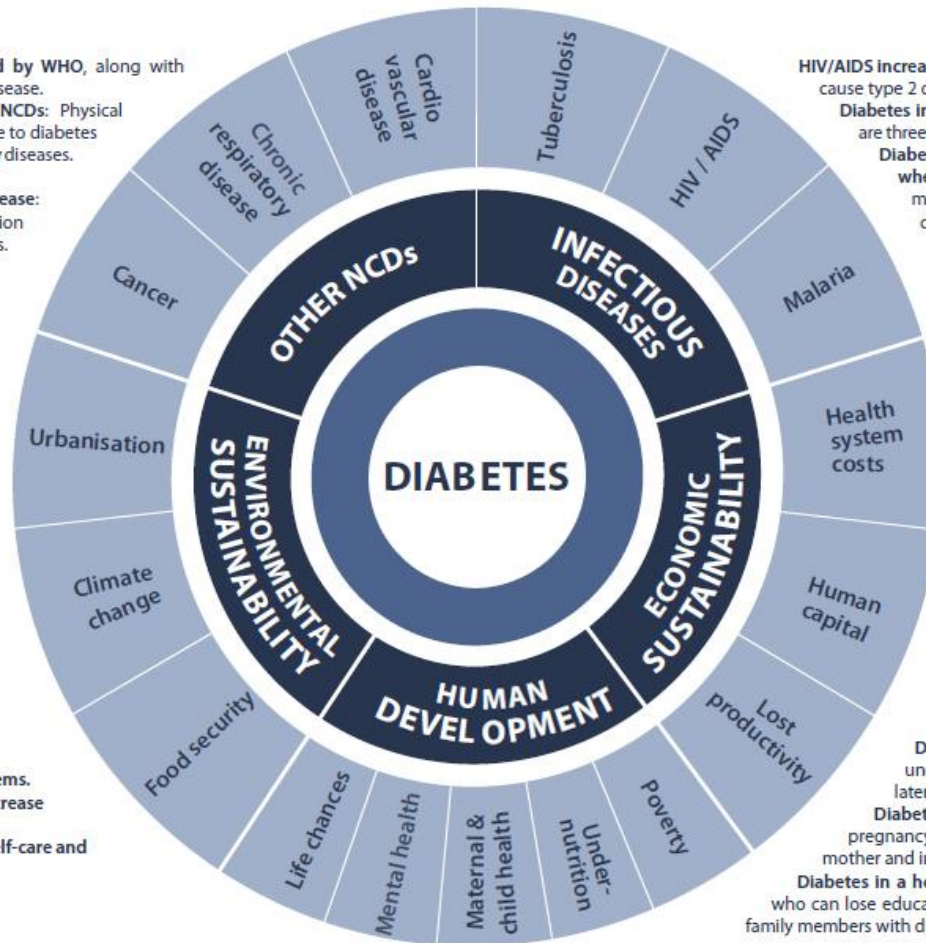
HIV/AIDS increases the risk of diabetes: Some anti-retroviral treatments can cause type 2 diabetes. Diabetes increases the risk of tuberculosis (TB): People with diabetes are three times more likely to develop TB and more likely to die from it. Diabetes and malaria frequently occur together in countries where malaria is endemic: In people with diabetes, both severe malaria and diabetes are harder to treat and there is a higher chance of death.

DIABETES AND POVERTY

Poverty can cause diabetes: Diabetes is increasingly common among the poor and marginalised. Diabetes can cause poverty: The cost of treatment and/or loss of employment and income push vulnerable people and families deeper into the poverty cycle.

DIABETES AND WOMEN

Diabetes is triggered by events in the womb: Children of under- or over-nourished mothers are at higher risk of diabetes later in life. Diabetes is a neglected cause of maternal mortality: Diabetes in pregnancy increases the risk of morbidity and mortality for both the mother and infant. Diabetes in a household places additional burdens on girls and women who can lose educational, economic and social opportunities when caring for family members with diabetes.



Key Objectives of IDF's Global Diabetes Plan



- Provide essential care to all people with diabetes
- Improve healthcare systems so that essential care can be reliably delivered
- Provide care and support for people with complications
- Adopt a 'health-in-all policies' approach
- Make healthy nutrition available to all
- Consider a high risk prevention programme, where appropriate
- Enable people with diabetes to claim their rights and responsibilities
- Increase public awareness of diabetes and reduce stigma
- Empower people with diabetes to be at the centre of the diabetes response



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**Diabetes National Election
Agenda 2013 – 2015**
Type 2 Diabetes
The 21st Century Pandemic



Turning diabetes around

FRAMING - ALIGNMENT

- National Health Priority Areas
- Local health priorities
- Access and/or affordability
- Reducing the strain on health services
- Hot topics like the ageing population, reducing absenteeism

- ❑ Give yourself plenty of time
 - know the timeframes, steps and what's involved
- ❑ Address the funder's framework, criteria and instructions
- ❑ Circulate drafts to trusted colleagues or mentors for comment



REALISTIC BUDGETING

- Do** follow the 'rules' and instructions in the call for applications
- Do** be realistic (know what the costs are)
- Do** provide a clear and concise budget justification

- Don't** fudge
- Don't** waffle
- Don't** short change yourself



WRITING THE APPLICATION



- ❖ Title
- ❖ Background /Rationale
- ❖ Aim/s
- ❖ Methods
- ❖ Research plan and timelines
- ❖ Expected outputs /outcomes
- ❖ Budget & budget justification

PRESENTATION IS PARAMOUNT



- ❖ Be clear, consistent and logical
- ❖ Be accurate and 'neat and tidy'
- ❖ No typos or spelling errors
- ❖ Use diagrams and flowcharts
- ❖ Emphasise key issues/points
- ❖ Make sure it's easy to read



REALITY CHECK

Does it comply with the funders guidelines ?

Have you addressed the selection criteria?

Do the methods and research plan support the aims and outputs or outcomes

Is the budget realistic?

Is it clear, logical, optimally readable and professionally presented ?



EXPECT SUCCESS - PREPARE FOR FAILURE



**Failure is not an option!
It comes bundled with the software.**



ALSO THE FIRST STEP TO SUCCESS

