Deakin University – ARC Information Session
8 November 2012

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CEO, Australian Research Council
Presentation Overview

• Overview of the ARC
• Current Strategic Issues
• Furthering Industry Partnerships
  – Linkage Program
  – The new Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP)
• Q&A
The Australian Research Council

- Advice to Minister according to the ARC Act & ARC Strategic Plan
- National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP)
- Excellence in Research Australia (ERA)
The ARC

- Statutory Agency established 2001
- Mission: to deliver policy and programs that advance Australian research and innovation globally and benefit the community
- Fund direct costs to Universities and partners
- All disciplines except clinical medicine and dentistry
Government Investment in R&D 2011-12

- Universities: 21%
- CRCs: 2%
- NHMRC: 8%
- ARC: 9%
- CSIRO: 8%
- Other: 11%
- Business & Innovation: 24%
- Other Health: 6%
- Rural: 2%
- Energy and the Environment: 5%
- Other Science: 4%
Last 5 years – ARC spending by program

- Discovery - Projects: 43.2%
- Linkage - Projects: 18.5%
- ARC Future Fellowships: 17.2%
- Australian Laureate Fellowships: 4.9%
- Centres of Excellence: 7.5%
- Discovery - Indigenous Researchers Development: 0.2%
- Discovery Early Career Researcher Award: 3.1%
- Linkage - Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities: 4.6%
- Super Science Fellowships: 0.8%
Research Sector Changes and Challenges

- Programs
  - ERA
  - Open Access
  - Health & medical research
  - Evaluating Impact
  - Defence Trade Control Bill
  - Budgets & Politics
What are the Programs?

Discovery
- Australian Laureate Fellowships
- Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)
- Discovery Indigenous
- Discovery Projects (includes DORAs)
- Future Fellowships

Centres
- ARC Centres of Excellence
- Co-funded Centres

Special Research Initiatives
- e.g. Science of Learning

Linkage
- Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF)
- Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects
- Linkage Projects
- Industrial Transformation Research Program
National Competitive Grants Program

Making applications easier

- Success rates vs grant size
- Panels
- DECRAs in SS
- DORAs
Linkage Projects

- The *Linkage Projects* scheme for funding commencing in 2013 is currently open for submissions and closes at 5:00pm AEDT on Monday, 3 December 2012.
- For funding commencing in 2012, the ARC awarded $101.2 million over the life of 336 projects.
Linkage Projects - fundamentals

- The *Linkage Projects* scheme supports R&D projects which are collaborative between higher education researchers and other parts of the national innovation system.
- Proposals must include at least one Partner Organisation.
- The total combined contributions from all the Partner Organisations (cash and in-kind) must be equal to or greater than the funding requested from the ARC.
Linkage Projects - changes

- There will be only one round of the Linkage Projects scheme for funding commencing in 2013.
- The amount of funding available under the Linkage Projects scheme has dropped since 2011 due to the development of the Industrial Transformation Research Program.
National Competitive Grants Program

**Discovery Projects**
- Australian Laureate Fellowships
- Future Fellowships
- Discovery Indigenous
- Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

**Linkage Projects**
- Centres of Excellence
- Co-funded Centres and Special Research Initiatives
- Industrial Transformation Research Hubs
- Industrial Transformation Training Centres

Web: arc.gov.au   |   Email: info@arc.gov.au
Why was the Industrial Transformation Research Program established?

- Building on the success of ARC schemes and other Government programs
- Investing for Innovation – more research partnerships between universities and industry
- Training researchers for tomorrow - with strong links to industry
Details of the Industrial Transformation Research Program – the Schemes

Overall objectives:

- foster important partnerships between business and universities;
- support researchers (higher degree by research & post doctoral fellows) to gain ‘hands-on’, practical skills and experience in important priority areas.

Consists of two schemes:

*Industrial Transformation Research Hubs*

*Industrial Transformation Training Centres*
Industrial Transformation Research Hubs – Objectives

- encourage collaborative R&D projects to address challenging industry issues solved through innovative research relevant to the Industrial Transformation Priorities;
- attract investment from the global and international business community by underpinning internationally-recognised excellence of Australian universities and their industry partners; and
- leverage private and international investment in targeted industry sectors.
Industrial Transformation Research Hubs

Opportunities for universities and industrial partners to focus on significant collaborative R&D projects with outcomes beyond their independent endeavours.

- The ARC will invest up to $1 million per year in each Research Hub with matching investment by industry partners up to a maximum of five years.
Industrial Transformation Training Centres – Objectives

• foster opportunities for Higher Degree by Research candidates and postdoctoral fellows to pursue industrial training and to enhance competitive research in collaboration between universities and organisations outside the Australian higher education sector; and

• Strengthen Australia’s Industrial Transformation Priorities to supplement the capabilities of industries and other research end-users.
Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC)

To foster close partnerships between university-based researchers and industry to provide innovative training for early career researchers vital to Australia’s future industry.

Over the life of the five year program the ARC will:

- establish up to 50 Training Centres nationwide
- support Higher Degree by Research candidates and postdoctoral researchers in gaining real-world practical skills through placement in industry
- provide a minimum of $600,000 and a maximum of $1 million per year for three years for each Training Centre.
Industrial Transformation Priorities

- Industrial Transformation Priorities for round one address challenges in all areas of Australia’s food industry:
  - future food storage
  - food processing
  - manufacturing capabilities
  - product opportunities, and
  - other food related research

- Research priorities - flexibility in each round to meet identified priorities

- Information on current round priorities are available on the ARC website [www.arc.gov.au](http://www.arc.gov.au)
How can I apply and how to do it

- The organisation
  - Administering organisations
  - Other eligible organisations
  - Partner organisations

- The people
  - Hub/Centre Director;
  - Chief Investigator (CI)
  - Partner Investigator (PI)
Hubs – Partner Organisation Contributions

- A Proposal must include at least one Australian Partner Organisation.
- The Proposal must demonstrate that the combined Partner Organisation(s) contributions (i.e. the total of the cash and in-kind contributions of the Partner Organisations) must at least match the total funding requested from the ARC.
- The combined Partner Organisation(s) Cash Contribution where any Partner Organisation(s) has more than 100 employees must be at least 75 per cent of the total funding requested from the ARC.
- Where the Partner Organisation or the largest Partner Organisation in a consortium in the proposal has 100 employees or less, there is no minimum combined Partner Organisation(s) Cash Contribution.
Hubs – Partner Organisation Contributions

- Cash Contributions cannot be sourced from funds awarded or appropriated by the Commonwealth or an Australian State or Territory for the purposes of research nor from funds previously used to leverage government research funding.
- There is no limit on the combined Partner Organisation(s) In-kind Contributions.
Training Centres – Partner Organisation Contributions

- Cash and In-kind contribution must be sufficient to support research projects of 10 Higher Degree by Research candidates and 3 postdoctoral researchers.

- The ARC may provide funding for Project costs to match eligible Cash Contributions from Partner Organisation(s) such that the total funds (including Higher Degree by Research stipends and postdoctoral fellow salaries) awarded by the ARC will not exceed $1 million per year.

- The ARC may provide funding for Project costs to match eligible In-kind contributions where the Partner Organisation(s) are:
  - a registered charity;
  - a not-for-profit community organisation;
  - Start-Up Company; or
  - a museum or herbarium.
Training Centres – Industry Contributions

- ARC funding between $600,000 to $1 M for three years
- No minimum or maximum cash requirements for industry
- Cash and In-kind contributions must support the research projects of Higher Degree by Research candidates and postdoctoral fellows
How to Apply?

- Work with the proposed Administering Organisation – Research Office
- Applications will be open in the ARC’s Research Management System (RMS) on **6 November** and close on **18 December 2012**.
- The ARC will undertake an assessment process:
  - Proposals for both Research Hubs and Training Centres will be assessed by expert assessors and members of an ARC Industry Advisory Panel (IAP).
  - Applicants will be given the opportunity for rejoinder
## ITRP – Next Steps/Timeline

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ERA 2012 National Report
Research Sector Changes and Challenges

- Programs
- ERA
- Open Access
- Health & medical research
- Evaluating Impact
- Defence Trade Control Bill
- Budgets & Politics