ARC Schemes including:

DP & Discovery Early Career Researcher Award Scheme

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The ARC

- National Competitive Grants Program
  - $879.1 M in 12-13
- Evaluation and Policy
- Discovery & Fellowships
  - $541.9 M
- Linkage & Centres
  - $337.2 M
- Excellence in Research for Australia

- 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
National Competitive Grants Program

**Discovery Projects**
- Australian Laureate Fellowships
- Future Fellowships
- Discovery Indigenous
- Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award

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

Web: arc.gov.au  |  Email: info@arc.gov.au
Government Investment in R&D 2011-12

- Business & Innovation: 24%
- Universities: 21%
- NHMRC: 8%
- ARC: 9%
- CRCs: 2%
- Other Health: 5%
- Energy and the Environment: 6%
- Other Science: 4%
- Rural: 2%
- Other Government: 11%
- Investigator Driven: 4.5%
The Selection Process (abridged)

- Proposals are allocated by EDs to College members for “general” assessment and allocation to “specialised” assessors.
- 2 College members will assess each proposal.
- Minimum 2 specialised assessors for each proposal.

- Rating A-E on each weighted criteria for an overall outcome.
- College sits at ARC in April (linkage) and August (Discovery).
- Grants are ranked, budgets recommended.
- Eligibility finalised.
Some details

- **Conflict of Interest**
  - Declared conflicts do not assess proposals
  - Do not remain in the room while being discussed

- **Weightings**
  - Investigator(s)
  - Project quality & Innovation
  - Feasibility and benefit
  - Research Environment

- **Insufficient reviews**
  - Additional review by College member(s)
Involvement of MRIs in ARC-funded projects

- MRIs and hospitals can be involved with projects funded under some ARC schemes as partner organisations:
  - Discovery Projects/Fellowships
  - Linkage Projects,
  - Linkage Infrastructure,
  - Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) and
  - ARC Centres of Excellence schemes or
  - as an administering organisation for Future Fellows.
Involvement of MRIs in ARC-funded projects

- In 2012, collaborations with MRIs and hospitals represent 1.4 per cent of all collaborations between Administering Organisations and other organisations on ARC-funded projects.
Number of instances of involvement of MRIs and hospitals as partner, host or other organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Science Fellowships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ARC Future Fellowships</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discovery Indigenous Award</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage Projects</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC Total Collaborations (MRI Collab Org)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC Total Collaborations (All Collab Org)</td>
<td>2,536</td>
<td>3,202</td>
<td>3,359</td>
<td>4,135</td>
<td>3,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage MRI Collab Org</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td><strong>1.4%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ARC funded research projects in medical-related fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARC Centres of Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discovery Early Career Researcher Award</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Discovery Indigenous Award</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Projects</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation Fellowships</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Laureate Fellowships</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Science Fellowships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC Future Fellowships</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage Projects</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linkage International</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total medical-related projects</strong></td>
<td>111</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total ARC-funded projects</strong></td>
<td>1,452</td>
<td>1,632</td>
<td>1,675</td>
<td>1,678</td>
<td>1,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage medical-related projects</strong></td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special Research Initiatives

- Research in Bionic Vision 2010
- Stem Cell Science 2011
**Future Fellowships**, number and per cent awarded to MRIs, by commencement year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admin Org</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC Future Fellowships (MRI Admin Org)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC Future Fellowships (All Admin Org)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage MRI Admin Org</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: that in addition to the medical research institutes eligible under the most recent Future Fellowships funding rules, the data include other NHMRC Approved Administering Organisations that were eligible under previous Future Fellowships funding rules)
ARC Linkage Program

In Detail:
A change in the Funding Rules relating to the ARC medical and dental research definition provides further clarification to the research sector regarding eligibility.
Medical and Dental

- ARC schemes, with the exception of Future Fellowships, do not support medical and dental research, defined as research and/or training primarily and substantially aimed at understanding or treating a human disease or human health condition.

- This includes, but is not limited to, Projects that involve any of the following...
Definition: Medical and Dental

a. late pre-clinical or early human trials of a human therapeutic agent, material or diagnostic test or device; or other interventional research involving humans;

b. using material collected from human subjects for the primary purpose of studying the underlying causes, prevalence, epidemiology or mode of inheritance of a disease or human condition; or

c. using established animal models or established cell lines for the purpose of studying the underlying causes, prevalence, epidemiology or mode of inheritance of a human disease or human health condition.
Discovery: Main Issues

- Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA).
- Changes to Discovery Projects for funding commencing in 2012, including removal of the Discovery Fellowships.
Origins of DECRA

- Need to build Australian research capacity.
- Need to simplify a complex scheme.
- Range of diverse and overlapping Fellowships across the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP).
- Low success rates of ECRs within Discovery Projects.
- Gender disparities identified in DP for ECRs.
DECRA: Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

- A new stand-alone ECR award.
- Not integrated into the Discovery Projects scheme (cf DORA).
- Up to 5 yrs post PhD (with possible 3 yr extension)
- Up to 200 DECRAs each year.
- Only one researcher per Proposal.
- No Pre-Submission Eligibility Exemption Request process.
- Simplified Post award variations allowed.
**DECRA: Objectives**

a. Support and advance promising early career researchers;

b. Promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways;

c. Focus research effort in the National Research Priority areas and,

d. Enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments.
Changed definition of Research

...creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.
DECRA

- ARC funding to support salary ($85K fixed p.a. including on costs) and project costs (at up to $40K p.a.).
- Administering Organisations may ‘top up’ the salary and/or project costs.
- Funding will be available for up to three consecutive years FTE from the ARC.
- Flexibility for extending the period of the Award up to six years.
DECRA: Selection Process for 2013

- Selection criteria: 50% project quality and innovation; 30% candidate; 10% institutional environment/support; 10% feasibility and benefit.
- The National Research Priorities are not a separate selection criteria.
- Selection process uses the A-E scale.
- Improved feedback to unsuccessful applicants.
- Rejoinders introduced in 2012
6.2.1 Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

- **Awarded** a PhD on or after 1 March 2007; or
- Commensurate with a significant career interruption...have been **awarded** a PhD on or after 1 March 2004.
- Career interruption for maternity or parental leave; carer’s responsibility; illness; ‘dislocation’ caused by moving to take up international post doctoral appointments; or non-research employment including unemployment.
6.2 DECRA – Grounds for PhD Award extension

- PhD must have been *awarded* at the closing time of submission of Proposals.

- In principle:
  - Time removed from research;
  - Evidence to support the requested career interruption must be kept by the Administering Organisation and provided to the ARC on request;
  - Commensurate period: e.g. a one year interruption equals a one year extension to PhD submission date.

- Applications will not be accepted if PhD awarded more than 8 years prior to the closing date for applications.
Commencement of Funding

• 5.1.4 – Funding for a DECRA will commence with effect 1 January 2013;

• It is anticipated that there will be some flexibility, between 3 and 6 months, for commencement of the Project.
6.2.2 Appointment at the Administering Organisation – for the duration of the Award

- Appointment is required for the duration of the Award – it is not a requirement in order to apply.
- Appointment must be appropriate to support the DECRA recipient – minimum 3 years FTE.

4.4 Strategic Statement:

- Research only and/or research and teaching pathways available during and after the Project.
6.2.6 Using the salary for other purposes

- Salary component may be used for other purposes in ‘exceptional’ or changed personal circumstances, for example to provide teaching relief for a replacement researcher.
- Approved by the Administering Organisation which must maintain evidence to support the conversion of the salary component.
- Examples – short term leadership and career opportunities.
DECRA - Reporting

- Progress Reports: Years 1 and 2 is ‘by exception’ – if significant issues are affecting the progress of the Project.
- End of Year Reports.
- Audited Financial Statement.
- Final Report: Within 12 months of the final payment or final approved carryover of funds.
DECRA

7.1.3 A researcher may only apply for up to two Awards over the period in which they are eligible.

7.1.2 A DECRA recipient cannot apply for a subsequent DECRA

6.2.5 The Administering Organisation plays a key role in post award administration for DECRAs:

– Approval of part-time;
– Certification of career interruptions and exceptional or changed personal circumstances.
**Discovery Projects for funding commencing in 2013**

- A new senior career award within *Discovery Projects* - Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award (DORA).
- Previous ARC Discovery Fellowships no longer available (APD, ARF/QEII, APF).
- Funding for 3 yrs maximum in *Discovery Projects*.
- Simplification of Funding Rules, application & assessment processes.
- Revision of the selection criteria & assessment process.
- International Collaboration Awards remain.
7.1.3 Discovery Program – two grant rule

- Concurrent funding for a maximum of one Discovery, which could be as sole CI;
  - or

- As Centre Personnel under the ARC Research Centres Program, defined at p4 of the Funding Rules.

- 7.1.6 A researcher will not be permitted to relinquish existing roles held at 1 January 2012 to circumvent these limits.

- A DECRA recipient cannot hold an ARC Fellowship concurrently – may apply in last year of Fellowship funding.
...two grant rule

7.2.1
- The ARC will not duplicate funding for research, including infrastructure, funded as at 1 January by the Commonwealth.
- The Proposal cannot be the same or substantially similar to a Project described in another current ARC-funded Project.
- Researchers must note, on the application, all current funding and requested funding under any ARC scheme or other Commonwealth funding.
Discovery Projects Fellowships

Previously:
- APD up to 110 p.a.
- ARF/QEII up to 26 p.a.
- APF up to 15 p.a.

Now:
- Up to 200 DECRA p.a. (277 awarded in 2012)
- Up to 70 DORA p.a. (26 awarded in 2012)
## DECRA Gender Success Rates 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel*</th>
<th>Number of female candidates</th>
<th>Number of approved female candidate</th>
<th>Female success rate</th>
<th>Number of male candidates</th>
<th>Number of approved male candidate</th>
<th>Male success rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSB</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMI</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCA</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCE</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBE</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>867</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.8%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1284</strong></td>
<td><strong>157</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.2%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• New ARC CEO Prof. Aidan Byrne
• New ED Biological Sciences & Biotechnology; Dr Fiona Cameron
• ED Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences; Prof. Marian Simms