ARC Centres of Excellence
Mid Term Reviews
April 2013
Australian Research Council
Presentation Overview

- Overview of ARC Centres of Excellence
- The Need for Performance Monitoring and Review
- The Mid Term Review
- The Review Report
National Competitive Grants Program

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

**Linkage Projects**
- ARC 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
The ARC Centres of Excellence – objectives

a. highly innovative and potentially transformational research
b. interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches
c. develop relationships and build new networks
d. build Australia’s human capacity
e. postgraduate and postdoctoral training
f. large-scale problems over longer periods
g. points of interaction between unis, business, govt, private sector
The Need for Performance Monitoring and Reviews – Why?

- Public funding - accountability
- Increased reporting expected for large scale investment
- Independent assessment
- Adjustments for the next three years
- Assists with future strategic directions
The Need for Performance Monitoring – Ongoing Provisions

- ARC Annual Report
  - Key Performance Indicators
  - Financial Reporting
  - Institutional audits
  - Collaborating, Partner Organisations and other investors

- Postaward management

- Provision for ad hoc reviews – eg., Centre Director change
The Mid Term Review

Review aims

- has the Centre met its purpose and objectives;
- progress against targets and milestones;
- the quality of outcomes to date; and
- effectiveness of the operations, management and governance of the Centre.
The Mid Term Review

Continuation of funding will be dependent on the outcome of the review.

A Centre may be terminated if, in the opinion of the Commonwealth, that Centre is not performing or operating at the level expected of an ARC Centre of Excellence.
The Mid Term Review

Submissions

- From the Centre Director
- Administering Organisation

From Stakeholders:

- Collaborating Organisations
- Partner Organisations
- Others
Submission from the Admin Organisation

Usually includes the following information:

- the relevance and contribution of Centre’s activities to present and future directions of the associated University;
- proposed strategy for the next three years and for post-Commonwealth funding;
- formal certification by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).
Submission from Centre Director

Progress against key performance targets; quality and impact of research results; management of the Centre

The submission from the Centre Director usually includes the following:

• **Annual Report**, letters of support, and current strategic plan;
• information on the Centre’s achievements:
  – as measured against the original and current objectives under the Funding Agreement
  – any other significant achievements
  – interaction and visibility with stakeholders as appropriate
  – information on management, governance and structure, including leadership role of the Centre Director
  – high quality staff and students at the Centre;
  – ARC financial statement information (income and expenditure)
  – a breakdown of financial support from sources outside the ARC, including cash and in-kind.
Impact

- Not currently a Key Performance Indicator
- Most Centres are already focused on this
- Would be well received by the Review Panel
- Helpful to feed back up the line
Stakeholder Submissions

Written submissions by invitation from Collaborating and Partner Organisations.

The Review Panel are to be given full access to all accounts, records, documents and premises relevant to the research being funded by the ARC if requested.

The ARC expects a range of stakeholders to be present at the site visit.
Mid Term Review - Site Visit

- The site visit is usually one full day. It includes informal discussions with the:
  - Centre Director (including a presentation),
  - key research staff and students,
  - industry/end users,
  - members of the Advisory Committee, and
  - the DVCR (or nominee) from the Administering Organisation.

- The ARC does not expect everyone associated with the Centre to be present at the site visit.

- A short tour of facilities can be included.
The Mid Term Review – the Panel

The ARC Panel may include:

- 1-2 Review Panel members
- An ARC Executive Director
- 1-2 Secretariat staff

Panel membership will be advised in advance in order to address any conflicts of interest.

The Panel reads the submission material, and may request further information to be covered at the site visit. SAC questions are often provided in advance of the site visit.
Review Report

The Review Panel will report on its findings to the ARC in the first instance. The full report will not be publicly released, however it will be provided to the Centre Director and the Administering Organisation.

The Centre Director and Administering Organisation should consider any recommendations in their forward strategy.
Forthcoming discussion topics

• ARC application process – discussion paper
• Research Impact – joint discussion paper
• ERA/HERDC amalgamation discussion paper
• New *IP Principles* document – ARC/NHMRC
• Conflict of Interest discussion paper – ARC/NHMRC
ARC promotion of research and outcomes

- ARChway
- News from the sector
- Events
- Twitter
- Research Expo
- Research Communicators Network
- Centres of Excellence e-book
ARChway

- ARC’s new online newsletter
- First edition released March 2013
- replaces the former Discovery newsletter
- publications@arc.gov.au to submit stories
- editorial policy available from ARC website
News from the sector

You are here: Home › Media › Research Profiles

Research Profiles

The ARC funds hundreds of research projects each year through our Linkage, Discovery and Centres funding schemes as part of the National Competitive Grants Program. Here we profile just a handful of the many researchers and research projects, to tell the stories about their work and research outcomes.

2013

March

- **Climate 'brings opportunities and threats to the Pacific'** – 25 March 2013
  (media issued by ARC Centre for Excellence in Coral Reef Studies)
  Marine scientists from France, New Caledonia, Fiji and Australia (supported by the ARC Centre for Excellence in Coral Reef Studies) have revealed that climate change will bring both big opportunities and threats to the Pacific region, where more than 25% of GDP (gross domestic product) depends upon fishing. Impacts include a projected decline in coral reef fish, shellfish and crustacean harvests, along with a shift in tuna feeding and breeding grounds which would result in a 'net gain' in the south and east Pacific region.

- **New roads might help environment** – 21 March 2013
  (media issued by James Cook University)
  The work of leading ecologist Professor William Laurance, an ARC Laureate Fellow researching Australia’s leadership in tropical conservation science, has featured in Nature. Professor Laurance, along with colleague Professor Andrew Balmford (University of Cambridge, UK), has found that despite the strong impact road construction has on forest destruction and wildfires, a global mapping program can advise on where to avoid building new roads and close existing ones, to halt severe environmental damage.

- **What are migraines?** – 18 March 2013
  (media featured by The Griffith Health Institute as reported in The Conversation)
  Professor Lyn Griffiths, who receives funding from the ARC to support her migraine research, looks into the symptoms and causes of migraines. Her research is currently focused on the latest treatments, specifically the efficacy of non-toxic vitamin therapy.
Events

News and Events

Here we promote current news and upcoming events occurring in the research sector.

2013

April

- CEPS 2013 Human Rights and Policing Conference

March

- ARC CEO, Professor Aidan Byrne, speaks to Barry Leviny from Vision Australia Radio
- CRCA 2013 Conference – Collaborate Innovate

February

- Joint CoEPP-CAASTRO workshop
- Don’t miss the South Australian Climate Change Adaptation Showcase!
- LSAY National Research Forum - Are we there yet? Youth transitions in Australia
- ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) - Collaboration launch
- ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security (CEPS) - Symposium on the Privatisation of Intelligence - Call for Papers
- Japan—Australia collaboration to accelerate stem cell research
- ARC-funded researchers recognised in Australia Day 2013 Honours List
Twitter

- Follow us on Twitter @arc_gov_au
- Would you like us to retweet one of your messages?
- Contact us communications@arc.gov.au
Research Expo
Research Communicators’ Network

Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Research Communicators Network
an Australian Research Council initiative
Centres of Excellence e-book

- Is it a good idea?
- Would be placed on our website
- Updated twice a year?
- We’d like your feedback
Your ARC media contacts

- communications@arc.gov.au and publications@arc.gov.au

- ARC Media line 02 6287 6711

- We are always willing to help

- Let us know when you have a news story or event that needs promoting
ARC Centres of Excellence
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Questions?