International Research Roundtable 2013
Tuesday 8 October,
The Glebe at Crowne Plaza Hotel

Professor Marian Simms
ARC Executive Director
The Australian Research Council (ARC) is an independent statutory agency within The Department of Education. The ARC’s main responsibilities are:

• providing funding for research through the competitive funding schemes of the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP);
• providing policy advice on research matters to Government;
• Evaluating research quality in Australia through the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) exercise;
• and, together with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), administering the Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC).
The ARC and Internationalisation

- Opportunities for collaboration are embedded across all ARC funding schemes
- The ARC tends not to operate through MOUs with other countries
- The ARC is involved in the Global Research Council and has informal links with other national and regional research councils
- The ARC has an involvement with the reviews of the ANZSRC – Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (Fields of Research – the ‘gateway’ to ARC Schemes and ERA)
- Through Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), the ARC identifies areas that are of world class or above
The ARC

National Competitive Grants Program
$883.9M in 2013-14

Discovery and Fellowships
$551.4 M

Linkage and Centres
$332.4 M

Evaluation and Policy

Excellence in Research for Australia
Government support for research and development in Australia: 2013-14
National Competitive Grants Program

**Discovery Projects**
- Future Fellowships: 16%
- Laureate Fellowships: 5%
- DECRA: 3%

**Linkage Projects**
- Centres of Excellence: 7%
- Co-Funded & SRI: 
- ITRP: 
- Discovery Indigenous: 
- Linkage Projects: 18%

5 year averages
Attracting international researchers

• ARC funding schemes open to international applicants applying through eligible Australian organisations (for most schemes, the universities)
• If successful, Chief Investigators/Fellows must reside predominantly in Australia
• Project funding can be used for stipends for international postgraduate students
Support for international collaboration

• Partner Investigators (PIs) can be based overseas
• Project funding for travel, including for overseas PIs, to support international collaboration
• ‘International Collaboration Awards’ available under Discovery Projects
• Overseas organisations, including higher education institutions, can be partner organisations (Linkage Projects)
Support for international collaboration cont.

- The ARC’s Large Infrastructure and Equipment Fund (LEIF) supports collaborative access to major ‘world class’ research facilities.
- Many ARC Centres of Excellence involve international Partner Organisations and Partner Investigators.
- ARC Centres of Excellence also attract international postgraduate students and a high number of international visitors.
Example: Discovery Projects

- Partner Investigators (PIs) can be overseas academics
- ‘International Collaboration Awards’ available for Australian-based Chief Investigators (CIs), and Overseas PIs to work together on the project overseas or in Australia
- Personnel to travel to Australia if justified against the project
- PhD stipends open to international candidates
Discovery Projects Scheme

- International Collaboration Awards (ICAs) were introduced in *Discovery Projects* in 2010 for CIs and PIs living overseas.
- The Awards aim to enhance opportunities for collaboration among researchers, research teams and/or research centres in Australia and overseas, and to build Australia’s international research capability.
Collaborating Countries on Discovery Projects 2013

- United States: 200
- United Kingdom: 139
- Germany: 47
- Canada: 43
- France: 42
- China, People’s Republic: 41
- Japan: 29
- Switzerland: 23
- Italy: 22
- New Zealand: 22
- Netherlands, The: 18
- Other: 214
Example: Linkage Projects

• Overseas organisations can be partners
• Overseas higher education organisations eligible to be partner organisations if application has at least one Australian partner organisation
• Stipends for postgraduate students can be for international candidates
• Funds are available for domestic and international travel (fieldwork and other travel) justified against the project
Collaborating Countries on ARC Linkage Projects Grants 2005-2013

- United States: 26%
- United Kingdom: 15%
- Canada: 7%
- Germany: 6%
- China: 5%
- New Zealand: 5%
- France: 4%
- Switzerland: 2%
- Singapore: 2%
- Sweden: 2%
- Japan: 3%
- India: 2%
- Netherlands: 2%
- Spain: 1%
- Other: 17%
# International Collaboration with the US and UK on ARC projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>1511</td>
<td>1653</td>
<td>1752</td>
<td>1807</td>
<td>1714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>1061</td>
<td>1081</td>
<td>1040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other countries</td>
<td>1557</td>
<td>1747</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>1881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Data for funding allocation year 2013 does not include funding rounds commencing in 2013 that are not yet complete, eg. Future Fellowships and Industrial Transformation Research Hubs.

2. Instances of collaboration with China includes instance of collaboration with Macau and Hong Kong. As these instances are collected separately there may be some duplication of instances of collaboration with China.
ARC Funding by allocation year for projects collaborating with the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total $</td>
<td>$242.7 m</td>
<td>$261.2 m</td>
<td>$297.6 m</td>
<td>$318.0 m</td>
<td>$310.9 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of projects</td>
<td>1511</td>
<td>1653</td>
<td>1752</td>
<td>1807</td>
<td>1714</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Research Investment Plan – November 2012

- Framework to guide Australian Government research investment
- Sets out research investment principles, a plan for development of strategic research priorities and list of actions for implementation
- Strategic research priorities are being developed by the Australian Research Committee and will replace the current national research priorities (NRPs)
Research Priorities

• Current NRPs are quite broad:
  o an environmentally sustainable Australia
  o promoting and maintaining good health
  o frontier technologies for building and transforming Australian industries
  o safeguarding Australia

• New Strategic Research Priorities will be more focussed
ARC support for NRPs

- In most ARC funding schemes researchers are required to:
  - nominate alignment with NRP
  - indicate how research addresses NRP goals

- Previously, over 92% of funded proposals in 2011-12 aligned with one of the former NRPs (frontier technologies >35%)
Thank You

Professor Marian Simms
ARC Executive Director