Stem Cells Australia Retreat

Kingscliff
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Australian Research Council
ARC post 2013 election

- The ARC, ARC Act and funding processes sit under the Department of Education
- The Minister responsible for the ARC is The Hon. Christopher Pyne MP
- Education Department also responsible for:
  - co-ordination of research policy in relation to universities
  - creation and development of research infrastructure.
Presentation Overview

- Overview of ARC & schemes including:
  - DECRA
  - Future Fellows
  - Centres of Excellence
- The Need for Performance Monitoring and Review
- The Mid Term Review
- The Review Report
Detail of Government Investment in R&D 2012-13

- NHMRC: 9.3%
- ARC: 9.8%
- Industry R&D Tax Measures (estimated): 20.5%
- Block Funding to Higher Ed.: 21.3%
- Other Business R&D Support: 0.2%
- Other Innovation Support: 4.6%
- Other Science Support: 4.8%
- DSTO: 4.9%
- Govt R&D Activities: 6.7%
- Rural: 2.9%
- CRCs: 1.7%
- Energy and the Environment: 3.0%
- Other Health: 1.3%
The individual field has been selected as one of up to three representing the proposal, for DP, LP and fellowship schemes (DE, IN, FT, FF, FL)
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

**Notes:**

1 more year in May budget.
Currently open

Reviews 2013-2014
Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)

• The *Discovery Early Career Researcher Award* (DECRA) scheme is a separate element of the Discovery Program. The *DECRA* scheme will provide more focused support for researchers and create more opportunities for early-career researchers in both teaching and research, and research-only positions.
Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)

The objectives of the DECRA scheme are to:

- support and advance promising early career researchers;
- promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways;
- focus research effort in the National Research Priority areas to improve research capacity and policy outcomes; and
- enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments.
Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)

- Researchers may be eligible to apply if they have been awarded a PhD within five years or, commensurate with a period of significant career interruption, have been awarded a PhD within eight years of the closing time of submission of Proposals.

- It is anticipated that up to 200 three-year Awards, including up to $40,000 per annum in project funds, may be awarded each year.
Future Fellowships

- In 2008, the Future Fellowships scheme was introduced to promote research in areas of critical national importance by giving outstanding researchers incentives to conduct their research in Australia. The aim of Future Fellowships is to attract and retain the best and brightest mid-career researchers.
Future Fellowships

- At present many highly qualified mid-career researchers choose to work overseas to further their careers due to lack of opportunities in Australia. The *Future Fellowships* scheme addresses this problem and will significantly boost Australia’s research and innovation capacity in areas of national importance.
Future Fellowships

Future Fellowships provides four-year fellowships to outstanding Australian and international mid-career researchers. In addition, the ARC may award the Administering Organisation up to $50,000 of non-salary funding per annum which may be used for infrastructure, equipment, travel and relocation costs directly related to the Future Fellow’s research.
Future Fellowships

- *Future Fellowships* will encourage proposals from researchers working in areas of national priority. Preference will be given to those researchers who can demonstrate a capacity to build collaboration across industry and/or research institutions and/or with other disciplines.
Supporting Researchers:

- Research Fellowships –
- Practitioner Fellowships
- Career Development Fellowships –
- Early Career Fellowships –
- Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowships
- Scholarships

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 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.
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.
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).
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.