ARC funding and HCA
University of Melbourne
10 October 2014

Denise Meredyth
Executive Director, Humanities and Creative Arts
Australian Research Council
Themes

• Understanding the assessment process – and adapting
• HCA and patterns of success
• Planning for grant rounds
• The rhetoric of grant writing
• Emerging opportunities in ARC HCA
  – Linking and collaboration with collecting organisations
  – LIEF
  – Centres of Excellence and Laureates
More Information


• http://www.arc.gov.au/general/searchable_data.htm
Assessment process
NCGP Proposal Lifecycle

- Development of RMS
- Recruitment of College of Experts or Selection Advisory Committee
- Eligibility
- Proposal Submission
- Request Not to Assess
- Assessment Process
- Rejoinder
- Selection Meeting
- Approval of Outcomes
- Funding Agreements and Appeals
- Post Award
- Final Report
- End of Year and Progress Reports
- Announcement
The Grants Peer Review Process

All Disciplines

- Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (BSB)
- Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics (EMI)
- Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA)
- Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences (PCE)
- Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences (SBE)
The Grants Peer Review Process

External Reviewer → Rank → Committee Review → Recommendation to CEO → Minister Approval

Internal Reviewer
Discovery Projects Grants rankings 2013

Each symbol represents up to 2 observations.
Success Rate: Comparison of Schemes

Success Rate in commencement year 2013

- Linkage - Infrastructure Equipment...
- Linkage - Projects
- Discovery Indigenous
- Industrial Transformation Training...
- Discovery - Projects
- ARC Future Fellowships
- Discovery Early Career Researcher...
- Australian Laureate Fellowships

39%
ARC Proposals Received: 2-Digit FOR (%) 2006–2013
Number of proposals received and funded by 2-digit FoR code

[past 4 years Discovery Projects and 5 years Linkage Projects]
Case study:
2002 Cultural studies
Funding ($) for projects with primary 4-digit FoR in Cultural Studies by scheme (2011 to 2014)

No projects funded in LIEF scheme
Cultural Studies (2002) by 6-digit level
FoR code (all schemes, regardless of primary classification code)
(2010/11 to 2014)

Size of bubble indicates the total percentage of a 6-digit level code in all projects funded.
Planning for grants
Drafting, editing and revision

• Clarify the research question and link to aims and methods
• Have you outlined the field, its history and limits?
• Have you addressed each aims through an identified research stage and method, with outcomes?
• Have you established what we will know or understand when your research is done?
• Is the benefit to scholarship and to the public clear?
Summary

• The summary should be written in clear, plain English
• It should be written for public release.
• Clear, sober and informative.
• Explain the research question and the need for research.
• Aims, methods and outcomes.
• Indicate possible benefits and impact.
ARC Linkage projects
The *Linkage Projects* scheme objectives

- initiation and/or development of long-term strategic research alliances between higher education organisations and other organisations, including industry and end-users, in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems and/or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic, social or cultural benefits;

- scale and focus of research in Strategic Research Priorities;

- opportunities for researchers to pursue internationally competitive research in collaboration with organisations outside the higher education sector, targeting those who have demonstrated a clear commitment to high-quality research; and

- growth of a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of the broader Australian innovation system.
Linkage—Instances of Collaboration by Org Type

- Non-Profit - International
- Non-Profit - Australian
- Higher Education - International
- Government - State & Local
- Government - International
- Government - Commonwealth
- Company/Industry Body - International
- Company/Industry Body - Australian
- Other
LP Linkages
Australia
2011-14
Networks, collaborations, national collections
Number of projects (all schemes) involving GLAM, by 2-digit FoR code (2008 to 2014)

- Biological Sciences
- History and Archaeology
- Environmental Sciences
- Studies in Creative Arts and Writing
- Earth Sciences
- Language, Communication and...
- Studies in Human Society
- Chemical Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Law and Legal Studies
- Information and Computing Sciences
- Technology
- Built Environment and Design
- Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences
- Engineering
- Commerce, Management, Tourism...
- Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
Proportion of HCA grants involving GLAM partners that involved PIs from a GLAM organisation (LP 201014)

LP13 and LP14 required that at least one PI from each PO be on each project.
Number of projects funded and success rate in HCA/SBE LIEF projects involving GLAM organisations

No proposals submitted in 2009
Number of projects funded and success rate in HCA/SBE LIEF projects relating to:
Clearinghouse, digital, museum, library, gallery, information, archive, online archive, searchable, knowledge platform, repository, interactive, interactivity
ARC Centres of Excellence
Overview of ARC Centres of Excellence

- The ARC Centres of Excellence scheme was originally established in 2002 to support research intended to build national capability in areas of national importance and develop the scale and focus necessary for Australia to achieve international standing in those areas.

- The scheme funds world class, internationally competitive research teams investigating, and finding solutions to, challenging and important Australian and international problems.
Investment in excellence for the longer term

• ARC Centres of Excellence $1-4 m a year for up to seven years

HCA Centres
• Creative Industries and Innovation
• History of Emotions
• Dynamics of Language
• Policing and Security (HCA/SBE)
The ARC Centres of Excellence—objectives

• highly innovative and potentially transformational research
• interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches
• develop relationships and build new networks
• build Australia’s human capacity
• postgraduate and postdoctoral training
• large-scale problems over longer periods
• points of interaction between unis, business, govt, private sector
Centres of Excellence 2014
Success by discipline

*BSB = Biological Sciences and Biotechnology; EMI = Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics; HCA = Humanities and Creative Arts; PCE = Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences; SBE = Social, Behavioural and Economics Sciences

Source: 2014 Selection Report Table 1
Laureate Fellows 2014
Success by discipline

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Source: 2014 Selection Report Table 5
## Requested and approved funding for ARC Centres of Excellence 2014 by discipline panel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel*</th>
<th>Proposals approved</th>
<th>Requested funds over project life (approved Proposals)</th>
<th>Approved funds over project life (approved Proposals)</th>
<th>Approved funds as % of requested funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSB</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$108,127,261</td>
<td>$96,000,000</td>
<td>88.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMI</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$71,532,842</td>
<td>$65,000,000</td>
<td>90.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$28,000,000</td>
<td>$28,000,000</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCE</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$83,932,145</td>
<td>$75,999,996</td>
<td>90.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$25,200,000</td>
<td>$20,000,000</td>
<td>79.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$316,792,248</td>
<td>$284,999,996</td>
<td>89.96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel*</th>
<th>EOI considered</th>
<th>EOI shortlisted</th>
<th>EOI success rate (%)</th>
<th>Proposals considered</th>
<th>Proposals interviewed</th>
<th>Proposals approved</th>
<th>Proposals success rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSB</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMI</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCA</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCE</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBE</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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What the Centres need to look like

• The Centres are the largest investments of the ARC Grants Program
• Centres foster frontier interdisciplinary research, with innovative and highly integrated Research Programs
• Centres are critical for the next generation of researchers – capacity building
• Leading the way – international reputation
• Building on important collaborations
• Public benefits and research impact