ARC funding, HCA and public/national benefit

2 December, 2014
University of Wollongong

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Australian Research Council
Themes

• Humanities funding in the national context
• How the ARC assesses: quality and benefit
• Interdisciplinarity and emergent fields
• Research partnerships
• Collecting organisations
• Linkage, LIEF and Centres of Excellence.
ARC funding in the national context
Commonwealth Investment in R&D 2013-14

- ARC: 10.2%
- NHMRC: 9.9%
- Block Funding to Higher Ed: 21.9%
- CRCs: 1.7%
- Other Higher Ed R&D Support: 0.9%
- Rural: 3.9%
- Energy and the Environment: 2.4%
- Multisector Science Support: 2.4%
- Other Industry R&D Support: 0.1%
- Other Innovation Support: 5.0%
- Other Govt R&D: 7.4%
- Industry R&D Tax Measures: 19.4%
- DSTO: 4.9%
- Other Industry R&D: 8.8%
- Other Health: 1.0%

Source: Budget 2013-2014 Industry and Innovation tables
This is us!

2014-15 Federal Budget

(Treasury omitted)
National Competitive Grants Program

Discovery Projects

Future Fellowships

DECRA

Discovery Indigenous

Indigenous

Linkage Projects

Centres of Excellence

Co-Funded & SRI

ITRP

LIEF

Discovery Projects

Linkage Projects

5 year averages
DP Grants outcomes

- Success rates
Australian Research Grants Committee 1974 –
% funding share compared with ARC NCGP
2013
Engagement by University
Strength in Linkage and Discovery Schemes

Percentage of scheme funds obtained
How the ARC assesses quality and benefit
ARC assignment information

• The ARC has completely redesigned the way that potential assessors are matched to a proposal for assessment purposes

• Multiple areas of the proposal are mined for a set of keywords and presented to the person completing the assignments as a word cloud
ARC assignment information

• This information is then matched to information stored against a potential assessor’s profile and presented in a similar word cloud.

• The most appropriate person is then selected and assigned to the proposal to assess.
The Grants Peer Review Process

1. External Reviewer
2. Internal Reviewer
3. Rank
4. Committee Review
5. Recommendation to CEO
6. Minister Approval

$ $
National Competitive Grants Program
ARC Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)

• The ARC is committed to ensuring all eligible researchers have fair access to competitive funding through the National Competitive Grants Program.

• The ARC considers that Research Opportunity comprises two separate elements:
  – Career experiences (relative to opportunity)
  – Career interruptions

• The new ROPE Statement (released Feb 2014) is online www.arc > Information for applicants > ROPE statement
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%
Number of proposals received and funded by 2-digit FoR code

[past 4 years Discovery Projects and 5 years Linkage Projects]
Total ARC funding by major scheme and selected HCA/SBE disciplines (2002-14)
Case study 1:
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.
Academic workforce issues and NCG success
First-time awardees on DECRA and DP

- # DECRA first-timers
- # DP first-timers
- % first-timers

DP13—Submission and success rate by gender and career age
Figure 1. Participation and success of Chief Investigators (CIs) in DP15 by gender and career age*

- Male % proportion of all CIs
- Female % proportion of all CIs
- Male success % within band
- Female success % within band

- 0-5 Yrs
- 5-10 Yrs
- 10-15 Yrs
- 15-20 Yrs
- 20-25 Yrs
- 25 Yrs plus
ARC Linkage Projects
Some Linkage stats: funding and success rates

Since 2005 there have been nearly 2200 instances of collaboration with Australian private companies, as partner organisations on linkage grants.
LP14

Number approved and partner contributions

Number of proposals approved*

Average partner contribution/project
Average ARC funding, PO contribution and number of PO on each LP project

The Partner Organisation must make a significant contribution in cash and/or in kind, to the project that is equal to, or greater than, the ARC funding.
Linkage—
Instances of Collaboration by Org Type

- other
- Non-Profit - International
- Non-Profit - Australian
- Higher Education - International
- Government - State & Local
- Government - International
- Government - Commonwealth
- Company/Industry Body - International
- Company/Industry Body - Australian
LP Linkages
Australia
2011–14
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.
Challenges

• tracking how research, engagement and knowledge transfer involves work across universities and other agencies, including museums, galleries, archives and museums

• developing a shared understanding of the return on investment from provision of time, expertise, resources

• pluralising understandings of research outputs to include curatorial work, creative work, exhibitions etc.

• consolidating research outputs into national resources digital platforms, clearing houses, infrastructure

• building in research training, internships, exchange

• recognising and encouraging international collaboration.
Number of projects (all schemes) involving GLAM, by 2-digit FoR code (2008–2014)
Linkage, LIEF and knowledge infrastructure
Number of projects funded and success rate in HCA/SBE LIEF projects involving GLAM organisations

Number funded

% success

No proposals submitted in 2009
No. 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

No proposals submitted in 2009
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 $1-4m 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

*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 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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## Numbers of EOI\s, Proposals and success rates for ARC Centres of Excellence 2014 by discipline panel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel*</th>
<th>EOI\s considered</th>
<th>EOI\s shortlisted</th>
<th>EOI success rate (%)</th>
<th>Proposals considere\d</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.