ARC Centres of Excellence information session
27 August 2014

Professor Aidan Byrne
CEO, Australian Research Council
Outline

- Context – ARC
- Key goals of Centres of Excellence scheme
- Data
Commonwealth Investment in R&D 2013-14

- ARC: 10.23%
- NHMRC: 9.93%
- APA + RTS: 10.93%
- RIBG+JRE+SRE: 8.48%
- Other Higher Ed R&D Support: 3.39%
- Other health: 1.00%
- Energy and the Environment: 2.39%
- Rural: 3.94%
- Multisector Science Support: 2.44%
- CSIRO: 8.76%
- DSTO: 4.94%
- Other Govt R&D: 7.41%
- Industry R&D Tax Measures: 19.44%
- Other Innovation Support: 5.00%

Source: Budget 2013-2014 Industry and Innovation tables
Trends in Government Investment in R&D $M 2004-14
(source: 2013-14 budget tables)
ARC NCGP funding by University (%) 2007-2013

RUN
IRU
ATN
Unaligned
Go8

University of Ballarat
Central Queensland University
University of the Sunshine Coast
Southern Cross University
The University of New England
Charles Darwin University
Murdoch University
La Trobe University
James Cook University
The Flinders University of South Australia
Griffith University
Bond University
University of Technology, Sydney
Curtin University of Technology
Queensland University of Technology
University of Southern Queensland
Bond University
Edith Cowan University
Australian Catholic University
Charles Sturt University
Victoria University
University of Canberra
University of Western Sydney
Swinburne University of Technology
University of Tasmania
Deakin University
University of Wollongong
Macquarie University
The University of Adelaide
The University of Western Australia
Monash University
The Australian National University
The University of New South Wales
The University of Sydney
The University of Queensland
The University of Melbourne
National Competitive Grants Program

**Discovery Programs**

- Future Fellowships
- DECRA
- Other Fellowships

**Linkage Programs**

- Centres of Excellence
- Co-Funded & SRI
- ITRP (growing!)
- LIEF
- Linkage Projects

Area of box represents $$ awarded over the period 2008-2013.
N.b. ITRP & DECRA running for less than five years.
Investment in excellence for the longer term

- ARC Centres of Excellence $1-4 m a year for up to seven years
- Industrial Transformation Research Program
  - Hubs $500K to $1m a year for five years
  - Centres $600K to $1m a year for three years
- Co-funded and Special Research Initiatives – various funding and duration
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
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
Centres of Excellence 2013
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: 2013 Selection Report Table 1
FOR Network mapping..
[Fruchterman reingold]

STEM disciplines highlighted

Source data:
http://www.arc.gov.au/general/searchable_data.htm
FOR Network mapping..
[Fruchterman reingold]

HASS disciplines highlighted

Source data:
http://www.arc.gov.au/general/searchable_data.htm
National Competitive Grants Program

Discovery Programs

- Future Fellowships
- DECRA
- Other Fellowships
- Discovery Projects

Linkage Programs

- Centres of Excellence
- Co-Funded & SRI
- ITRP (growing!)
- LIEF
- Linkage Projects

Area of box represents $$ awarded over the period 2008-2013. N.b. ITRP & DECRA running for less than five years.
Australian Laureate Fellowships

FOCUS:
- International repute
- Sustained leadership & mentoring

OBJECTIVES:
- Attract and retain outstanding research leaders
- Build and strengthen world-class research capability
- Provide excellent research – training environment
- Expand knowledge base
- Forge strong links
- Support research
Australian Laureate Fellowships

- Laureate Fellowships awards a **salary** top-up plus funding for a team of **postdoctoral and postgraduate** researchers.

- Preference will be given to researchers who will play a **significant, sustained leadership and mentoring role** in increasing Australia’s internationally competitive research capacity.

- **Up to 17** Australian Laureate Fellowships may be awarded per round.

- This includes two named Australian Laureate Fellowships awarded to **successful female** Australian Laureate Fellows, with an additional **ambassadorial role to promote women in research**.
Laureate Fellowships – Funding History

- Dollars awarded
- No. of Fellows

Year | Dollars Awarded (in millions) |
--- | --- |
2009 | $40,000,000 |
2010 | $35,000,000 |
2011 | $40,000,000 |
2012 | $45,000,000 |
2013 | $50,000,000 |
2014 | $45,000,000 |
Laureate Fellowships 2014
Success rates by discipline

- BSB = Biological Sciences and Biotechnology
- EMI = Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics
- HCA = Humanities and Creative Arts
- PCE = Physical Sciences and Engineering
- SBE = Behavioural and Economic Sciences

(Source: Selection report 2014 table 5: Disciplines of all proposals)
Discussion/questions