Australian Government
Australian Research Council

James Cook University
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Outline

- Budget environment
- About the ARC
- Outcomes
- Gender and Age
- Q&A
Commonwealth Investment in R&D 2013-14

- ARC: 10.23%
- NHMRC: 9.93%
- Other health: 1.00%
- APA + RTS: 10.93%
- RIBG+JRE+SRE: 8.48%
- Other Higher Ed R&D Support: 3.39%
- DSTO: 4.94%
- CSIRO: 8.76%
- Multisector Science Support: 2.44%
- CRCs: 1.67%
- Rural: 3.94%
- Energy and the Environment: 2.39%
- OtherGovt R&D: 7.41%
- Industry R&D Tax Measures: 19.44%

Source: Budget 2013-2014 Industry and Innovation tables
2014-15 Federal Budget

(Treasury omitted)
Trends in Government Investment in R&D $M 2004-14
(source: 2013-14 budget tables)
ARC NCGP funding by University ($m) 2007-2013

- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Ballarat
- Central Queensland University
- Bond University
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- Edith Cowan University
- Australian Catholic University
- Charles Darwin University
- Charles Sturt University
- Victoria University
- University of Canberra
- Southern Cross University
- The University of New England
- Murdoch University
- RMIT University
- University of Western Sydney
- University of South Australia
- La Trobe University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- Deakin University
- The Flinders University of South Australia
- University of Technology, Sydney
- James Cook University
- Curtin University of Technology
- University of Tasmania
- Griffith University
- Queensland University of Technology
- University of Wollongong
- The University of Newcastle
- 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
Australian Research Grants Committee 1974 – % funding share compared with ARC NCGP 2013
Programs
ARC funding awarded by program – last 5 years

- Discovery Projects: 40.3%
- Future Fellowships: 17.3%
- Linkage Projects: 17.1%
- Centres of Excellence: 6.0%
- Australian Laureate Fellowships: 5.1%
- LIEF: 4.3%
- DECRA: 4.1%
- Special Research Initiatives: 2.9%
- Discovery Indigenous: 0.2%
- Other: 2.7%
Key funding features of schemes

- Discovery Projects and Discovery Indigenous primarily award project costs (travel, equipment, staff, etc.)
- DECRA and Futures primarily awards a salary for the awardee, with a small allocation of project costs
- Laureate Fellowships awards a salary top-up plus funding for a team of postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers
- Each scheme has different selection criteria, rules and funding limits, as each serves a different purpose
National Competitive Grants Program

Discovery Programs

Future Fellowships
Laureate Fellowships
DECRA
Other Fellowships

Linkage Programs

Centres of Excellence
Co-Funded & SRI
LIEF

Discovery Projects

Linkage Projects

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

01 MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
02 PHYSICAL SCIENCES
03 CHEMICAL SCIENCES
04 EARTH SCIENCES
05 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
06 BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
07 AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCES
08 INFORMATION AND COMPUTING SCIENCES
09 ENGINEERING
10 TECHNOLOGY
11 MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES
12 BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN
13 EDUCATION
14 ECONOMICS
15 COMMERCE, MANAGEMENT, TOURISM AND SERVICES
16 STUDIES IN HUMAN SOCIETY
17 PSYCHOLOGY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES
18 LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES
19 STUDIES IN CREATIVE ARTS AND WRITING
20 LANGUAGE, COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE
21 HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
22 PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Source data:
http://www.arc.gov.au/general/searchable_data.htm
Outcomes
Size of scheme and success rates (1)

Discovery Projects 2008-2014: Success and Return Rates
Size of scheme and success rates (2)

*DECREA 2012-2014: Success Rates*

- **2008**: 277 proposals (12.80% successful)
- **2009**: 1,081 proposals (3.62% successful)
- **2010**: 2,000 proposals (15.60% successful)
- **2011**: 2,000 proposals (3.62% successful)
- **2012**: 1,882 proposals (2.80% successful)

Percentage levels:
- **0.0%**
- **10.0%**
- **20.0%**
- **30.0%**
- **40.0%**
- **50.0%**
- **60.0%**
- **70.0%**
Size of scheme and success rates (3)

*Discovery Indigenous 2012-2014: Success Rates*

- **2012**: 19 proposals, 34.5% successful
- **2013**: 22 proposals, 31.3% successful
- **2014**: 16 proposals, 38.50% successful
Size of scheme and success rates (4)

Australian Laureate Fellowships 2009-2013: Success Rates

- 2009: 133 proposals, 15 successful (10.1% success rate)
- 2010: 82 proposals, 15 successful (18.2% success rate)
- 2011: 122 proposals, 17 successful (13.8% success rate)
- 2012: 91 proposals, 17 successful (18.7% success rate)
- 2013: 95 proposals, 17 successful (17.9% success rate)
Size of scheme and success rates (5)

*Future Fellowships 2009-2013: Success Rates*
Gender Age
Participation and success of CIs in DP13 and DP14 by gender and career age
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
First-time awardees by scheme 2008-14

- # DECRA first-timers
- # DP first-timers
- % first-timers
Average age of lead CIs in DP grants (+DECRA 2012-2014)

DECRA average age ~35
Average age of lead CIs in DP grants (+DECRA 2012-2014 & FF 2009-2013)

\[ y = 0.0675x - 89.271 \]

\[ R^2 = 0.1905 \]
Histogram: Age of lead CIs in DP + DECRA
National Competitive Grants Program

Challenges / developments

Operationally
- Streamlining
- Harmonised funding rules
- Feedback

Strategically
- Success rates
- International engagement
- Linkage engagement
National Competitive Grants Program

Harmonised funding rules

- One set covering all schemes in the Program
- One section dedicated to the Discovery Program
National Competitive Grants Program

Harmonised funding rules

- Discovery Projects now available for 5 years
- No Discovery Outstanding Research Awards
- Increase in ICA $$ within DP to promote internationalisation
- Extension of career interruption time available in DECRA
- Harmonisation of cross-scheme eligibility rules for clarity and consistency
RMS 2.0

• ARC working on a more streamlined approach to grant applications

• RMS 2.0 - an improved grant application system

• Why change?

• Collaborate with sector on improvements

• Feedback
  - RMS helpdesk rms@arc.gov.au or 02 6287 6789
RMS 2.0—Significant Changes

- RMS 2.0 is a more intuitive system that offers:
  - Improved workflow
  - Enhanced navigation
  - Faster PDF generation, and
  - Other technical improvements
Funding rules consultation

• Supported:
  • 0.2 FTE at Eligible Organisation for CI Eligibility
  • Cross-scheme limits for Discovery Program schemes and ARC Centres of Excellence, ITRH, ITTC and SRIs
  • Continuing positions at Administering Organisation for successful Future Fellows
  • Future Fellowship salary awarded at one step higher than current academic level
Funding rules consultation

- Not Supported:
  - Change to FT eligibility criteria regarding a maximum of three years in continuing positions

- All supported items are in the process of being implemented.
Discovery Projects Grants rankings 2013

Additional feedback

Each symbol represents up to 2 observations.
DECRA Grants rankings 2013

DECRA 2013
Network = Go8

Additional feedback

discipline

Funded

1

0

BSB

EMI

HCA

PCE

SBE

Normalised Rank

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700
ERA 2010, 2012
Income and Quality

HERDC income Cat 1-3 by rating - 2010

- National Competitive
- Other Public
- Industry
Income and Quality

HERDC income Cat 1-3 by rating - 2012

- National Competitive G
- Other Public
- Industry

ERA rating

$1,400,000,000
$1,200,000,000
$1,000,000,000
$800,000,000
$600,000,000
$400,000,000
$200,000,000
$-
ERA 2012 ARC/NHMRC research funding by discipline
Summary of proposed changes to ERA 2015

- Reintroducing conference list (no ranking)
- Book publisher list (for data streamlining and collection only)
- New research output type: Research Report for an External Body
- Gender data (not for evaluation)
- Open access repository (not for evaluation)
- Peer review research outputs must be in ERA repository
- Staff eligibility for 0.4 FTE or less (publication association required)
- Conference citation trial (selected FoRs only)
- Peer review dashboard
Discussion/questions