



**Australian Government**

---

**Australian Research Council**

# **Federation Fellowships**

---

**2004 Selection Report**

# Federation Fellowships 2004

## Objectives

The Federation Fellowships were a major initiative arising from the Government's January 2001 statement *Backing Australia's Ability: an innovation action plan for the future*.

The aims of the Federation Fellowships are to:

- attract and retain outstanding researchers of international renown;
- build and strengthen world-class research capability in Australia;
- expand Australia's knowledge base by supporting ground-breaking, internationally competitive research;
- forge strong links between researchers, industry and the international research community; and
- support research that will result in economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits for Australia.

## Selection Process

Applications were assessed by a special committee recommended by the ARC Board and approved by the Minister. Members of the ARC's College of Experts provided assessments of applications, for which they had relevant expertise, as advice to the Committee. Applicant nominated external referees also provided reports.

## Selection Criteria

The primary assessment criteria for Fellowships are:

- investigator (60%);
- project/program of research activity (20%); and
- national benefit (20%).

## Summary of Outcomes

Up to 25 Federation Fellowships, to commence in 2004, were available to be awarded in this funding round with 143 applications received. The following overview summarises the characteristics of the applicant pool and the approved Fellows.

## Attracting and retaining outstanding researchers

The proportion of applicants who are currently working in overseas institutions increased significantly. Of 143 applicants, 38 (27%) are returning Australians, and of these 10 are approved for funding. Nineteen applications were submitted by foreign nationals, making up 13% of the total number of applications. Five applications from foreign nationals are approved for funding.

Resident Australians submitted 82 (57%) applications, of which ten are approved for funding. Non-Australians resident in Australia submitted 4 (3%) applications.

*Table 1: Citizenship and residency status of applicants and approved Fellows, current and previous rounds.*

<b>Citizenship and residency status</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>%</b>
Returning Australians	38	27%	10	40%
Foreign Nationals	19	13%	5	20%
Resident Australians	82	57%	10	40%
Non-Australians Resident in Australia	4	3%	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Approved Fellows: returning Australians**

There are ten approved for funding in this category. Nine are presently based overseas with one (Bush) currently holding a joint appointment with an Australian and American institution.

*Table 2: Returning Australians, and current and host institutions, approved for funding*

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Current institution</b>	<b>Host institution</b>
Brent	Oxford University, UK	The Australian National University
Bush	Massachusetts General Hospital, USA	The Mental Health Research Institute of Victoria
Chalmers	University of Arizona, USA	The Australian National University
Grant	Rice University, USA	The Australian National University
Griffiths	University of Pittsburgh, USA	The University of Queensland
Hill	City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong	The Australian National University
Mark	University of Groningen, Netherlands	The University of Queensland
Pettit	Princeton University, USA	The University of Sydney
Simpson	University of Oxford, UK	The University of Sydney
Wong	Washington University School of Medicine, USA	The University of Queensland

### Approved Fellows: foreign nationals

There are five applicants approved for funding in this category.

*Table 3: Foreign nationals, citizenship and current and host institutions, approved for funding*

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Country of citizenship</b>	<b>Current institution</b>	<b>Host institution</b>
Cooper	NZ	University of Oxford, UK	The University of Adelaide
Crain	USA	University of Maryland, USA	Macquarie University
Smith, S	UK	University of Edinburgh, UK	The University of Western Australia
Trewhella	USA	Los Alamos National Laboratory, USA	The University of Sydney
Wood	UK	University of Bristol, UK	Macquarie University

### Approved Fellows: resident Australians

There are 10 applicants approved for funding in this category. Of these, one is changing institutions.

*Table 4: Resident Australians, and current and host institutions, approved for funding*

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Current institution</b>	<b>Host institution</b>
Hoffmann	La Trobe University	University of Melbourne
Simmons	University of Western Australia	University of Western Australia
Nielsen	University of Queensland	University of Queensland
Trau	University of Queensland	University of Queensland
Bradford	University of New South Wales	University of New South Wales
Sloan	University of Newcastle	University of Newcastle
Wiseman	Griffith University	Griffith University
Hodgson	Deakin University	Deakin University
Jagadish	Australian National University	Australian National University
Hyde	Australian National University	Australian National University

### Host institutions

Host institutions (administering organisations) for the 25 approved applications are:

The Australian National University (6)

The University of Queensland (5)

The University of Sydney (3)

Macquarie University (2)  
 The University of Western Australia (2)  
 Deakin University (1)  
 Griffith University (1)  
 The Mental Health Research Institute (1)  
 The University of Adelaide (1)  
 The University of Melbourne (1)  
 The University of Newcastle (1)  
 The University of New South Wales (1)

### National Research Priorities

Twenty of the approved Fellowships broadly fall into the National Research Priority Areas:

- An Environmentally Sustainable Australia: three
- Promoting and Maintaining Good Health: three
- Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries: thirteen
- Safeguarding Australia: one

### ARC Discipline Clusters

Although a number of the applications lie squarely within particular discipline groupings, many overlap with two or three of the groupings. In broad terms the following table summarises the distribution.

*Table 5: applications and approved Fellows, by discipline grouping*

<b>ARC Discipline Grouping</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>%</b>
BSB	40	28%	7	28%
EE	20	14%	5	20%
HCA	11	8%	1	4%
MIC	10	7%	2	8%
PCG	46	32%	6	24%
SBE	16	11%	4	16%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>60%</b>

### Stage in career

In the 2004 round, the ARC hoped to attract an increasing number of applications from outstanding early- to mid- career researchers who could play a leadership role in building Australia's

internationally-competitive research capacity. As Table 5 shows, a greater proportion of applicants and approved Fellows are within 15 years of the award of their PhD.

*Table 6: Years since the award of PhD, applicants and approved Fellows, current and previous rounds.*

<b>Years since award of PhD</b>	<b>2002-2003 Applications</b>	<b>Funded</b>	<b>2004 Applications</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2004 Approved</b>	<b>%</b>
0-15 years	20%	28%	51	36%	8	32%
16-20 years	15%	22%	32	22%	7	28%
21/+ years	64%	49%	60	42%	10	40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Gender**

Of 143 applicants, 11 (8%) were female; of the 25 approved Fellows, two (8%) are female.

### **Program Budget**

The following allocations from the *Federation Fellowships* budget have been approved for Fellowships to commence in 2004.

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	TOTAL
\$7,598,550	\$7,598,550	\$7,598,550	\$7,598,550	\$7,598,550	\$37,992,750