

RESEARCH in the national interest - enabling the future

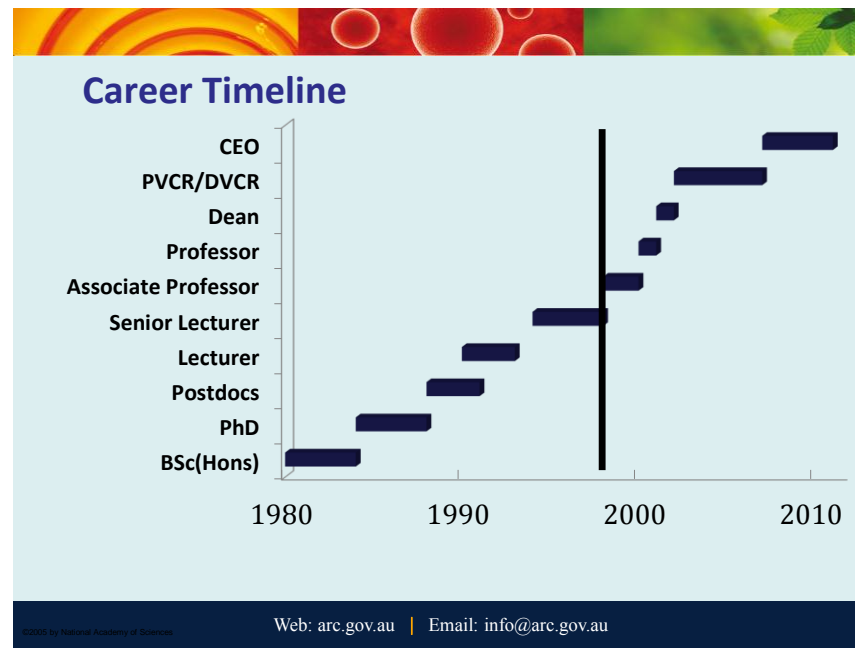



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Women in Chemistry @ Parliament House 25 August 2011

Professor Margaret Sheil
Australian Research Council

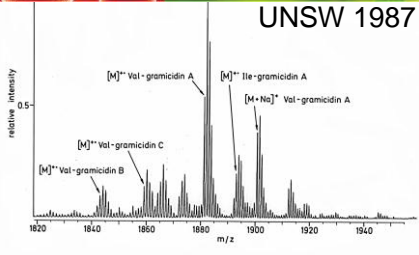
Research



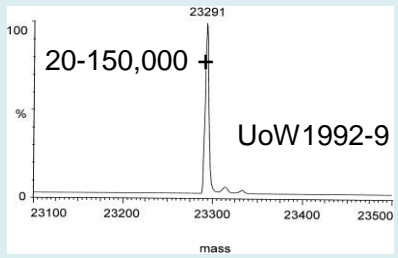


Professor Margaret Sheil with the latest addition to her laboratory - a new \$750,000 state-of-the-art mass spectrometer.

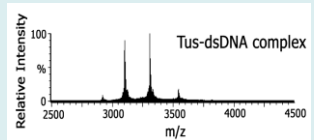
UNSW 1987



UoW 1992-9



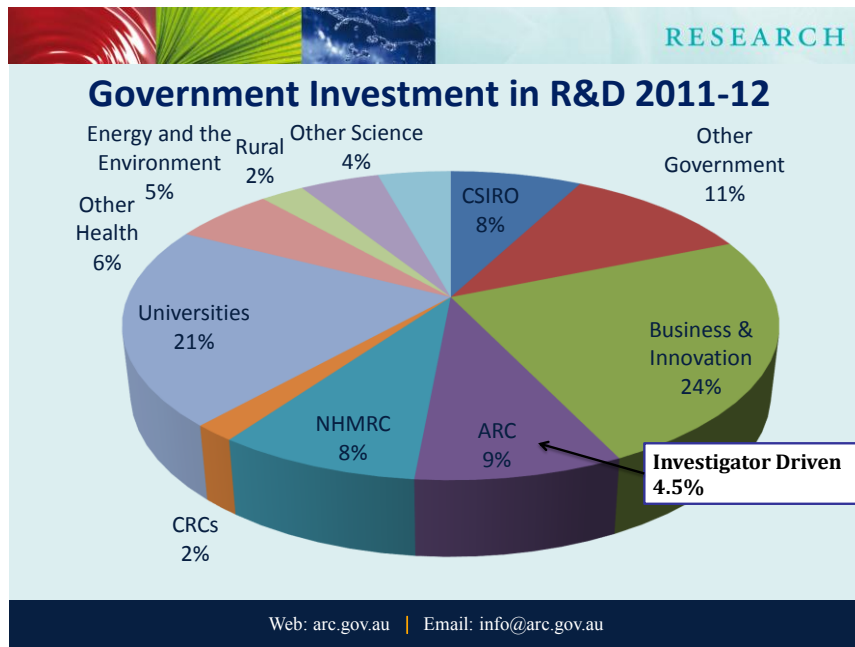
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Tus-dsDNA complex

“Its ridiculous to suggest this technique will have any value in understanding the changes in proteins due to cataract HE demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding or experience protein chemistry and would have to rely on the postdoc to do the experiments”
NHMRC reviewer

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RESEARCH

The ARC

National Competitive Grants Program
\$810M in 11-12

Evaluation and Policy

Discovery & Fellowships
\$502 M

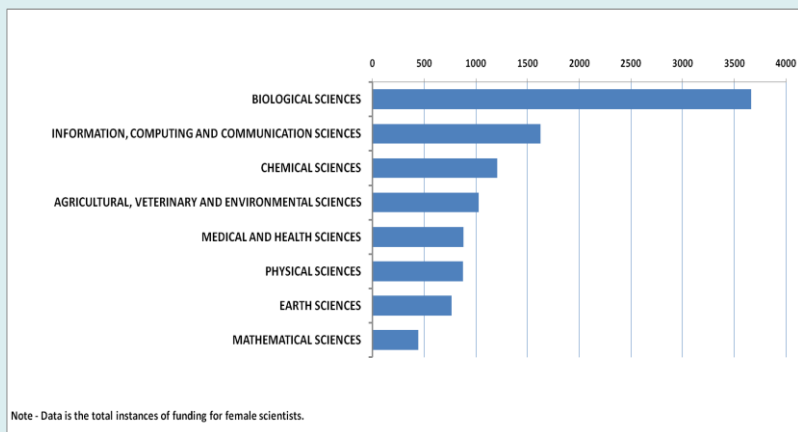
Linkage & Centres
\$308 M

Excellence in Research for Australia

- Statutory Agency established 2001
- Mission: *to deliver policy and programs that advance Australian research and innovation globally and benefit the community*
- Fund direct costs to Universities and partners
- All disciplines except clinical medicine & dentistry

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Funding instances for female scientists by 2-digit discipline (2001-09)



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Australia's Female Chemists

Doreen Clark AM
President of RACI
1994

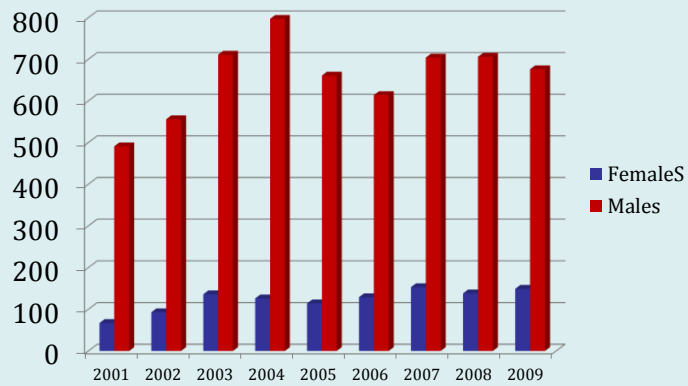
Joy Bear AM
Leighton Medal 1998

Dr Jean Youatt
Monash

"I did twice go and see professors about promotion, but I got no encouragement at all and I didn't know then what to do. To this day I don't know what the process is. I didn't know you could go ahead and apply anyway, so I just gave up. But that was part of my upbringing too: I had the reverse of assertiveness training."

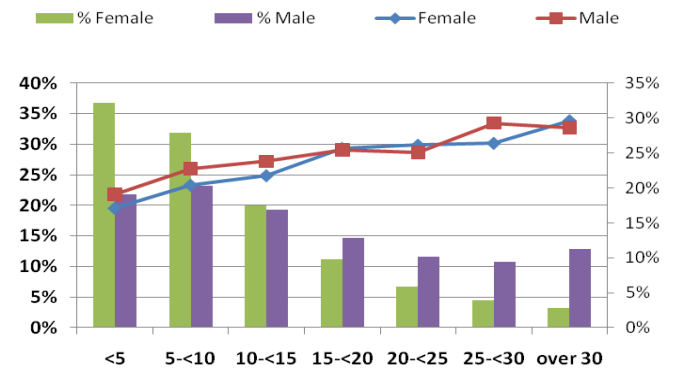
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Discovery Project Applications



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Proportion of male and female applicants and success rates by career age (years since PhD) (DPs, 2001-10)



Changing Language

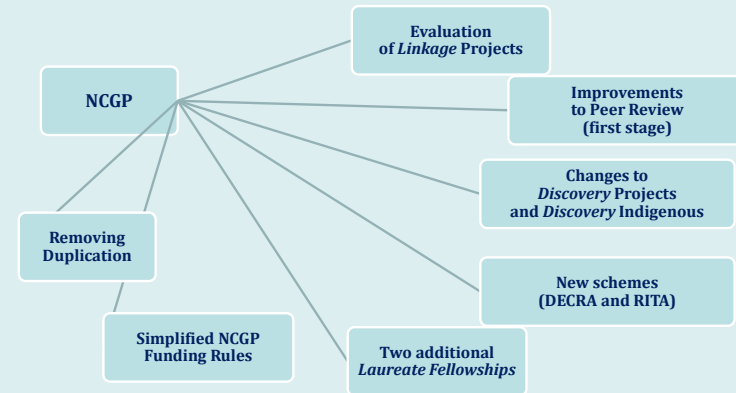
Research Opportunity & Performance Evidence (ROPE)

- changing how we measure excellence
track record v. performance evidence
- assessors take into account any career interruptions
 - childbirth
 - carer's responsibility
 - misadventure and illness
- more female assessors & committee members

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ARC– the latest developments



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- *“The Dept of Botany does not wish to reappoint her, chiefly because they realise her interest is entirely in research; partly as she was not entirely successful as a teacher of undergraduate work. The Dept obviously prefers a less gifted person who will accept a large amount of routine duty.”*

HOD on McClintock 1933

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Re-enforcing Leadership

ARC Federation and Laureate Fellows

2009	2010	2011
Tanya Monro	Jennifer Martin	Maria Forsyth
Michelle Simmons		Mahananda Dasgupta

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What else can we do?

- Nominate women for awards!!!!
- Universities/employers need to provide leadership/supportive environments and pro-active mentoring
- Mentoring must include advice on timing, *scale and scope* as well as actual quality of grant proposals and publications
- Universities/senior women/academies/societies etc. must encourage them to apply!

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Language and role models are important!

*A **mother**, top grant winner and master of high-tech instrumentation...., Professor Margaret Sheil*

Wisenet/Campus News
June 2000

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