



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

*Discovery Early Career
Research Award* scheme
for funding commencing in 2012

Research

Discussion Points

- The issues related to changes to *Discovery Projects* for funding commencing in 2012
- Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)
- Cross-scheme eligibility

The issues

- Range of diverse & overlapping Fellowships across the National Competitive Grants Program
- Success rates of ECRs within *Discovery Projects*
- Gender disparities identified in *Discovery Projects*
- Consequences of uniform selection criteria
- Need to build Australian research capacity
- Need to simplify a complex scheme

Discovery Projects for funding commencing in 2012

- A new senior career award within *Discovery Projects* - Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award (DORA)
- Previous ARC Discovery Fellowships no longer available (APD, ARF/QEII, APF)
- Funding for 3 yrs maximum in *Discovery Projects*
- Simplification of Funding Rules, application & assessment processes
- Revision of the selection criteria & assessment process
- International Collaboration Awards remain

DECRA: Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

- A new stand-alone ECR award
- Not integrated into the *Discovery Projects* scheme (and DORA)
- Up to 5 yrs post PhD (with possible 3 yr extension)
- Up to 200 DECRAAs each year
- Only one researcher may apply on each Proposal
- No Pre-Submission Eligibility Exemption Request process
- Simplified Post award variations allowed

DECRA: Objectives

- a. support and advance promising early career researchers
- b. promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways
- c. focus research effort in the National Research Priority areas to improve research capacity and policy outcomes; and
- d. enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments.

Definition of Research

...creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.

DECRA

- ARC funding will be provided to support salary (\$85K fixed p.a. including on costs) and project costs (at up to \$40K p.a.)
- Administering Organisations may ‘top up’ the salary and/or project costs
- Funding will be available for up to three years FTE from the ARC
- Flexibility for extending the period of the Award up to six years

DECRA: Selection Process

- Selection criteria: 50% project quality; 30% candidate; 20% institutional support
- The National Research Priorities are not a separate selection criteria
- Selection process is separate from Discovery Projects using the A-E assessment
- Proposed improved feedback to unsuccessful applicants
- No rejoinders

6.2.1 Discovery Early Career Research Award

- **Awarded** a PhD on or after 18 May 2006; or
- Commensurate with a significant career interruption...have been **awarded** a PhD on or after 18 May 2003
- Career interruption for maternity or parental leave; carer's responsibility; illness; international post doctoral appointments; or non research employment

6.2 DECRA – Grounds for PhD Award extension

- PhD must have been **awarded** at the closing time of submission of Proposals
- In principle:
 - Time removed from research
 - Evidence to support the requested career interruption must be kept by the Administering Organisation and provided to the ARC on request
 - Commensurate period: two year interruption equals two year extension to PhD submission date
- Applications will not be accepted if PhD awarded before 18 May 2003

7.1.3 Discovery Program – two grant rule

- Concurrent funding for a maximum of one Discovery Project, which can be as sole CI;
 - or
- As Centre Personnel under the ARC Research Centres Program, defined at p4 of the Funding Rules
- 7.1.6 A researcher will not be permitted to relinquish existing roles held at **1 January 2011** to circumvent these limits.
- A DECRA recipient cannot hold an ARC Fellowship concurrently – may apply in last year of Fellowship funding

...two grant rule

- 7.2.1 The ARC will not duplicate funding for research, including, including infrastructure, funded as at 1 January by the **Commonwealth**
 - Researchers should not submit the same Proposal for a DECRA and another ARC scheme - this does not preclude submitting complementary Proposals.

Commencement of Funding

- 5.1.4 – Funding for a DECRA will commence with effect 1 January 2012
- It is anticipated that there will be some flexibility, between 3 and 6 months, for commencement of the Project.

6.2.2 Appointment at the Administering Organisation – for the duration of the Award

- Appointment is required for the duration of the Award – it is not a requirement to apply.
- Appointment must be appropriate to support the DECRA recipient – minimum 3 years FTE.
- Honorary and/or Adjunct appointments are not sufficient to support the Award.

4.4 Strategic Statement:

- Research only and/or research and teaching pathways available during and after the Project.

6.2.6 Using the salary for other purposes

- Salary component may be used for other purposes in exceptional or changed personal circumstances, for example to provide teaching relief for a replacement researcher
- Approved by the Administering Organisation which must maintain evidence to support the conversion of the salary component
- Examples – short term leadership and career opportunities

DECRA

- 7.1.2 A researcher may only apply for up to two Awards over the period in which they are eligible.
- The Administering Organisation plays a key role in post award administration for DECRAAs
 - Approval of part time
 - Certification of career interruptions and exceptional or changed personal circumstances

DECRA -Reporting

- Progress Reports: Years 1 and 2 by Exception – must be submitted if significant issues are affecting the progress of the Project.
- End of Year Reports
- Audited Financial Statement
- Final Report: Within 12 months of the final payment or within 12 months of the final approved carryover of funds.

DECRA

Important Dates:

Opening time for submission of Proposals:

23 March 2011

Closing time for submission of Proposals:

18 May 2011 5:00pm AEST

Discovery Projects Fellowships

Previously:

- APD up to 110 per annum
- ARF/QEII up to 26 per annum
- APF up to 15 per annum

Proposed changes:

- Up to 200 DECRA per annum
- Up to 70 DORA per annum