International Conference on Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)
Wednesday 23 March 2011

Reaching for Excellence

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CEO, Australian Research Council

Web: arc.gov.au   Email: info@arc.gov.au
Government Investment in Research 2010-11

- Universities: 21%
- NHMRC et al: 12%
- CRCs & Other Science: 9%
- Other R&D Agencies: 11%
- Other business: 6%
- Industry Tax Concession: 18%
- Energy and Environment: 6%
- CSIRO: 9%
- ARC: 8%
Strategic Objectives

• To support excellence in research
• To build Australia’s research capacity
• To provide informed high quality policy advice to government
• To enhance research outcomes through effective evaluation
• To raise the profile of Australia’s research effort and be an effective advocate for its benefits
• NCGP funding (2010-11) = $708,733 million

• $376 million – Major Grants supporting 1126 innovative projects

• $255.9 million – 13 new ARC Centres of Excellence
Instances of scientists on submitted proposals (all schemes)

Data for Year 2010 does not include all schemes.
Distribution of female scientists by funding scheme (2001-10)

Schemes where female scientists participate (2001-2010) - total 100% - not all schemes listed

- Discovery - Projects: 55.6%
- Linkage - Projects: 17%
- Linkage - Infrastructure: 12%
- Centres of Excellence: 2%
- Linkage International: 3%
- Linkage - APAI Only: 2%
- Special Research Initiatives: 4.4%

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Success rate of female scientists by funding scheme (2001-10)
Participation of female scientists by funding scheme (2001-10)
Proportion of male and female applicants and corresponding success rates by career age (DPs, 2001-10)
Career age and success rate of female scientists
(DPs, 2001-10)
Career age and success rate of female scientists (DPs, 2001-10)
Funding split in Sciences by gender (2001-10)

Funding split in Sciences (2001 - 2010)

- Male-only projects: 62%
- Mixed-gender projects: 32%
- Female-only projects: 6%
Percentage of female scientists on funded projects by 2-digit discipline (2001-09)
Funding instances for female scientists by 2-digit discipline (2001-09)

Note - Data is the total instances of funding for female scientists.
How do we then encourage women scientists to reach for excellence?
Changing language; changing landscape

Encouraging opportunity; not simply *providing* it

Re-enforcing leadership
CHANGING LANGUAGE; CHANGING LANDSCAPE
Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)

- Changing how we measure excellence
  Track record v. Performance evidence

- Assessors take into account any career interruptions, such as:
  - Childbirth
  - Carer’s responsibility
  - Misadventure
  - Debilitating illness
ENCOURAGING OPPORTUNITY
Encouraging Opportunity

Career interruptions

For ECRs and women researchers

Options to convert & teaching transitions
Encouraging Opportunity

Australian Laureate Fellowships
- 2x PhD
- 2x Post-Doc
- 17 5-year awards

Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)
- $125,000
- 200 p.a. 3-year awards

Researchers in Industry Training Awards
- $30,000
- 100 3-year awards (bi-annual)

Future Fellowships
- Up to $143,000
- 200 p.a. 4-year fellowships
The ARC aims to:

- Provide opportunities for researchers at every career stage
- Foster a range of different cohorts

Strategic Objectives
The ARC does not:

• Employ researchers directly

• Aim to provide a complete externally funded career structure

• Fund all the excellent research proposals it receives
RE-ENFORCING LEADERSHIP
RE-ENFORCING LEADERSHIP

President, Academy of Science

Elizabeth Blackburn, Nobel Laureate

Chief Executive, ARC

Chief Executive, CSIRO

President, FASTS

Chief Executive, ATSE

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Laureate Fellows</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Bernadette McSherry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cheryl Praeger</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Frances Baum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tanya Monro</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Michelle Simmons</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Lesley Head</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Hilary Charlesworth</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margaret Jolly</td>
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<td>Hanna Kokko</td>
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<td>Lorraine Mazerolle</td>
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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
The ARC is committed to working with institutions to support careers in flexible and innovative ways in order to maximise opportunities for our talent.

Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO, Australian Research Council