Future Priorities and Funding of the National Research Effort

Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO, Australian Research Council
Government Investment in Research
2010-11
National Competitive Grants Program
$708M

- Discovery & Fellowships
  $423 M
- Linkage & Centres
  $285 M

Evaluation and Policy

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
- Operating budget of $22.117 million (2.2% for NCGP)
Investigator-driven research = 4.7%
NCGP Programs & Schemes

**Discovery Program**
- Discovery Projects
- Discovery Indigenous Researcher Development
- Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)
- Future Fellowships
- Australian Laureate Fellowships

**Linkage Program**
- Linkage Projects
- Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities
- Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects
- Researchers in Industry Training Award (RITA)
NCGP Programs & Schemes

Centres

ARC Centres of Excellence

Co-funded Centres of Excellence
(NICTA, ACPFG, ASCC, NCGRT)

Special Research Initiatives

Research in Bionic Vision Science and Technology

Stem Cell Science

EMBL
# ARC Awards and Fellowships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DECRA</th>
<th>FT</th>
<th>DORA</th>
<th>FL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Career Stage</strong></td>
<td>Early career</td>
<td>Mid career</td>
<td>Later career</td>
<td>World-class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PhD award</strong></td>
<td>0-5 (+3)</td>
<td>5-15 (+7)</td>
<td>Level C and above</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salary</strong></td>
<td>Contribution of $85,000/year</td>
<td>Three salary levels (equivalent to C-E)</td>
<td>Three salary levels (equivalent to C-E)</td>
<td>Salary supplement of $104,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project costs</strong></td>
<td>Up to $40,000/year</td>
<td>Up to $50,000/year</td>
<td>As per project grant</td>
<td>Up to $300,000/year Up to two post-docs and two PhDs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Responsibility for Research Careers

Universities

MRIs

NHMRC

Research Careers

ARC
- DECRAs
- DORAs
- ALFs

Futures
The ARC aims to:

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

- Researchers in industry
- Research-only
- Women
- Indigenous
- Teaching and research
The ARC does not:

• Employ researchers directly

• Aim to provide a complete externally funded career structure

• Fund all the excellent research proposals it receives
ARC Funding in Research Infrastructure

- Intra-institutional
- Inter-institutional
- Integrated National
- Systemic / Strategic Infrastructure
- Landmark Infrastructure

LIEF
Responsibility for Research in Industry

Industry-sponsored research
- One to one relationships

ARC Linkage
- 1-5 institutions
- & 1-5 industry partners

CRCs
- Stronger end-user focus
- Many institutions with many partners

Other Industry Support
Involvement of Chief Investigators in ARC Funding Programs (2009)
Partnerships (Industry)

- Non-Australian APA(I)s
- Linkage Projects
- Research in Industry Training Award
- Cooperative sharing - research facilities
Involvement of Chief Investigators in ARC Funding Programs
(2002-09)

- Proportion of CI holding LP projects only
- Proportion of CI holding DP projects only
- Overlap (CIs holding projects in both schemes)

Graph showing trends from 2002 to 2009.
Responsibility for International Engagement

- Institution/Institution
- Researcher/Researcher
- Government/Government priorities
Partnerships (International)

- Non-Australian PhD candidates
- Non-Australian Fellowships
- Overseas partner investigators
- DECRA encourages intl. post-docs
The ARC has:

- Reduced overlap;
- Redefined scheme purposes;
- Addressed issues in under-represented groups; and
- Better defined our role with respect to industry and international engagement.

Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO, Australian Research Council