DIISR SES Forum
Tuesday 5 April 2011

Future Priorities and Funding of the National Research Effort

Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO, Australian Research Council
Government Investment in Research
2010-11

- Industry Tax Concession: 18%
- Energy and Environment: 6%
- CRCs & Other Science: 9%
- Other R&D Agencies: 11%
- Other business: 6%
- ARC: 8%
- NHMRC et al: 12%
- CSIRO: 9%
- Universities: 21%
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)
Government Investment in Research
2010-11

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>
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<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>
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<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</td>
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<td>Up to two post-docs and two PhDs</td>
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Responsibility for Research Careers

- **Universities**
- **Research Careers**
- **MRIs**
- **NHMRC**
- **Futures**
- **ARC**
  - DECRAs
  - DORAs
  - ALFs
The ARC aims to:

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

Researchers in industry

Women

Research- only

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)

- Discovery Program Projects Only: 2648 (45.3%)
- Linkage Program Projects Only: 2351 (40.3%)
- Overlap: 841 (14.4%)
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/Institution

ARC
- Researcher/Researcher

DIISR
- 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 underrepresented groups; and

✓ Better defined our role with respect to industry and international engagement.

Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO, Australian Research Council