



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

**Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO ARC**

Australia's Research Future

**2008 AAIR Forum
19 November**





The ARC



- Statutory Agency established 2001
- Fund direct costs to Universities and partners
- Projects, fellows and infrastructure ($\$ < 5$ M)
- Indirect costs awarded directly to institutions
- All disciplines except clinical medicine & dentistry





Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science & Research

Department
of
Innovation,
Industry,
Science &
Research

Australian
Research
Council
Act 2001

CSIRO
AIMS
ANSTO
AAO
Chief
Scientist





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





The future of research

- Internationalisation
- Indigenous
- *Future Fellowships*
- *Australian Laureate Fellowships*
- Changes to *Linkage Projects*
- Early Career Researchers
 - some history, which lead us into the future
- Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative
 - Leanne Harvey will discuss on Friday



New focus on internationalisation



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

- Strengthening internationalisation in all ARC schemes (rather than dedicated schemes)
- All fellowships will be open to international applicants to work in Australia
- Provisions for international collaboration within all our programs
- Significant changes to *Linkage Projects Scheme*
 - International organisations
 - *From 2009* citizenship/residency requirements for postgraduate students removed





Future Fellowships

- New \$844 million scheme
- Opened Friday 3 October, closes 26 November
- Mid career (5-15 years PhD) researchers
- 200 x 4 year Fellowships over 5 years
- Salaries up to \$140K (3 levels) + \$50K pa support
- Aim to build capacity in universities and publicly-funded research institutions
- Encourage collaboration across industry, research institutions and between disciplines





Australian Laureate Fellowships

- Will allocate \$239 million, over 5 years (replaces Federation Fellows)
- Most prestigious Fellowships (Professor + \$100K)
- National and international applicants
- Emphasis on research leadership & mentoring
- Funds for 2 postdoctoral and 2 postgraduate researchers and project funding (up to \$300K)
- Open October 2008, close 10th December





Linkage Projects 2009

Changes to the funding rules

- Upper limit to each proposal - \$2m per year
- Support/allowance for CI to be relieved of other duties – limit of \$66k pa per CI.
- Overseas higher education organisations are eligible to be PO; requires at least one Australian PO with proposal
- Citizenship/residency requirements for
- APA-I has been removed
- (next round closing end of November)





Indigenous

- On 23 July, the Minister announced his intention to introduce new public funding arrangements that will create additional opportunities for Indigenous Australians pursuing academic research careers.
- This included several new fellowships and the opening of ARC schemes to the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).





Early Career Researchers (ECR)

Through the National Competitive Grants Program, the ARC supports research training and careers

In particular, the support for ECRs is provided through the *Discovery Projects* scheme.





History of ARC support for ECRs

- *Research Fellowships* scheme – established in 1991
- From 2001 the *Discovery Projects* scheme incorporated support for research fellowships and a separate funding allocation for ECR-only proposals
- In 1999, new funding options for ECRs were introduced into ARC fellowships





ERC in *Discovery Projects*

In the 2009 Funding Rules:

ECR means a researcher who has a PhD awarded on or after 6 March 2003.

If a researcher does not satisfy this criterion but considers herself/himself to have equivalent research degree or experience of similar duration and wishes to be nominated as having ECR status, a case must be presented within the Proposal (see the “DP Instructions to Applicants for funding commencing in 2009”).





ERC target - *Discovery Projects*

The ARC identifies a target level of funding within *Discovery Projects* for projects on which all listed researchers have ECR status (ECR-Only Proposals).





ECR proposals

<i>Discovery Projects</i>		2006	2007	2008
ECR-only proposals	Applications	869	742	682
	Funded	127	128	106
	Success rate	14.6%	17.3%	15.5%
Proposals involving ECR	Applications	1610	1599	1562
	Funded	286	308	311
	Success rate	17.8%	19.3%	19.9%

Note: Figures provided may be incomplete as some ECR do not identify themselves as such in their funding proposals.





ECR compared to total proposals

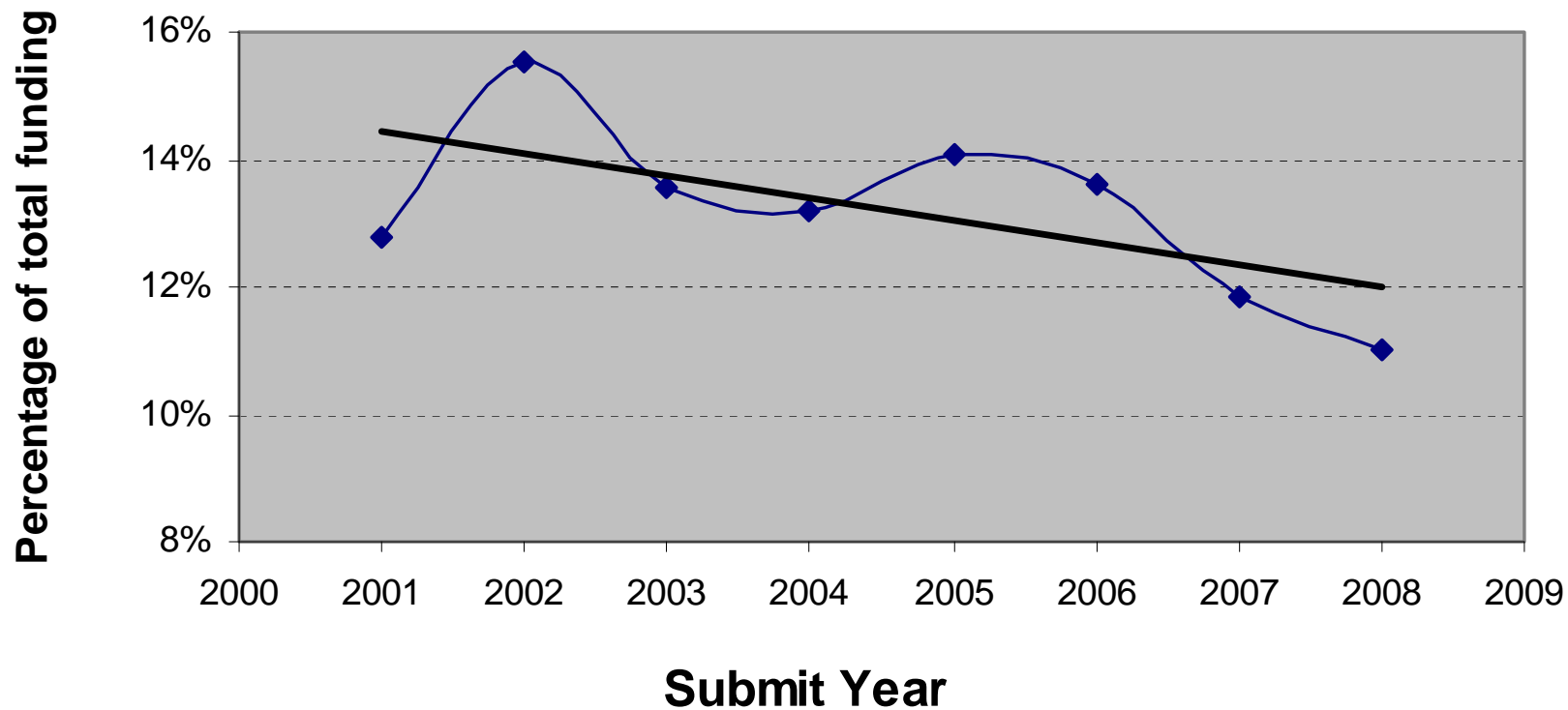
<i>Discovery Projects</i>		2006	2007	2008
ECR-only proposals as a proportion of total proposals	ECR-only	869	742	682
	Total	4033	4112	4152
	% of total	21.5%	18.0%	16.4%
<i>ECR-only proposals funded as a proportion of total proposals funded</i>	ECR-only	127	128	106
	Total	822	878	845
	% of total	15.4%	14.6%	12.5%

Note: Figures provided may be incomplete as some ECR do not identify themselves as such in their funding proposals.





Proportion of DP Funding for ECR only projects (over project life)





ECR-only by discipline

	Proposals 2006	Funded 2006	Proposals 2007	Funded 2007	Proposals 2008	Funded 2008
BSB	142	23	105	18	93	13
EE	100	18	79	16	72	8
HCA	201	29	166	21	154	19
MIC	132	23	122	23	82	19
PE	143	25	126	29	151	21
SBE	151	9	144	21	130	26
Total	869	127	742	128	682	106

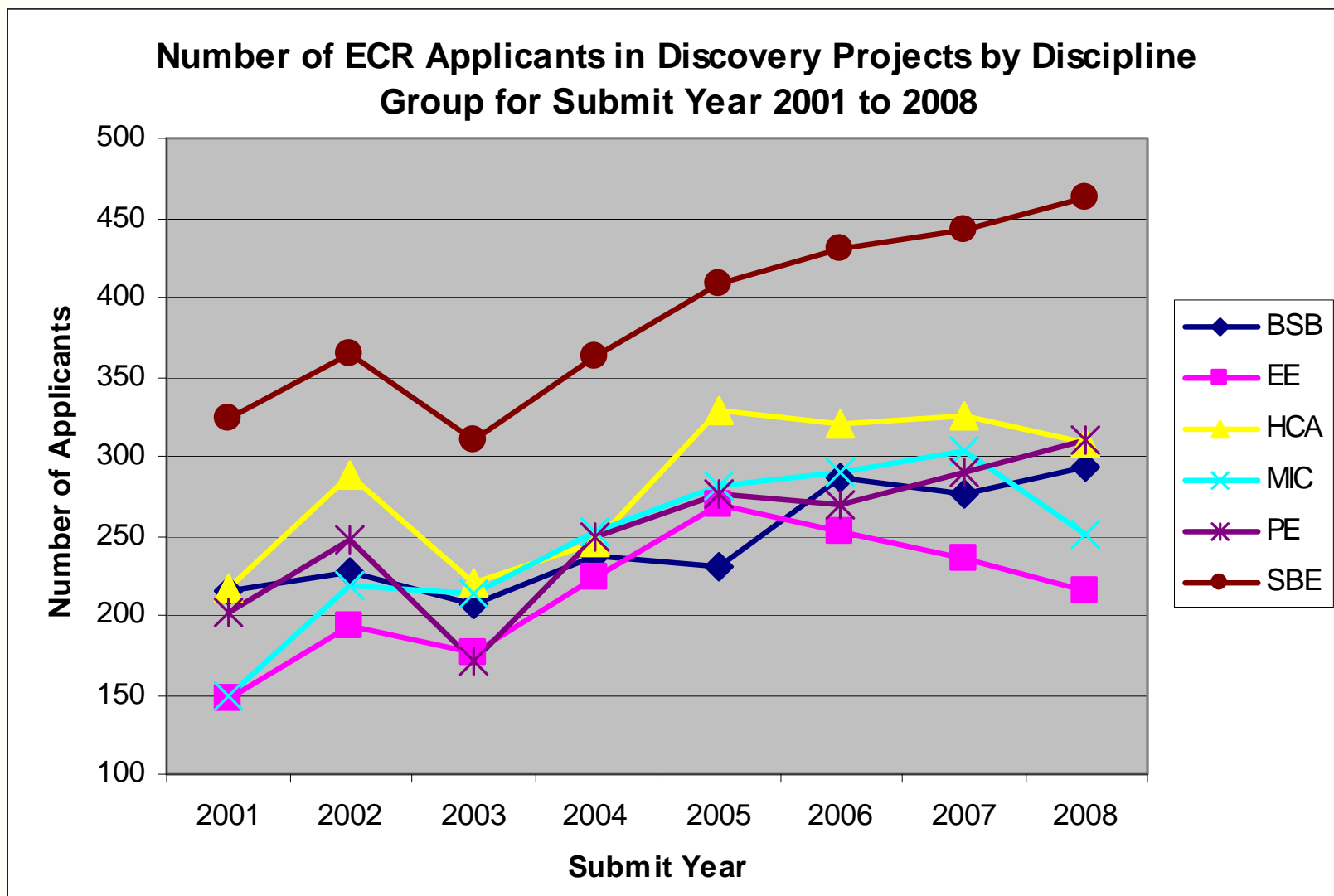




ECR-only funding by discipline

	ECR-only 2006	% of total	ECR-only 2007	% of total	ECR-only 2008	% of total
BSB	\$7,009,291	18.7	\$7,251,133	20.3	\$3,726,910	11.7
EE	\$5,131,720	13.7	\$3,798,588	10.6	\$2,355,773	7.4
HCA	\$7,642,280	20.4	\$5,336,390	15.0	\$6,490,761	20.4
MIC	\$5,141,114	13.7	\$5,254,581	14.7	\$5,384,510	16.9
PE	\$9,576,062	25.6	\$9,524,878	26.7	\$7,623,955	24.0
SBE	\$2,939,008	7.9	\$4,521,611	12.7	\$6,228,685	19.6







Number of ERC on projects

	ECR only proposals	ECR only funded	All proposals	All funded
2006	961	137	1848	324
2007	854	137	1874	250
2008	785	129	1842	366

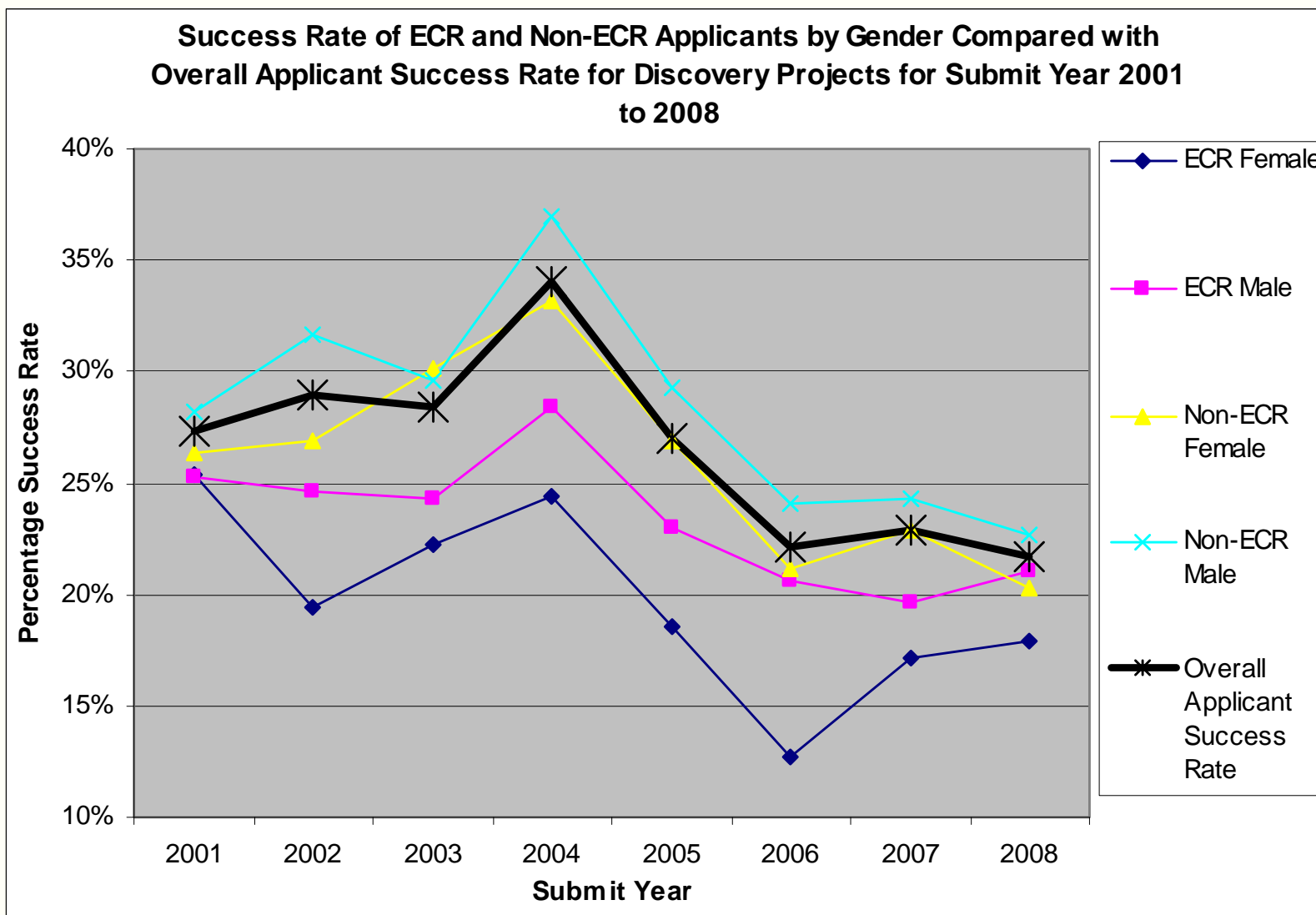


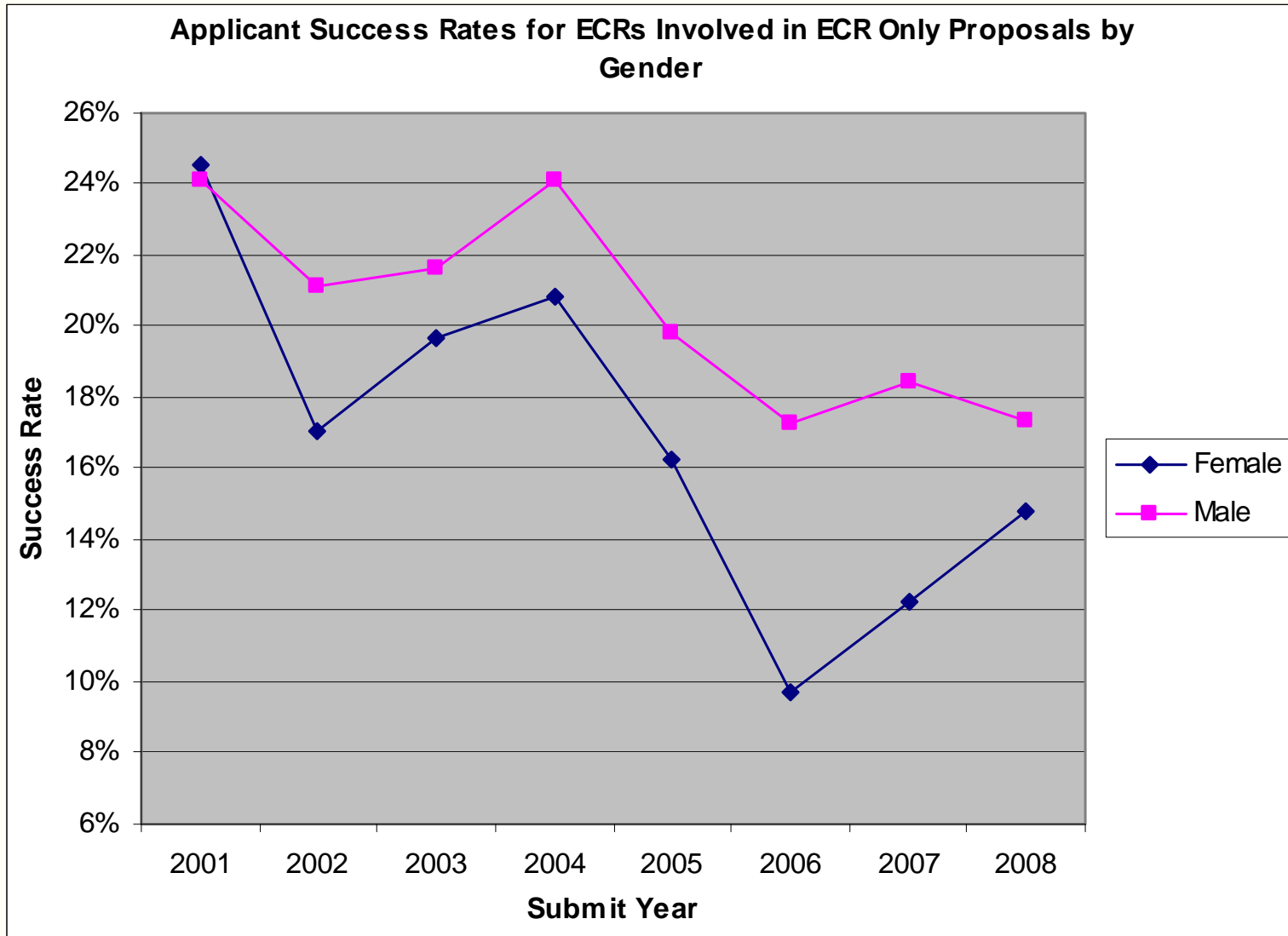


Age distribution

Range	2006	2007	2008	Average	avg %
<30	317	354	295	265	16%
30-35	661	688	722	573	35%
35-40	362	370	409	349	21%
40-45	228	184	182	205	13%
45-50	131	140	118	122	8%
50-55	86	76	75	71	4%
>55	63	62	41	44	3%
Total	1848	1874	1842	1628	100%









ECR applicants - multiple grants

36 per cent of ECR applicants (2763) obtained a *Discovery Projects* grant between 2001 and 2008.

Of these, 30 per cent (841) were successful in obtaining two or more *Discovery Projects* grants.





ECR Chief Investigators

A total of 692 ECR Chief Investigators were funded at least once in the years 2001 to 2004; 380 of these were subsequently successful in participating in schemes under the NCGP.

