



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Federation Fellowships

2005 Selection Report

Federation Fellowships

for funding commencing in 2005-06

Objectives

The Federation Fellowships were a major initiative arising from the Government's January 2001 statement *Backing Australia's Ability: an innovation action plan for the future*.

The aims of the Federation Fellowships are to:

- attract and retain outstanding researchers of international renown;
- build and strengthen world-class research capability in Australia;
- expand Australia's knowledge base by supporting ground-breaking, internationally competitive research;
- forge strong links between researchers, industry and the international research community; and
- support research that will result in economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits for Australia.

Selection Process

Applications were assessed by a selection advisory committee of the ARC Board and approved by the Minister. Members of the ARC's College of Experts provided assessments of applications, for which they had relevant expertise, as advice to the Committee. Applicant nominated external referees also provided reports.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria for Federation Fellowships are:

- investigator (50%);
- project/program of research activity (30%); and
- national benefit (20%).

Summary of Outcomes

Up to 25 Federation Fellowships to commence in 2005-06 were available to be awarded in this funding round. A total of 190 applications were submitted to the ARC. Two of the submitted applications were subsequently withdrawn by the applicants. The following overview summarises the characteristics of the applicant pool and the recommended Fellows.

Attracting and retaining outstanding researchers

Applications were open to outstanding researchers of international renown, resident either within Australia or overseas. The maximum number of Fellowships available to be awarded to foreign nationals was limited to five.

In comparison with the previous year, the proportion of foreign nationals applying for Federation Fellowships increased slightly and the proportion of resident Australians decreased slightly.

Of the 188 applications, 47 (25%) of these were from Australians intending to return to Australia, and of these 4 are being awarded funding. Thirty-six applications, or 19% of the total number of applications, were submitted by foreign nationals. Five applications from foreign nationals are approved for funding. Ninety-seven applications were received from resident Australians, of which 15 are to be awarded Federation Fellowships. Of the eight applications received from non-Australians resident in Australia, none were recommended for funding.

The following table shows the citizenship and residency status of applicants and those being awarded Federation Fellowships.

Table 1: Citizenship and residency status - current and previous rounds.
Commencing in 2004-05 Commencing in 2005-06

Citizenship / residency status	% applications	% funded	No. applications 2005-06	% applications	No. Awarded	% Awarded
Returning Australians	27%	40%	47	25%	4	17%
Foreign nationals	13%	20%	36	19%	5	21%
Resident Australians	57%	40%	97	52%	15	62%
Non-Australians resident in Australia	3%	0%	8	4%	0	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	188	100%	24	100%

Recommended Fellows: returning Australians

There are four applicants recommended for funding in this category.

Table 2: Returning Australians to be awarded funding - current and host institutions

Applicant	Current institution	Host institution
Fitzpatrick, S	University of Chicago	The University of Melbourne
Gaensler, B	Harvard University	The University of Sydney
Marshall, L	Arasor Corporation	Macquarie University
Parker, A	University of Oxford	The University of Sydney

Recommended Fellows: foreign nationals

There are five applicants recommended for funding in this category.

Table 3: Foreign nationals to be awarded funding - citizenship and current and host institutions

Applicant	Country of citizenship	Current institution	Host institution
Bowman, J	USA	University of California Davis	Monash University
Hodges, J	UK	Medical Research Council (UK)	The University of New South Wales
Keane, M	USA	Yale University	University of Technology, Sydney
Maini, P	UK	University of Oxford	The University of Sydney
Smith, J	UK	University of Heidelberg	Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

Recommended Fellows: resident Australians

There are 15 applicants recommended for funding in this category. Of these, one is changing institutions.

Table 4: Resident Australians to be awarded funding - current and host institutions

Applicant	Current institution	Host institution
Barme, G	The Australian National University	The Australian National University
Bond, A	Monash University	Monash University
Charlesworth, H	The Australian National University	The Australian National University
Davis, T	The University of New South Wales	The University of New South Wales
England, M	The University of New South Wales	The University of New South Wales
Hartley, J	Queensland University of Technology	Queensland University of Technology
Keper, C	The University of Sydney	The University of Sydney
Kobe, B	The University of Queensland	The University of Queensland
Mattick, J	The University of Queensland	The University of Queensland
Muddle, B	Monash University	Monash University
Mulvaney, P	The University of Melbourne	The University of Melbourne
Randolph, M	The University of Western Australia	The University of Western Australia
Schmidt, B	The Australian National University	The Australian National University
Shine, R	The University of Sydney	The University of Sydney
Vaux, D	Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research	La Trobe University

Host institutions

Host institutions (administering organisations) for the 24 recommended applications are:

The Australian National University (3)

The University of Queensland (2)

The University of Sydney (5)

Macquarie University (1)

The University of Western Australia (1)

The University of New South Wales (3)

La Trobe University (1)

Monash University (3)

Queensland University of Technology (1)

The University of Melbourne (2)

University of Technology, Sydney (1)

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (1)

National Research Priorities

The 24 recommended Fellowships fall under the following National Research Priorities:

An Environmentally Sustainable Australia (3): England, Randolph, Shine.

Promoting and Maintaining Good Health (3): Hodges, Maini, Vaux.

Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries (15): Bond, Bowman, Davis, Gaensler, Hartley, Keane, Keper, Kobe, Mattick, Marshall, Muddle, Mulvaney, Parker, Schmidt, Smith.

Safeguarding Australia (3): Barme, Charlesworth, Fitzpatrick.

ARC Discipline Clusters

Although a number of the applications lie squarely within particular discipline groupings, many overlap with two or three of the discipline groupings. In broad terms, the following table summarises the distribution.

Table 5: *Disciplines of all applications - current and previous rounds*
Commencing in 2004-05 Commencing in 2005-06

ARC Discipline Grouping	% applications	% funded	No. applications 2005-06	% applications	No. awarded	% awarded
BSB	28%	28%	41	22%	6	25%
EE	14%	20%	29	15%	3	13%
HCA	8%	4%	22	12%	4	17%
MIC	7%	8%	23	12%	2	8%
PCG	32%	24%	49	26%	7	29%
SBE	11%	16%	24	13%	2	8%
TOTAL	100%	100%	188	100%	24	100%

BSB = Biological Sciences and Biotechnology; EE – Engineering and Environmental Sciences; HCA = Humanities and Creative Arts; MIC = Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences; PCG = Physics, Chemistry and Geoscience; SBE = Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences

Stage in career

Consistent with the scheme's objectives, the ARC hoped to attract applications from early- to mid-career researchers who could play a leadership role in building Australia's internationally-competitive research capacity. As shown in Table 6, a third of all applicants are within 15 years of the award of their PhD. Of the recommended Fellows, 42% are within 15 years of the award of their PhD.

Table 6: *Years since the award of PhD, - current and previous rounds.*
Commencing in 2004-05 Commencing in 2005-06

Years since award of PhD	% applications	% funded	No. applications 2005-06	% applications	No. awarded	% awarded
0-15 years	36%	32%	61	33%	10	42%
16-20 years	22%	28%	52	28%	7	29%
21/+ years	42%	40%	74	39%	7	29%
unknown	-	-	1	<1%	-	-
TOTAL	100%	100%	188	100%	24	100%

Age and gender

As Table 7 shows, there are 15 applicants recommended for funding under the age of 50. Of 188 applicants, 24 (13%) were female; of the 24 recommended Fellows, 2 (8%) are female.

Table 7: *Age distribution of applicants - current and previous rounds*
Commencing in 2004-05 Commencing in 2005-06

Age cohort	% applications	% funded	No. applications	% applications	No. awarded	% awarded
< 40 years	11%	32%	29	15%	6	25%
40-49 years	43%	28%	87	47%	9	38%
50-59 years	41%	40%	61	32%	8	33%
60 / + years	4%	0%	11	6%	1	4%
TOTAL	100%	100%	188	100%	24	100

Start-up project grants

Applicants who have had their place of work and place of residence outside Australia for a period of time are eligible to receive start-up project funds up to a maximum of \$400,000 over two years, in addition to salary support.

Of the 24 recommended applications 9 applicants requested start-up grants. A total of \$3,245,988 over two years is recommended by the selection committee in addition to salary support for the Fellowships.

Table 8 shows the applicants that requested start-up project grants and the amount recommended by the selection committee.

Table 8: Recommended start-up grants budgets by year and applicant

Applicant	2005-06	2006-07
Bowman, J	\$251,868	\$141,868
Fitzpatrick, S	\$0	\$397,838
Gaensler, B	\$240,000	\$159,000
Hodges, J	\$180,000	\$170,000
Keane, M	\$155,000	\$205,000
Maini, P	\$171,494	\$175,492
Marshall, L	\$400,000	\$0
Parker, A	\$308,399	\$90,029
Smith, J	\$100,000	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$1,806,761	\$1,439,227

Total Program Budget

The following allocations from the *Federation Fellowships* budget have been recommended for Fellowships to commence in 2005-06. The total budget for years 2005-06 and 2006-07 includes the start-up project grants recommended by the selection committee.

Table 9: Total program budget by year

Budget item	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	TOTAL
Salary support	\$7,447,800	\$7,447,800	\$7,447,800	\$7,447,800	\$7,447,800	\$37,239,000
Start-up grant	\$1,806,761	\$1,439,227	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,245,988
TOTAL	\$9,254,561	\$8,887,027	\$7,447,800	\$7,447,800	\$7,447,800	\$40,484,988