



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Australian Laureate Fellowships

**Selection Report
(for funding commencing in 2011)**

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Overview

The Australian Research Council's *Australian Laureate Fellowships* scheme reflects the Australian Government's commitment to support excellence in research by attracting world-class researchers and research leaders to key positions in Australia.

Objectives

The objectives of the *Australian Laureate Fellowships* scheme are to:

- a. attract and retain outstanding researchers and research leaders of international repute;
- b. build and strengthen world-class research capability in Australia;
- c. provide an excellent research training environment and exemplary mentorship to nurture early-career researchers;
- d. expand Australia's knowledge base by supporting ground-breaking, internationally competitive research;
- e. forge strong links among researchers, industry and the international research community; and
- f. support research that will result in economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits for Australia.

Selection Process

The closing date for proposals was 27 January 2011. Proposals were submitted through the ARC Research Management System.

Proposals were reviewed by an ARC Selection Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC was informed and advised by assessments provided by readers who had relevant expertise. Those readers were members of the ARC College of Experts, detailed and specialised assessors. The SAC:

- reviewed each proposal;
- ranked each proposal relative to others on the basis of the proposal and the assessor reports and applicant rejoinders; and
- prepared funding recommendations and recommended budget allocations.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria and corresponding weightings for *Australian Laureate Fellowships* proposals are:

- Investigator (40%);
- Project/Program of research activity (30%);
- Mentoring/Capacity Building (30%).

Funding Levels and Duration

Australian Laureate Fellowships projects are funded for 5 years on a full-time basis, subject to sufficient funding being available for the *Australian Laureate Fellowships* scheme, the provisions of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (the ARC Act), and continued satisfactory progress of the *Australian Laureate Fellowships* project.

In addition to the Australian Laureate Fellowship salary supplement and salary-related (on-cost) support, the ARC may provide Australian Laureate Fellows with:

- a. additional funding for up to 2 postdoctoral research associates for 5 years each and up to 2 postgraduate researchers for 4 years each; and
- b. for Eligible Organisations listed in Appendix C1 of the *Australia Laureate Fellowships Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2011*, project funding of up to \$300,000 per annum.

Of the 17 approved Australian Laureate Fellows, the average amount of approved funding is \$2,618,641 in total over 5 years. In addition to the total Australian Laureate Fellowship salary support of \$11,330,670, a total of \$17,206,782 is approved for postdoctoral research associates and postgraduate researchers and a further \$15,979,450 for general project funding. While funding is awarded for *Australian Laureate Fellowships* proposals for 5 years, the ARC Act applies limits in relation to the amount and years for which the Minister may approve funding. At the time of award, funding is approved only up to and including the 2013-2014 financial year. Subsequent years and associated funding limits are added by amendment to the Act, following which funding for the additional years may be made available. Accordingly, the term "indicative funding" is used throughout this report to denote the total level of funding which it is proposed to be made available, once all years to which funding proposals relate have been legislated.

The following table shows indicative funds for approved *Australian Laureate Fellowships* proposals for commencement in 2011

Table 1. Indicative funds for approved *Australian Laureate Fellowships* proposals for funding commencing in 2011

| Budget item | 2011-12 \$ | 2012-13 \$ | 2013-14 \$ | 2014-15 \$ | 2015-16 \$ | TOTAL \$ |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| FL Salary support + on-costs | 2,266,134 | 2,266,134 | 2,266,134 | 2,266,134 | 2,266,134 | 11,330,670 |
| ARC Postdoctoral Researchers | 2,700,918 | 2,700,918 | 2,700,918 | 2,700,918 | 2,700,918 | 13,504,590 |
| ARC Postgraduate Researchers | 517,218 | 925,548 | 925,548 | 925,548 | 408,330 | 3,702,192 |
| Project Funding | 3,332,153 | 3,190,814 | 3,251,492 | 3,214,163 | 2,990,828 | 15,979,450 |
| TOTAL | 8,816,423 | 9,083,414 | 9,144,092 | 9,106,763 | 8,366,210 | 44,516,902 |

Summary of Outcomes

A total of 141 proposals were submitted to the ARC. Two of the submitted proposals were subsequently withdrawn by the Administering Organisation and, consequently, 139 proposals were considered for funding. Of the 139 proposals considered, 17 proposals are approved for funding. The overall success rate for the *Australian Laureate Fellowships scheme for funding commencing in 2011* is 12.2%.

The following summarises the characteristics of the considered and the approved Australian Laureate Fellowship Candidates.

Attracting and Retaining Outstanding Researchers

Proposals were open to Eligible Organisations to nominate candidates who are outstanding researchers of international repute, resident either within Australia or overseas. The *Australian Laureate Fellowships* scheme encourages proposals involving Australian or non-Australian researchers.

Of the 139 proposals considered, 11 were for Australians intending to return to Australia – of these, 3 are approved for funding. Ten proposals were for foreign nationals – of these, 2 are approved for funding. One hundred and eighteen were for resident Australians – of these, 12 are approved for funding.

The following table shows the citizenship/residency status of *Australian Laureate Fellowships* candidates and approved Australian Laureate Fellows.

Table 2: Citizenship/residency status

| | Commencing in 2011-12 | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Citizenship/ residency status | No. of considered proposals | % of considered proposals | No. of approved proposals | Success Rate (%) |
| Returning Australians | 11 | 7.9 | 3 | 27.3 |
| Foreign Nationals | 10 | 7.2 | 2 | 20.0 |
| Resident Australians | 118 | 84.9 | 12 | 10.2 |
| TOTAL | 139 | 100 | 17 | 12.2 |

Approved Australian Laureate Fellows: Returning Australians

There are 3 Australian Laureate Fellowship Candidates approved for funding in this category.

Table 3: Returning Australians approved for funding - ARC Discipline Grouping, Current Organisation and Administering Organisation

| Fellowship candidate | ARC Discipline Grouping * | Current Organisation | Administering Organisation |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Prof M Asplund | PCE | Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics | The Australian National University |
| Prof S Haslam | SBE | University of Exeter | The University of Queensland |
| Prof C Moritz | BSB | University of California, Berkeley | The Australian National University |

*PCE = Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences; SBE = Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences; BSB = Biological Sciences and Biotechnology

Approved Australian Laureate Fellows: Foreign Nationals

There are 2 Australian Laureate Fellowship Candidates approved for funding in this category.

Table 4: Foreign nationals approved for funding – ARC Discipline Grouping, Citizenship, Current Organisation and Administering Organisation

| Fellowship candidate | ARC Discipline Grouping* | Country of citizenship | Current Organisation | Administering Organisation |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A/Prof P Bland | PCE | United Kingdom | Imperial College London | Curtin University of Technology |
| Prof P Norris | SBE | United Kingdom and United States | Harvard University | The University of Sydney |

*PCE = Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences; SBE = Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences

Approved Australian Laureate Fellows: Resident Australians

There are 12 Australian Laureate Fellowship Candidates approved for funding in this category.

Table 5: Resident Australians approved for funding – ARC Discipline Grouping, Current Organisation and Administering Organisation

| Fellowship candidate | ARC Discipline Grouping* | Current Organisation | Administering Organisation |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Prof W Anderson | HCA | The University of Sydney | The University of Sydney |
| Prof P Bartlett | EMI | Queensland University of Technology | Queensland University of Technology |
| Prof M Dasgupta | PCE | The Australian National University | The Australian National University |
| Prof B Degnan | BSB | The University of Queensland | The University of Queensland |
| Prof M Forsyth | PCE | Deakin University | Deakin University |
| Prof P Hall | EMI | The University of Melbourne | The University of Melbourne |
| Prof M Keane | SBE | The University of New South Wales | The University of New South Wales |
| Prof J Mattingley | SBE | The University of Queensland | The University of Queensland |
| Prof I Petersen | EMI | The University of New South Wales | The University of New South Wales |
| Prof D Studdert | SBE | The University of Melbourne | The University of Melbourne |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Prof G Wallace | PCE | The University of Wollongong | The University of Wollongong |
| Prof S Wyithe | PCE | The University of Melbourne | The University of Melbourne |

* HCA = Humanities and Creative Arts; EMI = Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics; PCE = Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences; BSB = Biological Sciences and Biotechnology; SBE = Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences

Administering Organisation

It is a requirement of the *Australian Laureate Fellowships Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2011* for the Administering Organisation to provide a salary of Level E professorial appointment (or equivalent) to the successful candidate, with the ARC providing the salary supplement of \$104,142 per annum plus 28 per cent on-costs.

The Administering Organisations of the 17 proposals approved for funding are:

Curtin University of Technology (1)

Deakin University (1)

Queensland University of Technology (1)

The Australian National University (3)

The University of Melbourne (3)

The University of New South Wales (2)

The University of Queensland (3)

The University of Sydney (2)

University of Wollongong (1)

National Research Priorities

All approved proposals fall under a National Research Priority, with total funding approved over 5 years as follows:

- An Environmentally Sustainable Australia (2) \$5,199,883
- Promoting and Maintaining Good Health (6) \$15,143,556
- Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries (7) \$19,417,174
- Safeguarding Australia (2) \$4,756,289

ARC Discipline Clusters

The following table summarises the distribution of proposals within disciplines.

Table 6: Disciplines of all proposals

| | Commencing in 2011-12 | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ARC Discipline Grouping * | No. of considered proposals | % of considered proposals | No. of approved proposals |
| BSB | 27 | 19.4 | 2 |
| EMI | 27 | 19.4 | 3 |
| HCA | 18 | 12.9 | 1 |
| PCE | 44 | 31.7 | 6 |
| SBE | 23 | 16.5 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 139 | 100 | 17 |

* BSB = Biological Sciences and Biotechnology; EMI = Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics; HCA = Humanities and Creative Arts; PCE = Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences; SBE = Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences

Stage in Career and Gender

As shown in Table 7, at the time of application, 15.8% of all Australian Laureate Fellowship Candidates in this round are within 15 years of the award of their PhD. Of the approved Australian Laureate Fellows, 11.8% are within 15 years of the award of their PhD.

Table 7: Years since the award of PhD (at time of submission)

| | Commencing in 2011-12 | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Years since award of PhD | No. of considered proposals | % of considered proposals | No. of approved proposals | % of approved proposals |
| 0-15 years | 22 | 15.8 | 2 | 11.8 |
| 16-20 years | 35 | 25.2 | 7 | 41.2 |
| 21+ years | 78 | 56.1 | 7 | 41.2 |
| No PhD | 4 | 2.9 | 1 | 5.9 |
| TOTAL | 139 | 100 | 17 | 100 |

Thirty (21.6%) of all Australian Laureate Fellowship Candidates in this round are female. Of the approved Australian Laureate Fellows, 3 (17.6%) are female.

Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship and Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship

Of the 30 female Australian Laureate Fellowship Candidates, 27 (90%) applied for a *Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship* or a *Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship*. The recipients of the inaugural *Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship* (awarded to a candidate from the humanities, arts and social science disciplines) and *Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship* (awarded to a candidate from the science and technology disciplines) are shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship and Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship

| | Commencing in 2011-2012 | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship</i> | Prof P Norris | The University of Sydney |
| <i>Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship</i> | Prof M Dasgupta | The Australian National University |