



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development

**Selection Report
for Funding Commencing in 2004**

Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development

Overview

Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development aims to:

- develop the research expertise of Indigenous Australian researchers to a level which is competitive with mainstream research funding;
- support excellent fundamental research by Indigenous Australian individuals and teams;
- provide Indigenous Australian researchers with experience in the preparation of research grant applications; and
- expand Australia's knowledge base and research capability.

Selection process

Applications were sent to one or two Australian-based readers for assessment and applicants were invited to submit rejoinders. A selection committee comprising members of Expert Advisory Committees considered the assessments and rejoinders, ranked the applications, and formed funding recommendations.

Selection criteria

Primary criteria were:

- the quality of the research project being proposed;
- the quality of the researcher(s) proposing the research project; and
- the quality of the research environment and/or mentor.

Other considerations were:

- the probable impact of a successful outcome for the research project; and
- the extent to which the successful completion of the research project would train and equip the researcher to compete for mainstream research funding.

Summary Outcomes

The total *Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development* budget for 2004 is \$235,000, of which \$110,000 is available for funding commencing in 2004.

Fourteen applications were received with one application subsequently withdrawn. Three applications are approved for funding commencing in 2004, totalling \$115,815, with an average grant size of \$38,605, an amount which includes the RC-ATSI salary allocation. All three grants are approved for funding for two years. Two applications requested Research Cadetships-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (RC-ATSI), with one approved for funding and the other one put on a reserve list.

The overall success rate for *Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development* is 23.1%.

Table 1. Applications and recommended funding for Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development commencing in 2004.

Discipline	Applications		Unsuccessful	Withdrawn	Reserve	Recommended	Success rate %
	Projects	Cadetships					
BSB	1	1	0	0	2	0	0%
EE	0	1	0	0	0	1	100%
HCA	4	0	0	0	3	1	25.0%
SBE	7	0	4	1	1	1	16.7%
Total	12	2	4	1	6	3	23.1%

Note: success rates are calculated without including withdrawn applications.

The average first-year funding per project for *Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development* is \$38,605.

Table 2. Recommended funding for Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development grants commencing in 2004

2004	2005	TOTAL
\$115,815	\$108,325	\$224,140

National Research Priorities

None of the applications fall directly the areas designated as national research priorities for the 2004 funding round.

Gender of applicants

Of the 14 applications, 8 Chief Investigators (CI) were female and 4 Chief Investigators and the 2 Research Cadetships-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (RC-ATSI) were male. Of the 3 applications approved for funding, 1 will be awarded to a female Chief Investigator and 2 to male Chief Investigators, one of whom was awarded a Research Cadetship -Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (RC-ATSI).

Scheme Budget

The following allocations from the *Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development* budget have been approved for new grants to commence in 2004.

2004	2005	TOTAL
\$115,815	\$108,325	\$224,140