



LINKAGE—PROJECTS

Selection Report
and
Summary of Recommendations
for funding commencing in 2002

Linkage-Projects Selection Report

Overview

The Linkage-Projects program funds collaborative projects between University researchers and Partner organisations. It continues the focus of the former SPIRT scheme, and in 2001 it was largely unchanged from that scheme.

Linkage-Projects aims to

- encourage and develop long-term strategic research alliances between higher education institutions and industry in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems, or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic or social benefits
- support collaborative research on issues of benefit to regional and rural communities
- foster opportunities for postdoctoral researchers to pursue internationally competitive research in collaboration with industry, targeting those who have demonstrated a clear commitment to high-quality research
- provide industry-oriented research training to prepare high-calibre postgraduate research students
- produce a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of Australian industry.

Research project costs are supported under Linkage–Projects, as well as:

- Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships Industry (APDI) for researchers with less than three years' postdoctoral experience
- Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry (APAI) for postgraduate research students studying towards a Masters or PhD award.

A single application to Linkage-Projects may contain research project costs and one or more of the component costs above.

This report includes summary statistics and recommendations for those Linkage-Projects applications which involve project, APAI, and/or fellowship funding (L-P applications), as well as those applications seeking only APAI stipends (so-called APAI-only, or L-A applications).

Selection process

Expert Advisory Committees assessed applications in two ways depending on what support was sought in the application.

Where an applicant sought funding from the ARC to support fellowships, project costs associated with personnel, equipment, maintenance and/or travel, the Expert Advisory Committee

- assigned independent readers/assessors to review applications,
- sought applicants' comments on assessors' reports,
- ranked each application relative to the others on the basis of the application, the assessors' reports and applicant's response to these assessments,
- assessed and recommended budgets, and prepared funding recommendations.

If the applicant sought funding only to support one or more APAI stipends (plus in some cases very modest project support), the Expert Advisory Committee ranked each application relative to the others on the basis of the application and prepared funding recommendations.

Selection criteria

Selection criteria and corresponding weights for Linkage–Projects applications are detailed below.

1. Applications seeking funding from the ARC to support project costs associated with personnel, equipment, maintenance and/or travel

Investigators (20%)

Project content

- significance and innovation (25%)
- approach (20%)
- national benefit (10%)

Industry partner Commitment (25%)

2. Applications only seeking stipends to support an APAI only

Investigators (20%)

Project content

- significance and innovation (20%)
- approach and training (30%)
- national benefit (10%)

Commitment from industry partner (20%)

The primary assessment criterion for APDIs is the track record of individual applicants relative to opportunities.

Summary outcomes

In 2001 the ARC received a total of 910 Linkage-Projects applications. Of these, 426 were APAI-only applications. The remaining 484 applications included requests for project costs, project plus APAI costs, and fellowships.

In the tables and text below, the following labels are used to distinguish statistics:

L-A	- figures for 426 APAI-only applications
L-P	- figures for remaining 484 project applications
Linkage	- figures for entire Linkage-Projects Scheme

Recommended Grants

For L-P, 258 out of 484 applications (53.3%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$20,510,191 in 2002, or \$58,771,849 over five years.

For L-A, 212 out of 426 applications (49.8%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$5,343,165 in 2002, or \$17,906,275 over the life of these projects.

The overall Linkage-Projects success rate is 51.6%, an increase from around 45% for the SPIRT scheme over the last few years.

Table 1: Success Rates for L-P & L-A, and SPIRT projects 1998-2002

Program	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
L-P					53.3%
L-A					49.8%
Linkage					51.6%
SPIRT Scheme	45.6%	46.4%	44.8%	44.6%	

Table 2: Numbers and Success Rates for Linkage by Discipline Group

Discipline Group	Applications received	Recommended applications	Success rate	Requested funds 2002-2006	Recommended funds 2002-2006
BSB	164	85	51.8%	\$30,229,715	\$15,641,915
EE	258	125	48.4%	\$43,491,099	\$21,603,720
HCA	61	34	55.7%	\$9,634,745	\$6,116,468
MIC	106	63	59.4%	\$16,928,209	\$10,063,827
PE	74	47	63.5%	\$15,379,685	\$8,502,966
SBE	247	116	47.0%	\$31,180,236	\$14,749,228
Total	910	470	51.6%	\$146,843,689	\$76,678,124

Grant size

The average first-year funding per project for L-P is \$79,496, and for L-A is \$25,203. The L-A figure is slightly higher than the stipend rate of \$22,545, because a small number of funded L-A projects include more than one APAI.

The overall Linkage-Projects average first-year funding per project is \$55,007. This represents an increase of approximately \$10,000 compared to the former SPIRT scheme over the last few years.

Table 3: Average first-year funding for L-P, L-A, Linkage, and SPIRT projects 1998-2002

Program	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
L-P					\$79,496
L-A					\$25,203
Linkage					\$55,007
SPIRT Scheme	\$53,281	\$42,273	\$44,382	\$45,719	

Average total grant size for Linkage-Projects, over the life of the projects, is also increased compared to the SPIRT scheme.

Table 4: Average total grant size for L-P, L-A, Linkage, and SPIRT projects 1998-2002

Program	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
L-P					\$227,798
L-A					\$84,464
Linkage					\$163,145
SPIRT Scheme	\$146,659	\$127,606	\$128,673	\$128,077	

Outcomes by Institution

The following table shows application numbers and total ARC funding by Institution for the Linkage-Projects scheme.

Table 5: Recommended funding by institution for Linkage-Projects (L-P plus L-A)

Administering institution	Applications received	Recommended applications	Success rate	Recommended ARC funding (2002-2006)	Corresponding industry partners contributions
Australian Catholic University	13	3	23.1%	\$345,552	\$487,083
Charles Sturt University	18	5	27.8%	\$890,245	\$1,454,267
Macquarie University	9	6	66.7%	\$1,155,975	\$2,153,187
Southern Cross University	11	5	45.5%	\$1,115,226	\$1,339,484
The University of New England	15	5	33.3%	\$1,550,904	\$2,128,463
The University of New South Wales	72	49	68.1%	\$7,488,648	\$9,299,977
The University of Newcastle	21	16	76.2%	\$2,227,093	\$3,188,290
The University of Sydney	43	25	58.1%	\$5,086,217	\$7,655,912
University of Technology, Sydney	32	11	34.4%	\$1,963,407	\$4,099,568
University of Western Sydney	17	9	52.9%	\$1,166,386	\$1,625,180
University of Wollongong	33	20	60.6%	\$3,110,786	\$3,814,910
Deakin University	47	25	53.2%	\$2,715,716	\$2,721,271
La Trobe University	24	5	20.8%	\$796,990	\$2,098,808
Monash University	38	17	44.7%	\$2,418,842	\$2,386,903
RMIT University	34	15	44.1%	\$2,054,665	\$2,989,005
Swinburne University of Technology	19	12	63.2%	\$1,058,474	\$949,016
The University of Melbourne	49	34	69.4%	\$6,972,856	\$8,971,040
University of Ballarat	16	3	18.8%	\$236,328	\$202,071
Victoria University of Technology	27	11	40.7%	\$1,130,194	\$1,014,224
Central Queensland University	6	4	66.7%	\$393,880	\$396,972
Griffith University	27	17	63.0%	\$1,766,860	\$2,203,376
James Cook University	15	10	66.7%	\$1,197,460	\$1,233,769
Queensland University of Technology	40	18	45.0%	\$2,863,064	\$3,345,512
The University of Queensland	68	37	54.4%	\$9,270,780	\$14,115,127
University of Southern Queensland	2	0			
University of the Sunshine Coast	8	2	25.0%	\$332,306	\$428,000
Curtin University of Technology	10	6	60.0%	\$927,571	\$1,234,872
Edith Cowan University	8	3	37.5%	\$315,104	\$212,193
Murdoch University	26	13	50.0%	\$1,736,177	\$2,442,202
The University of Western Australia	36	23	63.9%	\$4,282,262	\$21,343,877
The Flinders University of South Australia	12	5	41.7%	\$984,790	\$1,243,564
The University of Adelaide	28	10	35.7%	\$1,233,396	\$1,041,255
University of South Australia	28	16	57.1%	\$2,414,678	\$5,123,359

University of Tasmania	28	13	46.4%	\$2,211,442	\$2,855,457
Northern Territory University	4	1	25.0%	\$93,295	\$89,740
The Australian National University	14	8	57.1%	\$1,323,706	\$1,498,023
University of Canberra	4	2	50.0%	\$290,000	\$556,113
Australian National University - Institute of Advanced Studies	8	6	75.0%	\$1,556,849	\$2,099,254
Total	910	470	51.6%	\$76,768,124	\$119,971,324

Components

The major components which can be funded in Linkage-Projects include APAIs, APAI-ITs, APDIs, other collaborative research project (CRG) funding, and teaching relief (TR). The following table shows numbers and funding for these components by discipline area, for Linkage-Projects (L-P plus L-A).

Table 6: Linkage-Projects component numbers and funding

Component	Number Sought	Number Funded	Success Rate %	Total ARC Funding (2002 - 2006)
APAI	566	327	58%	\$24,827,422
APAI-IT	108	70	65%	\$5,155,178
APDI	57	32	56%	\$5,987,590
CRG	475	250	53%	\$39,983,175
TR	58	25	43%	\$724,759
	1264	704	56%	\$76,678,124

APDI

The Linkage-Projects applications included requests for 57 APDI places, of which 32 (56%) were funded.

APAI-IT

Within Linkage-Projects, there is a requirement to fund at least 50 APAI places in the fields of Information Technology and Communications. A total of 70 such places have been recommended, which easily exceeds this requirement.