



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Linkage Projects Round 2

**Selection Report
for Funding Commencing in 2005**

Linkage Projects Round 2 Selection Report

Overview

The *Linkage Projects* scheme funds collaborative projects between University researchers and Partner Organisations. Applications in Round 2 for projects commencing in July 2005 closed on 26 November 2004. This report outlines outcomes from the selection process for that round.

As indicated in the funding rules for this round (released in early 2004), *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;
- enhance the scale and focus of research in national priority areas;
- 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; and
- produce a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of Australian industry.

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

- Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships Industry (APDI) for researchers with less than three years' postdoctoral experience;
- Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry (APAI, or known as APAI-IT for those in information technology) for postgraduate research students studying towards a Masters or PhD award; and
- Linkage Industry Fellowships (LIF) which provide support for costs involved in a temporary transfer from one of the eligible higher education institutions listed on an application to one of the industry partners on that application or vice versa.

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 that involve project, APAI, and/or fellowship funding (LP applications), as well as those applications primarily seeking APAI stipends (so-called APAI-only, or LA applications).

Selection process

The College of Experts assessed applications in 2 ways depending on the level of support 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, of more than \$150,000 over project life, the ARC and its College of Experts:

- 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; and
- assessed and recommended budgets, and prepared funding recommendations.

About 46% of applications requested funding of less than \$150,000 over the proposed project life. External assessment was not sought in these cases. The ARC and the College of Experts 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:

Investigators' track record (20%)

Project content

- significance and innovation (25%)
- approach and training (20%)
- national benefit (10%)
- commitment from industry partner (25%)

National Research Priorities

Applicants in this round identified 530 out of a total of 585 applications (91%) as being in one of the national research priority areas. Within those recommended for funding, applications in priority areas represented 90% by number, and received 91% of total recommended funding.

Table 1. Table 1: Numbers and success rates by National Research Priority Areas

Priority Area	Applications received	Applications recommended	Success rate	Recommended funds over project life
None	55	25	45.5%	\$5,439,949
An Environmentally Sustainable Australia	164	73	44.5%	\$20,950,228
Promoting and Maintaining Good Health	178	75	42.1%	\$15,114,153
Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries	152	63	41.4%	\$15,908,738
Safeguarding Australia	36	15	41.7%	\$2,993,782
Total priority applications	530	226	42.6%	\$54,966,901
% within priority areas	91%	90%	-	91%

Summary outcomes

In this round the ARC received a total of 588 applications, of which 3 were withdrawn after applications closed. Of the 585 remaining applications, 142 primarily sought an APAI

stipend (APAI-only applications) and 443 were applications seeking substantial project support, as well as, in many cases, APAI, APDI or LIF places. In the tables and text below, the following labels are used to distinguish statistics:

- LP - figures for the 443 project applications
- LA - figures for the 142 APAI-only applications
- Linkage - figures for entire *Linkage Projects* scheme

Recommended Grants

A total of 251 (42.9%) applications are recommended for funding, with an overall ARC commitment over their lives of \$60.4M. The overall success rate of 42.9% represents a decrease on the success rate of 51.2% in the previous Round, primarily due to significant shift towards larger funding requests in Round 2.

For larger applications (LP), 203 of 443 (45.8 %) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$55.6M. For APAI-only applications (LA), 48 of 142 (33.8 %) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$4.8M over the life of these projects.

Table 2. Success rates for Linkage Projects Round 2 2005

No of applications	LP	LA	Linkage
Received	443	142	585
Recommended	203	48	251
Success Rate	45.8%	33.8%	42.9%

Table 3. Success rates, both rounds for funding commencing in 2005

Component	Round 1 for projects commencing in January 2005	Round 2 for projects commencing in July 2005
LP	53.8%	45.8 %
LA	43.9%	33.8 %
Linkage	51.2%	42.9 %

Table 4. Numbers and Success Rates for Linkage Round 2 2005 by Discipline Area

Discipline Group	Applications received	Applications recommended	Success rate	Requested funds over project life	Recommended funds over project life
BSB	108	50	46.3%	\$22,741,250	\$11,090,763
EE	128	47	36.7%	\$34,748,204	\$14,415,063
HCA	44	21	47.7%	\$10,480,909	\$5,400,893
MIC	73	34	46.6%	\$19,524,138	\$7,349,605
PCG	35	19	54.3%	\$14,304,700	\$4,957,338
SBE	197	80	40.6%	\$44,859,927	\$17,193,188
Total	585	251	42.9%	\$146,659,128	\$60,406,850

Grant size

The average first-year funding per project for LP Round 2 is \$91,342 (79.4% of average first-year request), and for LA is \$28,672 (93.4% of average first-year request). The overall LP average first-year funding per project in Round 2 is \$79,358 (80.2% of average first-year request). These figures are broadly similar to the last round – although average first-year grant sizes have increased slightly, the percentage of first-year request has decreased due to larger requested funding in Round 2.

Table 5. First-year funding, Rounds 1 and 2

Component	Round 1 for projects commencing in January 2005		Round 2 for projects commencing in July 2005	
	Average first year grant	Percentage of average first year request	Average first year grant	Percentage of average first year request
LP	\$90,094	81.7%	\$91,342	79.4%
LA	\$27,318	98.6%	\$28,672	93.4%
Linkage	\$75,804	87.1%	\$79,358	80.2%

Table 6. Average total grant size for LP, LA and Linkage Projects Round 2 2005

Component	Round 1 for projects commencing in January 2005	Round 2 for projects commencing in July 2005
LP	\$276,077	\$274,056
LA	\$92,362	\$99,448
Linkage	\$234,218	\$240,665

These amounts include possible ½yr APAI extensions in Year 4.

Outcomes by Institution

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

Table 7. Outcomes by institution for Linkage Projects Round 2 2005

Administering Institution	Received	Recommended	Success rate	Recommended funding over project life	Total Partner Contributions
Australian Catholic University	7	2	29%	\$419,856	\$468,713
Central Queensland University	1	0	0%	\$0	\$0
Charles Darwin University	8	2	25%	\$696,943	\$969,764
Charles Sturt University	2	1	50%	\$128,000	\$192,050
Curtin University of Technology	15	4	27%	\$1,150,360	\$2,454,550
Deakin University	11	3	27%	\$575,254	\$573,585

Edith Cowan University	6	1	17%	\$136,000	\$234,000
Griffith University	14	9	64%	\$1,414,204	\$1,563,658
James Cook University	9	4	44%	\$421,604	\$650,857
La Trobe University	8	3	38%	\$667,829	\$1,119,535
Macquarie University	4	2	50%	\$416,487	\$415,000
Monash University	28	11	39%	\$2,687,326	\$4,153,428
Murdoch University	14	8	57%	\$1,964,188	\$2,675,423
Queensland University of Technology	33	13	39%	\$2,740,425	\$3,418,555
RMIT University	34	14	41%	\$2,256,443	\$3,003,344
Southern Cross University	4	2	50%	\$699,943	\$878,205
Swinburne University of Technology	14	8	57%	\$1,759,077	\$2,205,362
The Australian National University	20	10	50%	\$3,202,341	\$3,974,268
The Flinders University of South Australia	5	4	80%	\$731,633	\$730,484
The University of Adelaide	16	6	38%	\$1,111,044	\$2,353,118
The University of Melbourne	49	23	47%	\$6,367,207	\$8,630,861
The University of New England	10	4	40%	\$855,038	\$843,171
The University of New South Wales	33	16	48%	\$4,353,418	\$7,377,769
The University of Newcastle	16	4	25%	\$667,112	\$479,844
The University of Queensland	31	16	52%	\$5,578,806	\$14,921,017
The University of Sydney	36	19	53%	\$6,599,435	\$9,352,041
The University of Western Australia	28	15	54%	\$4,202,160	\$5,888,632
University of Ballarat	2	0	0%	\$0	\$0
University of Canberra	3	1	33%	\$491,943	\$2,425,000
University of South Australia	42	14	33%	\$2,870,946	\$3,643,341
University of Southern Queensland	1	1	100%	\$203,574	\$114,675
University of Tasmania	10	3	30%	\$519,673	\$536,133
University of Technology, Sydney	16	9	56%	\$1,752,037	\$2,341,503
University of the Sunshine Coast	3	2	67%	\$231,330	\$262,350
University of Western Sydney	15	9	60%	\$1,365,393	\$1,774,236
University of Wollongong	27	8	30%	\$1,169,821	\$2,031,146

Victoria University of Technology	10	0	0%	\$0	\$0
Total	585	251	43%	\$60,406,850	\$92,655,618

Components

The major components that can be funded in Linkage Projects include APAIs, APAI-ITs, APDIs, Linkage Industry Fellowships (LIF) and other collaborative research grant (CRG) funding. The following table shows overall numbers and funding for these components.

Table 8. Linkage Projects component numbers and funding Round 2 2005

Component	Number requested	Number recommended	Success rate
APAI	420	161	38.3%
APAI-IT	66	35	53.0%
APDI	38	16	42.1%
LIF	2	0	0.0%
CRG	483	214	44.3%

LIF

The Linkage Projects Round 2 applications included 2 requests for Linkage Industry Fellowships (LIF). Neither was recommended for funding.

APDI

The Linkage Projects Round 2 applications included requests for 38 APDI places, of which 16 (42.1%) 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. This requirement needs to be filled over both rounds occurring in 2005. 22 such places were funded in the previous round, and in this Round 35 such places were recommended for funding, taking the total newly funded in 2005 to 57.