



LINKAGE—PROJECTS

Round Two

Selection Report
and
Summary of Recommendations
for funding commencing in 2003

Linkage-Projects Round Two 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. In 2001 it was largely unchanged from that scheme, but in 2002 moved to two funding rounds per year. Round One funding was announced in October 2002, following recommendations by the Board at its meeting in September 2002. Round Two closed on 6 December 2002, and this report outlines outcomes from the selection process for that round.

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. External assessment was not sought in these cases.

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 APAI places (plus up to \$5000 project support per APAI)
 - Investigators (20%)
 - Project content
 - significance and innovation (20%)
 - approach and training (30%)
 - national benefit (10%)
 - Commitment from industry partner (20%)

Summary outcomes

In Round Two in 2002 the ARC received a total of 517 new Linkage-Projects applications, and also re-considered 65 applications from Round One. One new application and one reconsidered application were withdrawn, leaving 516 new and 64 reconsidered applications to be assessed. Of these 580 applications in total, 171 were APAI-only applications, and 409 were applications seeking substantial project support, as well as APAI and APDI places. In the tables and text below, the following labels are used to distinguish statistics:

L-A	- figures for APAI-only applications
L-P	- figures for the remaining 409 project applications
Linkage	- figures for entire Linkage-Projects Scheme

Recommended Grants

For L-P, 174 out of 409 applications (42.5 %) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$39.44M over the life of these projects.

For L-A, 87 out of 171 applications (50.9%) have been recommended for funding, representing an ARC commitment of \$8.12M over the life of these projects.

The overall Linkage-Projects success rate for Round Two is 45.0%. This represents a modest decrease on the overall success rate of 49.2% in Round One.

Table 1: Success Rates for L-P, L-A and Linkage-Projects 2002 Round One and Round Two

	Round One	Round Two
L-P	45.8%	42.5 %
L-A	55.4%	50.9 %
Linkage	49.2%	45.0 %

Table 2: Numbers and Success Rates for Linkage Round Two by Discipline Area

Discipline Group	New applications received	Applications reconsidered from Round One	Recommended applications	Success rate	Requested funds over project life	Recommended funds over project life
BSB	93	11	43	41.3%	\$25,282,159	\$9,145,263
EE	109	22	61	46.6%	\$27,254,228	\$11,336,112
HCA	57	9	30	45.5%	\$12,026,939	\$4,749,730
MIC	71	2	34	46.6%	\$13,089,223	\$6,564,535
PCG	41	0	24	58.5%	\$9,360,105	\$4,707,468
SBE	145	20	69	41.8%	\$30,432,898	\$11,062,757
Total	516	64	261	45.0%	\$117,445,552	\$47,565,865

Reconsidered applications

As indicated above, 64 of the 580 applications assessed in Round Two were applications reconsidered from Round One. These applications fell just below the funding margin in Round One, and were reconsidered in Round Two to help balance both funding and quality between the two rounds held in 2002. A summary of the outcomes for these 64 reconsidered applications is shown below:

Table 3: Reconsidered applications in Round Two

Discipline	L-P			L-A		
	Applications	Recommended	Success rate	Applications	Recommended	Success rate
BSB	11	2	18.2%	0	0	-
EE	20	7	35.0%	2	1	50.0%
HCA	5	0	0.0%	4	3	75.0%
MIC	0	0	-	2	1	50.0%
PCG	0	0	-	0	0	-
SBE	20	3	15.0%	0	0	-
Total	56	12	21.4%	8	6	75.0%

For project applications (L-P), the success rate for reconsidered applications (21.4%) is significantly lower than the overall L-P success rate (42.5%), or the success rate for new L-P applications (45.9%).

For APAI-only applications (L-A), the success rate for reconsidered applications (75%) is higher than the overall L-A success rate (50.9%), or the success rate for new L-A applications (48.8%). The small number involved (only 8 reconsidered applications) indicates that some caution is required in interpreting this result.

Grant size

The average first-year funding per project for L-P Round Two is \$75,727 (77.2% of average first-year request), and for L-A is \$27,530 (98.6% of average first-year request). The overall Linkage-Projects average first-year funding per project in Round Two is \$59,661, a result very similar to the average in Round One (\$58,730).

Table 4: First-year funding for L-P, L-A and Linkage-Projects commencing in 2003

Scheme	Round One		Round Two	
	Average first year grant	Percentage of average first year request	Average first year grant	Percentage of average first year request
L-P	\$80,313	78.3%	\$75,727	77.2%
L-A	\$25,514	98.2%	\$27,530	98.6%
Linkage	\$58,730	81.1%	59,661	79.9%

Table 5: Average total grant size for L-P, L-A and Linkage-Projects commencing in 2003

Program	Round One	Round Two
L-P	\$238,511	\$226,676
L-A	\$86,806	\$93,383
Linkage	\$178,762	\$182,245

Outcomes by Institution

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

Table 6: Recommended funding by institution for Linkage-Projects (L-P plus L-A)

Administering Institution	Applications submitted (minus those withdrawn)	Recommended applications	Success rate	Recommended ARC funding	Corresponding partner contributions
Australian Catholic University	5	3	60.0%	\$466,455	\$432,000
Central Queensland University	1	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
Charles Sturt University	5	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
Curtin University of Technology	13	5	38.5%	\$1,075,305	\$1,441,940
Deakin University	15	5	33.3%	\$764,712	\$1,051,208
Edith Cowan University	9	4	44.4%	\$379,356	\$1,313,431

Griffith University	17	9	52.9%	\$1,175,484	\$1,714,337
James Cook University	3	1	33.3%	\$80,485	\$74,775
La Trobe University	12	2	16.7%	\$260,485	\$293,038
Macquarie University	9	2	22.2%	\$437,386	\$593,400
Melbourne College of Divinity	1	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
Monash University	35	18	51.4%	\$2,960,922	\$4,199,437
Murdoch University	26	11	42.3%	\$2,733,286	\$3,990,439
Northern Territory University	3	3	100.0%	\$735,386	\$1,144,910
Queensland University of Technology	34	11	32.4%	\$1,834,992	\$2,641,228
RMIT University	28	12	42.9%	\$2,033,906	\$2,613,959
Southern Cross University	10	4	40.0%	\$888,871	\$1,205,734
Swinburne University of Technology	5	3	60.0%	\$375,992	\$432,510
The Australian National University	20	16	80.0%	\$3,370,789	\$7,085,718
The Flinders University of South Australia	4	3	75.0%	\$521,292	\$567,820
The University of Adelaide	28	14	50.0%	\$2,260,965	\$2,883,540
The University of Melbourne	54	29	53.7%	\$6,193,000	\$9,442,135
The University of New England	1	0	0.0%	\$0	\$0
The University of New South Wales	33	15	45.5%	\$3,226,422	\$4,792,360
The University of Newcastle	11	6	54.5%	\$1,495,266	\$3,267,825
The University of Queensland	40	16	40.0%	\$3,445,252	\$4,690,117
The University of Sydney	35	12	34.3%	\$2,580,569	\$5,298,469
The University of Western Australia	21	9	42.9%	\$1,940,000	\$3,243,012
University of Ballarat	1	1	100.0%	\$80,485	\$32,000
University of Canberra	4	3	75.0%	\$849,386	\$1,581,500
University of South Australia	14	2	14.3%	\$138,198	\$152,472
University of Southern Queensland	4	1	25.0%	\$85,611	\$190,465
University of Tasmania	15	7	46.7%	\$801,113	\$1,335,984
University of Technology, Sydney	16	5	31.3%	\$941,386	\$1,287,127
University of Western Sydney	14	8	57.1%	\$612,480	\$635,127
University of Wollongong	25	18	72.0%	\$2,429,173	\$2,656,587
Victoria University of Technology	9	3	33.3%	\$391,455	\$527,000
Total	580	261	45.0%	\$47,565,865	\$72,811,604

Components

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

Table 7: Linkage-Projects component numbers and funding

Component	Number Sought	Number Funded	Success Rate
APAI	396	171	43.2%
APAI-IT	57	20	35.1%
APDI	39	17	43.6%
CRG	401	178	44.4%

APDI

The Linkage-Projects Round Two applications included requests for 39 APDI places, of which 17 (43.6%) 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 2002. In Round One, a total of 33 such places were recommended for funding. In Round Two, 20 are recommended for funding, making a total of 53 APAI-IT places over both application rounds in 2002.

Overall outcomes for 2002

Over both Round One and Round Two in 2002, the ARC received 1178 applications (not including those withdrawn). Of these, 586 have been funded or recommended for funding, giving an overall success rate for the year of 49.7%. The breakdown of these figures by sub-scheme and by discipline areas is shown below:

Table 8: Success Rates for L-P, L-A and Linkage-Projects overall in 2002

	Round One	Round Two	Overall
L-P	45.8%	42.5%	43.9%
L-A	55.4%	50.9%	53.5%
Linkage	49.2%	45.0%	49.7%

Table 9: Numbers and Success Rates overall in 2002 by Discipline Area

Discipline Group	Applications received	Recommended applications	Success rate	Requested funds over project life	Recommended funds over project life
BSB	210	98	46.7%	\$47,248,070	\$20,460,036
EE	291	143	49.1%	\$57,396,432	\$26,308,385
HCA	101	57	56.4%	\$18,267,278	\$9,375,342
MIC	144	73	50.7%	\$29,342,332	\$14,881,259
PCG	100	62	62.0%	\$21,046,917	\$10,860,072
SBE	332	153	46.1%	\$58,163,555	\$23,778,503
Total	1178	586	49.7%	\$231,464,584	\$105,663,597

Note that the reconsidered applications are counted in both Round One and in Round Two when calculating success rates separately, but are only counted once when calculating the overall success rates and funding amounts for the entire year.