



AIATSIS Presentation: Introduction to ARC Schemes

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**Presentation available at
[http://www.arc.gov.au/media/ARC_Presentations .htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/media/ARC_Presentations.htm)
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ARC Discipline Panels



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

1. **Biological Sciences & Biotechnology (BSB)**
2. **Engineering & Environmental Science (EE)**
3. **Humanities & the Creative Arts (HCA)**
4. **Mathematics, Information & Communication Sciences (MIC)**
5. **Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences (PCE)**
6. **Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences (SBE)**

ARC does not award research grants in Medical and Dental disciplines – that is the NHMRC

Major ARC Schemes



- ***Discovery Projects*** –
 - Excellent fundamental research by individuals and teams
- ***Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development (DIRD)***–
 - Develop research expertise of indigenous Australians
- ***Australian Laureate Fellows*** -
 - For outstanding researchers to stay in or return to Oz
- ***Future Fellows*** –
 - Rewards the best mid-career Australian researchers and outstanding international researchers

- ***Linkage Projects*** –
 - Collaborative research between universities and industry, government, and community organisations
- ***Centres of Excellence*** – Large research teams conducting focussed, sustained investigations of important challenging problems
- ***Linkage infrastructure, equipment and facilities (LIEF)*** –
 - Collaboration across universities & partner organisations to fund major infrastructure

Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development Scheme (DIRD)



Australian Government

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Objectives

- **Develop the research expertise of Indigenous Researchers who have not been a Chief Investigator on an ARC project or had an ARC Fellowship;**
- **Support fundamental research and research training by Indigenous Australian individuals and teams;**
- **Provide Indigenous Researchers with experience in the preparation of research funding proposals;**
- **Attract and retain established Indigenous Researchers**
- **Expand Australia's knowledge base & research capability.**

DIRD Scheme



- One round per year, closes in May (eg 13th)
- Projects may be funded 1 to 3 years
- **Research projects can:**
 - (a) Lead to understanding of a particular subject or
 - (b) Meet requirements of a postgraduate research degree
- Minimum funding = \$10,000 per calendar year to
 Maximum funding = \$200,000, or \$400,000 if project includes an Australian Research Fellow-Indigenous
- **Selection Criteria**

	Weight
▪ Investigator(s) – track record, capacity	40%
▪ Proposed project content – significance, approach, national benefit	40%
▪ Quality of the research environment and/or Mentor and/or Supervisor – support	20%

DIRD Fellowships



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1. Indigenous Researcher Fellowship (IRF) are for:

- For researchers at postdoctoral level (≤ 3 years since PhD) to undertake significant research
- Who have no prior ARC Fellowship or Chief Investigator role (other than DIRD)
- Awards for 1 or 2 years at 100% or 50% salary

This year have 5 applications

2. **New!!** Australian Research Fellowships– Indigenous (ARF-I) are for:

- For established researchers or postdoctoral researchers with exceptional promise and capacity
- Who have ≤ 8 years professional experience since PhD
- Can be Chief Investigators or ARC Fellowship holders but not fellowship holders in *Discovery* scheme (ARF/QEII and APF)
- Awards for 2 or 3 years at 100% salary

Have 6 applications in the first year of application

DIRD Projects



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3. Another 12 applications this year are for CIs conducting projects:

- Need not hold a PhD but must have a completed postgraduate research degree or equivalent
- Currently enrolled postgraduate research degree students may apply for funding and need supervisor associated with the proposal

DIRD Assessment:

- By 2 College of Expert members & 2 Oz Readers
- Formula uses selection criteria weights

*****Funding Rules

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dird/dird_fundingrules.htm

Currently ongoing projects in *DIRD*



- 45% in Social, Behavioural & Economic Sciences
- 35% in Humanities & Creative Arts
- 15% in Biological Sciences & Biotechnology
- 5% are in Mathematics, Information & Communication

Project Areas – Indigenous health, history, education, social issues (eg conflict/violence)

***DIRD* Success Rate:**

- 2006: 62.5%, 2007: 71.4%,
- 2008: 39% , 2009: 34.6%

Examples of ongoing *DIRD* projects



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- Solid Kids Solid Schools: conceptualising *bullying* in an Aboriginal context as reported by the Yamaji community
- A qualitative study of barriers to effective infectious and parasitic *disease interventions* in Aboriginal communities
- Digitisation and Indigenous communities: A study of the development of *online collections*. The interface between international institutions & Australian Indigenous communities
- The extent of competition between the native and introduced *herbivores* of Kangaroo Island.
- Evaluation of an instrument to assess the needs of indigenous patients with *cancer*
- Adoption and effective use of *information communication technologies* in Indigenous communities in Australia
- Conditions for success to enhance Aboriginal *education*
- Internecine conflict and *violence* in NSW Aboriginal communities: an historicised assessment of governance and social control

Major ARC grant Schemes



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

1. ***Discovery Projects*** – For funding excellent fundamental research by individuals and teams
 - To expand Oz knowledge base & research capability
 - To enhance *scale & focus* of research in National Research Priority Areas
 - To provide *research training* in high quality research environments ie PhDs, Postdocs (≤ 3 years)
 - To provide *fellowships* to build capacity

1. ***Linkage Projects*** – for collaborative research with a partner organisation
 - Private sector, industry
 - Private non-profit organisations
 - Government agency

Discovery Applications



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- One round per year, closes in March (eg 4th)
- From \$20,000-\$500,000
 - On average, get 2/3s of what sought (eg \$340,000 total)
- 1 to 5 years, but average funded application is for 3 years
- Can apply for project costs alone, or project costs and PhD costs and Fellowships, or just apply for a Fellowship
- On average, just over 2 Chief Investigators on each proposal
- Success rate is about 20%
 - ECR-only applications = 15-16% success rate
 - Applications with ECRs (≤ 5 years since PhD) = 20%
- Average no. of assessors is 2 College of Experts, 2 Oz Readers, 1 International Reader → ranked total score
- Very small no. awarded at top end of funding & for 5 years for the very top researchers

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_fundingrules.htm

Selection Criteria



Criteria	Discovery	Linkage	Future Fellows
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• Researcher Track Record	40%	20%	50%
• Project Significance & Innovation	30%	25%	-
• Project Quality	-	-	10%
• Project Approach	20%	20%	-
• National Benefit	10%	10%	-
• National Research Priority	-	-	10%
• Industry Partner Commitment	-	25%	-
• Collaboration	-	-	15%
• Strategy			15%
Total	100%	100%	100%
Success Rate about.....	20%	35-50%	-%

Currently ongoing *Discovery Projects* on Indigenous research



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

- 69% in Humanities and Creative Arts
- 20% in Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences
- **Research topics include:**
 - Indigenous languages
 - Aboriginal history and art
 - Social issues (eg housing, education and health)

Funding Rules for *Linkage Projects*

- http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_fundingrules.htm

Linkage Projects



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

- **ARC submission dates 2X a year: November (eg 18), May (eg 13)**
- **Can apply for project costs alone, or PhD costs alone, or project plus PhD or postdoc (≤ 3 years) costs**
- **On average, funded grants are for 3 years (range is 1 to 5 years)**
- **Normally can apply for \$500K total maximum**
 - **Gain on average 70%**
 - **Av. funds gained for a total project are \$330k**
- **\$2million/year upper limit for a proposal in exceptional cases**
- **Tiny number given at high end of funding and for 5 years for top researchers**
- **Average no. of chief investigators per funded grant is 3**
- **About half of applications are for APAs/PhD scholarships only - success rate is a third (except in IT, where it is $\frac{3}{4}$ to 90%)**
- **Success rate is 40-50%**

Last 7 Rounds: 36.7%, 35.7%, 42.9%, 46.0%, 47.6%, 42.7%, 49.4%

Currently ongoing *Linkage Projects* on Indigenous research



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

- 42% in **Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences**
- 38% in **Humanities and Creative Arts**
- **Research topics include:**
 - **Aboriginal land use and management**
 - **Aboriginal history and culture**
 - **Social issues (eg housing, education, health, economic development)**

Funding Rules for *Linkage Projects*

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_fundingrules.htm

Linkage Projects 2009 Round 1



■ Partner Organization Contribution by sector

■ Commonwealth Government	5%
■ State & Local Government	<u>29%</u>
■ International	1%
■ Nonprofit Australian	12%
■ Nonprofit International	4%
■ Private company Australian	<u>33%</u>
■ International company Australian	18%

Future Fellowships



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- **\$844m scheme – 2009-2013 – Can apply twice in the period**
- **200, 4-year fellowships each year for next 5 years = 1000**
- **Mid-career researchers (5-15 years post-PhD)**
- **Open to Australian and international researchers**
- **Salaries up to \$140K (3 levels) + \$50K pa for some costs**
- **Includes selection criteria 'Strategic Alignment' & 'Collaboration'.**
 - List of Research Strengths submitted by Administering Org.
 - Candidates must demonstrate capacity to build collaboration across industry and/or research institutions and/or disciplines.
- **Closed (first time) 16 October 2008**
- ❖ **Indigenous health and wellbeing is a research priority**
- ❖ **http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/ft_fundingrules.htm**

Australian Laureate Fellows



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

- Allocate \$239 million over 5 years
- Up to 15 to be awarded each year
- Each worth around \$3 million
- Are the most prestigious fellowships (Professor + \$100K) and the top of the career path
- National and international applicants
- Emphasis on research leadership & mentoring
 - Funds also 2 postdoctoral and 2 postgraduate researchers and project funding (up to \$300K).
- Success rate combining SBE and HCA has most often been about 20% in recent times
- Closed last time on 10 December 2008.
- http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/laureate/fl_fundingrules.htm

ARC Centres of Excellence



- ❑ *2003 Cohort runs out in December 2010*
- ❑ *Review of ARC Centres of Excellence – 2005 cohort*
 - **Eleven Centres reviewed in 2008 and extended**
- ❑ *New Groundwater Centre in operation (May 2008)*
- ❑ *Centres consultation paper* to be released soon
- ❑ *New ARC Centres of Excellence round for funding commencing July 2010 for 7 years*
 - **Applications expected to open 3rd quarter 2009.**
 - **Assessment and selection processes to take place into early 2010 – will be extra competitive.**

Conclusion: Opportunities



- For indigenous researchers - *DIRD*
- For indigenous research –
 - a research priority in Future Fellows
 - *Linkage Project* scheme has highest success rates
- Career opportunities for researchers:
 - *DIRD, Discovery, Linkage - PhD scholarships*
 - *DIRD Fellows – early (postdocs) and mid career*
 - *Discovery Project Fellows – early, mid, and later career*
 - *Linkage Project Fellows – early and mid career*
 - *Future Fellows – mid career*
 - *Australian Laureate Fellows – mid and later career*
- International collaboration – *DP & LP Projects, Future Fellows*
- Early career researchers – sole applications or with other CIs in *Discovery Projects*
- For top researcher groups, new *Centres* round

Contacts for schemes



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Discovery Projects or Discovery Indigenous Researchers schemes

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Australian Laureate Fellowships

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