



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Reviewing Schemes Discovery Program

Research

GRANTS

Discussion Points

- Why change the Discovery Program?
- The issues
- What is proposed?
- The current Consultation Process
- The main areas of debate
- The timeline for implementation

Why change the Discovery Program?

- A need for periodic review
- Feedback from the College, assessors and applicants
- Cross scheme and new scheme issues
- The volume and complexity of *Discovery Projects*
- The administrative burden: Research Offices & ARC
- A simpler application process
- A more transparent assessment process

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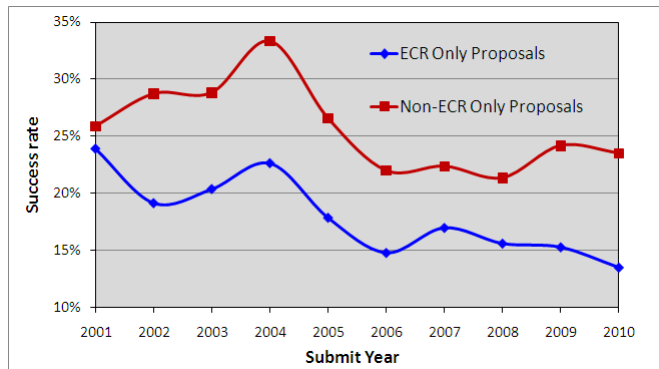
The issues

- Range of diverse & overlapping Fellowships across NCGP
- Success rates of ECRs within *Discovery Projects*
- Gender disparities identified in *Discovery Projects*
- Consequences of uniform selection criteria
- Need to build Australian research capacity
- Need to simplify a complex scheme

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Current ECR-related success rates

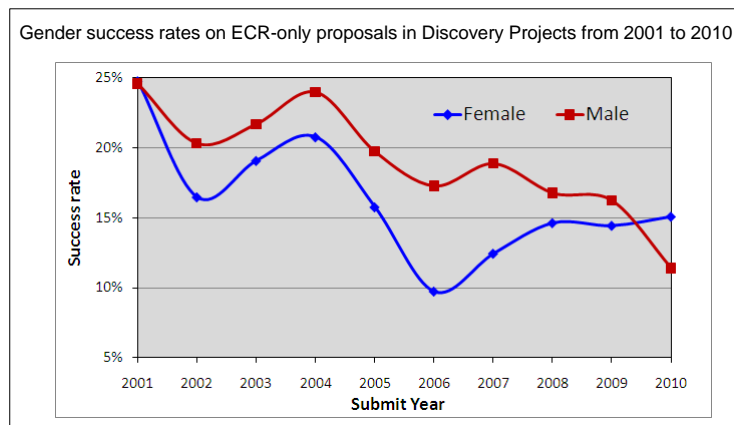


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Current gender-related issues

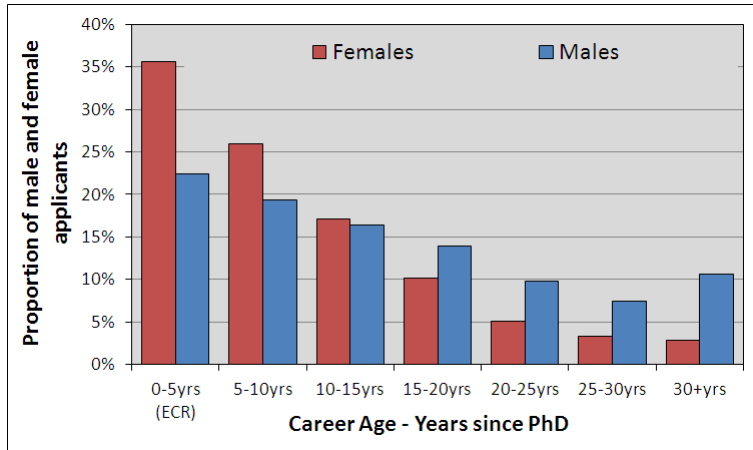
The success rate for all females and all males in DP11 = 24%



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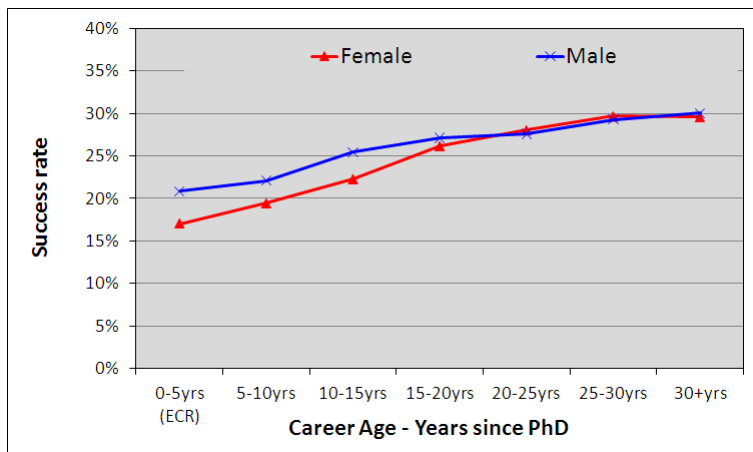
Discovery Projects – Proportion of male and female applicants by career age



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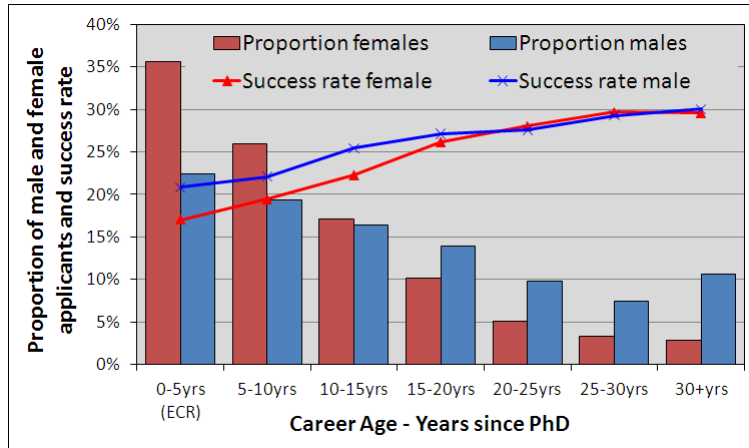
Discovery Projects – Male and female success rates by career age



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Discovery Projects – Proportion of male and female applicants and corresponding success rates by career age



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Overlap of Fellowships

In 2008 for example:

- 15 % of all APFs applied for a Future Fellowship
- 30 % of all ARF/QEIIs also applied for a Future Fellowship
- 6 % of all APFs applied for a Australian Laureate Fellowship
- This trend continues.....

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Proposed Revisions: DECRA ***Discovery Early Career Researcher Award***

- A new stand-alone ECR award
- Up to 5 yrs post PhD, maximum 7 yrs with breaks
- Up to 200 ECR awards (up to \$110,000 per annum)
- May include salary support & project costs
- Simplification of Funding Rules, application & assessment processes
- Clarity of cross scheme inclusions & exclusions

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Proposed Revisions: DECRA

Proposed Selection Process:

- Selection criteria: 50% project, 20% ROPE, 30% institutional support
- Revised selection process: including A-E
- Improved feedback

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Proposed Revisions: Senior Career Award

- A new Senior Career Award within *Discovery Projects*
- Up to 70 awards per annum at Levels D & E
- Funding for 3 yrs maximum in *Discovery Projects*
- Simplification of Funding Rules, application & assessment processes
- Revision of the selection criteria & assessment process
- International Collaboration Awards remain

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Proposed Revisions: Discovery Projects

- *Discovery Projects* scheme continues
- Up to 3 yrs funding
- Clarify Teaching Relief
- Simplification of Funding Rules, application & assessment processes

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Discovery Projects Fellowships

Currently:

- APD up to 110 per annum
- ARF/QEII up to 26 per annum
- APF up to 15 per annum

Proposed changes:

- Up to 200 DECRA per annum
- Up to 70 Senior Career Awards per annum

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Revised scheme dates

Discovery Projects

(including Senior Career Awards)

Anticipated to open mid to late January 2011

DECRA

Anticipated to open mid to late February 2011

(all scheme dates will be staggered)

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The Consultation Process

- Consultation Paper released Nov 3rd
- 4-week period for comments and feedback: Dec 1st
- Presentations to research administrators, DVC(R) and to a range of universities
- Consideration of feedback & revision of Funding Rules in December
- Updates about the timing of Funding Rules, scheme opening etc will continue to occur

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Issues for debate

- Impact of delaying the *Discovery Projects* scheme
- Assessment process tailored for ECR
- Eligibility for ECR across other schemes
- Project & award funding in *Discovery Projects*
- Limitations on length of funding
- Overall fellowship numbers
- Administering Organisation commitments
- Revised selection criteria & assessment process

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Feedback to Consultation Paper

Deadline for submission is Dec 1 2010

Pro-forma available on ARC website

DiscoveryConsultation@arc.gov.au