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
**Current ECR-related success rates**

![Graph showing success rates for ECR and non-ECR proposals from 2001 to 2010.](image)

**Current gender-related issues**

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

![Graph showing gender success rates on ECR-only proposals in Discovery Projects from 2001 to 2010.](image)
Discovery Projects – Proportion of male and female applicants by career age

![Graph showing the proportion of male and female applicants by career age. The y-axis represents the proportion of male and female applicants, ranging from 0% to 40%. The x-axis represents career age in years since PhD, ranging from 0-5 years (ECR) to 30+ years. The graph shows a general increase in the proportion of female applicants compared to male applicants as career age increases.

Discovery Projects – Male and female success rates by career age

![Graph showing the success rates of male and female applicants by career age. The y-axis represents the success rate, ranging from 0% to 40%. The x-axis represents career age in years since PhD, ranging from 0-5 years (ECR) to 30+ years. The graph shows a general increase in success rates for both males and females as career age increases, with a slightly higher success rate for females compared to males.

Web: arc.gov.au | Email: info@arc.gov.au
**Discovery Projects – Proportion of male and female applicants and corresponding success rates by career age**

![Bar graph showing the proportion of male and female applicants and success rates across different career ages.]

**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 an 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

Proposed Selection Process:

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

Web: arc.gov.au | Email: info@arc.gov.au
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

Proposed Revisions: Discovery Projects

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

**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)
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

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
Feedback to Consultation Paper

Deadline for submission is Dec 1 2010

Pro-forma available on ARC website

DiscoveryConsultation@arc.gov.au