



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Australasian Research Management Society 2009 Conference



ARC - Indigenous research and improving
opportunities

ARC Funding Opportunities

- **For indigenous researchers –**
Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development (DIRD)
- **For indigenous research –**
 - *Linkage Projects* scheme (highest success rate)
 - *a research priority in Future Fellows*

Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development Scheme (DIRD)

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 and research capability.**



DIRD

- **Applicants**
 - Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
 - You do not need to have a PhD
 - You have not been a Chief Investigator on an ARC grant or had an ARC fellowship except for ARF-I
- **Success Rate 2006 62.5%, 2007 71.4%, 2008 39%, 2009 34.6%**
- **Most applications are from SBE and HCA**
- **Changes in 2009 for 2010**
 - Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) can apply as an administering organisation
 - New Fellowship introduced:
 - *Australian Research Fellows – Indigenous:* for 2 or 3 years
 - More senior, Not developmental
- **May be funded 1 to 3 years from \$10,000/year to \$200,000, or \$400,000 if includes an Australian Research Fellow-Indigenous**

DIRD Fellowships

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

1. **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



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, language, history and art, education, social issues (eg housing, education, health, conflict)



Currently ongoing *Linkage Projects* on Indigenous research

- **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)**



Future Fellowships

- **\$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**
- ❖ **Indigenous health and wellbeing is a research priority**

First round already announced – more rounds to come

Summary of career opportunities for researchers:

DIRD, Discovery, Linkage - PhD scholarships
DIRD Fellows – early (postdocs) and mid career

Discovery Projects Fellows – early, mid, and later career

Linkage Projects Fellows – early and mid career

Future Fellows – mid career

Australian Laureate Fellows – mid and later career



Policy Developments – Indigenous Research in Excellence in Research for Australia

- ➔ **Evaluating research quality in Australia**
- ➔ **Indigenous Consultation Workshop in 2009**
- ➔ **Key outcomes of workshop**
- ➔ **Consultation - what is in next full round of ERA**

