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 (e.g., 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