



ARC Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences: An Update

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**Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences
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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)**

Major ARC Schemes



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

- **Discovery Projects** –
 - Excellent fundamental research by individuals and teams
 - **Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development** –
 - Develop research expertise of indigenous Australians
 - **Australian Laureate Fellows** -
 - For outstanding researchers to stay in or return to Oz
 - **Future Fellows** –
 - Rewards best mid-career Australian researchers and outstanding international researchers
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- **Linkage Projects** –
 - Collaborative research between universities and industry/government/community
 - **Centres of Excellence** – Large outstanding research teams conducting focussed, sustained investigations on important challenging problems
 - **Linkage infrastructure, equipment and facilities (LIEF)** –
 - Collaboration across universities & partner organisations to fund major infrastructure

Desirables: Minister Carr March 2009



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

- Applications to build on university's research strengths, think strategically, play to strengths
- Collaboration needed between universities and business and public sector research agencies
- Develop PhDs, support research students
- Collaborate across universities, especially international collaboration by researchers
- Collaboration across natural and human sciences

The Future



- **ARC consolidating to fewer, larger schemes with maximum flexibility**
 - Will no longer have
 - *ARC Networks scheme*
 - *Social Sciences Collaboration scheme & ARC International Fellowships scheme*
- **Increased focus on outcomes**
 - Reporting of outcomes of prior grant funding
 - Excellence in Research in Australia evaluation
- **Federal budget –**
 - Superscience Fellowships
 - Bionic eye

08-10 ARC Policy Changes



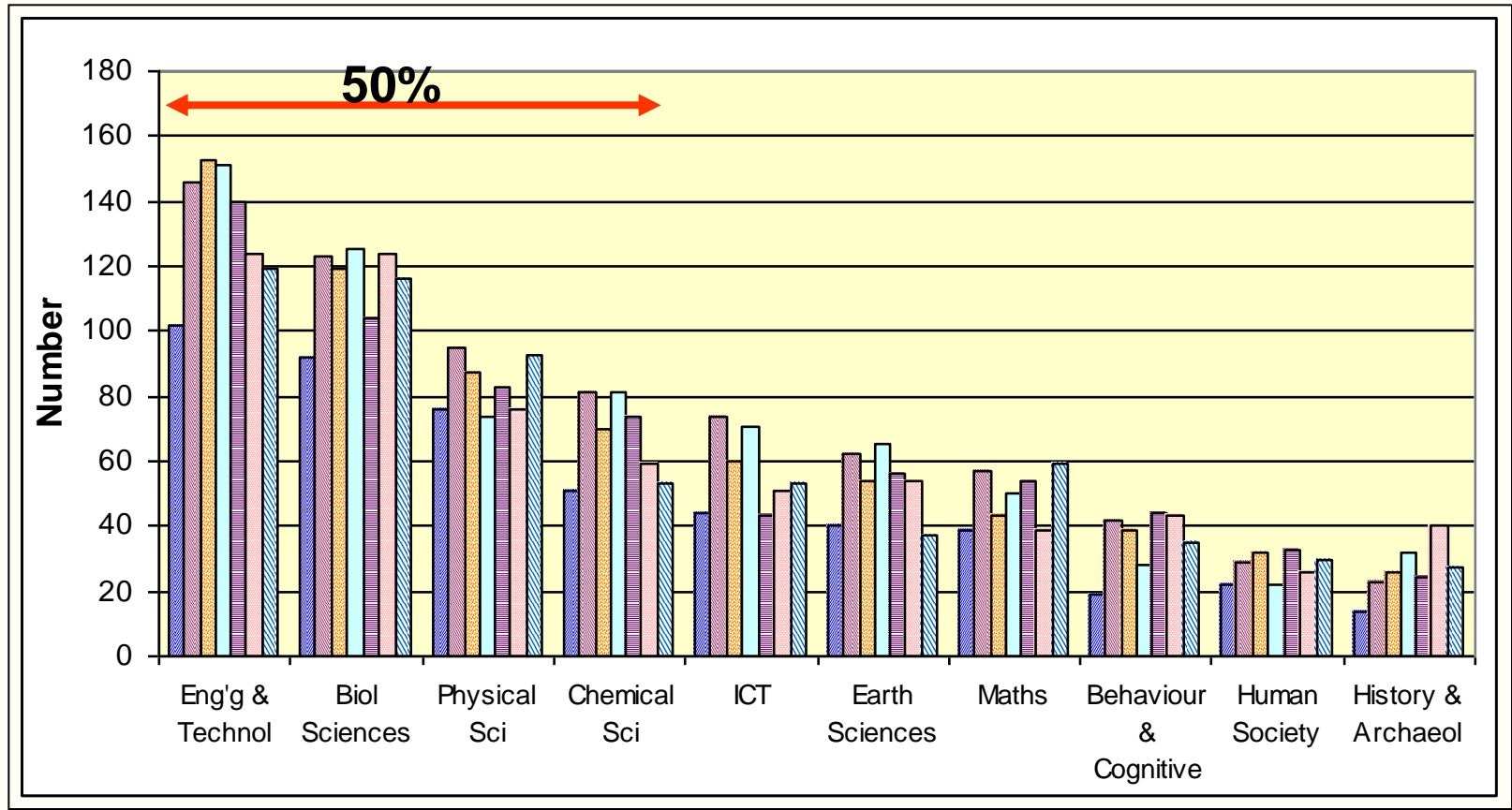
Australian Government

Australian Research Council

- **International collaboration**
 - *Discovery Projects* eg new support
- **New ways of building research capacity – 2008 for 2009**
 - *Future Fellows*
 - *Australian Laureate Fellows*
- **Enhancing research of Indigenous scholars (*DIRD*)**
 - *Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development* scheme
 - *New Australian Research Fellows – Indigenous*
 - *AIATSIS* added as an eligible organization
- **Centres of Excellence - new round in 2010/11**
- **Evaluation changes:**
 - *ERA trials PCE July, HCA August*

Major Research Fields – International Collaboration 2002-2008

ARC Funded Projects



Selection Criteria



Criteria

Discovery Linkage Future DIRD

Criteria	Discovery	Linkage	Future	DIRD
• Researcher Track Record	40%	20%	50%	40% <i>cpcty</i>

• Project Significance & Innovation	30%	25%	-	40%
• Project Quality	-	-	10%	
• Project Approach	20%	20%	-	

• National Benefit	10%	10%	-	above
• National Research Priority	-	-	10%	-

• Industry Partner Commitment	-	25%	-	-
• Collaboration	-	-	15%	-

• Strategy	-	-	15%	-

Quality of research env./mentor	-	-	-	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Success Rate about.....	20%	35-50%	-%	40%

Changes to *Discovery Scheme* 2009→2010



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

■ New 'International Collaboration Awards'

- 1 month minimum to 6 months maximum
- For Oz CIs/Fellows & Overseas PIs to work together on a project
- Covers travel and subsistence up to \$40,000 – prorata
- 16% of 09 proposals requested ICA (half requested 1): SBE was about 1/5 of those (19%); HCA was under a 1/10th (7.5%)

■ Travel for overseas PIs or other research personnel if directly justified against doing the project -

- 1 per annum return economy to and from Oz to work on project

■ Always have had:

- PhD stipends for overseas candidates
- Fellows as overseas candidates - APDs, ARFs/QE11s/ APFs
- PIs living overseas (but can now request travel to & from Oz)

Funding Rules

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

Discovery: No. Applications & Results



ARC as a whole	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No.	3,240	3,441	3,766	4,047	4,121	4,164
No. funded	875	1,053	917	822	878	845
Total Funds	237.9 million	297.5 million	273.6 million	274.7 million	300.8 million	288.4 million
ARC Success Rate	27.0%	30.9%	24.5%	20.4%	21.4%	20.4%
SBE Success Rate	31.0%	23.0%	19.0%	22.0%	22.0%	24.0%

2009 Funded Discovery Projects



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Issue	All ARC	SBE	HCA
Av. duration of funded grants	Just over 3 years: 3.27	3.22	3.30
Av. 1 st year funds gained	\$116k = 67% of request	\$89k = 66% of request	\$99k = 70% of request
Av. funds gained for total project	\$341k	\$262k	\$293k
ECR-only applications (\leq since PhD awarded)	Success Rate 15.5% % of income = 10%	20% 13%	12% 13%
Applications that include ECRs	Success Rate = 20%	24%	18%
Average no. assessments per proposal	5 (2 CoE, 2 Oz Reader, 1 Intern'l assessor)	5.08, SD = 0.81	5.09, SD = 0.84
Average no. CIs	1.96	2.31	1.97

Discovery Project Fellowships



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

■ Need good-excellent scores on both:

(1) Project and (2) Fellow

■ Aust. Postdoc Fellowships (≤ 3 years since PhD) –

- 2009 Success Rate = 17%: SBE = 18.3%

■ Aust. Research Fellows/Queen Elizabeth II Fellows - ≤ 8 years since PhD, also ≤ 13 years if previously had ARF/QEII

- 2009 Success Rate = 15.1%: SBE = 20%

■ Aust. Professorial Fellowships - ≤ 13 years since PhD

- 2009 Success Rate = 14.3%: SBE = 14.3%

No. & Success Rate of ECR-Only Proposals (≤ 5 years since PhD)



Discip -line	ECR-Only Proposals Received	ECR-Only Proposals Approved for Funding	Success rate	ECR-Only Proposals: % of Total funding approved for 2009
BSB	93	13	14.0%	6.8%
EE	72	8	11.1%	5.9%
HCA	154	19	12.3%	13.0%
MIC	82	19	23.2%	12.2%
PCG	151	21	13.9%	11.3%
SBE	130	26	<u>20.0%</u>	<u>12.7%</u>
All	682	106	15.5%	10.2%

Success Rates of Proposals with 1 or More Self-Nominated ECRs



Discipline	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
BSB	28.5%	23.3%	18.4%	17.2%	16.1%
EE	30.2%	20.9%	23.0%	20.0%	21.9%
HCA	22.6%	18.5%	15.3%	15.2%	18.4%
MIC	29.5%	22.5 %	20.9%	19.5%	20.1%
PCG	29.8%	21.3%	19.0%	22.8%	18.7%
SBE	25.0%	20.3%	12.7%	20.6%	<u>23.6%</u>
All	27.4%	21.0%	17.8%	19.3%	19.9%

Linkage Projects 2008/09/10: Changes to Funding Rules



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

- Overseas higher education organisations eligible as Partner Organisations - need at least 1 Australian Partner Organisation
 - Could always have overseas organisations as partners
- Citizenship/residency requirements for APA-I (PhD scholarships) removed for 2008
- CIs, PIs, APDIs & research support personnel can have funds for domestic & international travel for the project
- \$ 2m/year Upper limit to each proposal in exceptional cases (*Linkage Projects* normally \$500K total maximum)
- Success Rates Last 8 Rounds:
 - 37%, 36%, 43%, 46%, 48%, 43%, 49%, 46%

Funding Rules for *Linkage Projects*

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

2009 Funded Linkage Projects



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Feature	All ARC	SBE	HCA
Av. duration	3.05	3.10	2.95
Av. 1 st year funds gained & % of request gained	Rd1 \$110k= 71% Rd 2 \$101k= 71%	Rd1 \$95k= 71% Rd 2 \$95k= 64%	Rd 1 \$97k= 74% Rd 2 \$87k=67%
Av. funds gained for total project	Rd 1 \$329k=68% Rd 2 \$300=68%	Rd 1 \$290k=66% Rd 2 \$291k=61%	Rd 1 \$295k=72% Rd 2 \$245=67%
Average no. CIs	2.9, 3.1	>3: 3.63, 3.65	3.06, 2.75
APAI success rate	34%, 39%	33%, 40%	26%, 40%
APAI_IT (quota of 50) success rate	91%, 65% (mostly MIC)	0%, 29%	30%, 13%
Aust. Postdoc Fellows Industry	52%, 40%	88%, 47%	100%, 67%
Rural & Regional success rate	46%, 43%	39%, 47%	45%, 45%
Av. no. of collab. organisations	2.2	2.6	2.9

Linkage Projects 2009 Rounds 1 & 2



■ Partner Organization Contribution by sector

	Rd1	Rd2	05-08
■ Commonwealth Government	5%	2.9%	6%
■ State & Local Government	<u>29%</u>	<u>36%</u>	<u>27%</u>
■ International government	1%	2%	2%
■ Nonprofit Australian	<u>12%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>11%</u>
■ Nonprofit International	4%	1%	2%
■ Private company Australian	<u>33%</u>	<u>31%</u>	<u>37%</u>
■ International company Australian	<u>18%</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>17%</u>

Most Frequent Partner Industry (2009 Rd 2)

- Government Administration & Defence (206); Health & Community Services (198); Education (82);
- Manufacturing (121); Electricity, Gas & Water (50), Mining (44), Construction (36)
- Cultural & Recreational Services (99); Property & Business Services (82);
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (77)

Linkage Projects 2009

Round 2



Australian Government

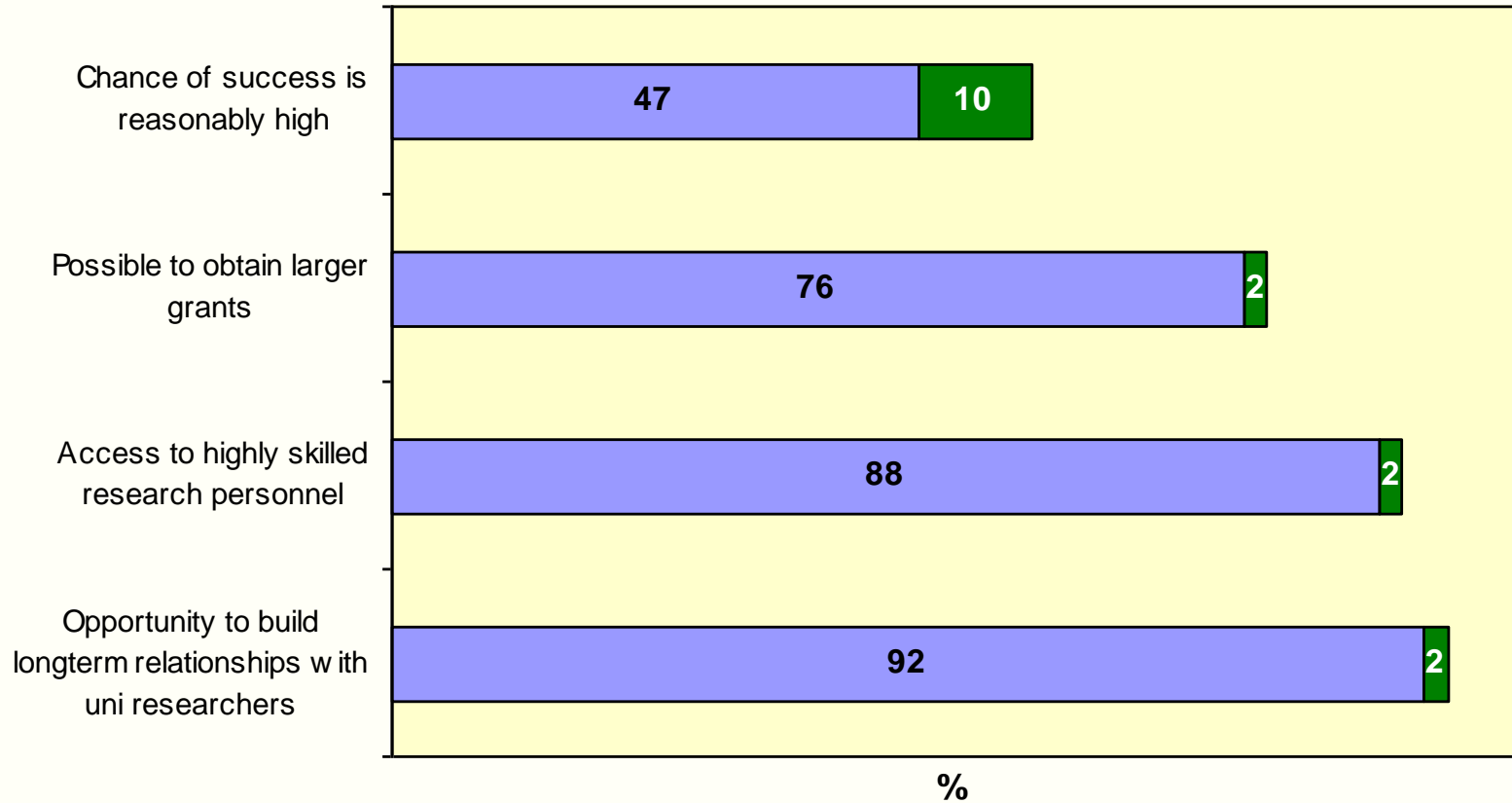
Australian Research Council

Round 1

Discipline Group	Proposals received	Success rate	Funds over project life (approved) \$ million
BSB	107	43.9%	14.00
EE	104	45.2%	13.02
HCA	58	41.4%	5.89
MIC	53	45.3%	9.80
PCG	31	54.8%	5.51
SBE	169	46.7%	23.06
All	522	45.6%	71.28

Proposals received	Success rate %	Funds over project life (approved) \$ million
85	43.5%	14.42
100	55.0%	17.05
32	56.3%	5.31
45	53.3%	8.26
39	41%	6.92
140	48.6%	19.74
441	49.4%	72.00

Partner Organisation Views: Why Use *Linkage* Scheme ?



Worthington Di Marzio Research Pty Ltd, 2006

■ Important ■ Not Important

Future Fellowships



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

- **\$844m scheme – 2009-2013 – Can apply twice in the period**
- **200, 4-year fellowships over next 5 years = 1000**
- **Mid-career researchers (5-15 years post-PhD)**
- **Australian and international applicants**
- **Salaries up to \$140K (3 levels) + \$50K pa for infrastructure, equipment, travel & relocation costs directly related to the research**
- **Has 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.
- ❖ **Research into Indigenous health and wellbeing a priority**

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/ft_fundingrules.htm

SBE & HCA Future Fellowship Applications (24% of all applications)



RFC D	RFC D Description	Number projects	Proportion
28	Information, computing and communication sciences	1	0.4%
31	Architecture, urban environment and building	5	2.1%
32	Medical and health sciences	3	1.3%
33	Education	13	5.6%
34	Economics	20	8.5%
35	Commerce, management, tourism and services	21	9.0%
36	Policy and political science	15	6.4%
37	Studies in human society	33	14.1%
38	Behavioural and cognitive sciences	26	11.1%
39	Law, justice and law enforcement	24	10.3%
40	Journalism, librarianship and curatorial studies	2	0.9%
41	The arts	7	3.0%
42	Language and culture	18	7.7%
43	History and archaeology	28	12.0%
44	Philosophy and religion	18	7.7%
Total		234	100.0%

Australian Laureate Fellows



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

- Allocate \$239 million over 5 years
- Up to 15 to be awarded
- 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 for 2 postdoctoral and 2 postgraduate researchers and project funding (up to \$300K). Will work with & mentor
- Success rate combining SBE and HCA has most often been about 20% in recent times

Funding Rules

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/laureate/fl_fundingrules.htm

Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

- **Applicants**
 - Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
 - Need not have a PhD
 - Have not been a CI 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 & Projects



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

1. Indigenous Researcher Fellowship (IRF) 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

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

- Established researchers or postdoctoral researchers who have ≤ 8 years professional experience since PhD
- Can be CIs or ARC Fellowship holders but not ARF/QElls or APFs in *Discovery* scheme
- Awards for 2 or 3 years at 100% salary

3. Other applications are for CIs:

- Who need not hold a PhD - must have a completed postgraduate research degree or equivalent -
- To do projects only or for currently enrolled postgrad research degree students (need supervisor on proposal)

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)

ARC Centres of Excellence



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

- ❑ *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*
 - **Soon to be released**
- ❑ *New ARC Centres of Excellence round for funding commencing July 2010 for 7 years*
 - **Applications expected to open 3rd or 4th quarter 2009.**
 - **Assessment and selection processes to take place into early 2010 – will be extra competitive.**
 - **In the past, success rate has been <10%.**

SBE Success Rates for Major RFCD Codes for All Schemes for Submit Years 2004 to 2008



RFCD	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
32 Medical and Health Sciences	43%	24%	32%	38%	32%
33 Education	28%	26%	24%	25%	30%
34 Economics	44%	39%	33%	34%	32%
35 Commerce, Mgt, Tourism & Services	35%	23%	24%	23%	17%
36 Policy & Political Science	31%	30%	21%	19%	25%
37 Studies in Human Society	32%	28%	26%	26%	18%
38 Behavioural & Cognitive Sciences	38%	30%	26%	29%	29%

All Currently Funded SBE Projects



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RFCD	RFCD Description	Number of projects	Proportion
32	Medical and health sciences	152	16%
33	Education	125	13%
34	Economics	119	12%
35	Commerce, management, tourism and services	108	11%
36	Policy and political science	69	7%
37	Studies in human society	121	13%
38	Behavioural and cognitive sciences	227	24%
Other		42	4%
Total		963	100%

Success rates for HCA projects for submit years 2004 to 2008



Australian Government
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RFC D	RFCD Description	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
31	Architecture, urban environment and building	22%	37%	26%	18%	23%
37	Studies in human society	37%	30%	24%	30%	21%
39	Law, justice and law enforcement	35%	35%	29%	28%	32%
40	Journalism, librarianship & curatorial studies	32%	23%	26%	31%	29%
41	The arts	25%	19%	23%	17%	19%
42	Language and culture	32%	21%	17%	22%	16%
43	History and archaeology	44%	28%	31%	26%	26%
44	Philosophy and religion	29%	29%	29%	16%	22%



Currently funded HCA projects across all schemes



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

RFCD	RFCD Description	Number projects	Proportion
31	Architecture, urban environment and building	28	4%
37	Studies in human society	72	11%
39	Law, justice and law enforcement	106	16%
40	Journalism, librarianship and curatorial studies	42	6%
41	The arts	64	10%
42	Language and culture	96	15%
43	History and archaeology	164	25%
44	Philosophy and religion	68	10%
Other		12	2%
Total		652	100%



Conclusion: Opportunities



- **Linkage Project** scheme - highest success rates
 - Partners are State & Local Governments, Australian & International Private companies
- **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
- Indigenous researchers and indigenous research
- Early career researchers – sole or with other CIs in *Discovery Projects* scheme
- International collaboration – *DP & LP Projects, Future Fellows*
- For top groups, new *Centres* round