



The Australian Research Council

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ARC





The ARC



- Statutory Agency established 2001
- Fund direct costs to universities and partners
- Projects, fellows and infrastructure (< \$5m)
- All disciplines except clinical medicine & dentistry





Strategic objectives

- To support excellence in *research*
- To build Australia's research *capacity*
- To provide informed high quality *policy* advice to government
- To enhance research outcomes through effective *evaluation*
- To raise the *profile* of Australia's research effort and be an effective advocate for its benefits





National Competitive Grant Program (NCGP)

- Funding schemes under the NCGP aim to:
 - Maintain and build on existing research and training
 - Build the scale and focus of research and training
 - Encourage cross-disciplinary approaches
 - Facilitate collaboration
 - Support research and research training of national benefit, including under the National Research Priorities
- Strengthening internationalisation in all ARC schemes (rather than dedicated schemes)





NCGP overview

- Annual funding to the university sector ~ \$577m (FY 08/09)
 - About 10% total Federal spending on R&D
 - Increase from ~\$250m in FY02/03
 - Assess > 5,500 proposals a year
 - 35 Centres of Excellence, Special or Co-funded





Discovery Projects

- Provides funding for research projects that can be undertaken by individual researchers or research teams
- Fellowships
 - *Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships*
 - *Australian Research Fellowships and Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships*
 - *Australian Professorial Fellowships*
- Run once a year





Future Fellowships

- Aim to build capacity in universities and publicly-funded research institutions
- Encourage collaboration across industry, research institutions and between disciplines
- Mid career (5-15 years PhD) researchers
- 200 X 4 year Fellowships over 5 years
 - Salaries up to \$140K (3 levels) + \$50K pa support
- Run once a year





Australian Laureate Fellowships

- New scheme to allocate \$239 million, over 5 years (replaces Federation Fellows)
- Emphasis on research leadership & mentoring
- Funds for 2 postdoctoral and 2 postgraduate researchers and project funding (up to \$300K)
- Run once a year





Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development

- Provides salary support to Indigenous Australian researchers and postgraduate research students
- Australian Research Fellowship - Indigenous
- Research Cadetship - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (RC-ATSI)
- Run once a year





Centres of Excellence

- Prestigious hubs of expertise
- Undertake highly innovative research at the forefront of developments within areas of national importance
- Established on the basis of the excellence of the proposed research program and the excellence of the participating researchers
- Significant collaboration between universities and other organisations in Australia and overseas





LIEF

- Provides funding for infrastructure, equipment and facility purchases, as well as associated costs
- Encourage collaboration between institutions and support large-scale cooperative initiatives involving two or more institutions
- One year funding, except for subscriptions or other payments to major international research facilities
- Run once a year





Linkage Projects

- Encourage cooperative approaches to research by strengthening links within Australia's innovation system and within innovation systems internationally
- Awards and Fellowships
 - APAI (Australian Postgraduate Award, Industry)
 - APDI (Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship, Industry)
 - Linkage Industry Fellowships (LIF)





Linkage Projects

- Partner Organisations
 - Private sector (including international organisations); private non-profit organisation; a government organisation with funds not committed to internal research or any other purpose of research, evaluation and/or consultancy
 - Partner Organisation must make significant contribution equal to, or greater than the ARC funding (cash and in-kind)





Eligibility for NCGP Schemes

- Only eligible organisations can apply
- Specific requirements for investigator roles and fellowships
- No duplication of Commonwealth funding
- Do not fund clinical medicine and dental research (except for *Future Fellowships*)
- Limits on number of proposals/projects





Website and Contacts

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