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

**National Competitive Grants Program**
$577 M in 08–09

- Discovery (Fellowships) $310 M
- Centres Networks $100 M
- Linkage $162 M

**Evaluation and Policy**

**Excellence in Research for Australia**
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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